

NCASP Annual Report

September 2022 – September 2023



Graham Reiter – Partnership Chair

Introduction..

The first Annual Report of the Northumberland Children and Adults Safeguarding Partnership which integrated in April 2022.

This Report satisfies the statutory requirements for both Children and Adults Safeguarding and outlines our progress so far in integrating our new partnership arrangements.

Link: [*NCASP Annual Report - Sept 2022 to Sept 2023*](#)

NCASP structure..

Accountable body for safeguarding children & adults

Responsible for driving work across the strategic safeguarding priority areas for children and adults

Subgroups report directly into Business Groups and link into wider partnership work

- Safer Northumberland Partnership
- Domestic Abuse Local Partnership Board
- Children and Young People Strategic Partnership
- Health and Wellbeing Board
- Youth Justice Board
- Multi-Agency Looked After Partnership
- Strategic Participation Group



Dual partnership reporting

- Flow of information
- Adult and child group
- Child focused group
- Adult focused group

Business support

Independent scrutineer

Executive group

Full NCASP

Childrens business group

Adults business group

Voice (and lived experiences) of children, adults and families

Disabled children and young people group

Safer in education group

Childrens performance management group

Practice learning group

Strategic exploitation group

Adults performance management group

Child safeguarding practice review group

Safeguarding adult review group

Policies and procedures task and finish group

Action plan task and finish group



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 inform all of our work (including thematic priorities and areas of focus) year on year..

A blended approach to scrutiny..

An Independent Scrutineer (*appointed June 2023*)

NCASP self-assessment

Partners' safeguarding audits (and QA processes)

Regional peer review/challenge arrangements

local authority and Integrated Care Board scrutiny committees

External inspections and reviews

Scrutiny activity during 2022-23..

Interviews, Focus Groups, Learning Events, Workshops, Webinars

- Development sessions with partners and relevant agencies
- Multi-agency Webinars
- Learning Events
- Interviews and focus groups of sub-group members and leads
- Workshops to develop single agency and partnership action plans.

Questionnaires, Surveys, Case Studies

- Multi-agency audits
- Young People's feedback survey
- Early Help case study
- Targeted audits: Transitional Safeguarding; CPVA; Partner Assurance
- Partnership survey

Secondary Analysis of Data

- Performance Framework in place focusing on partnership priorities with multi-agency KPIs and soft intelligence.
- Local analysis/benchmarking of Police and LA Exploitation data

Observation

- Observations undertaken of all subgroup and Partnership meetings, to inform formulation of integrated children and adults Partnership.

Strategic priorities (2022-2023)

Alongside developing new safeguarding arrangements.. we continued to make progress against our priority areas of work..

Priorities for Children

Children and Young People's Mental Health

Neglect

Safeguarding Children Under 1

Harmful Sexual Behaviour

Priorities for Adults

Transitional Safeguarding Arrangements

Criminal Exploitation

Making Safeguarding Personal

Cross Cutting Priorities

Impact of Covid 19

Domestic Abuse

The annual report gives an update against each area and highlights work across the whole partnership.

Prior to the formation of NCASP, strategic Priorities were informed by separate Children and Adults Strategic Plans. We have a new joint Strategic Plan - Further information can be found in our [Strategic Plan 2023-2026](#)

Learning from Reviews..

The annual report includes an update of reviews undertaken, summary of findings and how learning has been implemented.

Case reviews are undertaken in a way that enhances learning and embraces contextual (as well as individual and family concerns) and involves the full range of strategic and operational staff to extract and embed learning.

Learning from local and national reviews is cascaded and used to improve outcomes for children, adults and families.

Learning from case reviews is integrated into safeguarding training, policy and practice.

A Learning Review Toolkit has been developed to support those who are leading on any type of case review in Northumberland. The aim is to increase confidence in undertaking reviews and provide a consistent approach to producing good high-quality reviews. See: [Northumberland Learning Review Toolkit](#)

Summary of themes..

Summary of themes from all reviews..

