



Northumberland County Council

Your ref:

Our ref:

Enquiries to: Andrea Todd

Email: Andrea.Todd@northumberland.gov.uk

Tel direct: 01670 622606

Date: 20 December 2023

Dear Sir or Madam,

Your attendance is requested at a meeting of the **HEALTH AND WELLBEING OSC** to be held in **COUNCIL CHAMBER, COUNTY HALL, MORPETH, NE61 2EF** on **TUESDAY, 9 JANUARY 2024** at **1.00 PM**.

Yours faithfully

Dr Helen Paterson
Chief Executive

To: Members of the HEALTH AND WELLBEING OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

MEMBERS OF THE FAMILY AND CHILDREN'S SERVICES OSC HAVE BEEN INVITED TO ATTEND FOR AGENDA ITEMS 4, 5 & 6.



Dr Helen Paterson, Chief Executive
County Hall, Morpeth, Northumberland, NE61 2EF
T: 0345 600 6400
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AGENDA

PART I

It is expected that the matters included in this part of the agenda will be dealt with in public.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

2. MINUTES

(Pages 1
- 8)

Minutes of the meeting of the Health & Wellbeing Overview & Scrutiny Committee held on 12 December 2023, as circulated, to be confirmed as a true record and signed by the Chair.

3. DISCLOSURE OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS

Unless already entered in the Council's Register of Members' interests, members are required where a matter arises at a meeting;

a. Which **directly relates to** Disclosable Pecuniary Interest ('DPI') as set out in Appendix B, Table 1 of the Code of Conduct, to disclose the interest, not participate in any discussion or vote and not to remain in room. Where members have a DPI or if the matter concerns an executive function and is being considered by a Cabinet Member with a DPI they must notify the Monitoring Officer and arrange for somebody else to deal with the matter.

b. Which **directly relates to** the financial interest or well being of a Other Registrable Interest as set out in Appendix B, Table 2 of the Code of Conduct to disclose the interest and only speak on the matter if members of the public are also allowed to speak at the meeting but otherwise must not take part in any discussion or vote on the matter and must not remain the room.

c. Which **directly relates to** their financial interest or well-being (and is not DPI) or the financial well being of a relative or close associate, to declare the interest and members may only speak on the matter if members of the public are also allowed to speak. Otherwise, the member must not take part in discussion or vote on the matter and must leave the room.

d. Which **affects** the financial well-being of the member, a relative or close associate or a body included under the Other Registrable Interests column in Table 2, to disclose the interest and apply the test set out at paragraph 9 of Appendix B before deciding whether they may remain in the meeting.

e. Where Members have or a Cabinet Member has an Other Registrable Interest or Non Registrable Interest in a matter being considered in exercise of their executive function, they must notify the Monitoring Officer and arrange for somebody else to deal with it.

NB Any member needing clarification must contact

monitoringofficer@northumberland.gov.uk. Members are referred to the Code of Conduct which contains the matters above in full. Please refer to the guidance on disclosures at the rear of this agenda letter.

4. **JOINT REPORT OF THE CABINET MEMBER FOR INSPIRING YOUNG PEOPLE AND CABINET MEMBER FOR IMPROVING PUBLIC HEALTH AND WELLBEING** (Pages 9 - 18)

Mid-term review of the Northumberland Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy Theme ‘Giving Children and Young People the Best Start in Life

The purpose of this report is:

- To update on achievements made against the Northumberland Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2018-2028 theme of ‘Giving children and young people the best start in life’.
- To review and agree priorities and actions for this theme and describe proposed amendments for the remaining period of the strategy from 2023 to 2028.
- To review indicators used to measure progress against this Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy theme.

5. **REPORT OF THE CABINET MEMBER FOR IMPROVING PUBLIC HEALTH AND WELLBEING** (Pages 19 - 40)

Update on and refresh of the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy theme ‘Tackling the wider determinants of health’

The purpose of this report is:

- To update on achievements made against the theme Tackling the Wider Determinants of Health in the Northumberland Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy (JHWS) 2018-2028 and
- To review and agree priorities and actions for this theme and describe proposed amendments for the remaining period of the strategy from 2023 to 2028.
- To review indicators used to measure progress against this Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy theme.
- Comment on the national indicators aligned to this theme and other measures for understanding the qualitative impact of actions within this Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy theme.

6. **REPORT OF THE CABINET MEMBER FOR INSPIRING YOUNG PEOPLE** (Pages 41 - 94)

NCASP Annual Report – September 2022 to September 2023

This is the first Annual Report of the Northumberland Children and Adults Safeguarding Partnership (NCASP) 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.

7. REPORTS OF THE SCRUTINY OFFICER

7.1 FORWARD PLAN

(Pages
95 - 104)

To note the latest Forward Plan of key decisions. Any further changes to the Forward Plan will be reported at the meeting.

7.2 HEALTH AND WELLBEING OSC WORK PROGRAMME

(Pages
105 -
112)

To consider the work programme/monitoring report for the Health and Wellbeing OSC for 2023/24.

8. URGENT BUSINESS

To consider such other business as, in the opinion of the Chair, should, by reason of special circumstances, be considered as a matter of urgency.

9. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, 5 March 2024 at 1.00 p.m.

IF YOU HAVE AN INTEREST AT THIS MEETING, PLEASE:

- Declare it and give details of its nature before the matter is discussed or as soon as it becomes apparent to you.
- Complete this sheet and pass it to the Democratic Services Officer.

Name:		Date of meeting:	
Meeting:			
Item to which your interest relates:			
Nature of Interest i.e. either disclosable pecuniary interest (as defined by Table 1 of Appendix B to the Code of Conduct, Other Registerable Interest or Non-Registerable Interest (as defined by Appendix B to Code of Conduct) (please give details):			
Are you intending to withdraw from the meeting?		Yes - <input type="checkbox"/>	No - <input type="checkbox"/>

Registering Interests

Within 28 days of becoming a member or your re-election or re-appointment to office you must register with the Monitoring Officer the interests which fall within the categories set out in **Table 1 (Disclosable Pecuniary Interests)** which are as described in "The Relevant Authorities (Disclosable Pecuniary Interests) Regulations 2012". You should also register details of your other personal interests which fall within the categories set out in **Table 2 (Other Registerable Interests)**.

"Disclosable Pecuniary Interest" means an interest of yourself, or of your partner if you are aware of your partner's interest, within the descriptions set out in Table 1 below.

"Partner" means a spouse or civil partner, or a person with whom you are living as husband or wife, or a person with whom you are living as if you are civil partners.

1. You must ensure that your register of interests is kept up-to-date and within 28 days of becoming aware of any new interest, or of any change to a registered interest, notify the Monitoring Officer.
2. A 'sensitive interest' is as an interest which, if disclosed, could lead to the councillor, or a person connected with the councillor, being subject to violence or intimidation.
3. Where you have a 'sensitive interest' you must notify the Monitoring Officer with the reasons why you believe it is a sensitive interest. If the Monitoring Officer agrees they will withhold the interest from the public register.

Non participation in case of disclosable pecuniary interest

4. Where a matter arises at a meeting which directly relates to one of your Disclosable Pecuniary Interests as set out in **Table 1**, you must disclose the interest, not participate in any discussion or vote on the matter and must not remain in the room unless you have been granted a dispensation. If it is a 'sensitive interest', you do not have to disclose the nature of the interest, just that you have an interest.

Dispensation may be granted in limited circumstances, to enable you to participate and vote on a matter in which you have a disclosable pecuniary interest.

5. Where you have a disclosable pecuniary interest on a matter to be considered or is being considered by you as a Cabinet member in exercise of your executive function, you must notify the Monitoring Officer of the interest and must not take any steps or further steps in the matter apart from arranging for someone else to deal with it.

Disclosure of Other Registerable Interests

6. Where a matter arises at a meeting which **directly relates** to the financial interest or wellbeing of one of your Other Registerable Interests (as set out in **Table 2**), you must disclose the interest. You may speak on the matter only if members of the public are also allowed to speak at the meeting but otherwise must not take part in any discussion or vote on the matter and must not remain in the room unless you have been granted a dispensation. If it is a 'sensitive interest', you do not have to disclose the nature of the interest.

Disclosure of Non-Registerable Interests

7. Where a matter arises at a meeting which **directly relates** to your financial interest or well-being (and is not a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest set out in **Table 1**) or a financial interest or well-being of a relative or close associate, you must disclose the interest. You may speak on the matter only if members of the public are also allowed to speak at the meeting. Otherwise you must not take part in any discussion or vote on the matter and must not remain in the room unless you have been granted a dispensation. If it is a 'sensitive interest', you do not have to disclose the nature of the interest.
8. Where a matter arises at a meeting which **affects** –
- a. your own financial interest or well-being;
 - b. a financial interest or well-being of a relative or close associate; or
 - c. a financial interest or wellbeing of a body included under Other Registrable Interests as set out in **Table 2** you must disclose the interest. In order to determine whether you can remain in the meeting after disclosing your interest the following test should be applied
9. Where a matter (referred to in paragraph 8 above) **affects** the financial interest or well- being:
- a. to a greater extent than it affects the financial interests of the majority of inhabitants of the ward affected by the decision and;
 - b. a reasonable member of the public knowing all the facts would believe that it would affect your view of the wider public interest

You may speak on the matter only if members of the public are also allowed to speak at the meeting. Otherwise, you must not take part in any discussion or vote on the matter and must not remain in the room unless you have been granted a dispensation.

