

December 2022 Issue 1

Board updates

Welcome and introduction

Welcome to the first edition of the NCASP newsletter, which we hope will be a useful resource providing important information and updates about safeguarding children and adults, the work of the Partnership, and share good practice and areas of development.

We welcome contributions and safeguarding updates from staff, partners and those with lived experience of safeguarding. **If you would like to contribute or have any queries** about the content, please contact:



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[Northumberland Safeguarding Children and Adults website](https://www.northumberland.gov.uk/children-adults-safeguarding)

New Children's Business Manager

This month we are delighted to welcome Saira Park as our new Children's Business Manager. Saira comes with a wealth of experience in children's services, and previously held the position of Business Manager for Gateshead Safeguarding Partnership for 5 years.

New Safeguarding Partnership arrangements

From 1 April 2022, the Northumberland Children and Adults Safeguarding Partnership replaced both the Northumberland Strategic Safeguarding Partnership (NSSP) and the Northumberland Safeguarding Adults Board (SAB), which was formally a joint arrangement with North Tyneside SAB. This followed a period of consultation and development sessions with key partners.

The new arrangements acknowledge that children and adult arrangements are underpinned by different legislation and statutory guidance, however, recognises the similarities and shared benefits of a joint safeguarding approach across the life course.

'It is our vision to work together and provide added value across the safeguarding system, to improve practice and outcomes, and safeguard and promote the welfare of children, young people, adults, and their families in our community.'

To ensure the needs of both partnerships are met and to fully consider the implications of a new model and structure, full partnership arrangements are being carefully planned and implemented over a period of 12 months. A joint Executive and a Partnership Board are in place to ensure the Partnership meets its statutory requirements and publications. However, in the interim current subgroups and arrangements will remain the same including some joint arrangements with North Tyneside SAB. This has enabled a full Partnership review to take place, including subgroups, memberships, and priorities.

The final NCASP model will be launched in April 2023, and further communication will be circulated to partners at the end of January.

Annual reports

We are pleased to advise that the Safeguarding Children and Adults Partnership Annual Reports (2021-22) have now been finalised and after being presented to the NCASP Board on 22 November, are available on both websites. The reports look back at the challenges and achievements of 2021-22 and outline key safeguarding activities and developments. Thank you to all partner agencies who provided valuable contributions to these reports. This year's reports can be found at:

[NCASP Annual Report September 2021 – August 2022: Safeguarding Children in Northumberland](#)
[SAB Annual Report 2021-22](#)

National Safeguarding Adults Week

'Responding to contemporary safeguarding challenges'

This year, NCASP supported national Safeguarding Adults week, which was held during the week of 21 November.

[Safeguarding Adults Week](#) is a time for organisations to come together to raise awareness of important safeguarding issues.

The aim is to support organisations and individuals to feel confident in recognising signs of abuse and neglect and recording and reporting safeguarding concerns.

**We're Supporting
Safeguarding Adults
Week 2022!**

#SafeguardingAdultsWeek

ann craft trust

Throughout Safeguarding Adults Week, the NCASP Board and other partner agencies highlighted important safeguarding adults' messages via their social media pages and circulated a range of resources. The Partnership also supported a number of awareness raising activities and webinars on themes such as Transitional Safeguarding, Self-neglect, Elder Abuse, Predatory Marriage and Safeguarding Adults and Children's 'Did you know?' sessions.

The regional self neglect webinar was extremely successful and attended by over 700 delegates from across the Northeast. An expert panel of speakers delivered some exceptionally informative bite sized presentations on homelessness, alcohol and substance misuse, and hoarding, along with representation from the academic sector presenting some key aspects of research relating to self-neglect. The evaluation of the event was very positive.

"Best webinar I have attended in a long time, very interesting and useful"

"Thank you, have been really struck by the wealth of experience of the presenters"

To find out more information about NCASP, Safeguarding Adults, and Safeguarding Adults week resources, please see our [padlet](#).

Safeguarding Adults leaflet and posters

During Safeguarding week, NCASP launched a new leaflet and a series of posters, aimed at the public and staff, to raise awareness of Safeguarding Adults, and when/how to report concerns. We would ask all agencies to promote the use of these resources.

