



# North Tyneside and Northumberland Safeguarding Adults Annual Report 2021-2022



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# Foreword

## by the North Tyneside & Northumberland Safeguarding Adults Board Independent Chair

This will be the final annual report of the North Tyneside and Northumberland Safeguarding Adults Board. It details the work carried out during 2021-22 across all partner organisations working together to improve safeguarding arrangements for vulnerable people.

Following consultation with partners, it was agreed that adopting a place-based model for safeguarding adults at risk from April 2022, would present both areas with opportunities for focussed, joined-up working of local partnerships. This report therefore clarifies our vision for the future.

The Safeguarding Adults Board has a core duty in accordance with the Care Act (2014) to publish an annual report detailing how effective work has been. Over the past year, the impact of Covid-19 on our community has continued to be significant. The evidence in this report demonstrates that partners have continued, despite increasing demand, to deliver safe services and have managed the associated risks. The partnership has continued its focus on the impact from the pandemic and the consequences of social isolation on safeguarding.

It is within this context that the partnership continued to focus on driving quality of frontline practice around protection, prevention, exploitation and safeguarding adults at risk. Independent challenge and scrutiny of data, audit and intelligence, including an ongoing focus on Making Safeguarding Personal, is analysed in this report, identifying the achievements but also the challenges.

I want to extend my gratitude to our partners who have provided the information collated within this report. The service pressures experienced by agencies, and particularly front-line workers, are not underestimated. I would like to express my appreciation and sincere thanks for the

commitment and innovation all partners have shown over this last year.



**Paula Mead, Independent Chair**

‘As the Northumberland County Council Portfolio Member responsible for Safeguarding, I believe that looking after the welfare of children and vulnerable adults is absolutely vital.

As a Council we need to ensure everyone receives the best outcomes and are provided with safe and effective care. We need to ensure that our residents are supported and are provided with appropriate support and empowerment.’

*Wendy Pattinson - County Councillor, Lead member for Adult Well-being, Northumberland County Council*

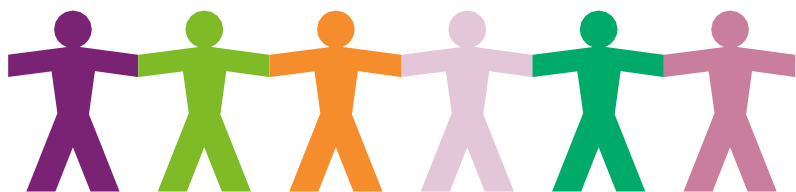
‘As the Lead Member for Adult Social Care in North Tyneside I am delighted to contribute to the work of the Safeguarding Adults Board. There can be nothing more important than ensuring that people with care and support needs receive appropriate, safe and effective care services. By working together robustly with our partners, we are ensuring that people are achieving their best outcomes’.

*Anthony McMullen - Lead Member for Adult Social Care, North Tyneside Council*

# 1. About the Board

The North Tyneside and Northumberland Safeguarding Adults Board (SAB) is a statutory and multi-agency partnership that leads the strategic development of safeguarding adults work across both areas.

**“Our vision is to promote the individual’s human rights, their capacity for independence, ensuring each person is treated with dignity and respect and able to enjoy a sustained quality of life and improved wellbeing. That at all times people are afforded protection from abuse, neglect, discrimination, or poor treatment and that their carers whether paid or unpaid, are safe”.**



**In addition, we adhere to the Care Act principles which underpin all adult safeguarding work:**

**Empowerment**

**Prevention**

**Proportionality**

**Protection**

**Partnership**

**Accountability**

The **purpose** of the SAB is to help safeguard people with care and support needs. Its main **objective** is to improve local safeguarding arrangements to ensure partners act to help and protect adults experiencing, or at risk of neglect and abuse.

As specified in the Care Act, the SAB includes three core members: the Local Authority, Clinical Commissioning Group, and the Police. However, our membership includes a wide range of partner agencies that actively contribute to the work of the Board.

The SAB has **three core duties**, in accordance with the Care Act (2014):



Develop and publish a strategic plan setting out how they will meet their objectives and how their member and partner agencies will contribute.



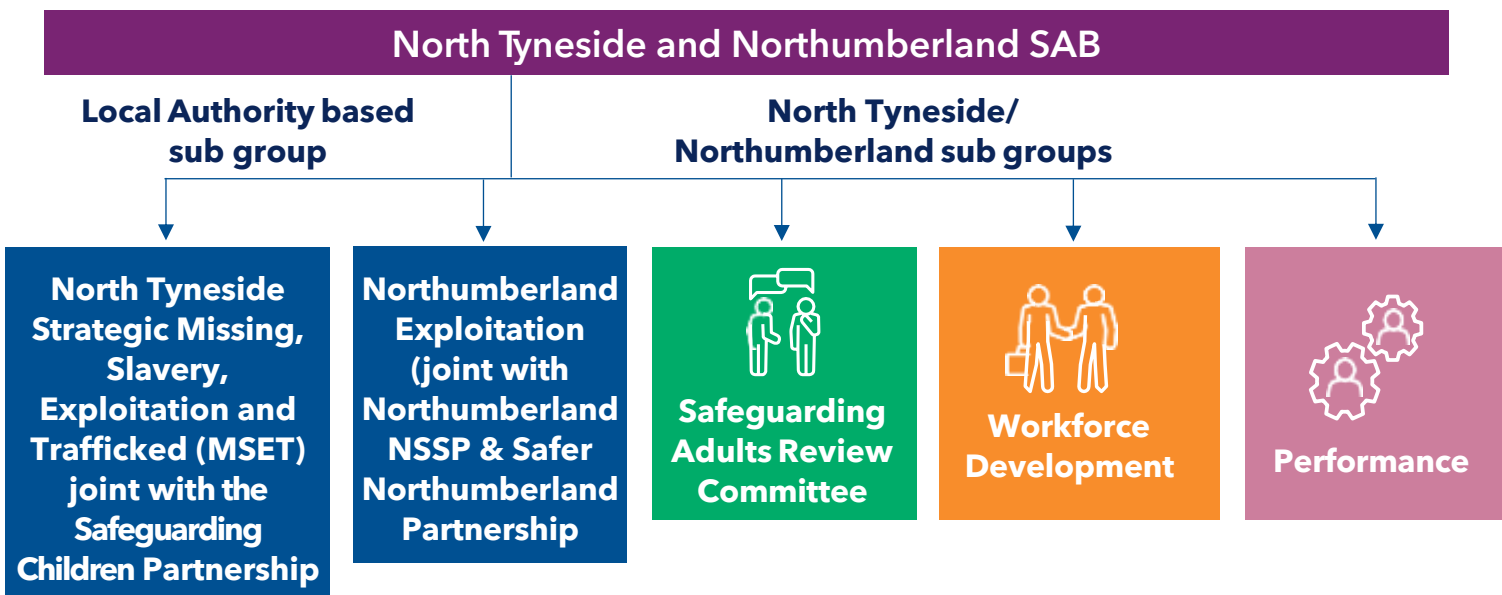
Publish an annual report detailing how effective their work has been.



Commission safeguarding adults reviews (SARs) for any cases which meet the criteria for these.

# SAB Structure

The SAB is supported by a number of sub-groups that contribute to the work of the Board. Three of the sub-groups are partnerships between Northumberland and North Tyneside and have representation from both areas. Currently there is a separate Northumberland Exploitation sub-group which is a joint arrangement with the Safeguarding Children and Community Safety Partnerships.





# 2. What the Board has achieved at a glance



# 3. What does our data tell us?

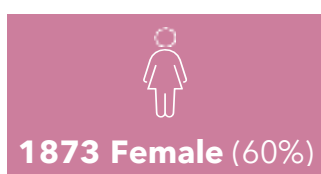
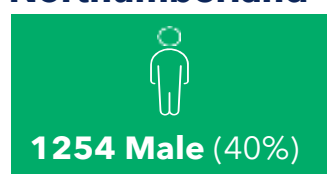
Throughout 2021-22 the SAB Performance subgroup have continued to monitor and analyse key trends and themes across partner agencies. This enables the SAB to understand any changes in demand, the impact of these changes, and the assurances required from partner agencies to ensure adults with care and support needs are safeguarded across the Partnership.

The role and work of the multi-agency Performance subgroup remains crucial to understanding changing demands and trends across the Partnership, and to informing future priorities. Following on from the significant increases in safeguarding activity reported last year, in 2020/21 North Tyneside and Northumberland continued to experience increases in safeguarding demand. North Tyneside has seen an 13% increase in safeguarding concerns being reported, and a 20% increase in Section 42 safeguarding enquiries undertaken. Similarly, Northumberland data shows a 38% increase in safeguarding concerns, and a 6% rise in enquiries, compared to last year.

The main location of abuse for both areas has again been within people’s own homes, though there has been an increase in safeguarding reports related to Nursing or Care homes. In terms of local trends both areas have continued to see rises in domestic abuse, physical abuse and self-neglect. North Tyneside have also seen noted increases in ‘neglect and acts of omission’.

During this year, some key Association of Directors of Adult Social Services/Local Government Association (ADASS/LGA) frameworks relating to safeguarding concerns and section 42 enquiries have been published.

## Northumberland



Age

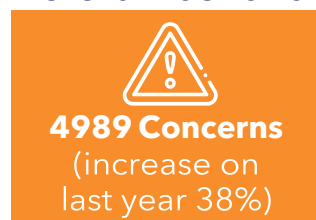
	18-64	65-74	75-84	85-94	95+
Northumberland	<b>1418 (45%)</b>	<b>371 (12%)</b>	<b>593 (19%)</b>	<b>637 (20%)</b>	<b>108 (3%)</b>
North Tyneside	<b>905 (40%)</b>	<b>294 (13%)</b>	<b>477 (21%)</b>	<b>478 (21%)</b>	<b>102 (5%)</b>

The purpose of these guidance documents was to support partner agencies to make appropriate safeguarding referrals; promote a consistent understanding of what constitutes a safeguarding concern; and ensure a consistent response is provided by Adult Social Care.

