



Falkland Islands Safeguarding Adults Board

Annual Report 2024-25

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Foreword

Welcome to the Falkland Islands Safeguarding Adults Board (FISAB) Annual Report for 2024-2025. This report seeks to provide a review of the work of the board over the period of **1 June 2024 to 31 May 2025**, as well as providing an overview of our plans for the coming year.

Last year I reported that the new Adult Safeguarding Policy and Guidance documents, along with its associated training and implementation have resulted in a step change in adult safeguarding practices in the FIG. I am confident that work to embed and strengthen a culture of adult safeguarding continues and that the various departments and organisations who lead in this area continue to develop their implementation of modern safeguarding practices, which is transparent and open in its learning processes pertaining to this.

This year's report covers a wide variety of topics, reflecting the breadth of work overseen by the board. This includes an update on the significant amount of work to date on the planned Mental Capacity and Deprivation of Liberty Ordinance, a review of the strategic plan, academic work that has been published by the Probation Service, and an update on the proposed Supported Living Service to mention just a few workstreams.

In last year's report a number of areas of focus for the upcoming 12-month period were set, these included;

- Supporting the opening of Tussac House by ensuring that adult safeguarding policies and procedures are successfully translate across to the new facility.
- Maintaining momentum on the mental capacity and deprivation of liberty policy.
- Maintaining safeguarding training across FIG and the private sector.
- Review of the FISAB strategic plan.

Pleasingly these objectives have been successfully progressed, and the details are included in the body of the report. Notably, rather than simply maintaining the level of safeguarding training there has instead been an increase in uptake, which is reassuring to see.

In discharging its functions, it is important the board interacts with the wider community. I therefore encourage anyone with questions, queries, comments or suggestions for the boards to please make them know to myself or any member of the board listed on the page overleaf. Those who are interested to do so are also welcome to attend the open section of the quarterly meeting of the board.

Finally, I would like to thank the members of board for their efforts over the past year, it has been a notable year of considerable advancement on a number of pieces of work.



John Woollacott E-mail: jwoollacott@kemh.gov.fk
FISAB Chair and Director of Health and Social Services

Falkland Islands Safeguarding Adults Board

Purpose

To seek to properly safeguard adults and vulnerable people within our community, requiring key agencies to work together in an assured, effective and efficient manner, in order to co-ordinate appropriate action.

Membership

The membership of the FISAB includes representatives from:

- ✓ The Legislative Assembly – portfolio holders for Health & Social Services and Education
- ✓ Representative of Government House – observer
- ✓ Director of Health & Social Services (DHSS) – **Chair**
- ✓ Director of Education
- ✓ Head of Social Services (HSS) – **Deputy Chair**
- ✓ Chief Medical Officer (CMO)
- ✓ Chief Nursing Officer (CNO)
- ✓ Chief Police Officer

- ✓ Principal Social Worker - Adults
- ✓ Probation Officer
- ✓ Attorney General’s Office – adviser
- ✓ Head of Care Services (Tussac House Manager)
- ✓ MOD - Officer Commanding Base Support Wing on behalf of Commander British Forces
- ✓ MOD - Senior Social Work Practitioner – British Forces Social Work Services (BFSWS)

Review of the Strategic Plan

Review of Strategic Plan document Annex 1

The FISAB strategy covering the period 2022-2025 was formally reviewed and presented to the board in September 2024. The full strategy with annotations as to updates is available at Annex 1 to this report.

It is pleasing to note that in most areas objectives have been achieved in full, and often are embedded as ongoing activities to sustain progress into the future. Many of these work streams have been completed through the board's subgroups, who are to be congratulated on their progress.

There are two notable areas in which significant progress has not been made and these relate to the establishment of a Supported Living Service for adults with learning disabilities and an aspiration to amend the Assessing and Safeguarding Adults Ordinance (2020) to widen its scope. In relation to the first missed objective, I am pleased to report that a draft business plan has now been created, with the intention that a final plan will be submitted before the end of this assembly. In relation to legislative change, it is to be noted that very considerable effort has instead been directed to furthering plans for a Mental Capacity and Deprivation of Liberty Ordinance for the Falkland Islands, which is now at an advanced stage, and hoped to commence next year. The board will review whether to continue as an aspiration a plan to amend the Assessing and Safeguarding Adults Ordinance (2020) in its next strategic plan which will be published before the end of this calendar year. In doing so, the board will need to take into account wider legislative priorities across the FIG, as well as works still required in finalise the mental capacity and deprivation of liberty project.

It is intended that a review of the FISAB strategic plan will become a fixture in the board's annual report in future.

Social Services

Social Services.

The Social Services department comes under the authority of the Director of Health and Social Services and is headed up by Nikki Murphy. Her team includes (data as of May 2025):

Post	Establishment	Filled	Vacant	Comments
Head of Social Services	1	1	0	
Team Manager	1	1	0	
Principal Social Worker - Adults	1	1	0	
Advanced Practitioner (Children)	2	2	0	
Social Work Assistant	3	3	0	Two SWAs predominantly work with adults. The other post is dedicated to Early Help, but the SWAs have had to support the service by covering Income Support.
Probation Officer	1	1	0	
Residential Support Worker Team Leader	1	1	0	
Residential Support Worker	8	6	2	
PA / Office Manager	1	1	0	
Public Protection Police Officer	1	1	0	
Income Support Worker	1	0	1	This post has mostly been vacant throughout 2024-2025 and covered by the social work assistants. The ISW post has just been recruited to.

Policy & Procedure to Safeguarding Adults at Risk

The reporting period has seen further development of the adult social care service based on principles of collaborative practice between health and social care partners and improved approaches to working together within the community sector.

The Falkland Islands Positive Behaviour Policy, approved by SAB June 2024, sets out the commitment of the Falkland Islands Government to provide Positive Behaviour Support (PBS) for all adults in receipt of care and support. This supports the Deprivation of Liberty, Use of Restraint and Restrictive Practice Policy by ensuring that PBS is provided for all adults who may present with behaviours that challenge. It follows principles of best practice and is in line with professional codes of conduct and standards.

In May 2025 Executive Council approved the Mental Capacity and Deprivation of Liberty Policy; and authorised the Attorney General to draft legislation that is required to implement this policy in the Falkland Islands.

The Mental Capacity and Deprivation of Liberty Ordinance will offer a clear legal framework designed to protect and support people who may lack the ability to make a particular decision for themselves, at a particular time. It will allow individuals to plan ahead for a time when they may lack mental capacity to make their own decisions and will provide guidance to support people who need to make decisions on behalf of someone else. The Mental Capacity and Deprivation of Liberty Ordinance is on track for introduction and commencement during 2026.

Training

FIG Corporate Management Team and the Safeguarding Boards have made safeguarding training mandatory for certain key roles. The Safeguarding Boards published a Safeguarding Training Prospectus for 2024 - 2025 which outlines the roles required to undertake specific courses, and how often this training should be updated. The mandatory training courses which are specific relate to adult safeguarding are:

- ✓ Adult Safeguarding level 1 [Advanced for defined posts]
- ✓ Local Context Course – a face-to-face course that provides delegates with an understanding of safeguarding adults in the Falkland Islands context

The Prospectus contains details of other courses provided to specific roles within the Safeguarding process such as *Achieving Best Evidence* workshops for ABE trained staff, to ensure that their skills are kept up to date.

Safeguarding Adults in the Falkland Islands – Legal Context and Policy continues to be delivered by the Principal Social Worker – Adults on a rolling programme. The course aims to support professionals to understand and apply their statutory responsibilities under the Assessment and Safeguarding of Adults Ordinance 2020, including;

- To be able to identify when adults are at risk of abuse or are being abused and how to respond.
- To understand your responsibilities within the FIG Safeguarding Adult process, including consideration of mental capacity.
- To support adults experiencing or at risk of harm or neglect to remain at the centre of the Safeguarding Adult process.