If it is a 'sensitive interest', you do not have to disclose the nature of the interest.

Where you have an Other Registerable Interest or Non-Registerable Interest on a matter to be considered or is being considered by you as a Cabinet member in exercise of your executive function, you must notify the Monitoring Officer of the interest and must not take any steps or further steps in the matter apart from arranging for someone else to deal with it.

Table 1: Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

This table sets out the explanation of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests as set out in the [Relevant Authorities \(Disclosable Pecuniary Interests\) Regulations 2012](#).

Subject	Description
Employment, office, trade, profession or vocation	Any employment, office, trade, profession or vocation carried on for profit or gain. [Any unpaid directorship.]
Sponsorship	Any payment or provision of any other financial benefit (other than from the council) made to the councillor during the previous 12-month period for expenses incurred by him/her in carrying out his/her duties as a councillor, or towards his/her election expenses. This includes any payment or financial benefit from a trade union within the meaning of the Trade Union and Labour Relations (Consolidation) Act 1992.
Contracts	Any contract made between the councillor or his/her spouse or civil partner or the person with whom the councillor is living as if they were spouses/civil partners (or a firm in which such person is a partner, or an incorporated body of which such person is a director* or a body that such person has a beneficial interest in the securities of*) and the council — (a) under which goods or services are to be provided or works are to be executed; and (b) which has not been fully discharged.
Land and Property	Any beneficial interest in land which is within the area of the council. ‘Land’ excludes an easement, servitude, interest or right in or over land which does not give the councillor or his/her spouse or civil partner or the person with whom the councillor is living as if they were spouses/ civil partners (alone or jointly with another) a right to occupy or to receive income.
Licenses	Any licence (alone or jointly with others) to occupy land in the area of the council for a month or longer
Corporate tenancies	Any tenancy where (to the councillor’s knowledge)— (a) the landlord is the council; and (b) the tenant is a body that the councillor, or his/her spouse or civil partner or the person with whom the councillor is living as if they were spouses/ civil partners is a partner of or a director* of or has a beneficial interest in the securities* of.
Securities	Any beneficial interest in securities* of a body

	<p>where—</p> <p>(a) that body (to the councillor’s knowledge) has a place of business or land in the area of the council; and</p> <p>(b) either—</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. the total nominal value of the securities* exceeds £25,000 or one hundredth of the total issued share capital of that body; or ii. if the share capital of that body is of more than one class, the total nominal value of the shares of any one class in which the councillor, or his/ her spouse or civil partner or the person with whom the councillor is living as if they were spouses/civil partners has a beneficial interest exceeds one hundredth of the total issued share capital of that class.
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* ‘director’ includes a member of the committee of management of an industrial and provident society.

* ‘securities’ means shares, debentures, debenture stock, loan stock, bonds, units of a collective investment scheme within the meaning of the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000 and other securities of any description, other than money deposited with a building society.

Table 2: Other Registrable Interests

You have a personal interest in any business of your authority where it relates to or is likely to affect:

- a) any body of which you are in general control or management and to which you are nominated or appointed by your authority
- b) any body
 - i. exercising functions of a public nature
 - ii. any body directed to charitable purposes or
 - iii. one of whose principal purposes includes the influence of public opinion or policy (including any political party or trade union)

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NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY COUNCIL

HEALTH AND WELLBEING OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

At a meeting of the **Health & Wellbeing Overview and Scrutiny Committee** on Tuesday, 12 December 2023 at 1.00 p.m. at County Hall, Morpeth.

PRESENT

Councillor R. Dodd
(Chair, in the Chair)

MEMBERS

Bowman, L.	Hunter, I.
Chicken, E.	Nisbet, K.
Hardy, C.	Richardson, M.
Hill, G.	

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE

Angus, C.	Scrutiny Officer
Bradley, N.	Executive Director - Adults, Ageing and Wellbeing
Charlton, C.	Northumbria Healthcare
Dickson, M.	Northumbria Healthcare
Hillery, J.	Adult Social Care Complaints Manager
Jones, V.	Cabinet Member
Kent, D.	Northumbria Healthcare
Lee, P.	Public Health Consultant
McCabe, K.	Senior Public Health Manager (Inequalities)
Pattison, W.	Cabinet Member for
Todd, A.	Democratic Services Officer

1 member of the press was also in attendance.

25. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors C. Humphrey and C. Seymour.

26. MINUTES

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of the Health & Wellbeing Overview & Scrutiny Committee held on 7 November 2023, as circulated, be confirmed as a true record and signed by the Chair.

27. HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD

RESOLVED the minutes of the Health & Wellbeing Board held on 12 October 2023 and 9 November 2023 be noted.

28. BERWICK HOSPITAL

Members welcomed C. Charlton, Head of Communications, M. Dickson, Executive Director of Nursing and D. Kent, Managing Director of Northumbria Facilities Management to the meeting to update on the progress of Berwick Hospital. (A copy of the presentation slides has been filed with the signed minutes).

Northumbria Healthcare's presentation covered the following:

Excellent progress on site and in other areas:

- A lot of progress had been made within the last twelve months with most of the archaeology and demolition work being completed.
- Archaeology had discovered some fascinating finds. The site dated back to medieval times with findings including a latrine, defensive wall and what resembled a fishing village.
- The Trust had also worked closely with the Council's archaeologist team.
- It was fantastic that the hospital was being built on a site of such historical importance and would be the heart of the local community in relation to providing modern healthcare.
- The Trust was waiting to find out if any further archaeology was needed at the site.
- The foundations had been laid and hundreds of piles and pile caps installed.
- The frame for the building was currently going up.
- Design work for the inside of the hospital, wards and different areas was well underway and progressing well.

This was now and next steps:

- Having to manage work on site carefully as it was restricted for space, but it was going well.
- The frame was to be completely installed by February next year.
- Work to pour concrete to form floors and base of room planned to begin late January.

Things were going well in the factory too:

- Merit was the construction partner.
- Merit was a local company with factories in Cramlington.
- Advantages of using off-site construction include high quality and not affected by adverse weather.
- This building approach was now being used more widely and seen as leading/innovative.
- Looking at opening in Summer 2025.

Patients and staff were settling well on our new temporary ward:

- Due to how close the work needed to be done next to the ward, patients had been moved to a temporary ward, which was on site.
- It was very positive that they had been able to keep inpatients in Berwick and on the hospital site.
- The temporary ward was very well fitted out and comfortable.
- Excellent feedback had been received from patients and staff about the temporary ward. There had been over 20 patients so far.
- The Team would help support with transport for these patients and their loved ones.
- Outpatients, maternity, oncology and MIU were still operating as normal.

Continually looking at services:

- Very important to note that there would be no reduction in any services, quite the opposite.
- Would be bringing endoscopy back which was a real benefit to the local community.
- Looking into what other appropriate/community services could be brought to Berwick as we know how important this was to the local area.

Keeping local communities updated and involved:

- On-going programme of communications.
- Public drop-in sessions which were always well attended.
- Regular resident and stakeholder updates/briefings.
- Mechanisms in place for residents to speak to staff if they had any concerns/issues.
- Increased links with communities, for example the work being carried out with schools through the arts programme.
- The arts programme was working well and working with local artists.

In response to questions from Members of the Committee, the following information was provided:-

- There continued to be an on-going programme of communications with residents.
- There had been traffic and parking difficulties, but work was ongoing to mitigate these.
- IT had significantly changed in the last few years making more services available to patients.
- Berwick and surrounding areas had some fantastic staff and services available and there was now a better link with NSECH at Cramlington.
- No patients should be travelling if services were available locally.
- The temporary ward was working well but patients were better being in their own homes if possible.
- The beds within the temporary ward were not just for end of life care patients. They were for anyone needing to stay in hospital a little longer such as those needing rehabilitation.
- The hospital was not just for Berwick residents but also the whole local area.

- The Communication Team would promote the hospital and services available and ensure Berwick was an option for patients within the north of the county instead of having to travel to Ashington or Cramlington.
- Confirmation that it was envisaged that Berwick Hospital would be fully operational by the Summer of 2025.

Members thanked Northumbria Healthcare for their positive update on progress being made at Berwick Hospital.

RESOLVED that the information be noted and a further update be provided in due course.

29. REPORT OF THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CARING FOR ADULTS

Complaints Annual Report 2022-23: Adult Social Care and Continuing Health Care Services

The Cabinet Member for Caring Adults introduced the report which described what people had said about adult social care services in Northumberland and what had been learned as a consequence during the last year.

