

Bridgewater's Safeguarding Strategy 2025-2028

Safeguarding Children and Adults who are at risk is at the heart of all that we do.

Our vision is to protect, empower and advocate for every child, young person and adult who relies on our care, ensuring their fundamental right to live free from harm. Safeguarding is embedded in everything we do and underpins the work of all practitioners across the Organisation.

Safeguarding encompasses a wide range of actions taken by all of us to uphold the fundamental right of every child and adult to live free from harm.



Safeguarding Children and Adults

Safeguarding Children applies to all children up to the age of 18 years.

Safeguarding is defined by The Children Act 1989 as meaning that: "Agencies and organisations working with children and young people take all reasonable measures to ensure that risk of harm to individuals' welfare are minimised".

Where there are concerns that a child is suffering or likely to suffer significant harm, all agencies and organisations take appropriate actions to address those concerns, working to local policies and working in partnership with other local agencies.

Safeguarding Adults applies to a person 18 years and over.

Safeguarding adults is defined in the Care Act 2014 and means protecting a person's right to live in safety, free from abuse and neglect. The Care Act seeks:

To safeguard individuals in a way that supports them in making choices and having control in how they choose to live their lives.

To drive safeguarding practice that delivers meaningful outcomes and positive experiences for those we support.

To raise public awareness so that professionals, other staff and communities as a whole play their part in preventing, identifying and responding to abuse and neglect.

Bridgewater will:



Promote and prioritise the safety of children and adults at risk.



Ensure that everyone understands their roles and responsibilities in respect of safeguarding.



Provide a transparent culture of learning and development.



Make Safeguarding Personal



Listen and hear the child's voice

The Trust will ensure effective and visible safeguarding leadership at every level, embedding accountability and excellence across the organisation:

✓ All activity across the Trust contributes to safeguarding and safeguarding is everyone's business regardless of role and responsibility.

✓ Safeguarding in the Trust is focused on the places we serve through a borough-based approach.



✓ We will foster a culture of partnership, actively listening to and learning from the lived experiences of children, adults at risk and their families.



Provide assurance on safeguarding arrangements and the appropriate, timely and effective use of procedures to protect those who are most at risk:

✓ There will be transparent and accountable governance arrangements and organisational structures within the Trust.

✓ Those working within the Trust will be confident to safeguard through the provision of training at the appropriate level, and through access to safeguarding supervision, advice, and support.

Work collaboratively with multi-agency partners to deliver robust Safeguarding arrangements and ensure a learning culture to improve future practice:

✓ Being active members of and contributors to Local Safeguarding Adults Boards and Safeguarding Children Partnership



✓ Working closely with multi-agency partners to develop an integrated approach to achieve positive outcomes for children and adults at risk.

✓ Demonstrate that we are a 'learning organisation' which is informed by best practice and learning from safeguarding reviews with the ethos of a 'Just Culture'!