Online Safeguarding Courses are facilitated by Falkland College. These must be completed before attending the Safeguarding in the Falkland Islands Local Context Course, which is delivered by Social Services. Alongside this training, the Public Protection Officer and the Clinical psychologist deliver the Understanding Child Sexual Exploitation course.

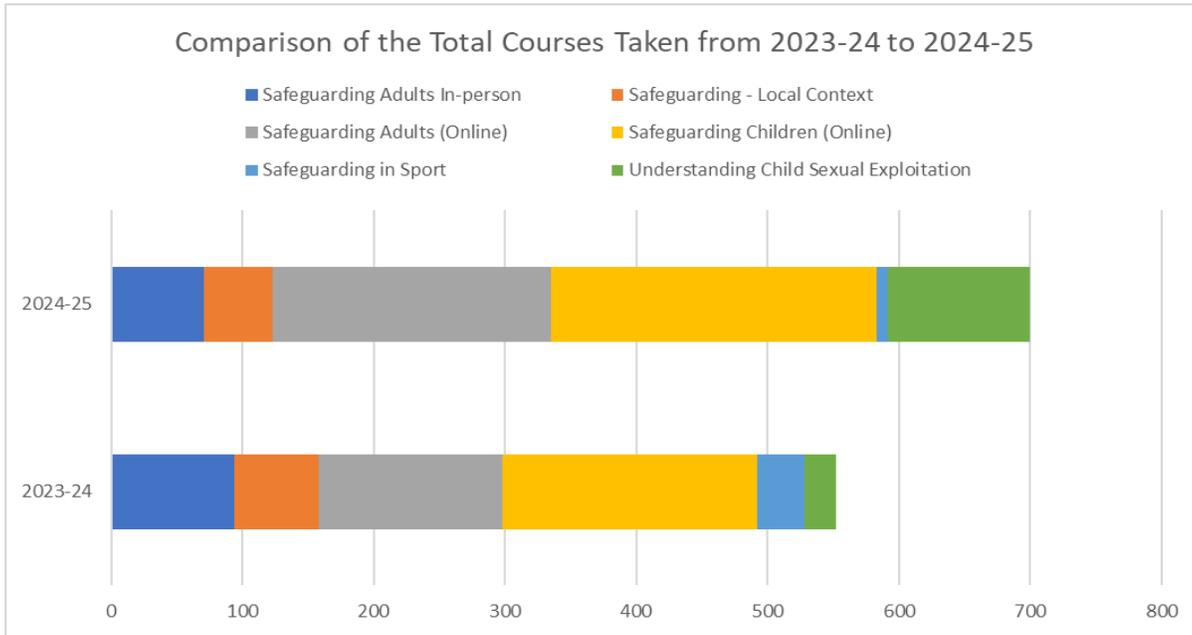
Safeguarding Adult Training attendance statistics continue to be monitored by the Safeguarding Adults Board as a standing item.

This year has seen the introduction C-Safe training; a four-day education programme available to all FIG employees working with adults with care and support needs. Adopting a multi-professional approach, involving adults with lived experience of services, the course aims to support staff to develop the necessary skills and knowledge to deliver safe, person-centred care and support services

The C-Safe course, has been helped by a wide range of professionals who have contributed their own professional expertise to support the attainment of high-quality services for all adults with care and support needs.

Fig 1. Total Safeguarding courses taken in the reporting period

Encouraging directorates to ensure their relevant employees undertake the appropriate training in both child and adult safeguarding has remained a priority. It is positive to see an increase in the number of Safeguarding courses being undertaken this year in comparison to last year.



Adult Social Care

In accordance with the Assessment and Safeguarding of Adults Ordinance 2020, our work with adults is focussed on supporting the wellbeing of the individual enabling positive outcomes through the provision of personalised, meaningful support whilst promoting principles of choice, dignity, and respect.

This period has seen the introduction of the Assessment of Adults with Need for Care and Support policy, setting out the Department of Health and Social Services responsibility to support individuals to retain or regain as much independence as possible. When considering outcomes and what the person would like to achieve in their lives, the assessment process considers individual capability, existing support networks and other forms of available support before the considering the provision of care and support.

The assessment will consider all needs but primarily,

- ✓ Managing and maintaining nutrition
- ✓ Managing personal hygiene
- ✓ Managing toilet needs
- ✓ Being appropriately clothed

- ✓ Being able to make use of the adult's home safely
- ✓ Maintaining a habitable home environment
- ✓ Developing and maintaining a family or other personal relationship
- ✓ Accessing and engaging in work, training, education or volunteering
- ✓ Making use of necessary facilities or services in the community including recreational facilities
- ✓ Carrying out any caring responsibilities the adult has for a child.

It should be noted that the Community and Support Team (CST) are responsible for delivering personal care on the Falkland Islands therefore in such cases and in accordance with the Assessment of Adults with Need for Care and Support policy, it will be necessary for a joint needs assessment to be completed with the CST.

Adults at Risk

The Assessment and Safeguarding of Adults Ordinance (2020) became legislation on 12 August 2020. This gave the Falkland Islands Government a duty to:

- ✓ Promote individuals' well-being,
- ✓ Assess an adult's needs for care and support,
- ✓ Assess a carer's needs for support, and make enquiries when they have reasonable cause to suspect that an adult with care and support needs is experiencing abuse or neglect, and as a result of those needs is unable to protect themselves against the abuse or neglect or the risk of it
- ✓ Establish a Safeguarding Board to prevent abuse and neglect of adults.

The legislation, although welcomed, is limited. It falls short of requiring a service to be provided to an individual once a need has been identified which remains problematic

Adult at Risk Sub-Group

The Adult at Risk Subgroup was created in November 2022, meeting on a quarterly basis. The group focussed on driving good practice in the safeguarding of adults and monitoring the effectiveness of work undertaken to protect adults at risk of harm.

Work completed by the sub-group included a wide range of initiatives which focussed on;

- Prevention
- Protecting Adults at Risk
- Responding to Safeguarding Adult Concerns
- Moving Forward Positively

In March 2025, it was agreed by the SAB that the objectives of the Adult at Risk sub-group had been realised with outstanding objectives continuing within business as usual by the Department of Health and Social Services.

Mental Capacity & Deprivation of Liberty Sub-Group

In March 2025 the SAB approved the introduction of the Mental Capacity and Deprivation of Liberty Sub-Group.

The purpose of the sub-group is to provide assurance to the SAB, that health and social care providers apply the Mental Capacity and Deprivation of Liberty Ordinance 2026 (MCO). The group will focus on application in the following key areas;

- Mental Capacity and Deprivation of Liberty Ordinance 2026 (MCO)
- Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards (DoLS)
- Independent Mental Capacity Advocates
- Training

Objectives of the sub-group include;

- Provide assurance to the SAB in relation to the quality of Mental Capacity and Deprivation of Liberty Ordinance 2026 application and practice or raise concerns as appropriate.
- Support providers of health and social care services through guidance and training
- Monitor that the priorities of the SAB Strategic Plan are achieved.
- Monitor any recommendations arising from Safeguarding Adults Reviews (SARs) relating to mental capacity are implemented.

- Be aware of national and international learning and disseminate learning to relevant providers to positively influence and improve practice.
- Implement a work plan for the group which delivers the objectives of the SAB.
- Monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of the group.
- Liaise with and respond to Practice Improvement Sub-Group around issues that relate to practice under the MCO.
- Contribute to the SAB Annual Reports.

