



**NCASP**

NORTHUMBERLAND CHILDREN AND ADULTS  
SAFEGUARDING PARTNERSHIP



# Northumberland's Strategic Plan

2023-2026



North East and  
North Cumbria



Northumberland  
County Council



Probation  
Service



Northumbria Healthcare  
NHS Foundation Trust



Harrogate and District  
NHS Foundation Trust



Cumbria, Northumberland,  
Tyne and Wear  
NHS Foundation Trust

## Version Control

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Update and Approval Process			
Version	Group/Person	Date	Comments
<b>V1.07.23</b>	NCASP – Business Managers	September 2023	Strategic Plan for new partnership arrangements (children and adults)

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## OUR COMMITMENT

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

The Northumberland Children and Adults Safeguarding Partnerships integrated in April 2022. The new arrangements acknowledge that children and adult arrangements are underpinned by different legislation and statutory guidance, however, also recognise the similarities and shared benefits of a joint safeguarding approach across the life course.

The new NCASP structure represents a streamlined approach to enable us to evidence value, offer maximum effectiveness, and meet agreed priorities. Fundamentally, this will also support the Partnership to meet the statutory requirements and needs of both children and adult safeguarding arrangements – including the statutory duty to undertake case reviews. This model will continue to evolve in line with the needs of the Partnership and the wider safeguarding context.

The new model and governance structure reduces duplication and allows for cross-cutting, cross-functional safeguarding practices impacting on children, young people and adults to be considered and improvement in practice to be progressed.

This approach is harnessed within the governance of each of the newly formed groups and the engagement of all statutory partner agencies within these structures will help ensure improved accountability and ownership of safeguarding working towards achieving improved outcomes for children, adults and families across the safeguarding pathway. The partnership arrangements enable partners to support and challenge from within the multi-agency system and operate from within an environment where effective multi-agency practice can flourish.

The production of a Strategic Plan is a statutory requirement. The Strategic Plan sets out our shared vision and actions that will help keep children, young people and adults at risk safe and protected from abuse and neglect. This should be read alongside our Safeguarding Plan, which sets out our Multi-Agency Safeguarding Arrangements, including how we work together to safeguard children and adults.

**This Strategic Plan sets out our strategic priority areas of focus for 2023-2026 and will be reviewed annually.**

## OUR RESPONSIBILITY

**To support and enable local agencies to work together in a system where:**

- Excellent and innovative practice is the norm
- Partners work collaboratively (across the whole system) to achieve the same end goals
- Partner agencies hold one another to account effectively
- There is early identification of 'new' safeguarding issues
- Learning is promoted and embedded
- Information is shared effectively
- The public can feel confident that children and adults are protected from harm

## OUR GOVERNANCE

- Executive Group with a Partnership Chair and Independent Scrutineer
- NCASP Business Groups (Adults & Children)
- Safeguarding Adult Review Group
- Child Safeguarding Practice Review Group
- Safer in Education Group
- Strategic Exploitation Group
- Performance and Management Groups (Adults & Children)
- Disabled Children & Young People Group

See our [Multi Agency Safeguarding Arrangements](#) for more information about governance and the role of our groups.

## OUR STRATEGIC DRIVERS..

### LEADERSHIP

- Providing strategic leadership for all who work together to safeguard children and adults.
- Setting the strategic direction, vision and culture of the safeguarding arrangements, including shared priorities and resources required.
- Ensuring strong governance and systems of assurance and accountability (including single agency inspections).
- Ensuring multi-agency arrangements have the necessary level of business support (including intelligence and analytical functions).
- Planning for and responding to national changes and developments.

### LEARNING

- Identifying and embedding learning from case reviews, quality assurance work inc audits and performance data.
- Identifying emerging thematic safeguarding issues based on local data, case reviews and national learning (using task & finish as and when required to progress specific areas of work).
- **Learning from the experiences of children, adults and families to influence improvement in practice and systems.**

### SCRUTINY

- The Independent Scrutineer acts as a critical friend and provides support and challenge to the Partnership.
- The effectiveness of the Partnership multi-agency safeguarding arrangements are continuously reviewed and improved.
- **Engagement with children, adults, families and practitioners is effective and informs improvement of the Partnership multi-agency safeguarding arrangements.**

### IMPACT

- The Partnership can demonstrate it is being effective.
- Case reviews, audits and performance deep dives improve practice, systems and outcomes for children and adults.
- Training improves the quality of practice.
- **Children, adults and families tell the Partnership their experiences are positive and have changed their lives.**

**These will inform and drive our delivery plan actions (and thematic priorities) year on year.**

## BUSINESS AS USUAL ACTIVITY

This plan outlines our priorities for 2023-2026. In addition to the priority areas identified, the Partnership will continue to operate **business as usual** to improve safeguarding of children and adults and meet its statutory obligations. See: [Appendix 1 – What is business as usual?](#)

We will continue to work in collaboration and strengthen links with other strategic partnerships, including (but not limited to) Domestic Abuse Local Partnership Board, Health and Wellbeing Board, Safer Northumberland Partnership, Channel Panel, Youth Justice Board, Children and Young People Strategic Partnership, Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements and Violence Reduction Unit and other Strategic Management Boards.