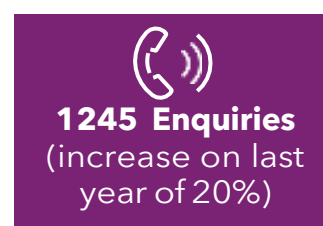
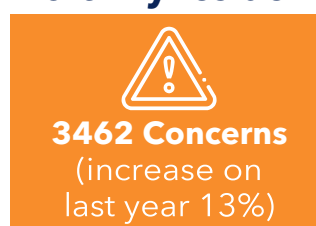
The SAB promoted awareness of these frameworks across partner agencies, and sought assurances about local guidelines defining and referring concerns against the core messages in the frameworks. The guidance has also prompted local analysis of safeguarding systems and recording.

## Concerns/Enquiries:

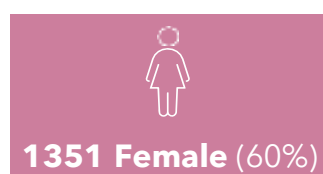
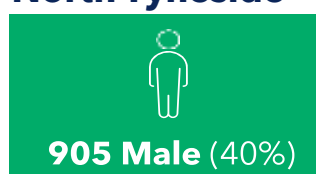
### Northumberland



### North Tyneside

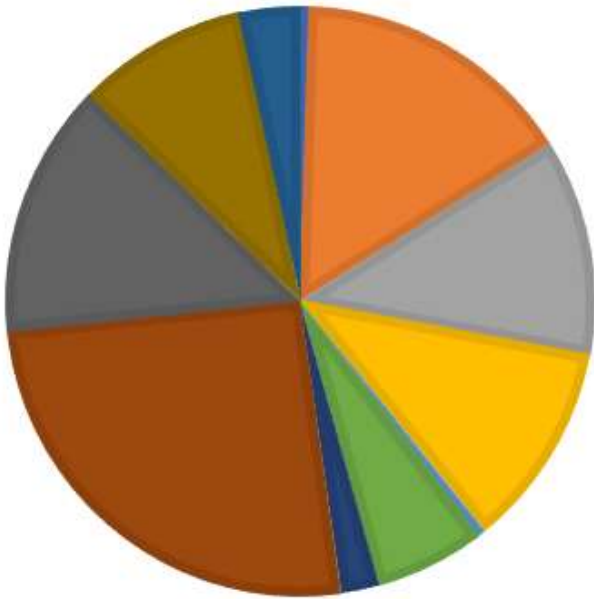


### North Tyneside



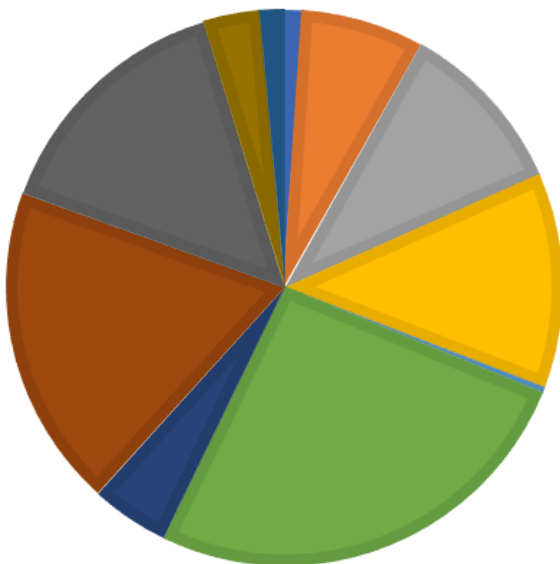
## Types of Abuse:

### Northumberland Percentage of total enquiries 2021/22



- **Discriminatory 0.5%**,  
(50.0% change)
- **Domestic 15.6%**,  
(36.1% change)
- **Emotional/Psychological 11.9%**  
(-7.4% change)
- **Financial 11.3%**,  
(18.3% change)
- **Modern Slavery 0.5%**,  
(50.0% change)
- **Neglect 6.0%**  
(-35.6% change)
- **Organisational 2.1%**  
(-27.8% change)
- **Physical 25.6%**,  
(-3.6% change)
- **Self Neglect 14.0%**,  
(76% change)
- **Sexual 9.4%**,  
(20.4% change)
- **Sexual Exploitation 3.3%**,  
(-34.4% change)

### North Tyneside Percentage of total enquiries 2021/22



- **Discriminatory 1.03%**,  
(6.25% change)
- **Domestic 7.08%**,  
(-8.66% change)
- **Emotional/Psychological 10.26%**  
(-9.18% change)
- **Financial 12.46%**,  
(-17.40% change)
- **Modern Slavery 0.36%**,  
(-25.00% change)
- **Neglect 25.96%**  
(55.10% change)
- **Organisational 4.52%**  
(146.67% change)
- **Physical 18.81%**,  
(17.11% change)
- **Self Neglect 14.78%**,  
(39.88% change)
- **Sexual 3.29%**,  
(3.84% change)
- **Sexual Exploitation 1.40%**,  
(-54.00% change)



## Location of abuse:

### Northumberland



**69%** of concluded enquiries were about abuse in people's own home



**11%** of concluded enquiries were about abuse in Nursing or Care homes

### North Tyneside



**52%** of concluded enquiries were about abuse in people's own home



**30%** of concluded enquiries were about abuse in Nursing or Care homes

## Risk identified/ceased at individuals request:

### Northumberland



**91%** of enquiries had risk identified and action taken



**3%** of enquiries ceased at individual's request

### North Tyneside



**78%** of enquiries had risk identified and action taken



**4%** of enquiries ceased at individual's request

## Source of risk:

### Northumberland



**85%** of enquiries involved a source of risk known to the individual (**97%** including service providers)

### North Tyneside



**58%** of enquiries involved a source of risk known to the individual (**88%** including service providers)



# Covid Insights

During this reporting year, the Performance subgroup have continued to benchmark and analyse National and local Covid Insights reports, which have assisted in understanding the impact of the pandemic on local safeguarding activity. This has enabled the SAB to respond to changing safeguarding needs, identify lessons learnt, and has directly informed future planning and priorities. An example of this can be seen in some specific targeted work undertaken in response to the noted increase in self-neglect, as an impact of the pandemic.

## 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 reported involving self-neglect. Reduced face-to-face contact with people (and access to their homes), as well as an increased reluctance for people to access support and services, are thought to be contributory factors to this. 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.

Research and local experience highlight that many aspects of self-neglect work are particularly challenging for front-line workers as a result of: divergent agency thresholds for triggering concern and involvement; competing value perspectives; care management workflow arrangements; and unclear legal frameworks. The same research highlights those managers and practitioners have emphasised the need for increased knowledge about self-neglect and the skills for effective intervention. Each local SAB area has guidance in place on identifying and responding to self-neglect, but recent local SARs have highlighted that this guidance is not always used by staff and in some cases, there is a lack of awareness of it.



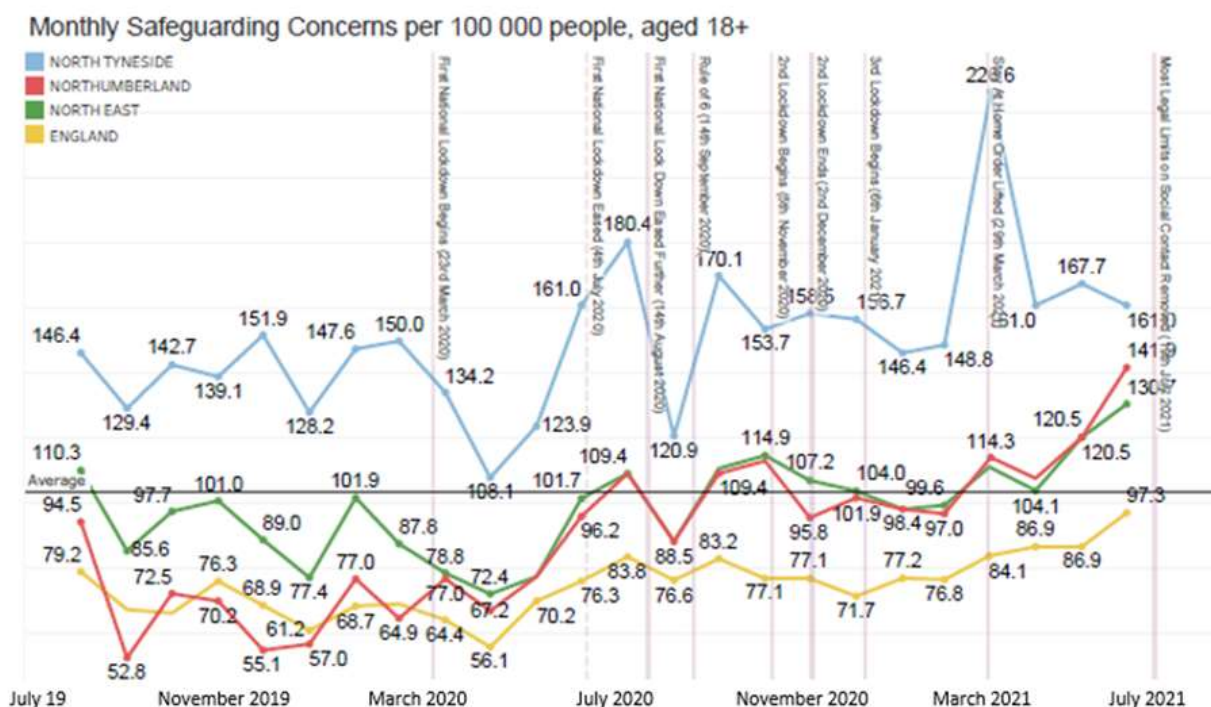
In response, members of the North East Safeguarding Adults Leads network have developed a series of seven 7-minute briefings aimed at professionals outlining all aspects of self-neglect, which will form part of toolkit to support and enhance local self-neglect guidance. These 7-minute guides have been 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 also been produced which will be launched next year at a regional awareness raising event.