The sub-group will be chaired by a member of the SAB. Membership will include;

- Principal Social Worker – Adults
- Head of Social Services
- Crown Counsel
- Chief Nursing Officer
- Chief Medical Officer
- Emotional Wellbeing Service
- Head of Care Services
- Community Support Team Manager
- Head of Courts

The Chair of the subgroup will report to SAB at every meeting. Monitoring of Terms of Reference and attendance will be on an annual basis.

Adult Social Care Statistics

Statistical data relating to the safeguarding of adults continues to be provided to the Safeguarding Adult Board on a quarterly basis. This enables a greater understanding of the support needs of the community, increased areas of risk and the opportunity to minimise occurrences of harm facing adults within the community.

Adult Social Work received 105 referrals between 1st June 2024 – 31st May 2025. Royal Falkland Islands Police, followed by Social Services/ Income Support and Health remaining the main source of referrals received. Physical Disability, followed by Mental Health and Learning Disability were identified as the primary support need of individuals seeking the support of adult social services.

This reporting period saw 29 Safeguarding Adult Concerns received by Social Services. Of these, Self-Neglect, Financial and Material and Sexual Exploitation were recorded as the primary category of

alleged harm. 13 safeguarding adult concerns raised proceeded to a Section 10 enquiry or relating to an existing Section 10 enquiry as per the Assessment and Safeguarding of Adults Ordinance 2020.

Fig. 1 Adult Social Care – Referrals Received

This reporting period saw 105 referrals received by Adult Social Care, an increase of 18 compared to the previous reporting period. 82 referrals were initial referrals with the remaining 23 relating to open cases.

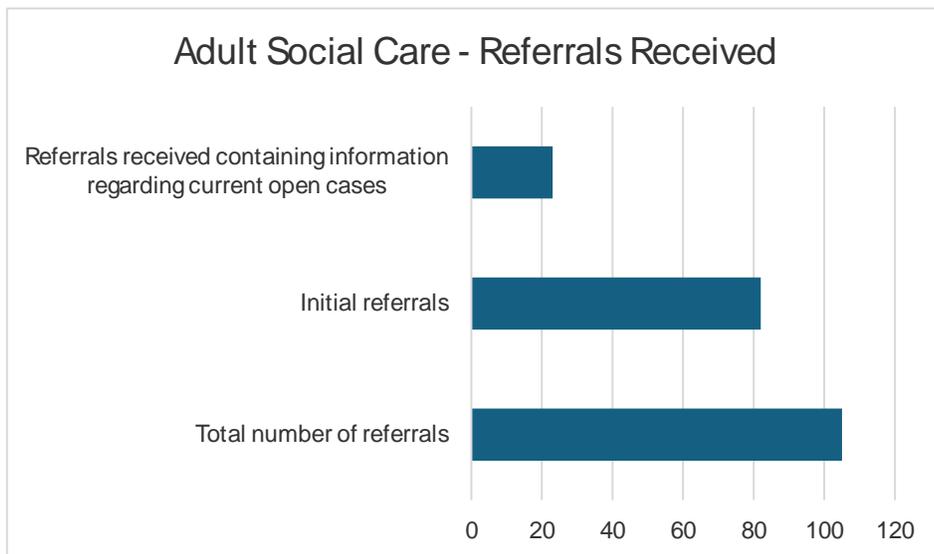


Fig. 2 Adult Social Care - Primary Support Need

The predominant support need of individuals referred to adult social care during 2024/25 was physical disability, followed by mental health and learning disability. The category of physical disability includes adults with age related frailty as well as younger adults experiencing physical disability.

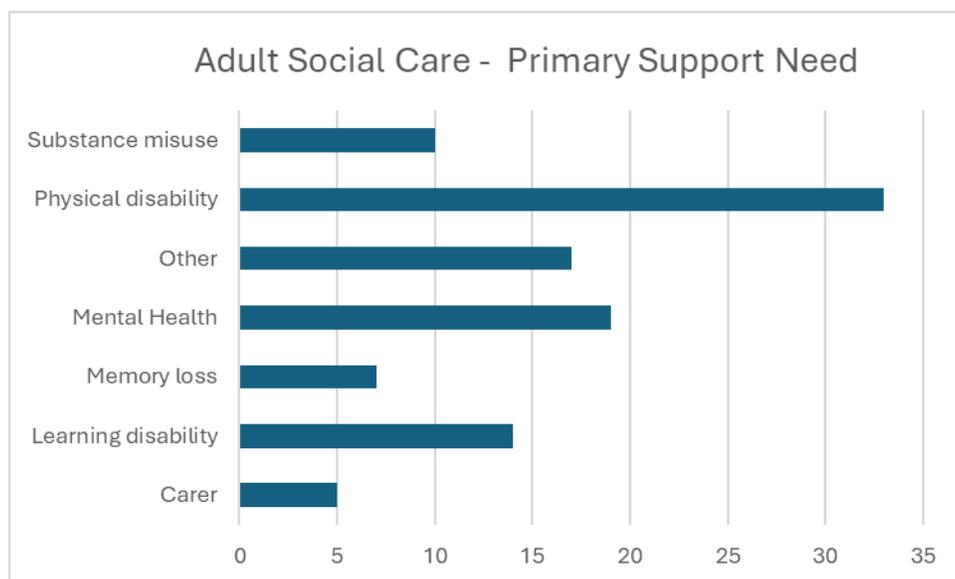


Fig. 3 Adult Social Care – Source of Referral

The main source of referrals received by adult social care during 2024/25 was from the Royal Falkland Islands Police followed by Social Services. Referrals received from Social Services include those identified within the income support/ allowance process which will often identify individuals with care and support needs who are not currently known to services.

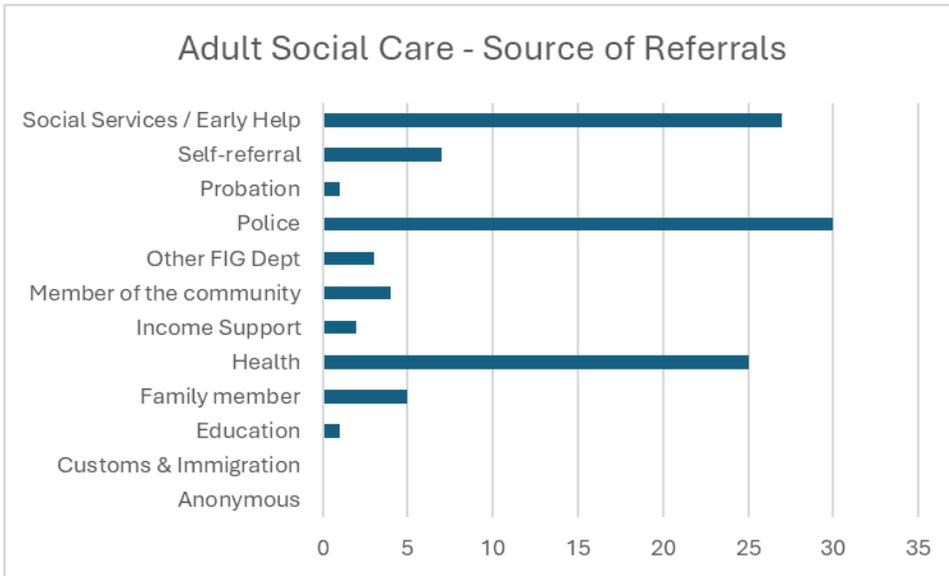


Fig. 4 Adult Social Care - Outcome of Referral

The majority of referrals received by adult social care during 2024/25 were to request a care and support assessment. Requested care and support assessments were then completed collaboratively with the Community Support Team. 29 referrals were received to raise a safeguarding adult concern.

