

ADULT SAFEGUARDING UPDATE (5)

This update provides a summary of various adult safeguarding activity recently or currently undertaken across the Home Office that relates to migration, borders, and citizenship.

This may include, for example, information on new legislation, strategies and policies, or specific initiatives undertaken by our operational directorates - Border Force, His Majesty's Passport Office, Immigration Enforcement, and UK Visas and Immigration.

In collaboration with respective policy and operational leads, this update has been produced by Safeguarding Advice and Children's Champion (SACC) - a Home Office team, led by 2 professional social work advisers, responsible for ensuring the department meets its statutory duty to children and wider safeguarding responsibilities. SACC also oversees the Home Office relationship with Safeguarding Adults Boards on matters relating to migration, borders, and citizenship.

Notifying the Home Office about Safeguarding Adult Reviews

The UK wide nature in which the Home Office operates means a Safeguarding Adult Review (SAR) could relate to interactions with a person by any 1 or more of our operational directorates. In light of this, the Home Office has established a central departmental contact point for all new and existing reviews. Please notify the Chief Caseworker Unit at CCUsafeguarding@homeoffice.gov.uk of any SAR you believe requires a migration, border, or citizenship related contribution from the Home Office. This will help to ensure the review is promptly directed to the appropriate business areas.

Safeguarding referrals

SACC has developed a template form for Home Office staff and contracted providers to use when making an adult referral to multi-agency safeguarding partners (such as local authority adult social care services) across the UK. While we appreciate some safeguarding partners may prefer to receive these notifications using their own referral form or online portal, we're using this standardised form to help reduce delay and ensure there is consistency and high standards of practice across the department in terms of the nature, format, and quality of our safeguarding referrals. To develop this template form, SACC has consulted representatives from the National Network for Chairs of Adult Safeguarding Boards.

Working with contracted Home Office providers

Established within the Home Office Asylum Safeguarding Hub in January 2024, the Service Delivery Safeguarding and Quality Assurance team works directly with Advice, Issue Reporting and Eligibility Assistance services (AIRE) and accommodation providers to improve safeguarding procedures. As part of this work, the team has issued standardised safeguarding referral forms (for adults and children) to providers, along with comprehensive accompanying guidance.

To help meet Home Office expectations and ensure there are consistent standards of practice across all contracts, the team will also be undertaking a thematic review of all provider documentation (e.g., policies, standard operating procedures, and process documents) and reviewing safeguarding training delivered to front line staff.

The Service Delivery Safeguarding and Quality Assurance team will also be implementing a Safeguarding Quality Assurance Framework, which will introduce a formal process for regularly assessing the quality of safeguarding interactions undertaken, by all AIRE and accommodation providers, throughout the customer journey.

This framework will focus on safeguarding decisions, information sharing, and other engagement with external partners. Currently in its test phase, the team plans to roll out this framework as live practice within the coming months. Providers have been actively involved in the consultation phase and are fully committed to the implementation of this work.

Recruiting for the Home Office Young People's Board

SACC would appreciate your continued help to promote our ongoing recruitment of new participants for the Home Office Young People's Board (YPB).

Established in 2021 following the independent Windrush Lessons Learned Review, the YPB is a UK-wide participation group for young people, aged 13-24, who meet periodically to discuss and give their views on a range of Home Office related issues that are a priority for and directly affect them. Sessions typically take place every 2 months and are facilitated by SACC, which is independent from the migration, borders, and citizenship decision-making process. Over the past 3 years, the YPB has contributed to Home Office understanding of children and young people's views on a range of issues, influencing the development of policies, practices, and operational tools across the department.

We recruited an initial 20 young participants, with local authority help, in 2021, and wrote, again, to Directors of Children's Services, last year, for their assistance to refresh the group. We'd now be grateful if you could please speak to members (aged 18 and over) of any young person participation or advocacy groups in operation in your local area about potentially joining our YPB. Young people in your area can express their interest by emailing the following details to YPB@homeoffice.gov.uk:

- Their full name, age, gender, and nationality.
- A brief summary of why they are interested in joining the YPB.
- A short description of their experience of the Home Office (migration, borders, and citizenship).
- Details of an email address at which we can directly contact them.

Contacting SACC

Please contact Mark Walsh at Mark.Walsh@homeoffice.gov.uk if you would like to learn more about the information included in this update.