Department of Health & Social Care

National Adult Safeguarding Board – Summary of meeting 16 June 2026

Attendees

Sarah McClinton (Chair), Chief Social Worker for Adults, DHSC

Stephen Kinnock, Minister of State for Care, DHSC (attended for first 30 Mins)

Chris Badger, Chief Inspector of Adult Social Care and Integrated Care, CQC

Vic Rayner, Chief Executive Officer, National Care Forum

Tamara Cooper, Adult Safeguarding Lead, NPCC

Michael Preston-Shoot, Joint Convenor National Network for SAB Chairs

Melanie Williams, Executive Director for Adult Social Care and Public Health,

Nottinghamshire County Council

Lucy Rush, Principal Social Worker (PSW) /Director of Practice and Assurance,

Hertfordshire County Council. Chair of National PSW Network

Anthony Douglas, former CEO of CAFCASS and DASS/DCS and current Improvement Adviser for DHSC and DfE

Tabitha Brufal, Adult Safeguarding policy team, DHSC

Martin Teff, Adult Safeguarding policy team, DHSC

Frances Turner-Chastney, Adult Safeguarding policy team, DHSC

Apologies

Acosia Nyanin, Deputy Chief Nursing Officer for England, NHS England

Isaac Samuels, Co-chair of the National Co-production Advisory Group (NCAG) and the

Think Local Act Personal (TLAP) Board (contribution shared via email)

Clenton Farquharson, Associate Director (Policy and Influencing), Think Local Act

Personal (TLAP) (contribution shared via email)

Opening remarks

Minister Kinnock, attended for the first 30 minutes. He emphasised safeguarding as a critical priority, setting out his three priorities for the Board: ensuring people are heard, checking that agencies act on concerns, and making sure that systems learn quickly when things go wrong. He confirmed he would take a close personal interest in the work of the Board and thanked the Chair and Board members for their commitment.

Opening remarks from the Minister of State for Care and the Chief Social Worker for Adults (Chair) set out the National Adult Safeguarding Board's strategic context, positioning it as a key mechanism to strengthen national oversight and accountability in response to Baroness Casey's recommendations, with a clear expectation that it will provide challenge and drive system action.

Discussion

Item 1: Terms of Reference and Board scope

Before the meeting, draft Terms of Reference were shared with the Board.

In their discussion of the Terms of Reference, Board members supported the need for broader representation on the Board, highlighting the importance of diversity and whether more could be done to emphasise coproduction and capture the views of people with lived experience and carers. This was also strongly reflected in the written contributions received from Clenton Farquharson and Isaac Samuals.

Board members welcomed the proposal develop a page on gov.uk to describe the Board and its work. They noted that the Board's remit should include looking at both

successes and failures in adult safeguarding, and that it should consider emerging issues such as digital safeguarding and exploitation.

Item 2: Immediate next steps and work programme

DHSC officials summarised the Department's plans to start work immediately on updating the chapter on adult safeguarding in the Care and Support Statutory Guidance (CASSG), based on evidence from escalated Safeguarding Adults Reviews and thematic analysis.

The Department is also planning a broader programme of work to improve national oversight of and support for local Safeguarding Adults Boards and the quality of adult safeguarding practice. This is likely to include establishing a mechanism for Safeguarding Adults Boards to share their annual reports with DHSC so that common themes and learning could be drawn out.

Members agreed that in the short-term the Board should focus on a small number of priorities, particularly updating the CASSG, strengthening national oversight of Safeguarding Adults Boards, and improving data. Members also emphasised that the programme should consider implementation, local variation, workforce development, national learning and the practical impact of each workstream on keeping people safer.

Item 3: Urgent review and possible legislative issues

DHSC officials summarised the Department's plans for the review of adult safeguarding legislation and guidance. The proposed scope includes measures aimed at strengthening national government accountability for safeguarding (including considering whether the Board itself requires new statutory powers to be most effective), and measures aimed at providing practitioners with greater clarity and

leverage in high-risk situations (including reviewing s42 and s44 of the Care Act 2014 and assessing proposals for powers of entry and protection orders).

Members shared views and insights on some of the proposed issues in scope. It was suggested that work on the CASSG would provide an effective foundation for considering whether any further changes to legislation and guidance are required.

Issues of legal literacy among practitioners and compliance with existing legislation and guidance were also raised.

Decisions and actions

1. DHSC will commence work on updating the CASSG and will provide the Board with an update in October 2026. In parallel, the Board will oversee an urgent review of the legal framework for safeguarding

2. Secretariat to circulate an amended Terms of Reference ahead of the next meeting in October 2026.

3. In advance of the next meeting, strengthened arrangements for incorporating the insights of people with lived experience into the work of the Board will be developed. An update will be provided to the Board at the meeting in October 2026.

4. Proposal to improve safeguarding data to be brought to the next meeting.

5. A detailed work plan for the Board will be discussed at the next meeting in October 2026.

6. A gov.uk page to be set up for the Board.

7. The Board will meet again in October 2026 and January 2027.