

Thinkhouse Early Career Research Prize submission

Safeguarding Adults: An evaluation into the involvement of Housing Associations in England

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1. Abstract

At a time of competing commercial pressures, Safeguarding Adults is an activity in which Housing Associations in England are becoming increasingly involved. In December 2020, the Local Government Association published a report presenting the findings of the first thematic analysis of 231 Safeguarding Adult Reviews. It highlighted that the most common location for abuse is in the home, and that the second only to a Care Home setting, the most prevalent type of accommodation of individuals subject to a review is within social housing.

Despite this being the case, the work of Social Landlords in this area is largely unrecognised, with only 0.84 per cent of SAR recommendations referencing them, and little formal recognition from Statutory Partners. This paper sets out to understand why this is the case, by drawing on previous research and interviewing housing and Safeguarding practitioners in the current day.

2. Background to the study

The hybrid discourse within Housing Associations serving both a commercial and social purpose has been widely discussed (Rolfe, S et al, 2020, p.1050). In England, the scaling back of public subsidy and need to remain financially viable has set the trajectory of travel for Associations to grow at an exponential rate (Marsh, A. 2018, p.9). With the largest social landlord providing homes for over 350,000 people across 150 Local Authorities (Clarion Housing Group, 2022), how these providers retain an operating model built on meaningful engagement and rapport with local communities has been widely debated (Marsh, A. 2018, p.8).

At its core, Housing Associations provide affordable tenancies to those deemed by the Local Authority to have a qualifying housing need. Between April 2017 to March 2018, national statistics in England show 27.9 per cent of new social housing lettings were allocated to vulnerable households due to homelessness, hardship or medical or mental health need (www.gov.uk, 2022).

When you consider this alongside the last decade of austerity measures including welfare reform, cuts in social care, drug and alcohol services and housing welfare related support such as the Supporting People programme (Alexiou et al. 2021, p.3) , housing vulnerable people with complex needs and limited support is having a knock-on impact on Housing Associations, particularly around Safeguarding (Local Government Association, 2020, p.62).

The Care Act 2014 compels a Local Authority to act in partnership with other named public agencies to safeguard adults with an identified care and support need, whose needs are unmet and are therefore unable to protect themselves from harm (Section 42-47, The Care Act, 2014). Housing staff are well placed to raise concerns, encountering many households who pose a safeguarding concern, and often working in partnership with public bodies to coordinate responses. This is recognised by both the Social Care Institute for Excellence, who view housing as “a vital component of local safeguarding multi-agency partnerships” (Social Care Institute of Excellence, 2018), and the Local Government Association, who’s 2017 good practice guide on safeguarding, highlights the crucial part social housing providers play (Local Government Association, 2017, p.14).

However, academic research into the involvement that the housing sector has in Safeguarding is sparse. Back in 2014, Imogen Parry published research into the role of Social landlords in safeguarding adults to help address a perceived lack of engagement of

housing in this area. She commented that despite the high proportion of vulnerable adults living in social housing, a lack of research into this area demonstrated how policy makers and practitioners fail to give credit to the role they play (Parry, 2014, p.169) and that their contribution was largely unrecognised.

She undertook a thematic analysis of the 21 housing related Safeguarding Case Reviews in England during 2012 taken from 70 publicly available case reviews found across 152 Local Authorities and found that authors to the reviews often had “little understanding of the housing sector” (Parry, 2014, p.172-3) and that as a result their contribution was overlooked in comparison to other agencies, despite their involvement with the adult at risk. In thirteen of the cases, she found:

“there were frequent references to housing staff being ‘outside the loop’, not being taken seriously, not treated as professionals, not having a key role, despite their knowledge and contact with tenants” (Parry, 2014, p.176).

This therefore giving weight to the notion of housing being perceived as inconsequential or irrelevant. However, Parry’s methodology was based on a literature analysis, and did not entail speaking to the authors, experts or practitioners working in this specialism, to interrogate the assumptions made. A literature review has found there to be no published qualitative research on this topic involving participant interviews, so a study involving this type of primary research will help delve deeper into opinions and experiences of practitioners to understand if Parry’s assumptions still hold eight years later, and will contribute to a new body of knowledge in an important area where little is currently known academically.