## OUR THEMATIC PRIORITIES..

In addition to our business as usual activity, we have identified priority areas to work on. We believe that the delivery of these priorities over the next three years will improve outcomes for the people of Northumberland. We will measure this through our assurance work and performance frameworks.

### Risks outside of the home (ROTH)

*links with CYPSP, SNP, DALPB, YJB*

ROTH describes the harm which occurs:

- Outside of the family home
- In places within the community
- From someone who is not a family member

Examples may include:

- Criminal exploitation, including county lines drug distribution and ‘cuckooing’ properties
- Trafficking and modern day slavery
- Child sexual exploitation, or other extra familial sexual abuse
- Serious youth violence / Knife crime (links with SNP)
- Anti social behaviour by and affecting peers (links with youth justice board)
- Gang affiliation
- Radicalisation and violent extremism
- **Child on child abuse (outside of the family) including harmful sexual behaviours and domestic abuse among adolescent couples**

*Areas of focus for ROTH will include:*

- Developing contextual safeguarding approach to understand and respond to children and adults risks of significant harm experienced beyond their families.
- Ensuring effective multi-agency practice to protect those at risk of extra-familial harm, in all its forms.
- The particular vulnerabilities of disabled children and young people to extra-familial harm should be recognised and evident in multi-agency strategy, training and practice.

### Complex Mental Health

*links with CYPSP, HWB*

*Areas of focus will include:*

- ❑ Continuing to develop, promote and evaluate Trauma Informed Practice
- ❑ Developing our partnership response across all tiers of intervention (including safeguarding those with complex needs but no mental health diagnosis) – right support at the right time
- ❑ Considering impact of parental mental health

## Neglect (including self-neglect)

links with CYPSP, HWB

Areas of focus will include:

Adults	Children
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❑ Raising awareness of self-neglect and its impact</li> <li>❑ Hoarding</li> <li>❑ Substance misuse</li> <li>❑ Informed decision making</li> <li>❑ Consider pathway for those that don't meet threshold (and/or non engagement)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❑ The impact of and the response to complex chronic neglect</li> <li>❑ Impact of parental substance misuse</li> <li>❑ Learning from neglect summit and multi-agency audit to inform focus of work</li> </ul>

We will also consider impact of wider societal factors, including cost of living – in collaboration with other partnerships and workstreams.

Our work will also include focus on:

### Mental capacity act (16+)

- Embedding across systems
- understanding and application
- transition from children to adult services
- (Continue with task & finish group)

### Domestic Abuse

- **Adults** - older people (joint working group with DALPB) – Training, raising awareness, communication, support services.
- **Children** – healthy relationships, recognising harmful behaviour, awareness raising (information and support) training re DA in teenage relationships, its impact, how to recognise and referral routes (including use of YPRIC).
- **Ensure links with DALAPB to strengthen and support partnership work (and avoid duplication )Whole system approach**

### Safeguarding Under 1's

- Explore the increase in numbers (under 1's with injuries) and consider any wider determining factors.
- Make recommendations on preventative actions to reduce the incidence.

### Family (and community) Networks

- Considering how we can maximise the use of family networks and how we engage the family network at every stage.
- Recognising a family network can be a blood-relative, or a non-related connected person (such as a family friend or neighbour).

## OUR ASSURANCE WORK..

### Self evaluations

- To understand how well partners understand their respective roles and responsibilities towards safeguarding children, young people, families and adults

### Multi agency audits

- To assess the compliance of case files and quality of safeguarding outcomes for children, young people, families and adults

### Conversations & surveys

- To gain knowledge to assess thoughts, opinions and insight to safeguarding practice from professionals working directly with children, young people, families and adults

### Service user engagement

- To work with children, young people, families and adults to understand their experience of safeguarding practice

### Data & analysis

- To identify patterns and trends and measure safeguarding performance.

## OUR LEARNING JOURNEY..

We will use information gathered through our assurance activities and reviews to:



For more information about our safeguarding arrangements and the work of the partnership go to:  
[Northumberland County Council - Safeguarding Children Partnership arrangements](#)

<b>Safeguarding Children</b>	<b>Safeguarding Adults</b>
<b>NCASP Annual Report Strategic and Business Plan Reporting</b>	
<p><b>Quality Assurance and Performance of our safeguarding response to:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Child Neglect</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Sexual Abuse</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Physical Abuse</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Culturally Harmful Practices</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Child Exploitation</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Missing</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Safeguarding of Children in Custody</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Safeguarding of Children placed out of area</li> </ul>	<p><b>Quality Assurance and Performance of our safeguarding response to:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Physical abuse</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Domestic violence or abuse</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Sexual abuse</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Psychological or emotional abuse</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Financial or material abuse</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Modern slavery</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Discriminatory abuse</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Organisational or institutional abuse</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Neglect or acts of omission Self-neglect</li> </ul>
Allegations against people in positions of trust	Allegations against people in positions of trust
Section 11 Self-Assessment and Section 175 Safeguarding Self-Assessment (Education)	Safeguarding Adults Self-Assessment and Provider Quality impacting safeguarding
Rapid Reviews and Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews	Safeguarding Adults Reviews
Multi-agency safeguarding Procedures	Multi-agency safeguarding Procedures
<b>Multi-agency Safeguarding Training and Conferences</b>	