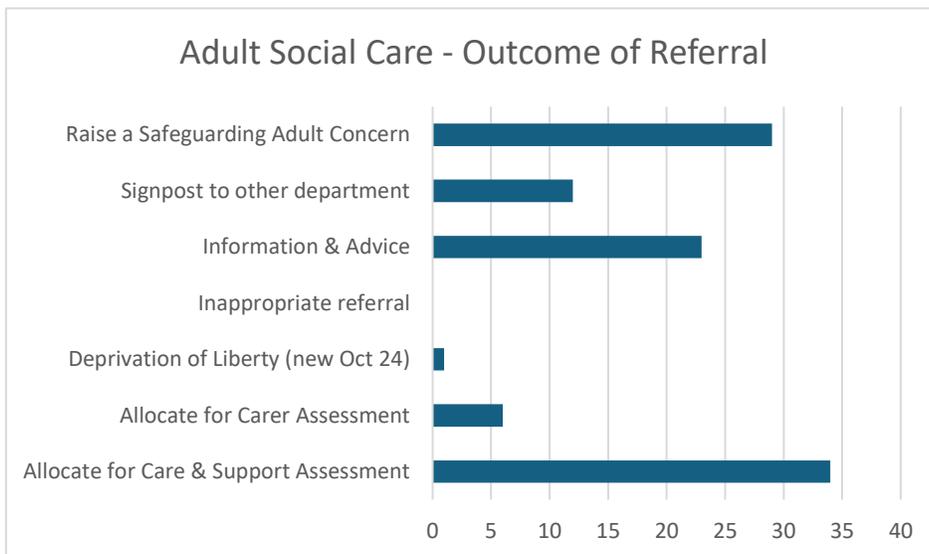


Fig. 5 Safeguarding Adults – Category of Harm

The 2024/25 reporting period saw 29 safeguarding adult concerns received by adult social care. The main categories of alleged harm include self-neglect, financial exploitation, sexual exploitation and domestic abuse. 11 safeguarding adult concerns progressed to a Section 10 enquiry as per the Assessment and Safeguarding of Adults Ordinance 2020. 16 safeguarding adult concerns were concluded as NFA – Does not meet criteria, with the remaining 2 referrals containing information relating to an open Section 10 enquiry.

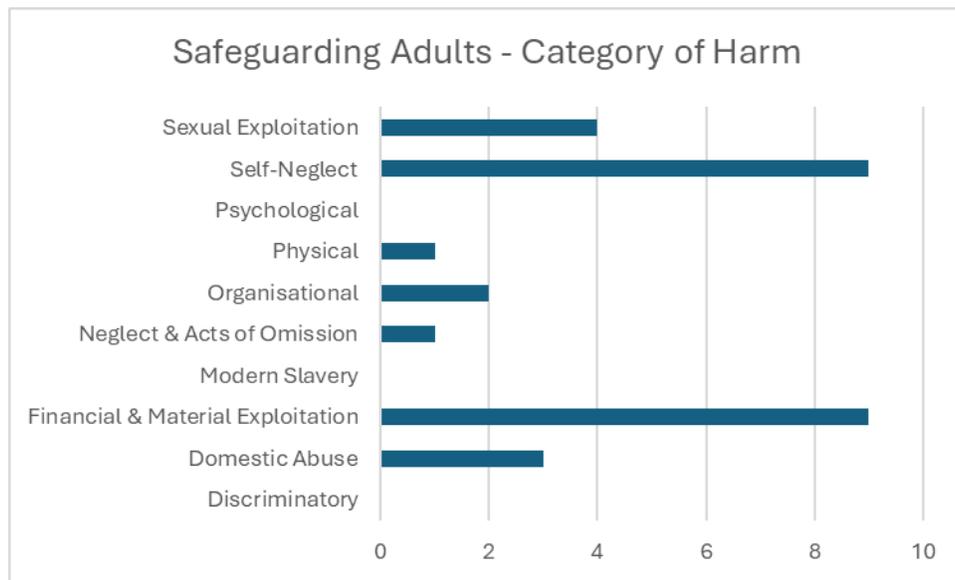
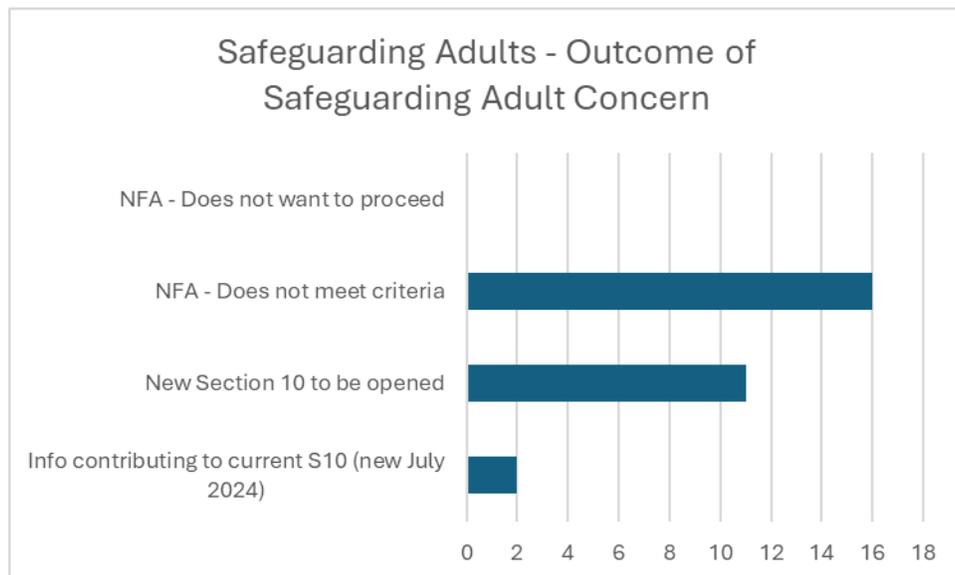


Fig. 6 Safeguarding Adults – Outcome of Safeguarding Adult Concern



Supported Living Service

A proposal for a Supported Living Service (SLS) for the Falkland Islands is currently under development, subject to approvals.

The planned SLS will replace existing arrangements which require complex packages of care and support to be approved by ExCo, currently in place for a minimal number of adults with a learning disability. The SLS will instead offer a person-centred service to all adults with eligible needs. It will give people real choice and control over how they live their lives, be adaptable to changing need, will foster independence and support people to achieve their personal goals and aspirations in accordance with the Falkland Islands Government Wellbeing Principal¹.

The SLS will be accessible to all adults with additional support needs associated with learning disability. Support provided will be as much (or as little) as needed, from 24-hour on-site support to just a few hours of flexible support in the community.

The support provided will promote people's Wellbeing and will include;

- Developing life skills, such as shopping, cooking, and other activities of daily living
- Help with managing finances
- Support to attend college, work placements and contribute to society
- Advice and Advocacy, if needed
- Help with accessing other mainstream universal services
- Keeping healthy, safe, and well.

Above all, the goal is to help people build confidence and life skills so each person can fulfil their potential and live the best life possible.

The service will be tailored to meet the unique needs of every person we support. Support will be offered through several types of provision including;

- Individual outreach support
- Individual supported homes
- Shared supported homes
- Social Hub – offering a combination of life skill training and social opportunities.

The service will also provide the provision for day and overnight respite care and support for adults with learning disability who receive support from family or other unpaid carers to remain living in the community.

¹ Assessment and Safeguarding of Adults Ordinance 2020

Royal Falkland Islands Police

In 2024–2025, the Royal Falkland Islands Police (RFIP) continued to play a critical strategic role in safeguarding adults at risk across the Falkland Islands. RFIP contributed actively to multi-agency forums and supported the delivery of board priorities relating to adult exploitation, domestic abuse, and timely protection planning.