In December 2021, a highlight report was presented to the SAB providing a summary of the key messages gained from the National Covid Insight Project. Generally local safeguarding concerns have continued to show a long-term upward trend, tending to decrease during periods of Covid restrictions followed by a sharp increase once those restrictions were lifted. This activity is in line with national trends, demonstrated in the **graph below**. Of note, benchmarking data has highlighted that Northumberland reports a lower level of Section 42 Safeguarding enquiries, compared to other Local Authorities in the North-East and also nationally. Both the regional and national data show variation between local authorities on a scale which is unlikely to reflect differences in the actual level of risks of abuse or neglect, and more probably indicates that the statutory framework is being interpreted in differing ways.

The relatively low rate at which concerns raised have become recorded as Section 42 enquiries in Northumberland is not new, and continues the pattern before the pandemic. Further analysis of this data has been undertaken, and a report has been provided to the SAB detailing the findings. No issues related to safeguarding decisions and practice have been highlighted in quarterly audits, however there is a need to review current recording systems and processes, to ensure that the reasons for differences from other areas are fully understood, and that recording is in line with best practice. Moving forward, Northumberland will continue to undertake quarterly audits of safeguarding concerns and conversion rates, monitored by the Performance subgroup, and will implement any required recording and system changes. The impact of any changes will be examined in future performance data reports.

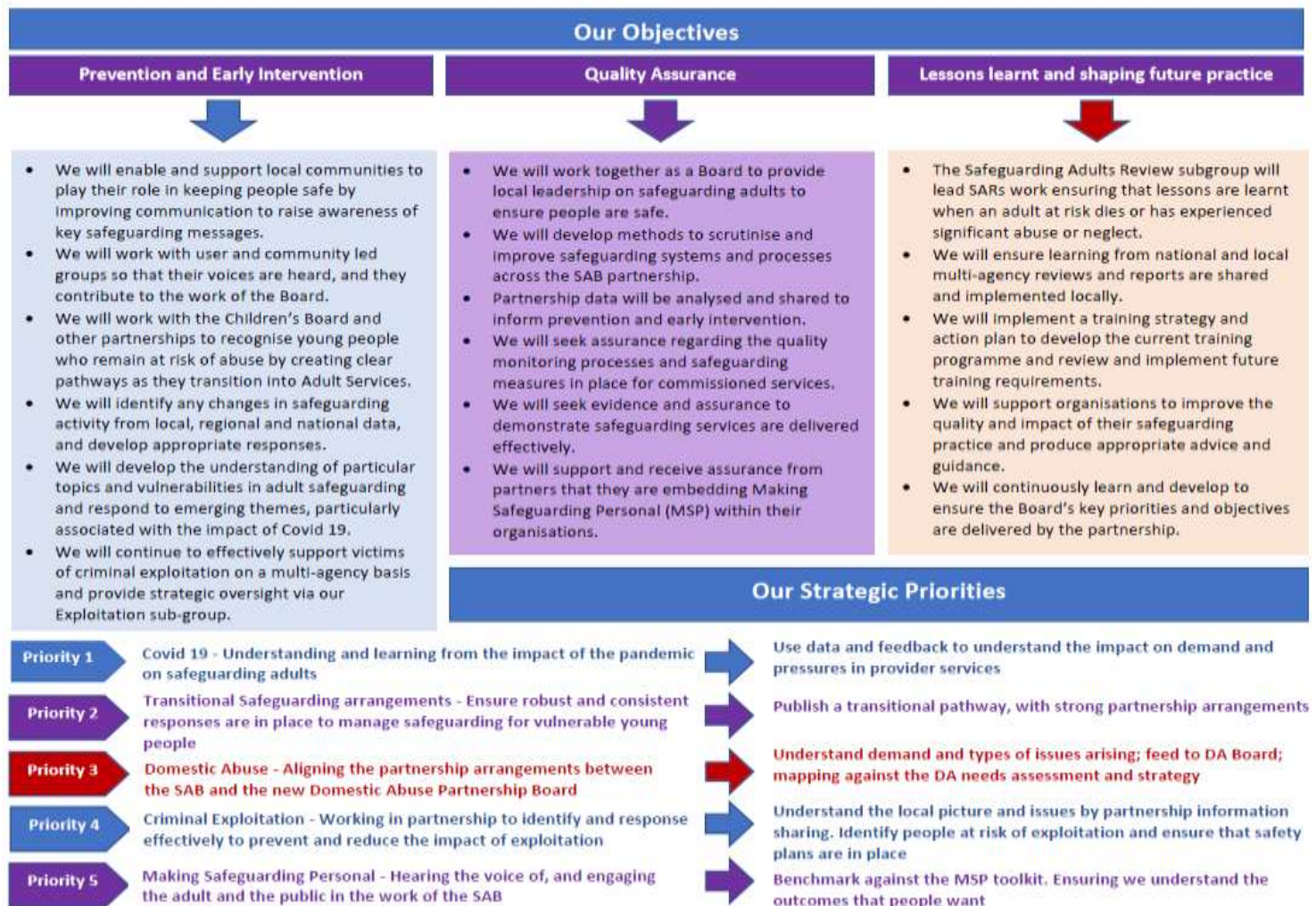
### COVID-19 Adult Safeguarding Insight Project





# 4. Strategic Priorities 2021-22

The SAB has produced a 3-year strategic plan for 2021-24, which has been informed by local Safeguarding data and themes, partner assessments and assurances, and local and national learning. This is underpinned by a work plan which is updated annually.



The full Strategic plan can be found on the Safeguarding Adults pages at;

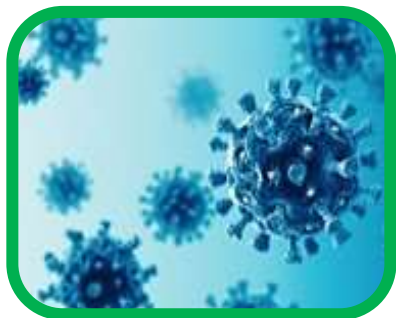
## Northumberland Safeguarding Adults -

<https://www.northumberland.gov.uk/Care/Support/Safeguarding.aspx>

## North Tyneside Safeguarding Adults -

<https://my.northtyneside.gov.uk/category/1033/safeguarding-adults>

# The SAB agreed to focus on 5 key strategic priorities:



## **Covid-19**

Understanding the learning from the impact of the global pandemic on Safeguarding Adults



## **Transitional Safeguarding Arrangements**

Ensure robust and consistent responses are in place to manage safeguarding for vulnerable young people. This continues to be a local and national theme.



## **Domestic Abuse**

Aligning the partnership arrangements between the SAB and the new Domestic Abuse Partnership Boards



## **Criminal Exploitation**

Including County Lines, Sexual Exploitation, Cuckooing, Hate Crime and Criminal Gangs. This continues to be a local and national theme



## **Making Safeguarding Personal**

Focus upon hearing the voice of, and engaging the adult and the public in the work of the SAB.



# Priority 1 Impact of Covid-19

All services have been impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic and safeguarding adults is no exception. During the last two years it is evident that some people have delayed requesting help or support and this means that their presenting needs are now at a higher level or are more acute. We have seen significant increases in self-neglect in both areas, impacted by the effects of social isolation, inability to access routine appointments, and reduction in face-to-face contact from professionals.

Services have also seen an increase in domestic abuse and issues in provider services. Provider services have experienced recruitment difficulties which alongside the need for staff to take time off for covid related illness and self-isolation has led to critical staffing levels. Consequently, there has been an over-reliance on agency staff in the context of increased demand, as hospitals were pressured to achieve high levels of discharges.

As evidenced in the performance data already outlined, both areas have experienced surges in safeguarding demand and activity directly linked to Covid restrictions, in the context of a general upward trend in safeguarding concerns. It is also evident that the pandemic has created additional layers of complexity for safeguarding practice, particularly in relation to mental health and substance misuse issues.

These additional challenges to services have required both areas to develop innovative and responsive services to manage the increase in volume and complexity, and ensure adults with care and support needs are appropriately safeguarded. In Northumberland, staffing has been increased, and Police notifications are dealt with twice daily to manage the volume of activity. Further work with

partners in relation to access to the MASH system has led to better recording of research, therefore saving valuable time. Concerns relating to organisational safeguarding have increased, and weekly meetings are being held to proactively work with care homes. In North Tyneside the increase in activity has continued to be managed across Social Work Teams with the support of the Safeguarding Adults team, chairing complex, and organisational safeguarding meetings. North Tyneside have noted the need to ensure they are capturing the individual's voice and demonstrating that their safeguarding experience is person-centred, and intend to use Healthwatch to support this work.

MASH (Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub) arrangements in both areas have continued to provide effective multi-agency responses and holistic assessments of risk at the first point of contact. In Northumberland, a review of the MASH has recently been undertaken. A number of areas for improvement were identified for both Adult and Children's Services, in particular focusing on the use of strategy discussions within the MASH. This is now in place within the MASH timescales, and prevents any delay in safeguarding actions and responses. Partner agencies have been returning into the MASH throughout 2021-22, though Police, Adult Safeguarding, Children's Services and CNTW have sustained a continued presence. Referrals into the MASH continue to increase and there has been a noted change in complexity since Covid restrictions were lifted. In North Tyneside it is a similar picture with an increase in referrals and in the number of cases with co-morbidity issues including mental health and substance abuse. Adult Social Care remained office based during Covid and the majority of the MASH discussions took place with partners via teams. Since the restrictions were lifted, partners have returned to the office.