N. Bradly, Executive Director - Adults, Ageing and Wellbeing and J. Hillery, Adult Social Care Complaints Manager, drew members' attention to the main points of the report. (A copy of the report has been filed with the signed minutes).

The report detailed the approach to listening and respecting all feedback offered, valuing each individual's perspective on the care they received, and resolving issues raised by people in Northumberland. It also explained in the appendices the custom and practice in complaint handling which had evolved to meet the requirements of the national regulations as well as providing some equalities information.

The service continued to be guided by the aim of responding to complaints in an appropriate and proportionate manner, understanding the perspective of each family member or service user that made a complaint, and where possible aiming to resolve things at an early opportunity.

Overall, it had been a positive year for Adult Services with many compliments received and enquiries dealt with at an early stage. The service would continue to speak to people to hear their views and take their concerns very seriously. Officers were committed to improving services and continued to receive support from staff and managers throughout the organisation.

In response to questions from Members of the Committee, the following information was provided:-

- All complaints were approached positively as opportunities for learning, as well as providing a means by which people could ask the organisation to

address the specifics of poor services or bad decisions which affected them individually.

- The number of complaints per year were very small.
- Adaptions were primarily carried out by external contractors however there were measures that could be taken if complaints were received.
- Listening and learning from complaints received would hopefully ensure all complaints were acted upon and customers all had positive experiences.
- Issues around charging remained one of the main areas of complaint. Systems were in place and on-going training occurred with staff to make sure charging was explained fully and recorded properly.
- Complaints could be sent in via email, letter, telephone and from family and friends.
- At today's meeting of Cabinet, it had been agreed to revisions to the Council's discretionary grants policy which included:
 - A scheme under which non-means-tested grant of up to £6500 would be offered to fund the cost of urgently needed adaptations for people with a rapidly progressing health condition that were expected to result in their death.
 - The transfer to the adaptations budget of funding responsibility for ceiling track hoists, which are currently funded through the Council's equipment loan service, and an amendment to the discretionary grant policy to enable the full cost of this adaptation to be covered by grant.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

30. REPORT OF THE CABINET MEMBER FOR IMPROVING PUBLIC HEALTH AND WELLBEING

Mid-term review of the Northumberland Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy Theme: Empowering People and Communities

The Cabinet Member for Improving Public Health and Wellbeing introduced the report which sought to provide an update on progress on actions within Northumberland Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2018-28 Empowering People and Communities Theme and propose amendments to priorities, actions, and indicators to measure progress for the remaining period of the strategy 2023-28.

The report was presented by K. McCabe, Senior Public Health Manager (Inequalities) and P. Lee, Public Health Consultant. The report had previously been considered at the Health and Wellbeing Board. (A copy of the report and presentation has been filed with the signed minutes).

The presentation covered the following points:

- The theme currently aimed to ensure that 'people and communities in Northumberland are listened to, involved and supported to maximise their wellbeing and health.
- In comparison for 2018/19, national indicators for 2021/22 showed a worsening position in Northumberland for a number of indicators, however when

compared to both the North East and England averages they were not doing as badly.

- Northumberland's population. Collection of data was potentially limited by digital access and literacy levels.
- Ambition – to move away from culture of preventing illness to promoting wellness. And from a culture of 'doing to' people to a culture of 'doing with'. More than Medicine approach and five areas for action.
- Reflections – where Northumberland was now
- Landscape, Terminology and Language
- Desired outcome – All communities in Northumberland were heard, understood, and empowered and had an active role in optimising their wellbeing and health.
- Principles –
 - Take a strengths-based approach
 - Working collaboratively
- Priority Areas
 - Work collaboratively to remove barriers, promote and mobilise a local, holistic, whole person approach.
 - Equity of access to opportunities supporting resilience, belonging and connectivity.
 - Enable development of knowledge skills and confidence to understand health and are choices and their consequences.
 - Lived experience central within policy development and practice.
 - What are we going to do?
 - Be resilient, be inclusive, be community-based, be consistent, be open and made every door 'the right door'.
- It was hoped that the other three themes of the JHWS would also take on this approach and work with leads of the other themes and look at metrics within those themes that linked to the healthy life expectancy and inequality take forward and help people deliver within the Empowering People and Communities approach.

A number of comments were made, including:

- Concern that this was overloaded with jargon that might be difficult for residents to understand.
- The need to work with Councillors and other stakeholders to ensure the Strategy was fit for purpose and delivered successfully.
- The voice of residents particularly those in the hardest to reach communities needed to be heard and understood.
- Meaningful indicators and data were essential.
- The need to link up with the Inequalities Group.

RESOLVED that:

- (a) note and comment on the achievements described in the report, and
- (b) that the proposed amendments to priorities, actions, and indicators or evidence of achievements for the theme be noted.

31. REPORTS OF THE SCRUTINY OFFICER

(a) Forward Plan

The Committee considered the Forward Plan of key decisions (a copy of the Forward Plan has been filed with the signed minutes).

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

(b) Health and Wellbeing OSC Work Programme

The Committee reviewed its work programme for the 2023/24 council year (a copy of the work programme has been filed with the signed minutes).

A request had been made to receive an update regarding the 0-19 services partnership with Harrogate.

RESOLVED that the Work Programme and comments made be noted.

32. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

RESOLVED that the date of the next meeting be scheduled for Tuesday, 9 January 2024 at 1.00 p.m.

CHAIR _____

DATE _____

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Northumberland County Council

Health and Wellbeing OSC

Tuesday, 7 November 2023

Mid-term review of the Northumberland Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy Theme 'Giving Children and Young People the Best Start in Life'

Report of Councillor(s) Councillor Guy Renner-Thompson, Cabinet Member for Inspiring Young People and Councillor Veronica Jones, Portfolio Holder for Improving Public Health and Wellbeing

Responsible Officer(s): Audrey Kingham, Executive Director for Children, Young People & Education

1. Link to Key Priorities of the Corporate Plan

This report is relevant to the 'Tackling Inequalities' priority of Northumberland County Council's Corporate plan. Giving children and young people the best start in life is central to reducing inequalities during childhood and has a lifelong impact.

It is also relevant to the 'Driving Economic Growth' priority because supporting the physical and emotional health and wellbeing of children and young people, ensuring they are safe and supported and have high quality education will have lifelong benefits for their future including employment prospects and overall quality of life.

2. Purpose of report

The purpose of this report is:

- To update the Health and Wellbeing Board (HWB) on achievements made against the Northumberland Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2018-2028 theme of 'Giving children and young people the best start in life'.
- To review and agree priorities and actions for this theme and describe proposed amendments for the remaining period of the strategy from 2023 to 2028.
- To review indicators used to measure progress against this Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy theme.

3. Recommendations

The Health and Wellbeing Board is recommended to:

- 3.1 Consider and comment on the achievements described in this report.
- 3.2 Comment on and agree the proposed amendments to the name of this theme, priorities and associated actions.
- 3.3 Comment on the national indicators aligned to this theme and other measures for understanding the qualitative impact of actions within this Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy theme.

4. Key Issues

- Giving children and young people the best start in life is one of the four themes of the Northumberland Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy (JHWS) 2018-2028 and includes three priorities, education, ensuring children are safe and supported and supporting positive lifestyle and social choices.
- This report is a mid-point review of progress which has been made against these priorities.
- Elected member and officer leads for each JHWS theme were assigned by the HWB in July 2022. The member lead for this theme is Councillor Wayne Daley, the Director Sponsor Graham Reiter, Director of Children's Social Care, Young People and Families and NCC officer lead, Jon Lawler, Consultant in Public Health.
- The COVID-19 pandemic has adversely affected the social, educational and emotional development of some children and young people.
- Progress has been made against some national indicators aligned to this theme, including uptake of breastfeeding, under 18 conceptions and smoking status at the time of delivery.
- Improvements have not been seen across all national indicators. School readiness, persistent absences (primary pupils), the rate of unintentional and deliberate injuries and childhood overweight have worsened.
- There are limitations with national indicators. These do not provide a comprehensive measure of impact of actions and there is a time lag to publication of data.
- Information from annual reports, supported by inspection feedback is included to provide a more detailed qualitative description of progress against priorities and actions and the impact on children and young people.
- It is proposed to rename this theme to 'Starting and growing up well' to reflect how this theme includes the whole of childhood, adolescence and early adulthood.
- It is proposed that 'education and growing up well' and ensuring that 'children and young people are safe and supported' remain priorities. It is suggested that the third priority is updated to 'Children and young people's physical, emotional and mental health and wellbeing' to emphasise the importance of a holistic approach to health, make physical health explicit within the JHWS and recognise the contribution of all HWB partners. Specific mention of physical health and wellbeing provides the opportunity to make links with other plans and priorities, such as NHS England's Core 20PLUS5 approach to reducing health inequalities for children and young people.
- Amended actions are proposed for consideration and discussion by the HWB.