To bring this research into the current day, since Parry’s publication, there has been one other important body of analysis relevant to this topic. In December 2020, the Local Government Association (LGA) published a report presenting the findings of the first thematic analysis of 231 Safeguarding Adult Reviews (SARs) in England since they were implemented as part of Section 44 of the Care Act 2014, which were undertaken between April 2017 and March 2019 inclusive.

The analysis shows that the most common location for abuse is in the home, and that the second most prevalent type of accommodation of individuals subject to a SAR is in social housing (Local Government Association, 2020, p.62-63). NHS Digital have also published data from 2020/21 that shows 50.8 per cent of all reported safeguarding incidents occurred in a person’s own home, compared with 44.7 per cent in the preceding year (NHS Digital, 2022). Both of which would imply the relevance of social landlord involvement.

However, from 3,217 SAR recommendations made for an individual agency only 27 (or the equivalent of 0.84 per cent) relate to a Housing Association (Local Government Association, 2020, p.171). This suggests that either there were minimal learning points on the part of the landlords that would have reduced the harm from occurring, or that Housing providers don’t generally feature in the review themselves as they aren’t included by the statutory partners leading the investigations. Parry’s research would suggest it is the latter, where she concluded that authors minimal understanding of the housing sector meant that observations about housing’s contributory role were “not linked clearly to the conclusions or recommendations” (Parry, 2014, p.173).

Responding therefore to an identified gap in evidence, this research set out to explore through the knowledge and experiences of subject matter experts, the involvement that Housing Associations in England currently have in Safeguarding adults. Knowing that the majority of abuse involving vulnerable adults takes place in the home and within social housing, it will seek to understand what Housing Associations are doing to protect vulnerable

adults, and what prevents them from being more central to safeguarding activity led by the Local Authority under the Care Act 2014. It also analyses whether social landlords are striking the right balance in terms of their involvement and whether their boundaries are clearly defined.

3. Methodology

This qualitative research study undertaken in early 2022, involved semi structured online interviews with eight professionals currently working within Safeguarding in order to explore and obtain a depth of understanding. A purposive sample of participants were selected with the intention that their expert knowledge and experiences elicit responses which are widely indicative of work in this area across the sector (Palinkas et al. 2015). Interviews lasted between 60-90 minutes.

Four contributors are Housing Association employees and subject matter experts for their organisation, three are Local Authority representatives on a Safeguarding Adults Board, and one participant is a full-time safeguarding trainer and consultant. One of the participants has had their work in this area published by the Local Government Association.

Between them they demonstrate not only a wealth of knowledge and expertise with an average of 15 years' experience working in this area, but a well-informed evidence base to inform their responses.

Whilst this is a small-scale study, the housing staff interviewed each work for a social landlord managing between 25,000 up to 60,000 social housing properties based in England and work across 72 Local Authority areas in total. Each interview was digitally recorded and transcribed and the data was then organised and analysed using a thematic analysis approach conducted according to Braun and Clarke's guidelines (Braun. and Clark,V. 2006, p.87). Ethical consent was obtained from Cardiff Metropolitan University and participants have been anonymised throughout.

4. Key Findings

Three major cross cutting themes have emerged from the interviews in relation to perceptions of Housing Associations, whether their increasing organisational scale and complexity impacts partnership working, and how in practice boundaries are not clearly defined.

4.1 How Housing Associations are perceived has a strong bearing on their involvement in Safeguarding adults: A critical analysis

Housing management within the social housing sector is in a quandary about how it identifies as a profession, and it's an area academically that's been widely debated. As landlords have grown and diversified, so have the roles within it, leading to a "lack of a consistent and universally accepted view" (Casey, 2007, p.762) on whether it can claim to hold professional status.