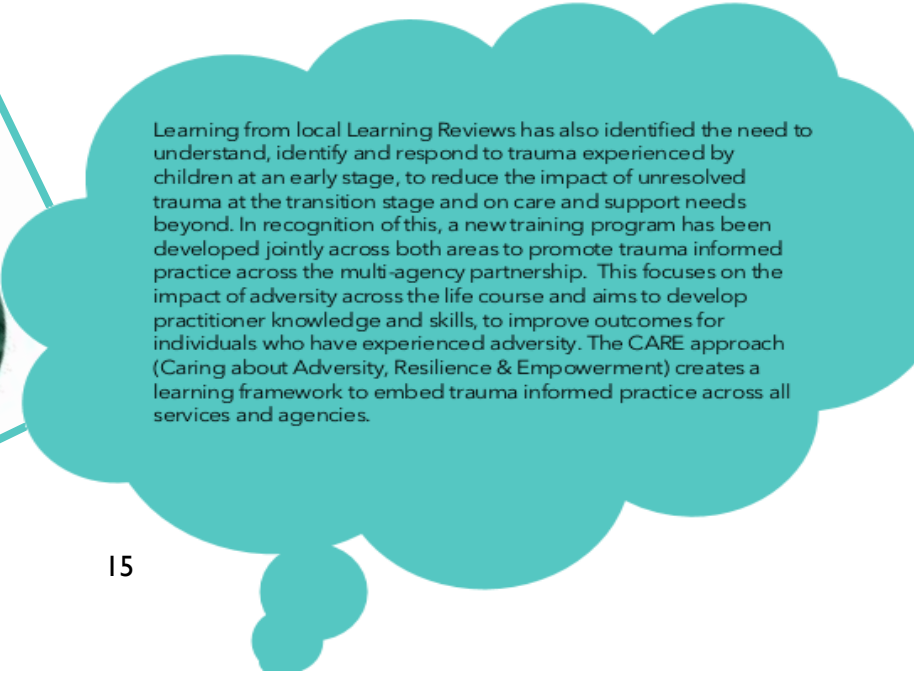
## Priority 2 Transitional Safeguarding arrangements

Ensure robust and consistent responses are in place to manage safeguarding for vulnerable young people.

Transitional Safeguarding continues to be a priority for the Board who recognise that harm is likely to continue post 18, and that victims are targeted due to their vulnerability irrespective of age. Learning from national reviews, and also some local Learning Reviews in Northumberland, have highlighted the importance of early transitional planning to avoid young adults facing a 'cliff edge' and often significant harms, at the point of transition from children to adult services and agencies.

Last year we reported the SAB valuable input from Steve Baguley (National Working Group network) who presented the key principles of transitional safeguarding to the SAB, including national examples of good practice.

This presentation was instrumental in driving forward this work in both areas at a strategic and practice level. This year saw the national publication of 'Bridging the Gap', which explored the role of social work with adults in Transitional Safeguarding, drawing on good practice, research and knowledge from other areas. The key messages from this guidance have been presented to the SAB who considered the implications in the context of local needs, challenges and good practice. and oversight of Strategic leadership and oversight of Transitional Safeguarding activity continues to be a key priority for the SAB, which includes a focus upon local multi-agency safeguarding systems across services for children's and adults.



Learning from local Learning Reviews has also identified the need to understand, identify and respond to trauma experienced by children at an early stage, to reduce the impact of unresolved trauma at the transition stage and on care and support needs beyond. In recognition of this, a new training program has been developed jointly across both areas to promote trauma informed practice across the multi-agency partnership. This focuses on the impact of adversity across the life course and aims to develop practitioner knowledge and skills, to improve outcomes for individuals who have experienced adversity. The CARE approach (Caring about Adversity, Resilience & Empowerment) creates a learning framework to embed trauma informed practice across all services and agencies.

## North Tyneside:

Within North Tyneside work has been ongoing looking at improving transitions from children to adults' services. This work has included a review prompted by the identification of a gap in transition planning for children and young people who do not meet criteria for the Whole Life Disability Service. Both children and adult services agreed that improvements are required for all young people moving into adulthood and adult care services, as such a transition improvement review has been established. The purpose of the review is to ensure that the experience of young people and their families in transition from children to adult services is positive and seamless, and that service delivery is value for money and compliant with legislation and guidance. Several areas for improvement were identified Following the review, a Transition Advisory Group (TAG) was developed. The purpose of the TAG is to provide assurance that a co-ordinated and integrated approach is in place across children and adult services for transition planning for children and young people as they move into adulthood. The group brings together professionals with responsibility for commissioning / procuring, delivering services and care planning for young people who require statutory service in adulthood. The TAG is in early stages of development and will be reviewed in November 2022.

Alongside the work of the TAG, a Transitional Safeguarding Pathway is in development with plans to establish a multiagency panel for complex and high-risk cases which do not have traditional care and support needs. Children's and adult services have shared training opportunities throughout the year undertaking Caring about Adversity, Resilience & Empowerment training (CARE), CPVA Training, and communications and a 7-minute guide have been shared regarding the 'Think Family' Approach.



## Northumberland:

In Northumberland there has been continued progress and learning in relation to transitions, building on the Transitions policy and panels introduced last year. This operational framework provides early opportunities to identify the most appropriate pathway for a young person, facilitate joint working, ensure appropriate referrals and signposting take place in a timely manner, and reduce safeguarding risks.

The Transitional Safeguarding Protocol also introduced last year, has been recently reviewed, and work continues to ensure this is embedded across all teams. Collaborative approaches and joint working initiatives between the Northumberland Adolescent Service and Adult Social Care have continued to develop, which has been evidenced in some improved outcomes for individual young people. This work has been recognised and showcased at the National Leaving Care Benchmarking forum.

Shared culture, vision, common language and understanding of roles and responsibilities	Prevention and person centred approach focusing on positive outcomes	Professional curiosity, MSP, family approach, strengths based, ACES and trauma informed	Clear understanding and application of MCA for people 16+ and positive risk taking
Exploring non engagement and repeating patterns	Understanding person's history - impact of trauma and adverse experiences	Legal literacy to ensure all legal options and remedies explored	Effective and collaborative and multi-disciplinary team around the person
Timely and appropriate information sharing - referrals clearly stating what requested	Multi-agency training and learning from serious cases	Collaborative and multi-agency needs and risk assessment and planning	Understanding communication and language of the young person



Building upon existing joint training opportunities relating to exploitation, adversity awareness, child to parent violence and abuse, and mental capacity, this year Transitional Safeguarding workshops have been introduced for children's and adult staff across all agencies. These workshops explore both the local and national learning context, the respective roles and responsibilities of children's and adults' practitioners, and a model of good practice for transitions.

To support and evidence the importance of this work, a local audit has been undertaken of safeguarding referrals for individuals aged 18-25. Research and learning from reviews have indicated that unresolved trauma can increase risks later in adulthood, and not responding appropriately in early adulthood can mean young people experience more difficulties and increased risks later in life.

This was supported by the audit outcomes which found that a high proportion of individuals aged 18-24, who had been subject to a Section 42 enquiry had previous children services involvement. Further exploration of a sample of these referrals, identified the importance of co-working and considering trauma in both children and adult assessments, and also the challenges associated with consent, and different information systems.

The findings from this audit have directly informed the development of the transitions workshops to promote greater understanding and working arrangements across Children's and Adults workforces. Moving forward, there will be a focus upon promoting these workshops across all agencies, and continuing to embed the Transitional Safeguarding protocol locally.



## Priority 3 Domestic Abuse

### Domestic Abuse Partnership Boards

In the Spring of 2021 both Northumberland and North Tyneside reviewed their partnership arrangements for domestic abuse and established new strategic Domestic Abuse Partnership Boards, chaired by the Service Director for Children's Social Care in Northumberland and the Director for Public Health in North Tyneside.

The Boards are responsible for supporting their Local Authority in meeting its duties under the new Domestic Abuse Act 2021 and ensuring victims of domestic abuse have access to adequate and appropriate support to improve outcomes for victim/survivors, including their children, through a strategic approach to identifying and addressing gaps in support.

Following a refresh of the DA needs assessment in both areas the DA Boards published their Domestic Abuse (DA) Strategies 2021-2024 informing the recommissioning of domestic abuse services in both areas from 1 April 2022, to ensure support is available when needed for victims, survivors, their children and those causing harm who are acknowledging the need to change their behaviour.

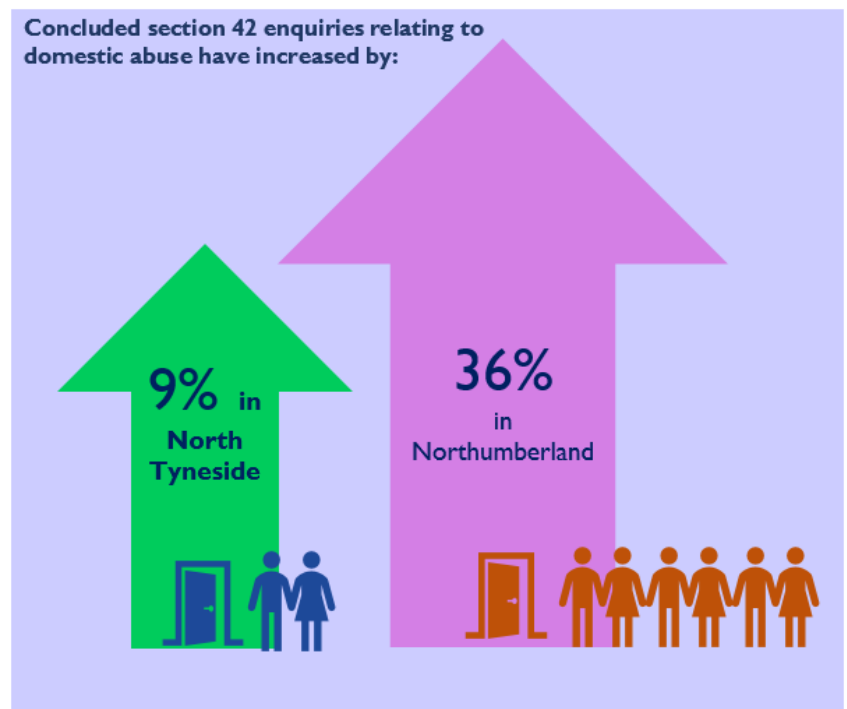
### Impact of Covid 19

As reflected in the Performance data, the DA service providers have noted that 2021-22 has presented ongoing challenges as they continued to deal with the consequences of the Covid-19 pandemic. However, they have also identified that there have been opportunities to build on the learning from the pandemic, to offer individuals more options for how they interact with services.

DA service providers report that individuals are presenting with ever more complex needs, perhaps due to strained capacity across other services, which results in

challenges with engagement, service user retention and successful outcomes. Working with the DA Leads, Commissioning teams and the DA Boards in each of the areas they are reviewing approaches in response to this.