5. Background

5.1 Giving Children and Young People the Best Start in Life JHWS theme

'Giving children and young people the best start in life' is one of the four themes of the Northumberland Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy. The member lead for this theme is Councillor Wayne Daley, the Director Sponsor Graham Reiter, Director of Children's Social Care, Young People and Families and NCC officer lead, Jon Lawler, Consultant in Public Health. The outcome for this theme is that all children and young people in

Northumberland are happy, aspirational and socially mobile. This theme includes three priority areas, namely education, ensuring children are safe and supported and supporting positive lifestyle and social choices. Each priority includes examples of actions that might be taken.

This theme is central to tackling inequalities in Northumberland. The foundations for every aspect of human development, including physical and mental health and wellbeing, educational achievement and economic status are laid in early childhood. Giving every child the best start in life was the highest priority recommendation of the Marmot Review¹ which described the close links between disadvantage in early life and poorer outcomes throughout life, highlighting the importance of early years, or first five years of life.

Educational is a core priority for this theme. Inequalities in educational outcomes follow a similar social gradient to health inequalities and have lifelong impacts on physical and mental health, income, employment and quality of life achievement. Improving educational outcomes and reducing inequalities in these outcomes will reduce social and health inequalities.

5.2 Review of the JHWS Theme

The Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy includes a mid-term review of priorities to provide assurance that they still reflect need in Northumberland. The review of this theme describes progress against the national indicators specified in the JHWS and a summary of key achievements against priority areas.

Updated priorities are proposed for the remaining five-year period of the JHWS. These refreshed priorities reflect extensive multiagency work undertaken during 2023 by the Northumberland Children and Young Peoples Strategic Partnership (CYPSP), the Northumberland Children and Adults Safeguarding Partnership (NCASP) and council children's services. The priorities identified within the CYPSP have been based on information provided by children and young people. This has included work to streamline and coordinate the range of partnership priorities and governance arrangements more effectively.

5.3 The Impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on Children and Young People

The COVID-19 pandemic which occurred during the first 5 years of the JHWS has had a significant, but varied impact on children's lives, potentially unsettling their emotional, cognitive and social development². This has disproportionately affected the most disadvantaged³. Disruption of in-person teaching during 2020 and 2021, has meant that many pupils missed out on learning and social opportunities and some got out of the routine of attending school. There is some evidence of an overall worsening of children and young people's mental health associated with the COVID-19 pandemic.

¹ Institute of Health Equity (2010) Fair Society, Healthy Lives, The Marmot Review Executive Summary. <https://www.instituteoftheequity.org/resources-reports/fair-society-healthy-lives-the-marmot-review/fair-society-healthy-lives-exec-summary-pdf.pdf>

² The Parliamentary Office of Science and Technology (2021) Children's mental health and the COVID-19 pandemic. <https://researchbriefings.files.parliament.uk/documents/POST-PN-0653/POST-PN-0653.pdf>

³ Institute of Health Equity (2020) Build Back Fairer: The COVID-19 Marmot Review Executive Summary. <https://www.instituteoftheequity.org/resources-reports/build-back-fairer-the-covid-19-marmot-review/build-back-fairer-the-covid-19-marmot-review-executive-summary.pdf>

5.4 Progress against national indicators

Table 1 shows progress against the most recent published data for the national indicators aligned to this theme. At the mid-point review there have been improvements in the rate of under 18 conceptions, smoking at the time of delivery and breast feeding at both initiation and at 6-8 weeks.

Improvements have not been seen across all indicators. The rate of hospital admissions caused by unintentional and deliberate injuries in children in all reported age groups (0-4 years, 0-14 years and 15-24 years) increased between 2017/18 and 2021/22. The prevalence of obesity in Reception year children and overweight (including obesity) in Year 6 children increased between 2018/19 and 2021/22, reversing a downward trend prior to 2018/19. However, there has been an improvement in both these indicators compared to 2020/21.

There was a decrease in school readiness (at the end of reception year) in 2021/22 compared to baseline (2017/18), and an increase in persistent absence rates in primary school in 2020/21, whilst persistent absence rates in secondary school pupils remained stable. National indicators for fixed term and permanent exclusions have not been updated since 2016/17.

Table1. National indicators for JHWS Giving children and young people the best start in life theme

Baseline Indicators (2018)				Mid-Strategy review		
Indicator	value	Time period	Trend (at baseline)	Time period	Value	Trend
School readiness (at the end of reception)	75%	2017/18	increasing	2021/22	67.5%	↓
Persistent absence rates (primary school)	7.4%	2017/18	increasing	2020/21	8.3%	↑
Persistent absent rates (Secondary School)	13.0%	2017/18	increasing	2020/21	13.0%	stable
Exclusions (fixed term and permanent primary school rate per 100)	1.0%	2016/17	increasing	2016/17	1.0%	*
Exclusions (fixed term and permanent secondary school rate per 100)	6.2%	2016/17	increasing	2016/17	6.2%	*
Hospital admissions caused by unintentional and deliberate injuries in children (Crude rate - per 10,000 aged 0-14 years)	111.2	2017/18	increasing	2021/22	136.7	↑
Hospital admissions caused by unintentional and deliberate injuries in children (Crude rate - per 10,000 aged 0-4 years)	142.1	2017/18	decreasing	2021/22	162	↑
Hospital admissions caused by unintentional and deliberate injuries in young people (Crude rate - per 10,000 aged 15-24 years)	219.3	2017/18	increasing	2021/22	246.4	↑
Under 18 conceptions (rate per 1000)	20.3	2017	decreasing	2021	13.8	↓
Breastfeeding (at initiation)	65.6%	2016/17	increasing	2021/22	66.0%	↑
Breastfeeding (at 6-8 weeks)	36.6%	2018/19	decreasing	2021/22	42.0%	↑
Smoking status at time of delivery	13.6%	2018/19	increasing	2021/22	10.1%	↓
Reception pupils: Prevalence of obesity (including severe obesity)	8.6%	2018/19	decreasing	2021/22	9.2%	↑

Year 6 pupils: Prevalence of overweight (including obesity)	19.0%	2018/19	decreasing	2021/22	21.8%	↑
*Awaiting publication of more recent data Arrows indicate direction of trend and colour indicates whether this is improving (green) or worsening (red)						

5.5 Progress during 2018 to 2023 by priority area

There are limitations with the national indicators identified within the JHWS to measure progress in this theme. There is a time lag in publication of indicators, with the most recently available data for 2021/22. National indicators for fixed term and permanent exclusions have not been updated since 2016/17. The national indicators also present information at local authority level which can mask variation and inequalities within Northumberland. More granular measures would help to better understand inequalities within Northumberland to inform action. Member organisations of the Health and Wellbeing Board may hold additional information which provides a more useful and timely measure of progress. For example, Northumberland County Council records information about exclusions and the percentage of pupils attending schools rated by Ofsted as ‘good’ or ‘outstanding’.

The national indicators provide an incomplete insight into the qualitative impact of work undertaken by services and partnerships within this JHWS theme. Information for this review was obtained from relevant annual reports and discussion with staff, supplemented by external inspections and reviews to provide a more comprehensive description of progress.

5.5.1 Priority 1. Education – narrative measures of progress

Proposed actions within this priority included:

- Undertaking a review of educational provision to ensure that all children enjoy good quality education.
- Investing in capital programmes to create an environment which promotes learning.
- Working with schools to target those receiving free school meals who need additional support to realise their potential.
- Ensuring the pupil premium is utilised to meet the educational needs of those who most need it.

There is high quality education provision across Northumberland with regular monitoring and support from Northumberland County Council’s Education and Skills Directorate. There is excellent Early Years education provision with 98% of providers rated as ‘good’ or ‘outstanding’ by Ofsted. There is excellent uptake of statutory entitlement for Early Years provision with 93% of eligible 2 year olds taking up this offer compared to the national average of 72%. 100% of 3 and 4 year olds take up early education entitlement.

In July 2022 Ofsted inspection outcomes were the highest they have been in Northumberland with 87.9% of primary pupils and 78.2% of secondary pupils attending ‘good’ or ‘outstanding’ schools. There has been substantial investment across Northumberland to develop the learning environment for young people including the ongoing School Capital Improvement Programme to maintain the current school estate and capital investments such as the Emily Wilding Davison School which opened in

September 2022, increasing provision in central Northumberland for children with Social Emotional Mental Health (SEMH) needs.

5.5.2 Priority 2. Ensuring children are safe and supported – narrative measures of progress

Proposed actions within this priority included:

- Continually improve and develop our front door services (such as the MASH) to ensure children receive the right support at the right time.
- Work with the public and all partners who have contact with children to ensure they recognise and respond to situations where children might be most at risk.
- Ensure that children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) have an appropriate level of support.

The Ofsted Inspecting Local Authority Children's Services (ILACS) inspection of 2020 noted that "children are helped, protected and cared for to a good standard" and "the 'front door' service ensures that children's needs are identified promptly....and children and families receive the most appropriate service". There has been further improvement of front door services including a review of the multiagency safeguarding hub (MASH) in 2021 and introduction of revised processes with increased partnership working.