All serving officers received updated training on recent changes to the civil code regarding Domestic Abuse Orders, ensuring RFIP's response is aligned with evolving legislation and protective frameworks. This reinforces RFIP's role not only in enforcement but in prevention and early intervention.

RFIP also contributes to the safeguarding of adults through its ongoing responsibility for vetting and background checks. These are a cornerstone of safer recruitment practices across public, private, and voluntary sectors, enhancing safeguarding cultures in workplace environments and supporting community-wide protection.

The recruitment of a dedicated Public Protection Officer (PPO) in October 2024 has led to a marked improvement in the timeliness and consistency of adult safeguarding referrals made by RFIP. This has contributed to improved cross-agency response times and strengthened risk management for vulnerable individuals.

While officer attendance at formal adult safeguarding training sessions was limited this year, RFIP remains committed to embedding safeguarding principles through operational practice, direct partnership engagement, and the work of the PPO. Plans are in place to broaden formal training uptake in the year ahead.

RFIP continues to review and learn from safeguarding incidents to strengthen its contribution to adult protection. Internal reviews and supervisory oversight are used to ensure practice improvements are sustained across the force.

RFIP also supported a highly successful Adult Safeguarding Awareness Event held at the Town Hall, which was well attended by members of the public and supported by a wide range of departments, agencies, charities, and businesses. This event helped raise the profile of adult safeguarding across the Islands and reflected RFIP's commitment to community engagement and multi-agency collaboration.

RFIP have also been supporting community safeguarding awareness events across the whole community during the past year (Sure, SCB, outreach clinics).

Exploitation Subgroup

The Exploitation Subgroup is a strategic, multi-agency body working across both children’s and adult services to identify, prevent, and respond to all forms of exploitation. As one of four key subgroups (now three) under the Falkland Islands Safeguarding Adults Board, it carries out focused work on behalf of the board in line with the strategic safeguarding plan.

The group includes representation from the Royal Falkland Islands Police, Social Services, Probation Service, Attorney General’s Office, Education, and British Forces South Atlantic Islands (BFSAI), and is chaired by the Chief of Police. It reflects a whole-systems approach to exploitation prevention, response, and recovery.

The Exploitation Subgroup’s remit has broadened to focus on preventing the sexual abuse of children and adults. This included police-led disruption of offenders, targeted youth education, wider public awareness campaigns, and coordinated support for victims.

Key Achievements in 2024/25

Provided regular, well-received training on exploitation to professionals and stakeholders.

Embedded the expansion of the strategic scope to include adult victims of exploitation, integrating new priorities into the group’s remit.

Strategic Plan for 2025/26

In 2025/26, the group will continue to drive strategic safeguarding efforts around exploitation. Recognising the evolving nature of threats in small, digitally connected communities, the group will prioritise efforts to combat online exploitation — including sextortion, grooming, financial manipulation, and romantic scams targeting both children and adults.

A Digital Safeguarding Strategy will be developed, led by the Exploitation Subgroup, to establish a coordinated inter-agency response to emerging risks. This includes planned awareness campaigns, improvements to early intervention and referral mechanisms, and investment in digital education for both professionals and the wider community.

The Subgroup’s ongoing leadership reflects a maturing safeguarding system that adapts proactively to complex harm, promotes resilience across agencies, and ensures both preventative and restorative measures are embedded within practice.

Attorney General's Department Update

AG Representation at FISAB

The Attorney General is a member of the Safeguarding Adults Board and his representative, Crown Counsel (civil and safeguarding) has continued to attend, contribute to and advise the board.

The Attorney General's Chambers provides ongoing advice in a wide range of matters relating to the safeguarding of Adults within the Falkland Islands. These include;

- ✓ Advising on specific cases where there is a safeguarding concern.
- ✓ Attending strategy meetings relating to adult safeguarding concerns.
- ✓ Situations where there are issues around deprivation of liberty.
- ✓ Providing representation at court in respect of applications under the Inherent Jurisdiction.
- ✓ Advising in respect of eligibility for assessment and support under the Assessment and Safeguarding of Adults Ordinance 2020.

In addition to this the Attorney General's chambers led the development of the Domestic Abuse (Civil and Family Proceedings) Ordinance 2024 which has now been implemented since February 2025. The protection and sanctions contained in the ordinance will assist victims of domestic abuse to enable them to make applications for protection without the requirement to involve the police, or any other statutory body, such as Social Services. It is hoped that this removes an invisible barrier to victims who require support, but are reticent about involving outside agencies.

At a strategic level, the Attorney General's chambers is advising in respect of the development of Mental Capacity policy and Legislation which remains on the legislative programme for 2024 / 2025 and forms part of the current Island Plan. The policy was finalised by ExCo on 28th May 2025 and agreement was given for legislation to be drafted. The Mental Capacity and Deprivation of Liberty Ordinance will offer a clear legal framework to protect and support people who may lack the ability to make a particular decision for themselves, at a particular time. It will allow individuals to plan for a time when they may lack mental capacity to make their own decisions and will provide guidance to support people who need to make decisions on behalf of someone else.

Additionally, The Equalities Project led by a policy advisor and dedicated equalities lawyer is reviewing current legislation and policy alongside a public consultation to address whether the needs of the Falkland Islands community are adequately met and what if any changes may be needed to do so.

Crown Counsel (Civil and Safeguarding) has attended the subgroup for Domestic Abuse and assumed the post of Interim Chair of the group. The goal of the group is to address abuse within a domestic context in the Falkland Islands. Priorities in progress are to review training material to ensure it is relatable to the local context and plan regular publicity relating to the issue to highlight that domestic abuse is not accepted in the Island, the protective mechanisms available for victims and to provide transparency in terms of sanctions against perpetrators.

Crown Counsel has also supported the annual community adult safeguarding event, led by Social Services, to highlight relevant safeguarding issues to the local context to the community alongside other partners such as RFIP.

The Probation Service

Probation Service Key Achievements in 2024 -2025

All Statutory Commitments Met – Reports for court have been completed within agreed timescales, and community sentences have been supervised and enforced in line with the statutory duties of the Probation Service.

Maintenance of the Non-Statutory Service – The provision of support on a voluntary basis has continued to be a valued service, reflecting the pro-active nature of the Probation Service in working with those at risk of offending.

Safeguarding Across the Territories

The Falkland Islands Probation Service has developed a positive working relationship with the St Helena Island Probation Service (SHIPS) and has been involved in safeguarding work in deportation cases in which individuals have been returned to St Helena. This includes multi-agency working with police services from both territories and development of risk management plans to aid in the continued risk management of high risk and sexual offenders.

Network Building and Professional Socialisation

The Falkland Island Probation Service is one of the founding members of the Community Justice Overseas Territories Network (CJOT), founded in 2022. All ten British Overseas Territories with probation service provisions are members of the network, along with two of the three British Crown Dependencies. During the past year the founders of CJOT have worked closely with the Ministry of Justice (MoJ) in the UK to deliver the first Probation in the Overseas Territories conference, held in London in April 2025.

CJOT provides the opportunity for probation practitioners of all grades from frontline workers to heads of service to share knowledge and experience and to collaborate on practice development. This is particularly important for territories such as the Falkland Islands where there the Probation Service consists of a lone worker. The Falkland Islands Probation Service continues to play a key role in CJOT and work with the MoJ, helping to develop practice here and across the territories.

Research Paper

The Probation Officer for the Falkland Islands from September 2019 to April 2025, Nicola Robinson was granted the Sir Graham Smith Research Award by the Probation Institute in the UK.