As a work-related activity that primarily entails collaborating with statutory partners, having professional status as a non-statutory partner within Safeguarding is important to social landlords. The professionalism of the sector is certainly on the current agenda for the Chartered Institute of Housing (CIH), who in 2021 launched their new professional standards (CIH, 2022) in response to the Social Housing White Paper and the widespread criticism of social landlords following the Grenfell disaster. Establishing the professionalisation of social housing has never been more important and something which many social housing practitioners are acutely aware.

Although it's been over 20 years since Furbey et al discussed the problems housing managers have had in legitimising themselves as a profession (Furbey et al, 2001, p.37), in their 2017 article Manzi and Richardson reinforce how housing still lacks professional status and "been further threatened by managerialism, political antipathy and social change" (Manzi and Richardson, 2017, p.210-211). They found that the growing discourse between commercialism and social purpose impacted this identity, which was evident in their analysis of a study with housing employees. When asked to prioritise key competencies for frontline housing workers both now and in the future, skills relating to commercialism and change management were predicted as taking precedent over working with the most vulnerable, being professional and problem solving (Manzi and Richardson, 2017, p.216-217). Yet it's these latter three skills which resonate with the key attributes needed to effectively deal with Safeguarding for those working in the housing sector (Local Government Association, 2017, p.11).

These discussions suggest that even if the housing profession does carve out a more distinct identity, it will have an increasingly more commercial focus, with less involvement in social welfare issues such as safeguarding the most vulnerable living in their homes.

Within my study, all participants were unanimous in agreeing that Safeguarding adults was an important activity in which Housing Associations should be involved:

"We're working with the most vulnerable members of society, now more than ever, and we're one of the only agencies that have a clear-cut contractual arrangement with vulnerable customers through their tenancy agreement. That tenancy agreement provides us with access to properties and insight to data that many other agencies don't have" (AA, Housing Association).

Housing contributors in the study were also asked to discuss their organisation's involvement in Safeguarding, which was extensive and included:

- Having Safeguarding policies and procedures in place and under review;
- Mandatory training delivered to all front-line staff;
- 'Tool-box talks' to trades teams on how to spot and report abuse in the home;
- Organising and attending multi-agency risk management meetings;
- Attending Safeguarding Adult Boards sub-groups;
- Joint working with partner agencies;
- Case recording and monitoring;
- Working with vulnerable tenants in sustaining their tenancies;
- Producing business reports on levels of safeguarding activity and outcomes;
- Supporting Local Authorities in safeguarding enquiries under the Care Act 2014.

In addition, the Landlords spoke about the following resources they have to support vulnerable tenants, including:

- Tenancy Support;
- Discretionary Hardship funds;
- Dedicated subject matter experts on safeguarding and domestic abuse;
- Specialist clearance budgets (to assist with hoarding and neglect cases);
- Officers working in retirement living schemes offering daily reassurance calls;
- Supported Housing teams working alongside commissioned support services;
- Housing First accommodation to work with the homeless as they transition into new tenancies.
- 24 hour care alarm monitoring services to older residents.

This evidence therefore reinforcing that social landlords understand the importance they have in safeguarding, they are adhering to The Care Act 2014 which compels them to support Local Authority safeguarding enquires, and finally, that they're fostering good practice set out by the CIH and the Local Government Association (Local Government Association, 2017; Chartered Institute of Housing, 2015).

The level of activity shown therefore contrasts with commentators who emphasised that the "thrust of managerialism" and business pressures were increasingly driving out any welfare aspects in the identity of the housing profession (Casey, 2007, p.761-762).

However, each of the landlord participants spoke about how Statutory partners professionally perceive them matters, and it does affect their role in Safeguarding. The comments made below highlight these perceptions:

"It comes down to the professionalisation of the housing sector. I think we get short thrift from statutory agencies; you get comments like 'all you do is check communal areas' or are 'glorified fire wardens.' (RR, Housing Association).

"As long as I've worked in housing, over 30 years, we've been the ones that have been the last to the party....we're not seen as a 'go-to' agency". (AA, Housing Association).