The Northumberland Children and Adults Safeguarding Partnership (NCASP) was formed in 2022/23, bringing together partners from adults and children's safeguarding boards to enhance oversight, learning and development on a whole family and community basis. Thresholds of Need for professionals working with children have been updated to support timely and appropriate decision making and a partnership plan to prevent and tackle neglect has been developed.

A range of actions have been taken to ensure that children and young people with SEND receive appropriate support. Significant improvements were made after the Ofsted SEND inspection in October 2018, which resulted in a Written Statement of Action. The Ofsted revisit in 2021 found that sufficient progress had been made in all areas requiring improvement and additional challenge was ended. The Education and Skills team has responded to increased demand and the challenges of COVID-19. The Northumberland Ordinarily Available Provision was developed with support from parents, carers and educational colleagues and launched in September 2022, to provide clear guidance about support available within mainstream schools.

5.5.3 Priority 3. Supporting positive lifestyle and social choices – narrative measures of progress

Proposed actions within this priority included:

- Working with schools to promote and improve the emotional wellbeing and resilience of children and young people.
- Supporting children and young people who are disadvantaged through adversity created through physical deficit or societal circumstance to enable them to make positive social and lifestyle choices.
- Ensuring that parents have the tools to promote attachment and understanding of positive behavioural insights.

Examples of work with schools to promote and improve the emotional wellbeing and resilience of children and young people include a named senior mental health lead (SMHL) in all schools, an extensive training offer for the multiagency workforce and an updated Northumberland Emotional Health and Wellbeing strategy which reflects partnership

working. Be You Mental Health Support Teams (MHSTs) are established in Blyth, Hexham, Ashington and Bedlington and will be extended to Alnwick and Coquet in September 2024.

Children's social care services were rated by Ofsted in 2020 inspection as 'good'. This followed the inspection judgement in 2016 that services required improvement to be good. Inspectors noted that there had been "significant financial investment" in social work capacity and "thoughtful strategic. planning and determined focus. As a result, children are helped, protected and cared for to a good standard." All Northumberland County Council children's homes are currently rated as 'good' and the secure unit is rated 'outstanding'. There is a strong Virtual School offer for children in care and a whole council approach to good corporate parenting is being introduced.

5.6 Proposed updated priorities and actions

It is proposed that this JHWS theme is renamed as 'Starting and Growing up Well'. The rationale for this change is to reflect how this theme includes the whole of childhood, adolescence and early adulthood whereas 'best start in life' is frequently associated with the early years of childhood, either the first 1001 days or first five years. Whilst the early years are a crucial period of development, they are one element of this JHWS theme and amending to 'Starting and Growing up Well' makes this more explicit.

It is proposed that education and keeping children safe and supported remain priorities for the remaining period of the JHWS. It is proposed that the third priority of supporting positive lifestyle and social choices is updated to 'children's physical and emotional health and wellbeing'. The updated priority emphasises the importance of a holistic approach to health and wellbeing and the partnership contribution of all board members, including Northumbria Healthcare Foundation Trust, the Integrated Care Board, Cumbria Northumberland and Tyne and Wear NHS Foundation Trust and the Growing Healthy Northumberland 0-19 Service. Specific mention of physical health and wellbeing provides the opportunity to make links with other plans and priorities, such as NHS England's Core 20PLUS5 approach to reducing health inequalities for children and young people.

5.6.1 Priority 1. Education and growing up well

The rationale for this priority is that everyone should have the opportunity to achieve their potential and to be meaningfully included within their community. We will improve the quality of early years settings, school and other providers, so that all children and young people, no matter their circumstances or educational need, have access to education as close to their home communities as possible and achieve best educational outcomes.

The proposed actions within this priority are that we will work with services, children, young people and their families to:

- Know the strengths and weaknesses of our schools and other educational providers and report their performance to the Council and the community.
- Challenge and support improvement in the performance of our schools and settings so that all children and young people, including SEND learners and those experiencing disadvantage, achieve the best educational outcomes.
- Improve the lived experience and outcomes for learners with SEND.
- Ensure all our young people are supported to achieve their ambitions by developing our vocational education offer to provide clear pathways into apprenticeships, further education, higher education, and employment for all our young people and adults.

- Develop appropriate high quality educational provision that meets the needs of all children and young people as close to their home communities as possible.
- Ensure the Education and Skills Service fulfils its statutory duties within the legislative framework.
- Develop and embed partnership working with families at the centre so that families have access to a range of inclusive support from pregnancy through to children turning 18 (or 25 for those with SEND)
- Ensure that children, young people and their families are able to access inclusive activities within the community where they belong.

5.6.2 Priority 2. Children and young people are safe and supported

This priority is a shared endeavour to safeguard, protect, help and promote the welfare of children.

The proposed actions within this priority are that we will:

- Keep our children safe through early support, assessment and delivery of our statutory functions, including being an effective Corporate Parent for and supporting our Care Leavers.
- Ensure that children and young people have a voice and are aware that their voice will influence decisions that affect them and that their opinions are seriously considered.
- Develop our services ensuring families' needs are put first.
- Ensure that all services work together regarding tackling any form of disadvantage, helping families to be confident that they have what they need to build the future they wish for.
- Further emphasis on training for the workforce regarding parental conflict and the impact on children and young people.

5.6.3 Priority 3. Children and young people's physical and emotional health and wellbeing

The purpose of this priority is to support children and young people's physical, emotional and mental health and wellbeing through prevention and early intervention, using universal and targeted approaches to minimise the impact of inequalities.

The proposed actions within this priority are to:

- Lead and implement partnership strategies targeting improving and maintaining high quality preventative measures (e.g. the Northumberland Emotional Health and Wellbeing Strategy).
- Work in partnership to provide effective prevention and early intervention services to support the development of children and young people. This will include delivery of the Healthy Child Programme by providing an integrated 0-19 service and the Northumberland 0-19 Family Hubs model.
- Tackle inequality experienced by those most likely to experience poor mental and physical health and/or emotional wellbeing through partnership working and implementing local strategies (e.g. the Autism Strategy).
- Work in partnership to develop and implement approaches to promote healthy weight and physical activity in children and young people.
- Develop the knowledge, skills and capability of workforces through partnership and integrated working to improve the experience of children and young people in relation to their health.

5.7 Conclusion

This mid-point review of the JHWS theme 'Giving children and young people the best start in life' has used a range of information to describe achievements and progress against the priorities and actions, identifying limitations in some national indicators and areas where performance against national indicators has worsened.

The proposed amendments to the name of this theme, the priorities and associated actions reflect discussions within the Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership, NCASP and Northumberland Children and Young People and Education Directorate. The input from HWB partners is requested to develop this theme to ensure it reflects our shared priorities and identifies appropriate actions for the remaining period of the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy

6. Implications

Policy	<p>This report updates the Northumberland Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy theme of Giving Children and Young People the Best Start in Life. It proposes updated priorities and actions which have been developed to reflect those of multiagency partnerships and plans and the NCC Children, Young People and Education and Public Health, Inequalities and Stronger Communities Directorates</p> <p>The updated priorities and actions support the priorities of the Northumberland Inequalities Plan and the Council's Corporate Plan</p>
Finance and value for money	It is not anticipated that there will be direct implications
Legal	It is not anticipated that there will be legal or governance implications associated with the updated priorities and actions. Some partner organisations, including NCC services have statutory responsibilities in relation to children and young people and are subject to regulation and inspection
Procurement	No direct implications
Human resources	No new recruitment is identified
Property	No direct implications
The Equalities Act: is a full impact assessment required and attached?	<p>No - no equalities issues identified</p> <p>An equalities impact assessment has not been undertaken. However, the updated priorities and actions will</p>

Risk assessment	Not undertaken for the update of this strategy
Crime and disorder	Activity undertaken by partners in relation to these priorities, particularly those in safe and supported (e.g. Youth Justice, safeguarding and children's social care) are expected to have a positive impact on crime and disorder in Northumberland
Customer considerations	There is a continuing need to ensure that children and young people are kept safe and supported, have equitable access to education and universal and targeted services which maintain their physical, emotional and mental wellbeing. Seeking the views of children, young people and their families is central to these priorities and undertaken by a range of partners
Carbon reduction	No direct implications
Health and wellbeing	This report is explicitly intending to improve the health and wellbeing of the population of Northumberland and reduce health inequalities
Wards	(All Wards);

7. Background papers

Not applicable

8. Links to other key reports already published

Not applicable

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Northumberland County Council

Health and Well-being Board

Thursday, 14 December 2023

Update on and refresh of the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy theme 'Tackling the wider determinants of health'

Report of Councillor(s) Veronica Jones, Cabinet Member for Improving Public Health and Wellbeing

Responsible Officer(s): Simon Neilson , Executive Director - Place and Regeneration

1. Link to Key Priorities of the Corporate Plan

This report is relevant to the following priorities in the NCC Corporate Plan 2023-26:

- **Achieving value for money:** Creating conditions for everyone to live their best lives is typically highly cost effective and can yield lifelong costs savings such as increased earnings and productivity and reduced use of health and social care services.
- **Tackling Inequalities:** To create a society where everybody can thrive, our residents need all the building blocks in place: a stable job, good pay, quality housing and good education. For some of our residents these foundations are weak or missing which create inequalities.
- **Driving Economic Growth:** Ensuring that all our residents have access to building blocks of a good life, will help them to remain health and independent and pay an important part in contribution to Northumberland's future prosperity.