The awards provide an opportunity for practitioners to undertake a small piece of empirical research exploring a topic of practice. Nicola's paper, "Why do people engage with voluntary probation support? Exploring the experience of men living in the Falkland Islands that choose to engage with probation services on a voluntary basis" will be published this year (2025) and will help to highlight and promote the practices of the Falkland Islands Probation Service to practitioners and academics in the UK and beyond.

Statistics for 2024-2025

	Average number of cases for 2024-2025*	Average number of cases for 2022-2023*
Custody	7	7
Statutory Community	5	6
Voluntary	5	6

*Figures are from 01/07/24 to 30/04/25

- ✓ Seven pre-sentence reports were completed this year, a significant increase from the year before in which the number of reports was notably lower than usual at just three reports for the year, compared to an average of one report per month in previous years.
- ✓ On average the total caseload was 19, similar to last year's average of 20 cases.
- ✓ A large proportion of the work continues to be with those in custody who pose a risk of serious harm to children.

Aims for 2024 - 2025

- ✓ To continue to meet statutory commitments
- ✓ To continue to deliver rehabilitative interventions
- ✓ To develop the non-statutory service through research into the benefits those that engage with this service derive from it
- ✓ To continue to develop and promote the Youth Diversion Scheme
- ✓ To continue to develop and promote the work of the Falkland Island Probation Service through the Community Justice Overseas Territories Network.

The Domestic Abuse Sub-Group

The Domestic Abuse Subgroup was established in November 2022, and has met every quarter since then. It is one of four subgroups that sit under the Safeguarding Adult Board, that complete work on behalf of the board. The aims of the subgroup, as defined by the safeguarding adults board strategic plan, are:

- ❖ Develop a domestic abuse strategy
- ❖ Coordinate and deliver campaigns
- ❖ Monitor effectiveness of work done to reduce domestic abuse

The group includes representatives from across the Falkland Islands Government including; The Probation Service, The Royal Falkland Islands Police, Social Services, Attorney General's office, Health, Education, Customs and Immigration, Housing, Communications and also includes representatives from British Forces South Atlantic (BFSAL).

Key achievements in 2024/25 are:

- ✓ **Action plan** – Continuation of the action plan and completing actions on this
- ✓ **Raising Awareness of Domestic Abuse** – Training has been delivered raising awareness of domestic abuse and the implications of this across FIG departments. This was supported by posters and leaflets to raise awareness of domestic abuse in the wider community.
- ✓ **Monitoring Effectiveness** – We have continued to collate statistics to measure the effectiveness of the work completed.
- ✓ **Updated Domestic Abuse Policy** – The policy was last reviewed in 2019. An updated FIG policy was agreed in 2024, highlighting the importance of the issue and providing for Domestic Abuse Champions within each FIG Directorate to provide an alternative point of contact to raise concerns about domestic abuse with.
- ✓ **Implementation of Legislation** – In Feb 2024, the Domestic Abuse (Civil and Family Proceedings) Ordinance 2024 came into force. This provides a civil mechanism for victims of domestic abuse to seek protection for themselves and their children, through the Court.

Aims for 2024/25

- ❖ **Training** – Review the feedback in respect of training and research options going forward.
- ❖ **Establish Domestic Abuse Awareness Champions in key FIG departments** – Successful implementation of this will enable Falkland Islands Government employees to support people who are experiencing domestic abuse on two counts: supporting employees that are experiencing domestic abuse, and supporting employees that come into contact with those that are experiencing it.

- ❖ **Raise awareness** – Continue to raise awareness of domestic abuse and the impact to our community on a continual rolling basis. The purpose of this is twofold a) To ensure victims know how to access support and protection and b) Perpetrators are aware this is not acceptable within our community and allegations will be actively dealt with when victims make reports.

Section 13 Reviews

Under section 13 of the *Assessment and Safeguarding of Adults Ordinance 2020* the SAB is required to arrange for a review of adult safeguarding cases if serious concerns exist and certain criteria are met as detailed below.

(1) The SAB must arrange for there to be a review of a case involving an adult with needs for care and support (whether or not the Government has been meeting any of those needs), if —

- (a) there is reasonable cause for concern about how the SAB, its members or other persons with relevant functions performed their functions or worked together to safeguard the adult; and*
- (b) condition 1 or 2 is met.*

(2) Condition 1 is met if —

- (a) the adult has died;*
- (b) and the SAB suspects that the death resulted from abuse or neglect (whether or not it knew about or suspected the abuse or neglect before the adult died).*

(3) Condition 2 is met if —

- (a) the adult is still alive; and*
- (b) the SAB knows or suspects that the adult has experienced serious abuse or neglect.*

As required by part 3 of the schedule attached to section 12(5) of the same ordinance, in its annual report the SAB must report on the findings of any reviews arranged by it under section 13 during the year, or note any which are ongoing. Furthermore, it must report what it has done to implement the findings of any section 13 reviews, or if it has decided not to implement a finding of a section 13 review, the reasons for making that decision.

During the 2024-25 reporting period there have been **no** section 13 safeguarding adults' reviews that have either been completed, or are ongoing.

Looking Ahead

For the coming year SAB will continue to:

- ✓ **Prepare** – Provide strong leadership, effective systems and working with partners to safeguard our vulnerable adults.
- ✓ **Prevent** – Raising awareness of issues of concern and provide help at the earliest opportunity.
- ✓ **Protect** - Safeguard adults by providing targeted support in order to achieve good outcomes for those who are at risk, and support professionals to do so.

Over the next **12 months** the FISAB will also have a targeted focus on:

Finalising the Mental Capacity and Deprivation of Liberty Ordinance

As mentioned, considerable progress has been made in relation to this project and over the next 12 months, the newly established subgroup will oversee the finalisation and implementation of this important piece of legislation that will further the rights and protections to adults who lack capacity.

Additional aims for 2025/26 are:

- Finalise the business plan for a supported living service for adults with learning disabilities.
- Maintain the increased level of safeguarding training and awareness that has been rolled-out across FIG and across the community.
- Continue to develop and embed a culture of adult safeguarding across the FIG and more widely.
- Develop knowledge and resilience in tackling online exploitation.
- Publish a new strategic plan and set of objectives.

Report Ends

**Falkland Islands
Government**



**Safeguarding Adults Board Strategy
2022-2025**

Author: Chair of the Safeguarding Board

Issue 1.1 (Review of Strategic Plan-September 2024)

Date: September 2024

Safeguarding Adults Board – Strategic plan – 2022 - 2025

The Falkland Islands Safeguarding Adults Board (SAB) is required to publish a strategic plan each year. This is our first strategic plan.

We feel that effectiveness will be improved by creating a 'rolling plan' setting out the strategy for the next three years that we will review and revise each year.

Our strategic plan specifies how the SAB will seek to prevent abuse and neglect and how it will help and protect people with care and support needs at risk of abuse and neglect. We have engaged with all the other relevant agencies and the community to produce our strategic plan.

We need to safeguard anyone who:

- has needs for care and support (whether or not the Government is meeting any of those needs)
- is experiencing, or is at risk of, abuse or neglect; and
- as a result of those needs is unable to protect themselves against the abuse or neglect or the risk of it.