"When we've made safeguarding referrals we're often doubted, or our concerns aren't seen as valid, compared to other agencies like the Police or the Council." (CC, Housing Association).

Housing participants felt often they lacked value or status when working alongside statutory partners such as the Police or the NHS, which has led to some colleagues disengaging from the process altogether. Whilst this resonates with Parry who wrote about housing staff being "outside the loop" and not taken seriously or professionally despite their knowledge and contact with tenants (Parry, 2014, p.176), as mentioned previously, the sector is working within a backdrop of political antipathy towards social housing, with providers increasingly demonised as having "institutional indifference" (CIH, 2022). Therefore, sensitivities to those working in the sector around how they are perceived may have some bearing on their responses.

This was further demonstrated recently when the role that Housing providers have in supporting vulnerable residents was overlooked during the Coronavirus pandemic, where Housing Association staff failed to be classed by the Government as 'key-workers'. Despite the National Housing Federation making calls for the Government to recognise them in the same way as public sector workers due to the services they provided to the most vulnerable, particularly in supported housing and older persons accommodation (Inside Housing, March 2020), they were omitted.

However, within this study, Local Authority participants spoke about housing as being a key agency with responsibility in safeguarding:

“They are connected with people who may be at risk of abuse and therefore they may see or hear things that raise their suspicions that abuse might be happening....anyone who’s providing something tangible for a person is necessary and important in their lives, and the person is more likely to talk to them – it’s a way in.” (PP, Local Authority)

“The majority of abuse goes on behind closed doors....so the idea that you’re not going to use the housing resource who are the eyes and the ears of what’s happening inside the home doesn’t make sense.” (FF, Safeguarding trainer)

“I think that the value base in the housing sector is really helpful in safeguarding adults....there is a real ethos about the person at the centre, and communicating and hearing the person’s voice.” (PP, Local Authority)

So clearly there is a disconnect demonstrated in this study between how housing practitioners think they are perceived by Local Authorities, compared to what Authority representatives are saying.

As a small-scale study, this is only a snapshot of evidence on an important area around perceptions of Housing Associations by public bodies, and it would benefit from further academic research outside of the scope of this article. However, it does substantiate how social landlords can feel on the periphery when it comes to being considered as a key player within safeguarding.

Referring back to the 2020 SAR analysis, the evidence above suggests perceptions around the identity of Housing Associations as a professional agency may partly explain their lack of recognition, but this is minimal. It doesn’t therefore solve the conundrum as to why social landlords play such a small part within Safeguarding Adult Reviews, especially given this study has so far highlighted that housing is considered a vital agency with an important role in safeguarding, and that Associations recognise this and put time and attention into this area, despite it not being their core function as a social landlord (Manzi and Richardson, 2017, p.211).

Therefore, there must be other issues at play to help explain this discourse, which will be discussed below.

4.2 The growing size and complexities of Housing Associations and the impact on partnership working

The large-scale withdrawal of public subsidy and political support for Social Housing in England has led to a notable trend in Housing Associations increasing in organisational scale in order to remain financially independent and commercially viable, and to fund the development of affordable homes (Marsh, 2018, p.9). A sector with its’ origins as a public body in the welfare state has effectively become a private entity.

Less attention however has been paid to the way in which the scale of these growing structures has impacted partnership working and the implications around areas such as

Safeguarding are not well known. This study has highlighted this is an issue for Local Authorities:

“One of the difficulties I’ve found with Safeguarding Adults Board is the diversity of the housing sector and the number of players in a geographical area.” (PP, Local Authority)

“It’s not just the case of finding out who the landlord is, we then have to find the right person to speak tothere can be many hurdles to overcome before we find someone who can help with our enquiry”. (VV, Local Authority).

Effective multi-agency partnership working is an important feature in Safeguarding (LGA, 2017, p.21), and if Local Authorities are unable to effectively navigate housing systems it will have an impact on engaging with them in safeguarding activity. In their 2019 article about professional curiosity and partnership working in Safeguarding adults, Thacker et al highlighted that it is only by working in partnership that agencies can come together to share information about the people they work with, to:

“gain a holistic picture and work collaboratively to make appropriate decisions and plans” (Thacker et al, 2019, p.254).