2. Purpose of report

The purpose of this report is:

- To update the Health and Wellbeing Board (HWB) on achievements made against the theme Tackling the Wider Determinants of Health in the Northumberland Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy (JHWS) 2018-2028 and
- To review and agree priorities and actions for this theme and describe proposed amendments for the remaining period of the strategy from 2023 to 2028.
- To review indicators used to measure progress against this Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy theme.
- Comment on the national indicators aligned to this theme and other measures for understanding the qualitative impact of actions within this Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy theme.

3. Recommendations

The Board is recommended to:

- 3.1 Consider and comment on the achievements described in this report; and
- 3.2 agree to the proposed amendments to the name of the theme, priorities, and associated actions; and
- 3.3 comment on the national indicators aligned to this theme and other measures for understanding the qualitative impact of actions within the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy Theme.

4. Key Issues

- 4.1 Tackling the wider determinants of health is one of the four themes of the Northumberland 2018-28 Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy (JHWS). This theme seeks to improve people's health and wellbeing by addressing the conditions within which people born, grow, live, work and age as these have a much bigger impact on health and inequalities than healthcare services and health behaviours. This theme includes 4 priorities tackling fuel poverty, supporting people to live independently, increasing the number of people with long term health conditions into work and transport.
- 4.2 This report is a mid-point review of progress which has been made against these priorities.
- 4.3 The member lead and elected member sponsor for this theme is Councillor Veronica Jones, Portfolio Holder/Cabinet member for Improving Public Health and Wellbeing; although the nature of this theme also cuts across the portfolios of Strategic Transport & Infrastructure and Climate Change; Supporting Business & Opportunities; Caring for Adults; Improving Our Roads and Highways and Looking After our Environment. The

director sponsor is Rob Murfin, Director of Housing and Planning, Place and Regeneration, Northumberland County Council.

- 4.4 It is important to note the caveats attached to the quality of the data in Table 2 where collection of data has been affected by COVID-19 or latest data has not been released in time for this report.
- 4.5 Since 2017/2018, there have been improvements in the following indicators with evidence that the gap is closing when compared with England and the Northeast:
- proportion of adults in contact with secondary mental health services who live in stable and appropriate accommodation,
 - the employment gap for those with long term physical or mental long-term conditions and the percentage of adults cycling for travel at least 3 times per week.
- 4.6 The fuel poverty national indicators do not cover the period of the cost-of-living crisis, so still appears stable, although this is unlikely. The proportion of adults with a learning disability who live in stable and appropriate accommodation and percentage of adults walking for travel at least 3 times per week has also remained stable.
- 4.7 There has been a slight fall in the overall employment rate for 16+ and a worsening trend for workless households.
- 4.8 The quality of housing and access to outside space during COVID-19 affected households experiences and outcomes. Economic inactivity has risen since the pandemic. Whilst seeing an initial rise in cycling and walking during the pandemic, it is not clear yet if this will be sustained longer term and there has been a notable decline in the use of public transport.
- 4.9 It is proposed that the following changes are made to this theme:
- The theme be renamed from 'Wider Determinants of Health' to 'Building Blocks of Good Life', as this language increases knowledge of the fundamental role that the circumstances within which we live has the biggest impact on health and inequalities.
 - The 2 priorities for housing (fuel poverty & independent living) be broadened to include the impact on health of wider strategic housing and planning issues and rename the theme "Healthy Housing and Planning". Due to issues with the fuel poverty indicator, it will be supplemented with an indicator which measures Energy Efficiency Standards in households. Indicators for affordability and overcrowding will also be added (See Table 2).
 - It is proposed to focus the Inclusive Economy section on closing the gap in employment outcomes for people with long term physical and mental health conditions and reducing economic activity linked to poor health. If approved the indicators will be amended accordingly (See Table 3).

The Transport theme will contain the same priorities and indicators (See Table 4) although the actions have been refreshed.

5. Background

'Tackling the wider determinants of health' is one of the four themes of the Northumberland 2018-2028 Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy (JHWS). The NHS was never meant to be the only institution working to improve health, it was always intended to be part of a broader system of support addressing jobs, housing, education, and public transport. A healthy and thriving community needs all the right building blocks in place: jobs, pay, housing and education. For some of our residents these building blocks are missing, weak or need replacing. This theme is a call to action to those agencies and departments working mainly outside the health and care system to take action to ensure

all of our communities irrespective of their background, have stronger foundations to be able to thrive and seize the opportunities in Northumberland.

This theme focuses on three of these wider determinants of health: housing, employment, and transport.

- **Housing** - Living in a home, which is unaffordable, cold, or damp can result in respiratory health conditions and worsens many long-term health conditions. It can affect children's ability to study at home and constantly worrying about having enough money to pay the rent can also lead to chronic stress, anxiety, and depression.
- **Employability** – Having a good quality job is protective for good health. Long term unemployment, low paid, inflexible, insecure work with irregular hours, or where the working environment is challenging, with low levels of control or autonomy or support can cause chronic stress; this can lead to high blood pressure and a weaker immune system.
- **Transport services and infrastructure** can affect health directly through air pollution or by providing opportunities to travel actively but also indirectly as transport also provides access to education, work, services, recreation, family and friends. An inadequate transport system has the potential to widen social and economic inequality by limiting opportunities to find employment and socialise with friends, as well as accessing public services.

5.2 Review of the JHWS Theme

The Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy includes a mid-term review of priorities to provide assurance that they still reflect the priorities for Northumberland. The review of this theme describes progress against the national indicators specified in the JHWS and a summary of key achievements against priority areas. The report highlights some of the actions that we are aware of which have been taken since the strategy launch which reflect the extensive multi-agency work up to 2023 to achieve its priorities. It is not possible to reflect all the work carried out across multiple sectors locally, regionally and nationally to improve housing, transport and economic inclusion in Northumberland, but hopefully provides an insight for the Board on the broad range of actions being taken.

Updated priorities are proposed for the remaining five-year period of the JHWS. These refreshed priorities have been identified through discussion with multiple stakeholders, previous discussions in the Board, responses from the Inequalities Plan Locality Events. Northumberland County Councils Place and Regeneration Directorate have agreed to take ownership of this theme.

5.3 The Impact of the COVID-19 pandemic

The pandemic focussed attention on existing inequalities and how the conditions that people live in and the type of work they have affected people's ability to protect themselves from the virus.

Housing/Fuel Poverty

Research published by the [National Housing Federation](#) and [The Health Foundation](#), indicated that 31% of adults in the UK had experienced mental or physical health problems linked to the lack of space in their home, housing conditions or lack of outdoor space during lockdown. or its condition during lockdown.

The cost-of-living crisis which followed COVID-19 caused by multiple factors has resulted in rising fuel costs and inflation rates. [A recent study by Crisis](#) (February 2023), found that

there is more pressure on households on the lowest incomes as they spend a greater proportion of their income on housing, food and energy, with the lowest income decile facing total average housing, food and energy costs exceeding their incomes by 43 per cent. Northumberland has around 20,000 properties with approximately 35,000 residents living these conditions (based on 2020 population estimates).

Employment

The Post Covid recovery period has been characterised by relatively weak employment growth, hard-to-fill vacancies, and a shrinking labour pool. Unemployment is low with many vacancies remaining unfilled, particularly in health and social care. The active pool of labour, both employed and unemployed has contracted. There is a noticeable trend showing growth in economic Inactivity (people not in employment and not looking for work) and the proportion of people who are economically inactive due to ill health.

Transport

COVID 19 has had a disruptive impact on travel patterns. While car usage has made a rapid recovery, public transport recovery has been a lot slower. Despite the negative impacts of COVID-19, there is an opportunity to build on the reduction in car dependency witnessed during the pandemic to achieve long term change.













Quality of data for monitoring purposes

As has been indicated in previous discussions in the Board, there has been an impact on the reliability and quality of the national data used to monitor progress due to the coronavirus pandemic which will take time to smooth out.

5.4 Progress against national indicators

Table 1 shows progress against the most recent published data for the national indicators which were originally selected for this theme.