Please see links below to the digital resources. We also have a stock of these resources available for collection. Please contact [Karen Wright](#) to arrange this.

- [Safeguarding Adults Leaflet](#)
- ['Alison' – See me and care](#)
- ['Tommy' - See me and care](#)
- ['Margaret - See me and care](#)
- ['Alan' – See me and care](#)
- ['Louise' – See me and care](#)
- ['Peter' – See me and care](#)
- [Predatory Marriage – A Hidden Crime](#)



How can you help?
You may suspect neglect or abuse because:

- You have general concerns about someone's well-being
- You see or hear about something which could be abuse or neglect.
- Someone tells you something has happened or is happening to them, which could be neglect or abuse.

Some people will not be able to tell anyone they are being harmed. If you are worried about someone and think they may be at risk of harm then report it.

You must never assume that somebody else will recognise and report what you have seen or heard.

Please report any suspicions of abuse or neglect.

What happens after abuse is reported?
We will treat every report of suspected abuse seriously. Everyone is different and will need different support or advice depending on their situation. Where possible we will take steps to ensure the immediate safety of the adult at risk and anyone else affected by the alleged abuse, including children.

We will involve the 'adult at risk', or their representative, and will work together with them to plan what we can do to support and help keep them safe and as independent as possible. Together with our partner agencies, we will always do what we can to prevent abuse happening again.

We cannot do this without your help!

How can I report suspicions of abuse?
If you think an adult with care and support needs is experiencing, or is at risk of, abuse or neglect, Adult Social Care can offer advice and support to the person and/or their carers.

- Northumberland Onecall 01670 536400
- In an emergency call 999
- Non-emergency call to police 101

Thanks to South Tyne and Wear Children and Adults Partnership

Northumberland Onecall 01670 536400
To find out more information about Safeguarding Adults in Northumberland visit: <https://www.northumberland.gov.uk/Care/Support/Safeguarding.aspx>

See Me and Care

Northumberland Onecall 01670 536400



Local Safeguarding developments and information

Threshold of need

Offering the right help at the right time is central to what we do as a service and a council.



The Northumberland Adult and Children Safeguarding Partnership (NCASP) has updated the threshold of need document.

It should be used by professionals to support their decision making, when faced with a decision about the safety and wellbeing of a child.

It should not replace the conversations we have when faced with concerns about a child to determine the best next steps.

You can find the updated document [here](#)

Regional Self-Neglect campaign

Locally and regionally, Covid-19 and the associated restrictions have been seen to impact upon the increasing number and complexity of safeguarding concerns involving self-neglect. Increases in the volume of safeguarding concerns, has also been accompanied by a high number of referrals relating to self-neglect considered by Safeguarding Adults Review (SAR) subgroups across the region.

In response, members of the Northeast Safeguarding Adults Leads network have developed a series of seven 7-minute briefings aimed at professionals outlining all aspects of self-neglect, which will form part of toolkit to support and enhance local self-neglect guidance. These 7-minute guides have been launched and promoted across the SAB during this year. To support a regional campaign to raise awareness of self-neglect amongst the general public, a self-neglect animation has now been produced and launched during National Safeguarding Adults week.

The self-neglect 7-minute briefings can be accessed on the [Safeguarding Adult website](#), and the animation and resources from the launch webinar can be found [here](#).

Multi-agency Disabled Children and Young People Subgroup audit

Please follow this [link](#) for a summary of the findings of a multi-agency audit looking at safeguarding disabled children and young people in Northumberland, completed earlier this year. This multi-agency case file audit looked at the following themes:

- recognition of the impact of environmental factors on safety and welfare of DC&YP
- responses to concerns about behaviours which challenge
- impact of Covid on DC&YP
- recognition and response to extra-familial harm

Self-harm pathway

We have recently updated our Procedure for the management of self-harm and/or suicidal behaviour in children & young people, in response to learning identified from 3 recent learning reviews. The procedure and pathway can be accessed using the links below.