This also being an important feature of a Safeguarding Adult Review. They highlight the importance of the relationships and interactions between partnership agencies, which also resonates with Hilary Cottam’s work on relational welfare, who asserted that successful collaboration between services must be “easy, intuitive and natural” (Cottam, 2018, p.46). She found that welfare systems, not just Housing, were all too often overly complex and unwieldy, with too much time administering the system, and not enough spent building relationships needed to support those most at risk.

The comments above from participants do therefore suggest that the growing size, complexities and number of Housing Associations hinders the forging of effective relationships between Local Authorities and Housing Providers needed for successful partnership within Safeguarding.

Participants all consistently spoke about the benefits of partnership working. Only one of the four Housing Association staff had been involved with a Safeguarding Adults Board through being a member of a housing sub-group, and saw the benefits to this, but spoke about the success being reliant on the proactive dissemination of information to all housing partners. This was also observed by the Local Authority contributors, who recognised the problem of there being limited housing representation on the Board despite numerous Housing Associations working in the one Local Authority area as the main provider of social housing. For example:

“ I think that the value base in the housing sector is really helpful.....but there’s a difficulty strategically in terms of how to connect it all up, feed it into the Board and feed the other learning from the Board back out to the whole sector in a Local Authority area”. (PP, Local Authority).

“ Although there’s a desire from the Board to include housing, more often than not we engage with Council’s instead of Housing Associations..... they do tend to get side-lined” (VV, Local Authority).

To further demonstrate this, as part of this study, 16 Safeguarding Adult Boards across England were chosen at random, to identify any Housing Association representation on the

Board. Representation is decided upon by the Local Authority and should include members from those agencies it considers appropriate in addition to the core membership from the Police authority and clinical commissioning group (Schedule 2, The Care Act, 2014). The results are taken from the published website for each Board, and are shown in **Appendix 1**.

This sample of Board membership shows that only one of the 16 Boards have representation from a Housing Association, two of the Boards do not have any housing representation at all, and 14 have housing represented from the Local Borough, City or District Council.

This clearly highlights that Housing Associations are over-looked in terms of involvement with Safeguarding Adults Boards, and in doing so are excluded from any strategic work around Safeguarding with partnership agencies. It also helps explain why Housing is so under represented in the 2020 Safeguarding Adult Review Analysis. Whilst the exclusion could be attributed to the complexity and structures of Social Landlords, equally it could also be due to the regard that Boards place on housing representation being only from Local Government. The Local Authority participants in this study suggest it is a combination of the two:

“ The layers of the housing sector and the different aspects of it are a bit baffling... The Board needs to sit down and understand the shape and composition of it’s housing sector and really support whoever is representative of housing on the Board in getting to all the parts of that very complex picture.” (PP, Local Authority)

“ Housing representation is from the Council, who should disseminate information within the housing sector...but it isn’t something that we monitor or hold them to account on” (VV, Local Authority).

A relatively simple solution here would be if Boards undertook an analysis to inform their decision on who is best placed to represent housing on the Board. For example, this could be based on the proportion of social housing stock in the area or the level of safeguarding activity involving social landlords. This could then identify a housing representative, whether it be from the Council or from a Registered Provider, who as a member would then have more of a relevant insight to help influence Board decisions more effectively.

Equally, some Boards such as Hampshire County Council have a Housing sub-group (www.hampshiresab.org, 2022) which comprises all the social housing providers in the area, and who collectively have a voice on the Board.

Ultimately, housing organisations are a valuable partner to Safeguarding Boards due to both their “local networks with communities” and that they are equipped to identify and support adults who may be at risk of abuse or neglect (Chartered Institute of Housing, 2015). Excluding them from strategic influence will have an impact, which is further discussed below.

4.3 Blurred boundaries

Housing staff often have significant information to support partner agencies in establishing a complete picture of an individual and their situation (LGA, 2017,p.12). This study highlights that whilst this might be the case, there is a problem in practice where boundaries between housing staff and Adult Social care are not clearly defined when working with vulnerable adults.