In last year's Annual report (2020-21) our local data evidenced significant increases in domestic abuse across both authorities, a 46% increase in section 42 enquiries in North Tyneside and 128% in Northumberland (2020-2021). This year we have continued to see increases, but not to the same extent.



Northumbria Police have also reported a 1.2% force wide decrease in all domestic abuse incidents when comparing 2020/21 and 2021/22. Incidents are lower than last year but remain higher than 2019 (+3%). The proportion of incidents that involve a partner/ex-partner remains at 77% force wide for 2021/22.



## White Ribbon Day

Building on the success of our regional approach to Domestic Abuse training, in November 2021 both Northumberland County Council and North Tyneside Council were successful in their applications for White Ribbon accreditation, and a joint workshop was held for Champions and Ambassadors. Both areas have agreed their own three-year action plan aiming to end violence against women that includes a communication strategy in both areas to raise awareness across the areas of the support available. With Newcastle also achieving White Ribbon accreditation in November 2021 the three local authorities have worked together on several North of Tyne initiatives to achieve greater impact with awareness raising.

In October and November 2022, the White Ribbon Steering groups will review the progress made in the first year and priorities for the year ahead.

## Child to Parent Violence and Abuse

As reported in last year's report both North Tyneside and Northumberland have developed a Child to Parent Violence and Abuse (CPVA) pathway agreed jointly by Children's and Adults Social Care, and supported by a CPVA training strategy. The steering groups in both areas continue to meet quarterly, and the partnership remains committed to raising awareness and embedding a coordinated approach in response to CPVA.



## Priority 4 Criminal Exploitation

During this reporting year Northumbria Police coordinated a review of the regional Multi-agency Exploitation hub, and a revised model was launched in November 2021.

The purpose of the hub is to provide a multi-agency response to victims of exploitation, with agencies working collaboratively and innovatively to prevent sexual and criminal exploitation and protect those at risk. Both North Tyneside and Northumberland Local Authorities contribute to and support the work of the regional hub, which oversees, reviews and coordinates activity across statutory and non-statutory partners to safeguard victims of all forms of exploitation.

This regional approach to tackling exploitation is strengthened further by Northumbria Police providing consistent chairing arrangements for all 6 Strategic Exploitation subgroups which focus on all age exploitation, learning from practice and improving collaboration across partnerships.

Following on from the Missing Adults protocol feature in last year's Annual report, a regional and collaborative approach to missing adults with Northumbria Police, has continued across the region. The Northumbria Missing Adults protocol has also been updated to ensure that it is reflective of the National Missing Adults framework.

This work has been further extended by Police Missing from Home Coordinators sharing information locally with Adult Social Care, about the adults that most frequently go missing. This ensures appropriate care and support is in place, supports a preventative and holistic view of their missing needs, and addresses any underlying vulnerabilities which are linked to missing episodes.

Gaining a multi-agency view of exploitation across both areas is a key priority for the SAB. This year the Performance group has continued to work with partner agencies to identify relevant data to inform a local understanding of exploitation.

Both LAs are linked to the regional multi-agency exploitation hub, which provides opportunities to cross reference police and LA data, to better understand the wider exploitation profile.

According to current data, concluded section 42 enquiries involving criminal exploitation fell by 50% in North Tyneside compared to the previous year, and fell by 29% in Northumberland.

The relevant abuse types currently monitored and reported on include Modern Slavery, Sexual Exploitation, and Human Trafficking, and developing this data continues to be a focus for both LA's.

Northumberland have adopted a new way of recording types of abuse against Adult Concern Notifications (Safeguarding Concerns) providing a deeper understanding of patterns and themes.

North Tyneside have also reviewed how this type of abuse is recorded and more information about how is being developed will be available in 2022-23.

Capturing multi-agency data to inform local profiling continues to be a priority for both areas moving forward. In line with Board priorities, a multi-agency Adult Safeguarding training programme has continued to be offered across both areas.

This year, this has included the development of extended Criminal Exploitation workshops and a Countywide event in Northumberland for the retail, hospitality and voluntary services sector.

This was delivered in collaboration with Changing Lives and the Gangmasters Labour Abuse Authority to raise awareness of criminal exploitation in the wider community.

### **North Tyneside:**

In order to better understand the picture of exploitation in North Tyneside, a subgroup of the SAB was set up this year. Strategic Missing, Slavery, Exploited, Trafficked (MSET) was originally set up in North Tyneside as a subgroup of the Children's Partnership to oversee at a strategic level, concerns related to children who were missing and at risk of slavery, trafficking and exploitation. It was recognised that the Strategic MSET should also cover adults and the subgroup became a joint group which reports into both the adults and children's safeguarding Partnerships.

The key areas of focus for the Strategic MSET delivery plan are:

- Preventing Exploitation- This work includes developing a multi-agency understanding of data and intelligence held within agencies which would contribute to the picture of exploitation within North Tyneside, ensuring front line practitioners are effectively trained to understand their response to exploitation, raising levels of community engagement and awareness.
- Protecting Victims of Exploitation - This work includes ensuring specialist services and pathways are in place to support exploited victims, working with families of exploited victims
- Pursuing Perpetrators of Exploitation- By developing pathways for sharing of intelligence around locations and perpetrators of harm, focussing on disruption and prosecution opportunities.

Over the first year of this joint group, we have increased representation across adults and community safety members to ensure a whole systems approach to exploitation, we have shared regional and national learning about good practice and areas for improvement from inspections and statutory safeguarding reviews and we have had guest speakers from other areas and third sectors sharing their expertise with the group



### **Northumberland:**

The Strategic Exploitation subgroup has continued to drive the exploitation agenda and all-age response in Northumberland, and is a joint subgroup with the Children's Safeguarding and Community Safety Partnerships. During this year, membership of the group, the Exploitation Strategy and the multi-agency delivery plan have all been reviewed and updated.

The delivery plan continues to focus upon community engagement and awareness support and responses to victims, training, and wider disruption activity.

There is a continued focus also on data sharing across agencies, to assist with identifying emerging threats and areas of concern in the locality.

Learning from previous reviews has highlighted a number of exploitation themes which have also been incorporated in the delivery plan, such as Transitional Safeguarding and the impact of adversity on the health and wellbeing of both children and adults.

Last year we reported on the multi-agency and collaborative response to Operation Eclipse, a Police operation undertaken to tackle County Lines activity in a community in Northumberland.

Since this time, there has been increased awareness raising of criminal exploitation and the associated risks to vulnerable adults. To support this, learning from the success of Operation Eclipse in Northumberland, has been shared with all Strategic Exploitation groups across the Northumbria Police footprint.

Some highlights from the work undertaken by the Exploitation subgroup this year include awareness raising of the NRM, Transitional Safeguarding briefings and further promotion of the Northumbria Missing Adults protocol.

A number of local deep dives have been undertaken in relation to missing data, to identify any themes and to maximise the safeguarding response. There has also been a presentation in relation to the Exploitation hub, and the use of the vulnerability tracker to map exploitation. Introducing Exploitation champions in all agencies is being considered, and this is being taken forward as part of the delivery plan. The group has continued to develop their links with the Violence Reduction Unit (VRU), and has also supported Changing Lives in the implementation of their Stage toolkit for adult victims of sexual exploitation.

Of particular note, Northumberland has continued to receive consistent support from the Changing Lives Liberty Project, both operationally and strategically.

The project has provided not only valuable support and safeguarding to individual victims, but also a range of support and resources to partners to identify modern day slavery (MDS), and a regional insight into (MDS) activity.





## Priority 5 Making Safeguarding Personal

Making Safeguarding Personal (MSP) continues to be a key priority for the SAB and is central to the strategic planning and subgroup activity. The SAB recognises the important role it plays in developing a safeguarding culture that puts individuals at the heart of operational and strategic decision making.

There is a continued commitment to work together to achieve person-led and strengths based frontline practice, across all agencies. All partners are expected to report their work and to provide evidence and assurance of their progress.

As a SAB we continually review how we capture MSP and engage individuals in conversations about how best to respond to their safeguarding situation in a way that enhances involvement, choice and control as well as improving quality of life. Our data tells us that in Northumberland **85%** of adults or their representatives were asked for their desired outcomes, and of those who expressed their outcomes, **98%** were fully or partially met.

In North Tyneside, **77%** were asked for their desired outcomes, and of those outcomes expressed, **94%** were met fully or partially. These are the highest rates recorded across the region. The principles of MSP continue to be embedded across our range of safeguarding training programmes.

During this year, a SAB development session was held which focused upon showcasing the LGA/ADASS MSP toolkit and resources, to support partner agencies to embed MSP and improve safeguarding practice. The range of tools and practice-based case examples have also been used to develop local training resources for staff.

In Northumberland a webinar for Adults Social Care staff has been produced to signpost practitioners to the resources, and is available to access at any time. MSP briefings have also been delivered at Social Work and Care Manager forums.

One area that requires further development in the next year, as identified by the previous review of our SAB arrangements, is a focus upon involving and hearing the voices of people who use services in the work of the Boards.

There is a need to ensure both new Partnership arrangements understand the reality for those with lived experience and frontline staff, and focus upon qualitative reporting on outcomes as well as quantitative measures.