Our strategic plan focuses working with others to prevent abuse:

- Physical abuse (assault, hitting, misuse of medication, restraint);
- Domestic violence (including coercive behaviours, physical or sexual assault);
- Sexual abuse (rape, indecent exposure, subjection to pornography or witnessing sexual acts);
- Psychological abuse (emotional abuse, threats of harm, controlling, intimidation, isolation);
- Financial or material abuse (theft, fraud, coercion about financial affairs, misuse of property);
- Modern slavery, human trafficking and forced labour;
- Discriminatory abuse (harassment, slurs relating to 'protected characteristics');
- Organisational abuse (neglect, poor care practice or abuse in an institution such as a care home);
- Neglect and acts of omission such as ignoring medical, emotional or physical care needs, or
- withholding the necessities of life, such as medication, adequate nutrition and heating;
- Self-neglect (neglecting to care for one's personal hygiene, health or surroundings, or hoarding).

In all our work we adopt the following principles that inform safeguarding work with adults:

Empowerment: People being supported and encouraged to make their own decisions and informed consent

Prevention: It is better to take action before harm occurs

Proportionality: The least intrusive response appropriate to the risk presented **Protection:** Support and representation for those in greatest need

Partnership: Local solutions through services working with our community
Accountability: Accountability and transparency in delivering safeguarding

Our future strategic plans will be informed by data analysis and comparison over time and will seek to ensure the experiences and voices of survivors of abuse and neglect are heard and inform the strategic plan. The findings of case reviews, audits and safeguarding adults and children's reviews will be used to improve our practice.

Our strategic plan will identify and address weaknesses and respond to any opportunities that are identified. It will be informed by current research and by developments in other areas.

Our strategic plan has two main purposes. It must state:

- How we will achieve our objectives
- State what each member is doing to implement the strategy

Community Involvement

We are required to involve the community in preparing our strategic plan and this needs to be developed in the coming year.

Who is the Safeguarding Adult Board?

The Membership of the Safeguarding Adult Board is outlined in the Assessment and Safeguarding of Adult Ordinance 2020. The members are:

(a) the elected member or members of the Legislative Assembly with portfolio responsibility for health and social services, education and community (or equivalent), or their deputy or deputies;

- the Director of Health and Social Services
- the Director of Education;
- the Chief Medical Officer;
- the Chief Police Officer;
- the Attorney General;
- the Head of Social Services
- the Team Manager in the Social Services Department;
- the Chief Nursing Officer
- the Probation Officer (or the senior representative of the Probation Service)
- a representative of the United Kingdom Ministry of Defence appointed by the Chief of Staff of the Ministry of Defence in the Falkland Islands

- may also include such other persons as the Governor considers appropriate, including a representative of at least one organisation with a role relating to the welfare of families of those serving in the Falkland Islands in the United Kingdom armed forces.

Safeguarding Adult Sub-Groups

The SAB has sub-groups that complete work on behalf of the Board. The SAB and Falkland Islands Safeguarding Children Board work closely together and they share knowledge between the Boards and their sub-groups.

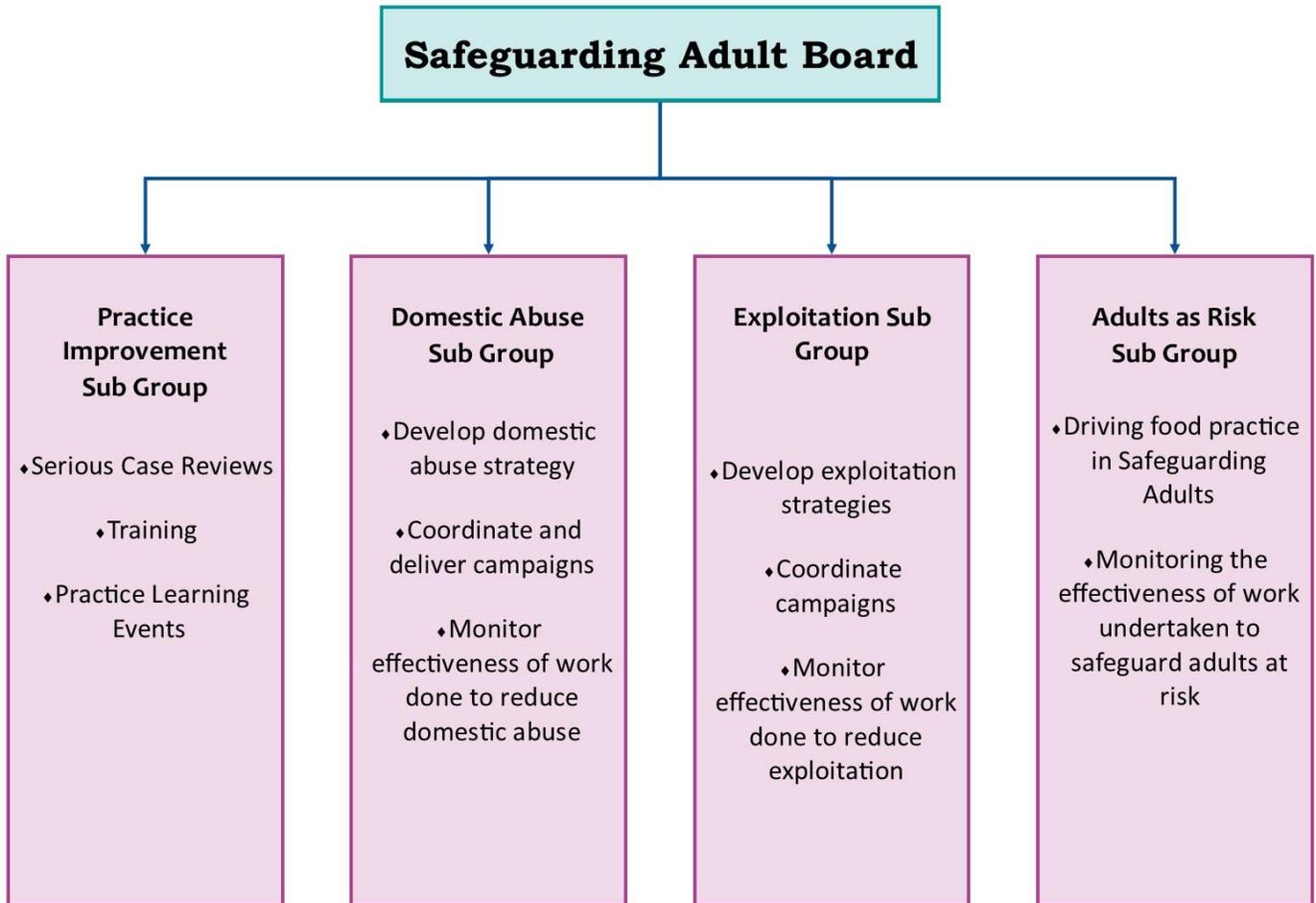
The Practice Improvement Sub-Group is responsible for reviewing practice and learning from cases. They consider incidents that were challenging as well as identified good practice to see how we can improve our delivery of services to people who need them. The Practice Improvement Sub-Group is responsible for ensuring that the mandatory safeguarding training is of a high quality and that the requirement for attendance is complied with.

The Domestic Abuse Sub-Group is responsible for coordinating a domestic abuse strategy and raising awareness in the community and also for monitoring the effectiveness of work undertaken to reduce domestic abuse.

The Exploitation Sub-Group is responsible for coordinating a strategy to reduce exploitation in the Islands, and to raise awareness in the community. The sub-group also monitors the effectiveness of work undertaken to reduce domestic abuse.

The Adults at Risk Sub-Group is responsible for driving good practice in adult safeguarding. They are responsible for promoting awareness of and the use of the Adult Safeguarding Policy and Procedures amongst professionals. This sub-group should monitor and scrutinise work undertaken to protect adults at risk, and should work closely with the other groups to ensure a coordinated response and to develop training in relation to the launch of the new procedures.