One of the housing participants spoke at length about a current Safeguarding Adults Review that he was involved in, where the observations were that his team had stepped into a world that was too close to that of support:

“When you’re dealing with someone in a desperate situation you can feel like you’re the only one there, and if you don’t do something, who will?.....The phrase in the draft report was that we were ‘walking the tightrope’ between social care and housing....although the Chair was appreciative of the extra mile we’d gone, when we look at our boundaries, it is an issue.” (RR, Housing Association).

Another participant spoke about his perception that Housing Associations were plugging a gap that had been caused through the scaling back of public services:

“I see a lot of housing professionals, particularly since Covid and the last decade of austerity that fill in the gap and take on more than they should but they’re doing it because perhaps health and social care aren’t filling that gap....that’s when there’s confusion, when there’s ambiguity, that’s when mistakes happen.” (FF, Safeguarding trainer).

These comments contrast with the observations made in the LGA 2020 analysis of Safeguarding Adult Reviews, where the authors question whether housing practitioners express “sufficient professional curiosity and authoritative doubt” (Local Government Association, 2020, p.71) when they have the opportunity to intervene to prevent abuse and neglect, or protect individuals from harm. This assumption questions whether Housing Association’s do enough to intervene when there is a safeguarding concern, unlike the participant feedback above which suggests they are doing too much. So a balance needs to be struck.

Whilst guidance is clear that Housing Associations should be able to identify a safeguarding concern and work with a range of partners to keep individuals safe from harm (LGA, 2017, p.11) this comes with a degree of ambiguity. Legislation doesn’t clarify any role for Housing Associations other than to supply the Local Authority with information it requests under Section 45 of the Care Act 2014. Neither is there any formal or regulatory requirement placed on social landlords regarding this activity.

Guidance for social landlords refers to housing agencies being able to identify a concern, share information, risk assess the situation fully, build trust, and “persuade the individual to accept support and to make safer choices”(LGA, 2017, p.11), implying that housing do have responsibilities, albeit they have no legal or regulatory duty or recognition in doing so.

Whilst safeguarding policies, procedures and training within a Housing Association should help provide clarity and consistency, all of the housing participants mentioned that ultimately it can come down to the individual’s approach more than anything else:

“Individual officers can respond to the same safeguarding situation in a different way....when I was an officer I’d knock at a property not once, but twice, I’d walk round the back, try to speak to neighbours or family, report my concerns to adult social care if neededbut if someone else doing the same thing is in a rush, they’re not going to do that, they’ll knock once and if no answer, move on, case closed – and the risk will be missed.” (AA, Housing Association)

“There’s no blueprint, no two cases are ever the same – you follow your instinct and try and do the right thing” (CC, Housing Association).

Unclear boundaries, lack of formal recognition and a reliance on professional curiosity highlights a real volatility. Local Authority contributors were clear that they should be the ones defining roles and responsibilities for others as the co-ordinator to a safeguarding concern, however in practice this would not always appear the case where Housing Association tenants are identified as the person at risk:

“When we raise a concern and it’s not accepted by the Local Authority, we still have the ongoing relationship with our tenant, and are left trying to resolve complex issues relating to how they are living, be it mental health, addiction and abuse or poor life choices.” (CC, Housing Association).

This problem is not insurmountable. Being a partner member of a Safeguarding Adults Board would give a voice and influence to Housing Associations in influencing strategic decision making, highlighting risk areas, and disseminating learning as well as giving assurance and visibility to the Board around the work that housing providers are undertaking to protect vulnerable adults within their communities. Without this visibility and engagement, the work that Housing Associations do undertake to support their most vulnerable tenants, will be hidden, which really will leave them at risk of crossing the line into support.