Table 1: Updated data on indicators of fuel poverty in the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy					
Indicator	N'land	Northeast	England	Time Period	Trend
Fuel Poverty*	13.8%	14%	13.1%	2021	→
Winter Mortality Index**	31.9%	24.3%	36.2%	2020-21	↑
Adults with a <u>learning disability</u> who live in stable and appropriate accommodation ***	86.1% →	86.4% ↑	78.8% ↑	2021/22	No significant change
Adults in contact with <u>secondary mental health services</u> who live in stable and appropriate accommodation (Persons)****	57.0% ↑	69% ↑	58.0% →	2021/22	Closing the gap with England but not NE
% gap in 16+ employment rate and those with physical or	8.9% ↓	9.7% ↑	11.8% ↑	5-year trend to 2022/23	Gap is narrowing.

mental long-term conditions lasting more than 12 months					
Percentage of workless households	21.5% 	19.7% 	13.4% 	5-year trend to 2022/23	Increasing and gap widening.
Overall Employment rate 16+	51.4% 	55.7% 	61% 	5-year trend to 2022/23	Widening gap compared with NE & England
% adults walking for travel at least 3 times per week	10.9% 	15.2% 	17.4% 	2021/22	Reducing and no change in gap
% adults cycling for travel at least 3 times per week	2.3% 	1.8% 	2.3% 	2019/20	Narrowing gap with England and Northeast
<p>Notes</p> <p>* A household is considered to be fuel poor if they are living in a property with a fuel poverty energy efficiency rating of band D or below and when they spend the required amount to heat their home, they are left with a residual income below the poverty line. This date is based on modelled estimates.</p> <p>** compares the number of deaths that occurred in the winter period (December to March) with the average of the non-winter periods (August to November and April to July)</p> <p>*** Adults with a learning disability who live in stable and appropriate accommodation - Working age learning disabled clients who are living in their own home as a percentage of working age learning disabled clients (aged 18 to 64) (source Fingertips, NHS Digital. Measures from the Adult and Social Care Outcomes Framework, table 1G.)</p> <p>**** Adults in contact with secondary mental health services who live in stable and appropriate accommodation (Persons) - Adults who are receiving secondary mental health services on the Care Programme Approach recorded as living independently, with or without support, as a percentage of adults who are receiving secondary mental health services and who are on the Care Programme Approach (aged 18 to 69). (Source: Fingertips, NHS Digital Measures from the Adult and Social Care Outcomes Framework, table 1H. (Resources)).</p>					

The fuel poverty indicator is based on modelled estimates and does not directly capture the number of people who live in fuel poverty so it is possible that small areas which are atypical are unlikely to be identified by the model. It is therefore essential, wherever possible, to compare the modelled results to local data. The local authority data for fuel poverty indicator is available up to 2021 which does not include the period of the cost of living and energy crisis. Whilst the average proportion of households living in fuel poverty according to the last data is 13.8%, we need to continue to prioritise households who experience higher levels of fuel poverty, these include rural areas, villages, hamlets, and isolated dwellings (16.1%), people with disabilities (17.3%), people living in private rented properties (24.7%) and lone parents with dependent children (25.1%).

Likewise, the data period for Winter Mortality up to 2021 shows a worsening trend which is in line with the Northeast and England trends. In 2020 the coronavirus pandemic led to a large increase of deaths mostly in the non-winter months which has impacted on the data as this is used to calculate the difference for the winter months so should be interpreted with caution.

Adults in contact with mental health services living in stable and appropriate accommodation has seen an improvement and is similar to England but behind the Northeast. Due to the disruption of coronavirus, this has affected the quality and coverage of some of the mental health statistics, therefore, data should be interpreted with care over the period of the pandemic.

The gap in the employment rate for those with a long-term health condition is narrowing between Northumberland and the Northeast and England and this is a long-term trend. Changes in the method of data collection during coronavirus which moved from face to face to telephone interviews is likely to have affected the quality of this data.

The proportion of workless households in Northumberland is increasing and the gap is growing between local and national trends but is more stable when compared to the region. The employment rate for those aged 16+ is falling slightly in Northumberland and nationally but rising regionally.

Transport indicators were not selected in the original JHWS so, we have provided indicators which measure progress to increase walking and cycling. Trips made on foot or by bike in Northumberland regardless are roughly in line with regional and national averages. Whilst recognising the rural nature of the county and the practicalities of making trips of this distance by an active method of transport, approximately a third of all trips made in the county are less than 5 kilometres where possible walking and cycling should be considered. Generally, lower levels of walking and cycling are seen amongst population groups on lower incomes, older age and for people with disabilities.

5.5 Progress during 2018 to 2023 by priority area

This section provides an update of some of the work that we are aware of to address the priorities of the JHWS. This update is by no means exhaustive or fully reflects the extent of activity carried out across Northumberland by multiple partners but provides a flavour of key work in these areas. A fuller list of the activity carried out is provided at **Appendix 1** of this report.

5.5.1 Priority 1: Housing Tackling fuel poverty by increasing the number of households with access to warm homes by:

- **Through design standards and building control** – The adoption of the Adoption of [Northumberland Local Plan](#) (March 2022) presented opportunities to include a number of policies to support the delivery of JHWS priorities including supporting Health and wellbeing and healthy and sustainable homes.
- **Promoting energy efficiency schemes to public and front-line workers** – the response to the COVID pandemic strengthened the pathways and partnership working amongst partners in the Council, charities and NHS and this continued through into the cost-of-living crisis. Action has included providing resources and training to front line staff on warm homes, developing clearer pathways to support predominantly provided in the VCS, use of Frontline to promote services to residents.
- **Maximising the take up of retrofit measures boilers/Insulation** via Capital Programme also delivering a range of retrofit schemes as part of the Councils Housing Capital Program and national schemes such as ECO and the various grants under Warmer Homes and ensuring there is a clear Energy Pathway to this support.

5.5.2 Priority 2 Housing - Supporting people to live independently for as long as possible through regulations and powers by.

- **Considering needs of older/disabled people to live independently** through converting and building new purpose-built homes and adaptations to existing housing.

- **Using Use Local Plan to create healthier places**, a new local plan was adopted in 2022 with a range of new policies to improve health and wellbeing. We now have developers completing health impact assessments as part of the planning process. We also have a Hot Food Takeaway Policy to limit new takeaways.
- **Maximise Disabled Facilities Grant take up** – 560 applications agreed since Jan 2022.

5.5.3 Priority 3: Increasing the number of people with long term health conditions moving into and sustaining work.

- **Continue to develop opportunities to integrate employment and health services** - North of Tyne Combined Authority and Northeast and ICB Work and Health Strategy developed to provide a future commissioning and policy context. Various pilots ongoing and looking for funding opportunities via national funding streams.
- **Employer focused interventions to improve recruitment/retention of people with long term health conditions.** Northumbria's Community Promise, Post in Advance Northumberland to improve employer engagement on good working practices, North of Tyne Good Work Pledge and Northeast Better Health at Work Scheme.
- **Support carers and over 50s into work/sustain work.** - Many employment services delivered by local organisations and commissioned nationally will include carers in their cohort. Also, specific Generic employment support delivered by Solid Foundations, Work and Health Programme and Northumberland Carers Return to Work Project.
- **Support users of Mental Health and therapy services into work** – Mental Health Trailblazer and CNTW Individual Placement Service.
- **Actively engage with employers to promote good work** – See bullet point 2 above.
- **Progression from low wage economy** – Regeneration programmes such as Energising Blyth and Borderlands Growth Deal are aimed at improving the quality of jobs available in Northumberland.

5.5.4 Priority 4: Ensuring local transport policy delivers on providing resilient, flexible, and sustainable transport options across the county, particularly rural areas.

- **Improving Equity of Access to Public and Community Transport** – Reinstating passenger transport services to the Northumberland Line, Developments as part of the Bus Service Improvement Plan and Northeast Enhanced Bus Partnership and commissioning a Public and Community Transport Health Needs Assessment due to report in December.
- **Increase children and young people's active travel** – A comprehensive range of support and behaviour change interventions provided to schools to help them move children and their families to more active types of travel.
- **Increase walking and cycling through local infrastructure improvements and behaviour change approaches** – A range of cycling infrastructure improvements across Northumberland are currently being delivered with more in the pipeline, cycle loan schemes rider training and trailing cargo bikes and adapted bikes to broaden participation.

5.6 Proposed updated priorities and actions for 2023-2028

The COVID-19 pandemic and cost of living crisis has reinforced the need to redouble our efforts to reduce inequalities by strengthening the building blocks of a good life.

It is proposed that the 'Wider Determinants of Health' theme be renamed the 'Building blocks of a good life', as comparing building a healthy society with the construction of a sturdy building is more likely to resonate with partners and our residents. Using this is a metaphor will also increase knowledge of the fundamental role that the circumstances within which we are born, live and work has the biggest impact on our resident's health and inequalities.

The development of the Northumberland Inequalities Plan and subsequent inequalities summit and locality events across the county and the Place Standard Tool helped inform this review. We also considered highlighting and building on activity using asset-based approach so considered the 3 questions posed in the inequalities plan. What do communities want to do for themselves? What might communities need some help with? What can't communities do that agencies can? This is shown at Table 5.

5.6.1 Priority Theme 1 – Healthy Housing and Planning

The JHWS original priorities 1 & 2 covered a collection of activities focussed on fuel poverty and independent living. The issue of fuel poverty has clear action being undertaken to address this challenge and has largely been mainstreamed via the Energy Pathway and the various retrofit workstreams. It is therefore proposed that the 'housing' priority be broadened and renamed 'Healthy Housing and Planning' to provide a focus on strategic housing and planning issues to include factors such as the conditions of housing, availability of different types of housing and affordability.