- [Procedure for the Management of Self Harm and or Suicidal Behaviour in Children & Young People](#)
- [Northumberland Self Harm Pathway for Children and Young people - FLOWCHART](#)

Caring about Adversity, Resilience and Empowerment

CARE is Northumberland's multi-agency approach to developing trauma-informed, resilience-focused services and communities. This includes increasing professional knowledge and expertise in line with emerging research and sharing this information with communities, families, and individuals – empowering them to recognise and develop their own resilience to adversity.

For further information about the approach, the work undertaken so far, and the next steps, please see the [7 minute briefing](#) and [animation](#).

National developments/information

Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel guidance for safeguarding partners (Sept 2022)



The national Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel updated their [guidance for safeguarding partners](#). This should be read by all child protection professionals and those conducting rapid reviews and local child safeguarding practice reviews (LCSPRs).

Additionally, the CSPR Panel have published two briefings that seek to inform safeguarding partners about work undertaken by the Panel. The first paper explores the current guidance on the management of [bruising in non-mobile infants](#) in the light of published evidence and variations in practice. We reviewed our protocol and no changes were required, already reflects best practice. A flowchart is being developed to further strengthen the process.

The second paper sets out findings from a [thematic analysis of rapid reviews and LCSPRs where domestic abuse featured](#). Summary of this briefing can be found [here](#)

National Network of SAB Chairs survey

The National Network of SAB Chairs have recently published their SAB survey report 2022. Survey data was collected from SABs from October 2021 and January 2022. 72 SABs responded, a 55% response rate.

The survey focused on 4 areas:

- How SABs use evidence, including from those with lived experience
- Partnership
- Safeguarding Adult Reviews
- Improvement activity and recommendations.

The full report and key findings can be accessed [here](#).

JTAI multi-agency response to children and families who need help

Ofsted, CQC and HMICFRS have published guidance for the thematic focus on **early help** for families - [Joint targeted area inspection of the multi-agency response to children and families who need help](#)

These JTAs will consider how different agencies across children's social care, education, health, and the police, work together to reduce risks to children and families, and meet their needs early.

The JTAs follow research commissioned by Ofsted in Feb 2022 '[Early help: concepts, policy directions and multi-agency perspectives](#)'. The independent study (produced by Research in Practice) discussed current early help provision in England, government policy, and how agencies work together to prevent longer-term intervention. **Today's guidance refers to this report and the independent review of children's social care's recommendation that government combines targeted early help and help for children in need.**

No age limit: older people and domestic abuse campaign

Age UK have campaigned for data to be collected on *all* victims and survivors of domestic abuse, whatever their age. They are now delighted to announce that the Office for National Statistics has listened and will now start collecting this data on those aged 75+.

- This change means that older people will finally be included in conversations about domestic abuse.
- It will also show there's a need for support services for older victims and survivors.

Age UK will continue to campaign for older people's experiences of abuse to be taken seriously and for them to receive the support they need through specialist services.

Learning from Reviews

Child Safeguarding Practice Review spotlight

Leiland-James Michael Corkill

Leiland-James was thirteen months old when he sadly died. He died in the care of Cumbria County Council whilst placed with assessed and approved prospective adopters, Scott and Laura Castle. Leiland-James had been living with the couple for five months when he died as a result of physical abuse perpetrated by Laura Castle. Laura Castle was subsequently found guilty of his murder and of child cruelty and jailed for life, with a minimum term of 18 years. Scott Castle was not subject to criminal charges.

A Child Safeguarding Practice Review (CSPR) by Cumbria Safeguarding Children Partnership was undertaken. The Review concluded that:

Leiland-James died while being cared for by a couple who had been successfully assessed and who were being supported by professionals and their own network. Following his move, indicators emerged that it might not progress to be the right placement for Leiland-James, and that his

longer-term emotional needs may not be met. However, there were no known indicators that Leiland-James was at risk of physical harm from his carers.

What was not known at the time was that the prospective adopters had not been honest about their debt, their mental and physical health, their alcohol consumption and use of physical chastisement during the assessment, at the time of Leiland-James being matched with them or during his time living with the family.

Learning has been identified that information in these areas should be robustly sought, shared, and considered. This is significant, as had the information... been known, along with the understanding that the prospective adopters were hiding these issues, the assessment could have better reflected the vulnerabilities and potential risks.