5. Implications for policy and practice

Partnership working is vital in safeguarding adults. Every agency holds a piece in a jigsaw which need to be placed together to give the complete picture around a vulnerable adults’ situation. Despite serious case reviews concluding a lack of information sharing between agencies has resulted in vulnerable adults being unnecessarily exposed to harmful or abusive situations (Preston-Shoot, 2017), the 2020 SAR report continues to highlight poor co-ordination and information sharing as the most frequently mentioned theme in interagency practice (LGA, 2020, p.75).

The over-riding power is vested with Local Authorities to co-ordinate all agencies who can contribute to this picture. Housing is a key partner, yet as a major stockholder of social housing in England, this study has shown that ‘housing’ is generally perceived to be the Council, with interaction and formal recognition of Housing Associations being woefully low, despite the proportion of vulnerable adults living in their stock and the number of alerts raised by them to Adult Social care teams.

Social Landlords have an ongoing relationship with their tenants, both contractually and morally, often building trust and rapport and being an inherent part of the network of support around that person. They are well placed to identify safeguarding concerns, and whilst safeguarding may present itself at a point when an adult is at their most vulnerable, social landlords will have a wider perspective around that persons living situation which lasts with the lifetime of their tenancy.

This study set out with the intention of analysing why, despite so much abuse taking place in the home and within social housing, landlords have barely been cited in Safeguarding Adult Reviews. Despite growing in scale, the findings of this study demonstrate that Associations foster professional curiosity with their staff by placing a strong emphasis on training, policies and procedures, and proactively working with their most vulnerable tenants. It is the lack of

professional curiosity that Local Authorities afford to Housing Associations by over-looking them on Safeguarding Adult Boards and Safeguarding Adult Reviews that is the overwhelming issue.

The recommendation therefore is that Local Authorities incorporate Housing Association strategic leads into their Safeguarding Boards, and that in turn, Associations commit to help educate Statutory partners on their role in communities in supporting adults with care and support needs avoid harm or abuse. Including them as an important piece in the multi-agency puzzle will not only help to clarify boundaries and reduce the potential for vulnerable adults in social housing to slip through the net, but will also help ensure that at a time of competing commercial pressures, Housing Associations retain a clear social purpose.

Appendix 1

Sample of Housing membership on Safeguarding Adults Boards in England – 7 May 2022

Safeguarding Adults Board area	Details of Housing representation/membership	Source
West of Berkshire	Borough Council	https://www.sabberkshirewest.co.uk/board-members/about-the-board/
West Sussex	District Borough Councils	https://www.westsussexsab.org.uk/about-us/our-members/
Surrey	Borough / District Councils	https://www.surreysab.org.uk/about-us/members-of-the-ssab/
London Borough of Hounslow	Council	https://www.hounslow.gov.uk/info/20130/safeguarding_adults_at_risk/1601/safeguarding_adults_board
Solihull	Borough Council and ALMO	https://www.safeguardingsolihull.org.uk/ssab/about-us/ssab-membership/
Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole	Council	https://www.bcpsafeguardingadultsboard.com/about-the-bcpsab.html
Oxfordshire	District and City Councils	https://www.osab.co.uk
Hertfordshire	None listed	https://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/services/Adult-social-services/Report-a-concern-about-an-adult/Hertfordshire-Safeguarding-Adults-Board/
Nottingham	City Council	https://www.nottinghamcity.gov.uk/safeguardingadults
Norfolk	None listed	https://www.norfolksafeguardingadultsboard.info
Hampshire	District / Borough council and Chair of Housing sub-group	https://www.hsab.org.uk/about-us/our-board/
Blackpool	Council and Housing Association	https://www.blackpoolsafeguarding.org.uk/about-the-adult-board
Kent and Medway	Borough / District Councils	https://www.kmsab.org.uk/assets/1/final_kmsab_annual_report_2020-2021.pdf
Worcestershire	City Council	https://www.safeguardingworcestershire.co.uk/wsab/
Sheffield	City Council	https://www.sheffield.gov.uk/home/social-care/adult-safeguarding
Leicester	Local Authority Housing	https://www.leicester.gov.uk/health-and-social-care/adult-social-care/what-support-do-you-need/safeguarding-adults-board/plans-reports-and-strategies/

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