Adults

- **Mental Capacity** - area of focus (T&F)
- **Policies and Procedures** - now have online manuals managed by BMs and overseen by PLG
- **Lived Experience** – mapping current participation groups (children and adults) and how agencies seek and use feedback
- **Professional Curiosity** - 7-minute guide developed. learning incorporated into training and resource pack being developed
- **Identification of Needs and Vulnerabilities** – review and promote training
- **Impact of Trauma** - CARE (Caring about Adversity, Resilience and Empowerment) Northumberland provides a multi agency approach to trauma-informed resilience (children and adults)

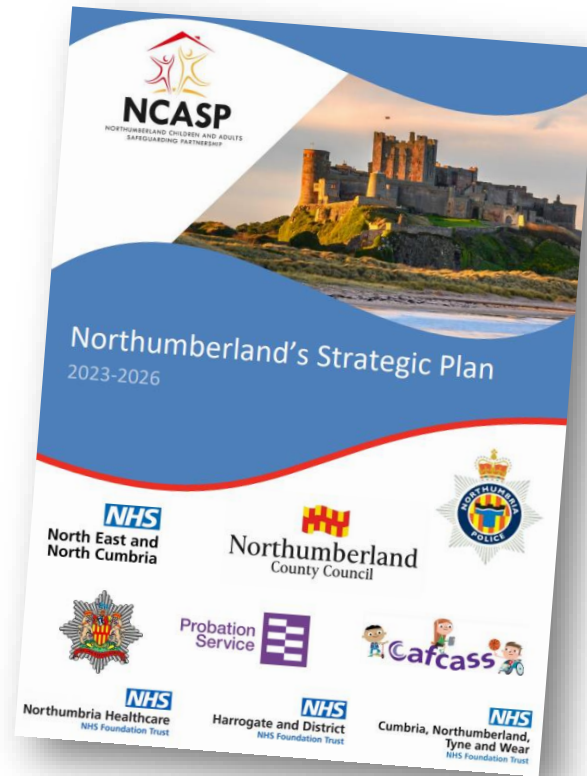
Children

- **Engagement with fathers** - audit completed and learning included in training.
- **Professional curiosity** - 7-minute guide
- **Parental mental health** - this is being considered under Complex Mental Health priority
- **Healthy relationships young people, explore dynamics & risk** - area of focus (domestic abuse and ROTH). T&F being set up
- **Capacity to understand preventative messages (parental learning needs/difficulties)** - resources reviewed and new pathway developed.
- **Voice and lived experience of children** - practice guide developed following rapid review. Further developments coming out of current LCSPR (some already implemented).

The annual report evidences how learning has been implemented and how it has informed service development..

Looking forward..

The [Strategic Plan](#) sets out our strategic priority areas of focus for 2023-2026 and will be reviewed annually..



1

Risks outside of the home

2

Complex Mental Health

3

Neglect (inc self-neglect)

Review and implement changes to Working Together 2023 – [Summary of Changes](#)

We will continue to work in collaboration and strengthen links with other strategic partnerships..

Risks/harm outside of the home / extra-familial harm

links with CYPSP, SNP, DALPB, YJB

ROTH/EFH 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
- **Peer on peep abuse (outside of the family) including harmful sexual behaviours and domestic abuse among adolescent couples**

Initial areas for consideration:

1. Establish a partnership working definition for ROTH/EFH. This will support a greater understanding of its breadth and to support consistency in the use of terminology.

2. Consider the development of a partnership ROTH/EFH pathway, that will reflect each tier of need and address the response to identified risks to children and young people, as well as the contexts in which the risk exists.

3. Consider the best options to develop how concerns about the contexts in which the risk exists are managed. This may involve a review of the victim, offender location (VOL) forum, widening the remit of MSET, considering links within other partnerships or the development of new structures to support community safety planning.

4. Consider the best options to oversee and drive the required developments. This may include specific project capacity, a task and finish group (with oversight through Strategic Exploitation Group).

Complex Mental Health

links with CYPSP, HWB

Areas of focus:

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

We will also consider impact of wider societal factors – in collaboration with other partnerships and workstreams. What is currently being looked at across the whole system? How can we support/strengthen that work..

Neglect (including self-neglect)

links with CYPSP, HWB

Areas of focus:

Adults

- Raising awareness of self-neglect and its impact
- Hoarding
- Substance misuse
- Informed decision making + behaviours
- Consider pathway for those that don't meet threshold (and/or non-engagement?)

Children

- The impact of and the response to complex chronic neglect
- Impact of parental substance misuse
- Learning from neglect summit and multi-agency audit to inform focus of work

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

THEMATIC PRIORITIES 2023/2024

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** – health 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.
- Consider possible 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).