The CSPR references 13 'Learning' points that informed 4 general recommendations for changes to practice, one national recommendation relating to strengthening statutory guidance and 5 recommendations relating to local practice for partners in Cumbria.

This [Briefing](#) identifies lessons to be learnt from the tragic death of Leiland-James relevant to practice and processes currently used by the Adopt North East Regional Adoption Agency, detailing a number of actions that will be taken.

For further information please see the [full report](#) and [ANE Briefing](#)

West Lane Hospital – Independent Investigation

- identified 120 failings in the care of three teenage girls who died within months of each other at mental health hospitals in the North East.
- Three separate reports have been released into their care and treatment: [Emily](#) / [Nadia](#) / [Christie](#)
- learning (as a region) re how multi-agency partnerships work with young people in inpatient units, what we understand about the quality of their care.
- Implications for the role of IRO's and the role of the LADO

Safeguarding Adults Review spotlight

Croydon Safeguarding Adults Board - Madeleine SAR

Madeleine was of mixed ethnicity (White British/Black Nigerian), had a diagnosis of Autistic Spectrum Disorder, 'emotional dysregulation' and obsessive-compulsive disorder. She was well known to many services and had a long history of mental health support from a very young age.

Madeleine was first assessed by social care services when she was 12 and at 16, she was taken into care. She experienced 8 different placements in 5 months and was then placed in secure accommodation in Scotland. Shortly before her 18th birthday she moved to an Independent Living placement in Croydon. Despite having reached adulthood, coordination of her care needs remained the responsibility of Children's Social Care.

Madeleine was 18 years old when she died. She was found suspended from her door at her accommodation and later died in hospital.

The review identified some key learning in relation to transitions and transitional safeguarding, multi-agency management and understanding of legal and policy frameworks. Madeleine's voice was not heard: care planning was done about her, without her.

For further information please see the [full report](#), and [7 minute briefing](#).

Durham Safeguarding Adults Board – Whorlton Hall

Last week Durham Safeguarding Adults Partnership published the [Executive Summary](#) of their Safeguarding Adults Review into Whorlton Hall. The summary outlines 7 key findings which provide opportunities for all SABs to ask questions of their own systems on the following:

- Standards or expertise needed for provider-led safeguarding investigations.
- The central importance of a sustained relationship of trust with a professional.
- The illusion of advocacy provision for people with learning disabilities and/or autism in a specialist hospital.
- Need for closer working between CQC and LAs to improve outcomes from organisational safeguarding enquires.
- Gap in guidance and funding responsibilities for emergency specialist hospital closure after organisational abuse or deregulation.

SCIE are promoting a **free webinar** on the learning from this SAR on Tuesday 10 January 11.30-12.30. Please see the [webinar link](#) for details of how to register.

Training updates

Training on behalf of the Partnership is provided by two separate Teams:

- Social Care Training Team provide single and multi-agency training related to adult safeguarding, and;
- Learning & Organisational Development Team provide single and multi-agency training related to safeguarding children

Access to both of these programmes is via the online portal - [Learning Together](#)

For support creating an account on Learning Together please contact learningandod@northumberland.gov.uk

External agencies requiring safeguarding adult multi-agency related training should contact the social care training team - socialcaretraining@northumberland.gov.uk

Transitional Safeguarding multi-agency workshops

Transition to adulthood can be a particularly challenging and vulnerable time for some young people. Learning from Reviews has highlighted how ineffective transitional planning can contribute to young adults 'slipping through the net' or facing a 'cliff edge', often with significant consequences on their wellbeing. These workshops will support awareness and implementation of the **Northumberland Safeguarding Transitions Protocol** and recently published **Transitional Safeguarding guidance 'Bridging the Gap'**.

Transitional Safeguarding is a priority of Northumberland Children and Adults Safeguarding Partnership.

These workshops are open to all practitioners and agencies working with children and adults. Booking via [Learning Together](#).

Further information

Safeguarding procedures

[Safeguarding Children Partnership procedures](#)

[Northumberland Safeguarding Adults multi-agency policy and procedures](#)