Within North Tyneside Adult Social Care, plans are in place to seek direct feedback following safeguarding interventions via Health Watch. This will be reported on next year, including any actions taken based on the feedback

### In 2021/22:

Clients involved in safeguarding enquiries who lacked capacity:

#### Northumberland



#### North Tyneside



Individuals involved in enquiries who were asked what their desired outcomes:

#### Northumberland



#### North Tyneside

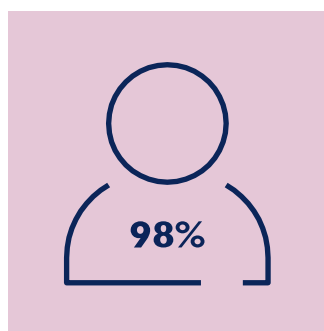






Individuals who had their outcomes fully or partially met (where outcomes were expressed)

**Northumberland**



**North Tyneside**



# 5. SAB Highlights 2021-2022

## June 2021

- Transitional Safeguarding/Bridging the gap presentation
- Endorsement of Northumberland Transitional Safeguarding protocol
- NICE Guidelines 'Safeguarding in Care Homes' – CCG Assurances presented
- Closed Cultures Assurances
- Covid SAB Risk Register signed off presentation
- North Tyneside launched Falls Safeguarding Policy



## October 2021

- Launch of 'Tricky Friends' animation

## November 2021

- National Safeguarding Week promotions and activities



## March 2022

- Northumberland S42 Safeguarding Data Audit findings and report
- New Board models outlined
- LGA Carers & Safeguarding: A briefing for people who work with carers presented
- Northumberland Falls Guidance launched for Care Providers
- Northumberland Revised Safeguarding Adults Policy & Procedures launch



## April 2021 - SAB Development Session

- Safeguarding Vulnerable Dependent Drinkers briefing
- MSP toolkit / resources explored in detail
- LGA/ADASS Safeguarding Concerns and S42 Enquiries frameworks and local implications considered



## September 2021

- Northumbria Police – Diversity, Equality, and Inclusivity Strategy
- National SAR Analysis - SARC benchmarking/assurance findings and action plan
- North East SAR Quality Markers quick guide launch
- NHCFT/CCG Diabetes Management plan/pathway launch
- Regional Public Health update – Mental Health post Covid
- Northumberland 7-minute briefings published - Language, CPVA, Professional Curiosity
- Safeguarding Vulnerable Drinkers Project – Final guidance/report presented



## December 2021

- Domestic Abuse Partnership Boards updates
- Local Mental Health Post Covid updates
- Future Board models proposals
- Northumbria Police – Multi-Agency Victim Hub update
- Local Covid Insights report analysis
- LGA/ADASS updated Adult Safeguarding and Homelessness Briefing

# Some Key Highlights 2021-2022

## Organisational Safeguarding - Impact of Covid

Clearly the impact of Covid-19 on all of our partners agencies and services has been significant, particularly for our residential and nursing care homes. As a SAB we were very mindful about creating a supportive environment for all of our partners, and the staff who work with and support vulnerable individuals within our communities. This is balanced with an awareness of the risks associated with closed environments, i.e., those settings which have been closed to visitors and professionals during the pandemic.

During this reporting year ADASS published guidance identifying the risks associated with the pandemic and closed environments, as did CQC for care providers, and it highlighted the need for SABs to seek assurance in relation to the monitoring of care settings. The SAB recognised that there were already a number of systems and forums in place to facilitate information sharing between professionals and agencies but took the opportunity to assure itself of local safeguarding arrangements and identify any additional measures that may be required. The SAB sought assurance from Commissioners (social care and health) and CQC that there was a robust awareness of issues that relate to closed environments, and the potential indicators and warning signs, including awareness of recently published NICE guidelines '*Safeguarding Adults in Care Homes*'.

In addition, regional benchmarking identified variation in practice, thresholds and decision making relating to organisational abuse and the need for national guidance has been highlighted to the national safeguarding network to improve consistency. To support this work a regional task and finish group has been established to undertake some regional benchmarking related to organisational abuse and both Northumberland and North Tyneside are involved in progressing this work.





## Awareness Campaigns - National Safeguarding Week

In November, in collaboration with the Ann Craft Trust, North Tyneside and Northumberland joined a national conversation in raising awareness of National Safeguarding Adults Week. The aim of Safeguarding Adults Week is to work together in raising awareness, increase community confidence in reporting concerns, and support the workforce in developing their understanding of complex safeguarding issues.



In support of this week, the SAB developed a padlet platform to raise public awareness of a range of information including Safeguarding Adults week; What is Safeguarding; the work of the SAB; and Domestic Abuse.

### SAB Safeguarding Adults week 2021 padlet



The SAB also produced, shared and promoted a 'Partner resource pack' which included a variety of resources, factsheets, communications and social media links relating to the local themes of the week: Domestic abuse; Self-neglect; Financial abuse and Scams; Criminal Exploitation; and Transitional Safeguarding.

A number of SAB partners also undertook activities and events to promote key safeguarding messages across both areas. Northumbria Healthcare Foundation Trust (NHCFT) delivered a number of awareness sessions relating to key safeguarding themes including Transitional Safeguarding, Learning Disabilities, Domestic abuse and Self-neglect.



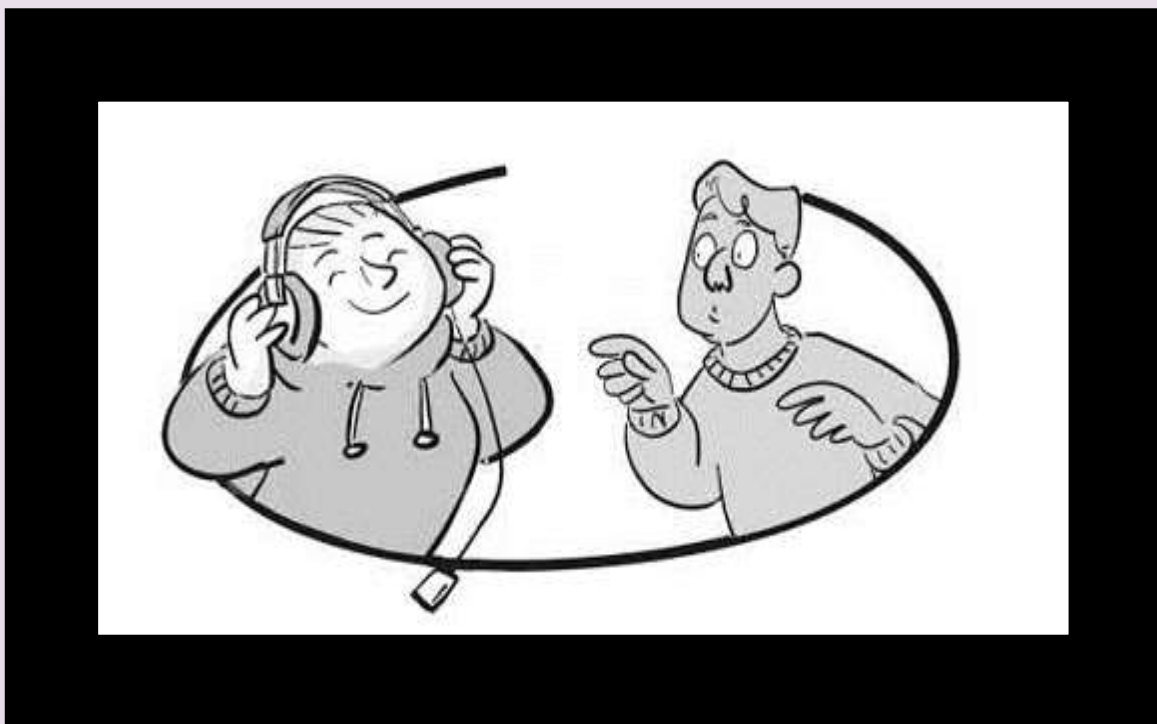
Northumbria Police also supported Safeguarding Adults week across the regional footprint, in particular promoting the Missing Adults Protocol and associated Winnie and Herbert protocols. A range of National County Lines Coordination Centre (NCLCC) resources were also circulation relating to Modern Slavery, Cuckooing and the NRM.

## Awareness Campaigns - Tricky Friends Animation

In October 2021 the SAB launched their 'Tricky Friends' animation across both areas. This is a short animation originally developed by Norfolk Safeguarding Adults Board, with the aim of supporting people with learning disabilities and autism, to understand what good friendships are, when they might be harmful, and what they can do to seek help. As a SAB, we know there are some people who may be more vulnerable to exploitation, and may be less able to recognise the intentions of others. The animation can be used by carers, family, professionals and organisations, to help raise awareness, start conversations, and keep people safe whilst maintaining positive relationships. This has been promoted widely across the Partnership, included in training, and is available on both websites:

['Tricky Friends' - Northumberland Safeguarding Adults](#)

['Tricky Friends' - North Tyneside Safeguarding Adults](#)





# 6. Safeguarding Adults Review Committee - Lessons Learnt

In accordance with the Care Act 2014 Safeguarding Adult Boards have a statutory duty to carry out Safeguarding Adults Reviews. The SAB is required to undertake reviews when an adult in its area has died as a result of abuse or neglect, and there is a concern about how the partner agencies have worked together to safeguard the adult.

## Learning and Reviews

There have been no SARs undertaken by North Tyneside and Northumberland SAB during 2021-22. However, the SARC considered 5 new case referrals and has continued to monitor action plans and learning from previously completed SARs and Learning Reviews. These learning reviews had not met the statutory criteria for a SAR, but partners agreed that there were lessons to be learned about multi-agency collaboration.

Two learning reviews have commenced in this period in Northumberland and these

will be reported in next year's report.

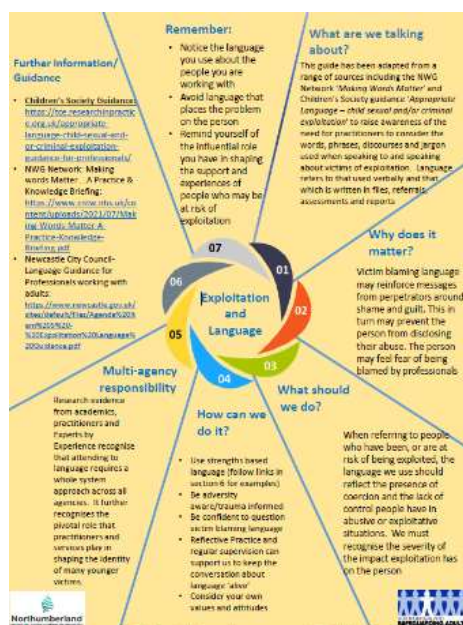
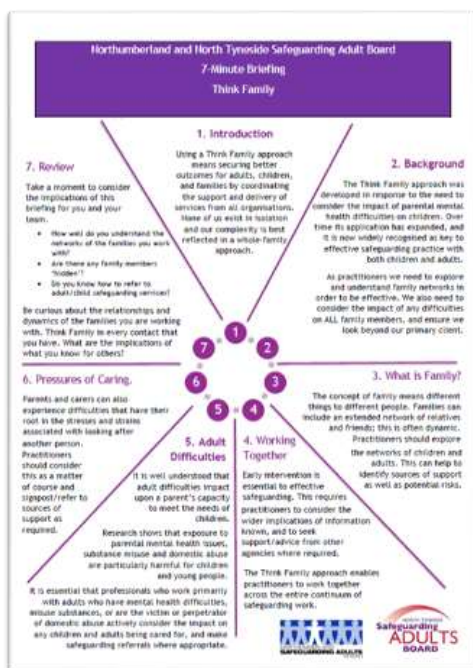
For Northumberland, action plans from the joint 'Bobby' Learning Review, and Leanne SAR, have been completed and signed off by the SAB this year. Another joint learning review was also concluded for Adult AB, where there was clear learning in relation to the importance of person centred and timely transition planning.