Safeguarding Adult Board and its Sub-Groups



Safeguarding Adults Board Strategic Plan 2022-2025

Priority Focus 1 - Domestic Abuse

Further work is required to increase awareness and to challenge attitudes of violence against women, domestic abuse and sexual violence

Ref	Priority Focus	What do we want to achieve?	Outcome indicators – measurable targets	Lead	Target date
1a	Domestic Abuse	Re-establish the domestic abuse focus group and make it a sub-group of the SAB	Success will mean that: The sub-group will meet at least quarterly and report on their progress in addressing domestic abuse to the SAB Complete and ongoing Sub-group will produce a strategic plan for tackling domestic abuse Complete	HSS	Nov 2022
1b		Produce a domestic abuse strategy	Success will mean that: There will be an integrated approach to the work we undertake on behalf of FIG to address domestic abuse Complete	Domestic Abuse sub-group CoP	Dec 2022
1c		Have a clear procedure to inform what should be done in high risk situations involving domestic abuse which is fit for purpose in Stanley, camp and on the Mount Pleasant Complex	Success will mean that: A MARAC procedure is produced informed by the Safe Lives research and literature that clearly outlines a process to be followed with clear lines of responsibility Complete	Domestic Abuse sub-group CoP	Dec 2022
1d		DASH forms are routinely completed following reports of incidents of domestic abuse	Success will mean that: DASH forms are completed on all domestic abuse incidents Complete Domestic abuse incidents are appropriately assessed and the MARAC process is used to support those at high risk – DASH should be used on all DA incidents, MARAC reserved for the high risk.	CoP	Dec 2022

Ref	Priority Focus	What do we want to achieve?	Outcome indicators – measurable targets	Lead	Target date
			Complete		
1e		Create a policy with the Housing Department that prioritises provision of housing to victims of domestic abuse	Success will mean that: Individuals who are suffering domestic abuse are able to leave situations in which they are not safe because they have been supported to gain alternative accommodation. This will be looked at under the review of the Domestic Abuse Policy work that Probation Officer is leading on. However, individuals have been supported to leave abuse situations with support from Housing.	HSS	Sept 2023
1f		Raise Awareness in the Community of Domestic Abuse	Success will mean that: Men and women experiencing domestic abuse know where to seek advice and support from Awareness campaign complete Men and women perpetrating domestic abuse know where they can access support to help them address their abusive behaviour Awareness campaign complete Children and young people receive information about positive relationships through the curriculum Yes this is on-going	Lead of DA Sub-Group	March 2023
1g		Provide high quality and up-to-date multi-agency training to relevant FIG staff on domestic abuse	Success will mean that: Professionals are trained and are able to offer appropriate responses to domestic abuse Training delivered More victims are identified as awareness has been increased This is being monitored via the Domestic Abuse Sub Group. Relevant staff will know how to complete a Dash form and	Lead of DA Sub-Group	June 2023

Ref	Priority Focus	What do we want to achieve?	Outcome indicators – measurable targets	Lead	Target date
			what to do with it Training completed		

Priority Focus 2 - Supporting Vulnerable Adults in the Community

Ref	Priority Focus	What do we want to achieve?	Outcome indicators – measurable targets	Lead	Target date
2a	Supporting vulnerable adults in the community	Equitable provision of care and support to those assessed as requiring it	<p>Success will mean that:</p> <p>Eligible individuals have an assessment undertaken. As per approved assessment policy</p> <p>Eligible individuals have a person-centred care / support plan in place Occurs and is ongoing</p> <p>Eligible individuals receive care / support in line with the identified needs Occurs within available resources</p> <p>Eligible carers will have had a carer’s assessment As per approved assessment policy</p> <p>Eligible carers will receive support as identified in their assessment Limited support currently available, but services such as respite care are offered.</p> <p>The SLS is established and resourced in the social services establishment No progress to date</p>	DHSS/HSS	Dec 2023
2b		The provision of a support service (Supported Living Service – SLS) that meets the assessed needs of vulnerable adults	<p>Success will mean that:</p> <p>The SLS is established and resourced in the social services establishment</p> <p>Eligible individuals have an assessment undertaken</p> <p>Eligible individuals have a</p>	DHSS / HSS	Dec 2023

Ref	Priority Focus	What do we want to achieve?	Outcome indicators – measurable targets	Lead	Target date
		living in the community	person-centred care / support plan in place Eligible individuals receive care / support in line with the identified needs This service has not yet been established as no resources have been allocated.		
2c		Legislative change to the Assessing and Safeguarding Adults Ordinance (2020) that would create a duty to provide resources when a need is identified	Success will mean that: The Ordinance is amended to give FIG a duty to meet any needs identified by an assessment This action has not yet been accepted to the legislative programme.	DHSS	Dec 2024

Priority Focus 3 - Exploitation

Ref	Priority Focus	What do we want to achieve?	Outcome indicators – measurable targets	Lead	Target date
3a	Exploitation	To develop a Falkland Islands Exploitation Strategy	Success will mean that: The FI Exploitation is implemented and there is: Clarity and agreement of roles and responsibilities Governance arrangements are clear and concise Departments working together has a positive impact on the community Exploitation subgroup have made good progress and work toward these objectives on an ongoing basis.	CoP / Lead of Exploitation Sub-group	Oct 2022
3b		Intelligence Gathering and Sharing – to prevent people from engaging in adult/child	Success will mean that: We prevent Exploitation through improved information and knowledge transfer between key departments	CoP / Lead of Exploitation sub-group	Aug 2023

Ref	Priority Focus	What do we want to achieve?	Outcome indicators – measurable targets	Lead	Target date
		exploitation	<p>We understand the themes of exploitation that are relevant to the Falkland Islands community</p> <p>Achieved through comprehensive data collection</p> <p>Dialogue is established with hard to engage groups (Adults/child at risk)</p> <p>On-going on an individual basis</p> <p>The private sector (e.g. hospitality, fishing industry, taxis, etc.) are well informed on their responsibility to tackle exploitation</p> <p>Achieved, but an ongoing action. Regular engagement and training with stakeholders occurs.</p>		
3c		Develop victim service provision – strengthen safeguards against adult/child exploitation by protecting victims from further victimisation and protecting those who may be susceptible to exploitation	<p>Success will mean that:</p> <p>Fewer people are deceived or forced into exploitation.</p> <p>Victim support arrangements are in place.</p> <p>Identified victims are supported and are able to continue their lives safely:</p> <p>Victims are effectively referred into the most appropriate services according to their needs</p> <p>There is a victim centred approach to enforcement and legal activity surrounding known cases of exploitation</p> <p>Robust processes in place; ongoing activity.</p>	Probation Officer	Aug 2023
3d		Tackling Perpetrators – prosecuting and	<p>Success will mean that:</p> <p>The disruption of criminal activity around exploitation</p>	CoP	Feb 2023

Ref	Priority Focus	What do we want to achieve?	Outcome indicators – measurable targets	Lead	Target date
		disrupting individuals and groups responsible for child/adult exploitation	Increased awareness and efficient reporting leads to improved intelligence Development of local profiles Support existing enforcement activity Deterring potential offenders through increasing the risk and their awareness of it Exploitation is prevented as offenders are aware of service presence and those who are vulnerable are aware Robust processes in place; ongoing activity.		
3e		Training and Awareness – Raising – Reducing the harm by exploitation through improved victim identification and enhanced support	Success will mean that: Professionals are trained and are aware of the signs of exploitation. More victims of exploitation are identified as awareness has been increased among professionals and the public. There will be an increase in the identification of victims and referrals made Continued provision of the FIG Understanding Child Sexual Exploitation Course Identify the best way to provide training on the exploitation of adults and on wider themes of exploitation Comprehensive training delivered with high uptake; ongoing action as new starters join service.	DHSS / CoP	Sept 2022