The diabetes pathway highlighted in last year's report has been re-launched and its efficacy is currently being audited





A number of 7-minute guides and recorded webinars have been developed to support learning, and a wide range of themed guides relating to Exploitation and Language, Professional Curiosity, Think Family, Child to Parent Violence and Abuse (CPVA), Mate and hate crime, and Caring about Adversity Resilience and Empowerment (CARE). Learning from SARs has also led to the roll out of various briefings, including Leigh, Missing Persons Protocol and criminal exploitation.



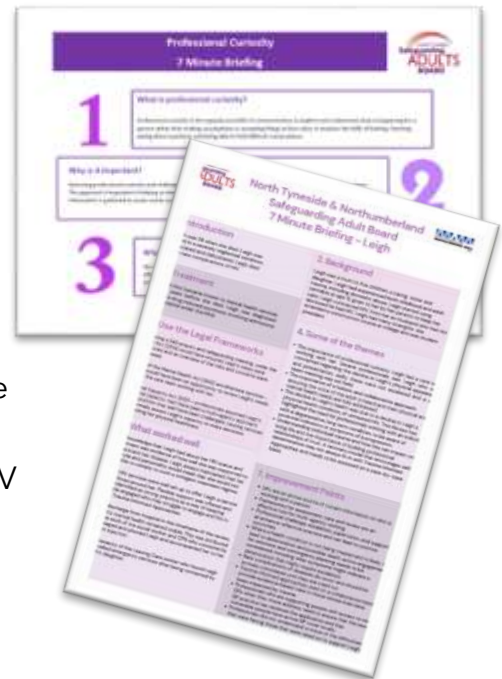


## Learning from Leigh:

In March 2021 we published the Leigh Safeguarding Adults Review. This was featured in our last annual report - add link

Since then, we have undertaken the following actions:

- Produced a briefing to summarise the review and delivered briefing sessions across our partners
- Produced 7-minute guides about Professional curiosity, Think Family and self-neglect (add links)
- Delivered training on Caring about Adversity, Resilience and Empowerment (CARE)
- Recorded a webinar to brief staff about the effects of HIV and long-term conditions - see here



## Safeguarding and Housing group:

In our 2019/20 Annual Report we provided information following the Board's publication of the Leanne SAR undertaken in Northumberland. One of the key areas of learning from this SAR highlighted the need for a multi-agency approach to identify the interplay of risks between individuals with entrenched problems, when housed together.

Since this time, significant work has been undertaken to address all the review recommendations, including temporary accommodation providers being asked to provide assurance and evidence to the SAB in relation their

risk assessment tools and their consideration of wider vulnerability. The Northumberland Safeguarding and Housing Multi-Agency Partnership Group has also been set up aligned with national guidance (Adult Safeguarding and Homelessness) to support preventative work with the growing numbers of people experiencing homelessness, who also increasingly experience abuse, exploitation and neglect, escalating health and care needs, and premature mortality.



## North East SAR Champions:

Throughout this year, both North Tyneside and Northumberland have continued to be active members of the North-East SAR Champions network, which was established to share and improve learning from SARs and other reviews, across the region. A SAR library, developed and hosted by Gateshead SAB is now live and accessible across the region. The content of the library continues to expand, and now includes both local and national reviews alongside a range of learning resources and tools. The group has also published a North East Quality Markers checklist, an easy read reference and benchmarking guide to the National Quality Markers, to support the SAR process at every stage. This work has been recognised nationally, and the SAR Champions were asked to present a national webinar in October 2021 for the Care and Health Improvement Programme (CHIP), showcasing the good practice and outputs from the group.



## National SAR Analysis benchmarking:

In November 2020 the findings of the National SAR Analysis were published, which identified a range of priorities for sector led improvements. In response to this national work, an assurance framework was developed to provide the SAB with local assurances, and benchmark current SARC practice against the recommendations from the analysis. An action/improvement plan was then produced setting out some key priorities and tasks over the next year. This included the need to review the both the SAB's Quality Assurance Framework and SAR Policy and Procedure, to ensure the learning and the challenge from the national review was reflected. Also identified, was the need for a number of briefings, and an Appreciative Inquiry/Learning Review toolkit to be developed to support SARC decisions. The SARC were also asked to consider in detail, how learning from previous SARs can be revisited, to ensure this learning continues to be

embedded. Much of this assurance work is underway, and will be the focus of a SARC Development session.

## Learning from Regional and National Safeguarding Adult Reviews:

The SARC continues to consider and benchmark against other reviews, both locally and nationally, and have developed a learning brief template which summarises the key findings and identifies the implications for practice locally. Partner agencies are then encouraged to disseminate this learning across their own agencies. The SARC also held a development session for members this year, where the findings from two large national reviews were considered in detail. In 2021/22 the SARC considered the learning and local implications from one local Domestic Homicide Review and Safeguarding Practice Review, and 8 national SARs and Learning Reviews.



# 7. Looking ahead to next year

Following a review of the Board arrangements and subsequent consultation, a decision was reached that the time was right to separate the joint Board and develop place-based SABs in each Local Authority area.

This will allow each area to align arrangements with other strategic boards, and to fully understand the holistic view of safeguarding and safety in their communities. As an interim arrangement, to allow each area to develop their partnership models and subgroup arrangements fully, the Safeguarding Adults Review Committee and Performance subgroup will continue joint arrangements until April 2023. These will be reported on fully in next year's Annual report.

## Working with our Partners

The SAB has continued to be supported by our Lay Members through a number of changes, including a review of our partnership arrangements, and adapting to new ways of working. Our Lay members continue to promote safeguarding locally and provide valuable insight into our communities. They remain key members of our Partnership, strengthening the work of the Board, and providing an essential community perspective to scrutiny and assurance.

*'We have continued to work with the board, to promote greater awareness that every member of our borough and wider community is entitled to feel safe and be protected from abuse and neglect. It is imperative that we continue to have local representatives (as lay members), that add an independent voice to an exclusively professional committee.'*

**North Tyneside Lay member**





## Partner Spotlight

# CHANGING LIVES

### Liberty Project

The Liberty Project, a Changing Lives project, was initially funded by the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) and has funding from the National Lottery Community Fund (NLCF) until December 2022.

The project supports individuals subjected to all forms of exploitation under the Modern Slavery umbrella. The project was established in 2018 and initially supported men who had been victims of a large-scale exploitation case in Northumberland.

Since January 2020, the Liberty Project has supported 51 individuals across Northumberland. This support is person-centred, taking into account the causes of the exploitation, the trauma experienced by victims and overall well-being.

Short-term support focuses on physical and mental health, accommodation, re-connecting victims with services and income. As trust develops, disclosures are often made and plans for medium and long-term recovery are then possible. There have been instances when victims have been re-located away from immediate risk, ensuring their safety and a chance to escape exploitation.

Liberty has assisted with **Operation Momentum** and **Operation Lionheart**, working closely with other agencies, including Safeguarding Adults and Northumbria Police. A proactive method of joint working has been adopted, identifying and approaching those at risk of exploitation based on relevant intelligence shared.

Without exception, everyone approached by the Safeguarding Adults Manager and the Project lead accepted support.

The Liberty Project also coordinates a Strategic Group, advising and informing regional partners of local, regional, and national developments in the field of modern slavery. This includes updates on legislation, trends, research and various initiatives. The Project also directly informs, and is represented on the Exploitation sub groups in both North Tyneside and Northumberland.

# Partner case studies - Multi-Agency Safeguarding

## Northumbria Police

Northumbria Police's Missing from Home Coordinators have played an active role in multi-agency safeguarding over the last 12 months in respect of young adults missing, through Criminal Exploitation and County Lines. One such example involved a young male who had been the victim of a serious assault in a southern county after becoming involved in criminal exploitation. Close and intensive partnership working took place with him to support his needs including being a teenage parent, substance misuse and mental ill health. This enabled accommodation, harm reduction and appropriate care and support to be provided.

**This example highlights the benefits of Adult Safeguarding being involved in the Missing, Slavery, Exploited Trafficked process, and the effectiveness of early Transitional planning and involvement across agencies. In this case information was shared between services in a proportionate and timely way to respond to the young person's changing needs and reduce the risks of harm.**





## Northumbria Healthcare Foundation Trust

Patient B first attended hospital in late 2020 where they presented with social ideation. Attendance escalated, with 139 attendances (one of the most frequently attending patients) predominantly around self-harm, suicidal ideation, and use of drugs and alcohol as a coping mechanism. Patient B was often brought to hospital unresponsive after a ligature attempt. Patient B would also attempt to end their life whilst in hospital with the use of ligatures.

Patient B had a complex history and has been a mental health inpatient for short stays on more than one occasion. Patient B reported to suffer from PTSD linked to service in the armed forces, but was later diagnosed with Emotionally Unstable Personality Disorder. Due to the presenting risks of death by misadventure, a number of agencies were involved, but engagement from Patient B was inconsistent.

A coordinated response was managed via MDT meetings with all involved agencies, including the use safeguarding when indicated. A detailed management plan for the attendances at the Emergency Department was implemented to not only support Patient B, but also the staff involved in Patient B's care, and was shared with all agencies. The plan was successful with attendances reducing, and staff and agencies feeling supported in providing care for Patient B when attending hospital, and providing a safe controlled environment.

**This example demonstrates the effectiveness of multiagency collaboration to manage complex risk. All agencies involved felt that the approach was extremely beneficial, as risks were communicated and shared. This approach allowed Patient B to receive joined up care, and reduced the risk of death by misadventure.**

## National Probation Service

Mr A was allocated to a Probation Practitioner (PP) in Northumberland following an offence that was not related to domestic abuse. The PP undertook a thorough investigation of Mr A's home circumstances and discovered, after various enquiries, that he was living with an adult at risk of harm. This person was a victim of domestic abuse from Mr A, but no conviction had been brought, even though there were over 80 police call outs of concern. The PP liaised with staff from both Northumberland and North Tyneside Local Authorities to share information, and develop and implement a safeguarding plan.

This joined up working allowed the PP to recall Mr A to prison for a period to allow services to work with the victim prior to his later re-release. Once released, regular professionals' meetings continued in order to share information. Although Mr A is assessed as being a serious risk to his partner, they continue to reside together by choice. All appropriate actions were taken by both Probation and the Local Authorities to reduce the risk, and a Making Safeguarding Personal approach was central to this. There are ongoing MAPPA meetings and services are currently working together to produce a case for a Closure Order, to prevent Mr A from going to the victim's home once she is ready to engage with support services.

**This example demonstrates the impact of working with other professionals to safeguard, whilst ensuring the views and wishes of individuals are central to any safeguarding plans and multi-agency responses. This tenacious and continued approach to safeguarding has resulted in the level of risk being reduced whilst ensuring the opportunities for engagement are maximised.**





# 8. Some highlights from our Partners



## Northumbria Police

- Protecting Vulnerable People is a force priority, supported by the launch of a Force wide Vulnerability Strategy this year focusing on four key pillars: Working Together, Our People, Leadership and Early Intervention and Prevention. The aim is to achieve a safe environment for people, their families and wider communities to thrive without fear of harm, to ensure perpetrators are identified and targeted, and the opportunity for them to cause further harm is removed or minimised. Working collaboratively with multi-agency Safeguarding and Community Safety Partnerships is key to this response. It is acknowledged that adopting an Early Intervention and Preventative Approach which will have greater longer-term benefits in preventing harm and exploitation.
- Harm Reduction Teams are now embedded across the force and will play a key role in tackling emerging issues identified with vulnerability, working with partners to adopt a problem-solving approach. New teams have been set up which include a Harm Reduction and Communities Team and also a court disposal team (TREAD team) who are looking at pathways to divert adult offenders from the criminal justice system.
- To ensure that Protecting Vulnerable People is front and centre of the force response, "Vulnerability Matters" training is being rolled out to all front-line officers and staff. This will support officers to take a trauma informed approach when dealing with vulnerability and seek preventative early intervention to community harms. Bespoke training sessions are also being delivered to force control room call takers to enable them to recognise and respond to vulnerability at the first point of contact. In support of the Vulnerability Matters training a 15- month force campaign from May 2022 will focus on vulnerability, and ensure that protecting the vulnerable is integral to the force response.



- The learning from the Leigh SAR has continued to be further embedded within primary care with discussions at the Lead GP Peer Network meetings for safeguarding Adults, a briefing for GPs, and the developed resources being shared via the GP bulletin and placed on GP TeamNet.
- To support better oversight of issues affecting children and adults, the Safeguarding Lead GPs Peer Network groups for children and adults combined for a number of meetings. It was agreed that this approach supported families, children in care, and transitions, and as a result a number of combined meetings will be included in following years schedule for peer networks.
- Work has been undertaken to ensure that domestic abuse is identified currently within primary care, and that templates are used effectively. Guidance has been put in place for the Named GP for safeguarding, practice managers, safeguarding admin staff and individual GP practices. Training sessions were facilitated by the NTCCG Safeguarding Team, North Tyneside Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence coordinator, Local Authority safeguarding team, NECS template designer, Domestic Abuse champions and NHCFT Safeguarding Team. GP practice visits from the NHCFT Safeguarding Team took place to embed the MARAC process, provide guidance and obtain feedback about the pathway and process. The templates were designed with read codes to enable their use within practices to be measured. The results were very positive, showing an increase in the number of Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) compared to the previous years. Whilst this is an excellent achievement what the results also showed was that the DASH Risk indicator checklist (RIC), which is a measure of risk, was only being used in clear high-risk cases and not as a tool to monitor lower-level cases where risk may be seen to be escalating. This is an issue which will be further explored with GP safeguarding leads throughout 22-23.

- Multi-agency working in Northumberland has always historically been very strong. This continues with the CCG having close relationships with partners working across Northumberland and beyond. The safeguarding team represents the CCG on numerous committees and subgroups across the SAB and SNP (Safer Northumberland Partnership), contributing to all priorities. The team provides reports on behalf of primary care for MARAC, MAPPA, MATAC, MSET and Prevent.
- In relation to transitional safeguarding arrangements, NCCG are continually working with providers and partners to ensure robust and consistent responses are in place to manage safeguarding for vulnerable young people. Specific work is ongoing with care leavers to ensure smooth transitions take place. Likewise, in relation to criminal exploitation NCCG are working in partnership to identify and respond effectively to prevent and reduce the impact of exploitation. Training and briefings have been shared with Primary Care colleagues

- The trust safeguarding service continue to have a specialist practitioner on site at the Northumbria Specialist Emergency Hospital daily, and works across all of the other hospital sites to ensure our most vulnerable are immediately safeguarded.
- The trust Safeguarding 9th annual safeguarding conference “What a Difference a year makes” was held virtually and successfully attended by over 150 staff. Speakers included topics around self-harm and suicide, Mental Capacity Act/ Deprivation of Liberty, transitional safeguarding and a survivors account of domestic abuse.
- Health Cards were developed and launched in collaboration with Learning Disability North East and Northumbria Healthcare Trust. These are a colour coded easy read document to support patients with a learning disability in the hospital trust to understand their medical and healthcare needs during their hospital stay.
- The safeguarding service have worked jointly with the Anaesthetists/Surgery Business Unit and Primary Care to implement an anaesthetics pathway for patients with a learning disability and/or autism. This is now embedded and ensures early reasonable adjustments for patients coming in for surgery.
- In the Northumbria Staff Awards 2021 - the trust safeguarding service were finalists in Team of the Year Award



## Cumbria, Northumberland, Tyne and Wear NHS Foundation Trust (CNTW)

- The Trust has continued to support the PREVENT agenda via a dedicated worker in the team who supports this work Trust wide, attending Channel meetings and sharing information as required. The MASH worker is also now fully embedded and integral to the safeguarding assessments completed by One Call in Northumberland. This worker supports safeguarding meetings in cases requiring specialist mental health advice for individuals who may not be active to CNTW at the time concerns have been raised.
- Local Domestic Homicide Reviews have highlighted the need to strengthen the response to domestic abuse incidents within Addictions services. This has resulted in the development of a bespoke Domestic Abuse awareness session for this service, which is currently being delivered in Northumberland. Early evidence is that this is increasing incident reporting in this pathway.
- Learning from a local learning review identified the need to develop expectations of Trust staff guidance for attending and/or invited to Safeguarding Adults at Risk meetings. This will be developed to support information in the Trust policy.
- Incident reporting continues to increase alongside referrals submitted to the Local Authority using a Think Family approach. This is evident in the access pathway who report the highest volume of safeguarding activity. Access services provide CNTW Psychiatric Liaison, Initial Response Team and Addictions pathway Individuals accessing these pathways are often the most vulnerable so it is reassuring that staff are identifying concerns when they arise.

## National Probation Service (NPS)

- Northumbria CRC and The National Probation Service combined to form the Probation Service in June 2021.
- The Probation Service is a partner in all MASH, MARAC, MATAC and MAPPA arrangements to ensure and maximise Adult Safeguarding arrangements. The Probation Service is also a key partner on the Domestic Abuse Partnership Board and operates in all aspects of domestic violence reduction across the partnership. This is to ensure that perpetrators are managed effectively, and that further victimisation is reduced.
- The Probation Service is committed to reducing exploitation and all staff undergo compulsory training on criminal and sexual exploitation, this also forms part of the risk assessment process for all People on Probation.
- A key priority for the Probation Service in 2022 is to develop and fully embed the new National Neighbourhood Crime Integrated Offender Strategy with Northumbria Police. This will seek to tackle and prevent offences which impact upon the most vulnerable in Northumberland and North Tyneside and reduce repeat victimisation.
- The North East Region now have in place a Continuous Improvement Strategy which outlines our 3-year approach to improving our sentence management delivery. Our vision over the next 3 years is to strive to create a culture of continuous improvement within the NE Region that is sustainable, innovative and empowers others, as well as defining what good probation supervision looks like in the region.
- Commencing in July 2022 there will be a focus on Suicide Prevention and Self Harm Awareness Training for all frontline Probation Staff





# Appendix A

SAB members - As specified in the Care Act, the SAB includes three core members; the Local Authority, Clinical Commissioning Group, and the Police. However, our membership is also made up of nominated lead representatives from a wide range of partner agencies who are core or co-opted members.

## Core members:

Independent Chairperson

Northumbria Police

**North Tyneside Local Authority:**

Adult Social Care

Housing

Elected member

**Northumberland Local Authority:**

Adult Social Care

Housing

Elected member

**North Tyneside Clinical  
Commissioning Group**

**Northumberland Clinical  
Commissioning Group**

**Northumbria Healthcare NHS  
Foundation Trust**

**Cumbria, Northumberland,  
Tyne and Wear NHS Foundation Trust**

**National Probation Service**

**Children's Partnership Board Manager**

**Lay members**

## Co-opted members:

**Tyne and Wear Fire & Rescue Service**

**Northumberland Fire & Rescue Service**

**Public Health**

**Community Safety**

**Northumberland**

**VCS Assembly**

**North Tyneside carers**

**Northumberland Self-Directed support,  
Prevention and Carers**

**HMP**

**Northumberland**

**Care Quality Commission (CQC)**

**Legal Services**

**Healthwatch**

## Contact us

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