In early 2024 the Health and Wellbeing Board will be receiving a report on The Healthy Housing Theme to provide an opportunity to develop further actions in this area.

The proposed actions within the newly named 'Healthy Housing and Healthy Planning Theme include:

Priority 1: Supporting Healthy environments through Planning	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Undertake early engagement work with the developers raise understanding of the benefits of addressing the wider determinants of health (and carbon reduction) as part of new developments. 2. Ensure the effective involvement of Public Health in the planning application process to ensure that health considerations are given appropriate weight in planning decisions and that health is integral from the start. This will include input at the pre-application stage and in planning decisions and refreshing HIA (Health Impact Assessment) guidance as part of an update to the Planning Validation List. 3. Ensure the effective engagement and involvement in work in strategic plan making. This could include planning guidance to supplement the Local Plan, support for Neighbourhood Plan making and developing Design Guides. 4. Develop a common narrative across LA7, narrowing of the inequalities gap through devolution, create LA7 healthy developments messaging. 	
Priority 2: Blyth Deep Dive Housing and Healthy Housing Hub	
<p>80 - 100 bed extra care unit on hospital site in partnership with NHS</p> <p>A third phase of Energising Blyth programme, focused on Housing</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • £12m awarded through Blyth Deep Dive specifically towards this. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Empty Homes Team will be established in Winter 2023

<p>renewal and town centre living supported by Levelling Up Deep Dive funds.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Bowes Court – an energy efficiency scheme to improve NCC properties - delivery starts early 2024. ○ Extra Care Facility – delivery 2024-26. ○ Richard Stannard House – redevelopment of commercial property as high quality residential apartments for rent. Delivery from 2024-2026 ● Selective Licencing pilot within Cowpen Quay ● Continue to gather resident voice using Place Standard Tool
<p>Priority 3: Hirst Housing Masterplan Phase One Implementation</p>	
<p>Supporting the implementation of Phase 1 of the Hirst Masterplan - Heart and Hopes of Hirst - Towards an Imagined Future</p>	<p>Introduce strategic lead and a community and housing programme manager to deliver phase 1 of the Master Plan and prepare for phase 2. Including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Clean, tidy and safe streets ● Shaping our neighbourhood ● Opportunity sites ● Community connections ● Community assets ● Skills and job <p>Respond to resident voice using Place Standard Tool</p>
<p>Priority 4: Available, Affordable, Quality Housing</p>	
<p>More affordable housing, better spread across the county (inequalities localities events summer 2022)</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Work with partners to optimise the delivery of Rural Affordable Housing 2. NCC will aim to be an exemplar as the biggest social landlord in the county 3. Working to drive up quality of housing and support tenants with healthy living initiatives. 4. Respond to resident voice using Place Standard Tool

The national indicators to support an understanding of progress within this theme are shown in Table 2.

<p>Table 2: Proposed measures of success for Priority 1</p>					
<p>Healthy Housing Indicators</p>	<p>N'land</p>	<p>Northeast</p>	<p>England</p>	<p>Time Period</p>	<p>Trend</p>
<p>NEW INDICATOR Affordability of home ownership *</p>	<p>6.5</p>	<p>5.4</p>	<p>9.1</p>	<p>2021</p>	<p>Not available</p>
<p>NEW INDICATOR Overcrowded Houses</p>	<p>3.6%</p>		<p>8.7%</p>	<p>2021</p>	<p>Awaiting new census data</p>

NEW INDICATOR % of properties at band C and above ** & ***	40%	42%	42%	2023	
RETAIN Fuel Poverty	13.8%	14%	13.1%	2021	
<p>Notes: * Ratio of median house price to median gross annual residence-based earnings (A higher ratio indicates that on average, it is less affordable for a resident to purchase a house in their local authority district)</p> <p>** EPC Ratings Source DLUHC EPC</p> <p>*** EPC ratings by ward across Northumberland in the JSNAA demonstrate a significant discrepancy between wards across the county of between 89.13 & 39.5% below EPC band C, with rural wards typically demonstrating the least fuel efficiencies.</p>					

5.6.2 Priority Theme 3 - Inclusive Economy

Actions which increase the number of residents moving closer or returning to work, increasing good quality work opportunities, and providing services for those with poor health and employment needs together are elements of an effective work and health system. These actions will also help to make Northumberland a land of opportunities for everyone; irrespective of where they live, their background or circumstances such as age, disability, health condition or caring responsibilities. The proposed future priorities for this theme, reflect recent discussions in the Board during 2023 and are shown below.

Priorities	Actions
Priority 1: A focus on supporting the economically inactive with long term health conditions to obtain and sustain good quality work.	
Improve our joint health and employment support response to residents with long term health conditions facing barriers to getting/sustaining work	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Work with the Northeast and North Cumbria Integrated Care Board and emerging Northeast Mayoral Combined Authority to develop a strategic approach to Work and Health b. Integrate the approach of frontline health and employment support by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • strengthening and expanding Northumberland's Employment and Skills Partnership to include NHS primary care services. • strengthen referral pathways, skills, and confidence of staff in primary care and employment services to address health and work outcomes together. • Identify further funding opportunities to further test the integration of health and employment services. • Identify opportunities and work towards place-based approaches which co-locate health/employment and other services together.
Priority 2: Increase access to Good Quality Work	
Increase access to Good Work (secure, safe and healthy working environment, decent level of pay and opportunities to progress)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Delivering ambitious regeneration plans such as Energising Blyth, Ashington, Borderlands, Rural Stewardship Growth Investment Plan. b. Continue to strengthen the alignment and promotion of the Good Work Pledge and Better Health at Work Award under new Combined Authority. c. Review current activity to identify opportunities to enhance/develop in-work support for employers and

	employees to address health and wellbeing issues, particularly within smaller and medium-sized employers.
Priority 3: Maximise the economic levers of Northumberland's Institutions to reduce inequalities	
Maximise the opportunities to deliver wider economic, social, and environmental benefit via Northumberland's Anchor Institutions (Public, Private, VCSE)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Share and celebrate existing good practice of Northumberland Employers e.g., Bernicia, Northumbria Hospital's Trust Community Promise to generate economic, social, and environmental benefit as an employer, purchaser of services and owner of assets. b. Expand to include private sector business. c. Develop a Northumberland shared framework to maximise the opportunities of the Social Value Act and Corporate Social Responsibilities.
Priority 4 – Develop place-based approaches in increase access to volunteering	
Increase in impactful, volunteering and training opportunities for economically inactive.	Working with Combined Authority and local VCSE place based partners to develop an Inclusive Economy Local Community Partnership to increase opportunities for residents who are economically inactive to come together and take action in their local area.

For this theme with revised priorities, we are proposing using the national indicators outlined in table 3 below to help us understanding what progress is being achieved.

Table 3 - Proposed indicators for Priority 2					
Inclusive Economy Indicators	N'land	Northeast	England	Time Period	Trend
RETAIN % Gap in employment rate between those with long term physical or mental health conditions and overall employment rate	14%	14%	10%	2021/22	Increasing gap to England Similar to NE
NEW INDICATOR % Economic inactivity Rate (Short, long term, health conditions, caring responsibilities)	25.2%	25.6%	21.2%	2021/22	Increasing gap to England Similar to NE

5.6.3 Priority Theme 3 - Equity of Transport

The proposed future priorities for this theme are included in the table below.

Priorities	Proposed Actions
Priority 1: Public and Community Transport is equitable, accessible, and appealing	
Improving Equity of Access to	a) Continue with reintroduction of passenger services to the Northumberland Line which aims to increase job opportunities, potential employers moving to the area, access

Public and Community Transport	<p>to services, leisure and work within Northumberland and linked to Newcastle and North Tyneside.</p> <p>b) Consider and respond to recommendations of emerging Public and Community Transport Health Needs Assessment</p> <p>c) Maximise a full package of devolved transport investment and powers to create an integrated transport system as part of Northeast Devolution and the opportunities available under the Bus Service Improvement Plan</p>
Priority 2: Increase children and young people's active travel.	
Increase children and young people's active travel.	<p>Continue to support Schools Go Smarter focusing on:</p> <p>a) increasing the number of schools achieving MODESHIFT Stars Accreditation and achieving a higher level.</p> <p>b) Supporting schools with advice, ideas and the tools to implement active travel approaches.</p> <p>c) Engaging with parents via workshops and research to consider more sustainable and active travel.</p> <p>d) Look for further opportunities to develop Safer Routes to schools' programmes.</p>
Priority 3: Ensuring the built environment is conducive to active travel	
Increase walking and cycling through local infrastructure improvements and behaviour change approaches	<p>a. Continue to deliver on the ambitions of Our Way and Local Cycling and Walking Improvement Plans</p> <p>b. Provision of community cargo cycle and rider training for cargo cycle usage in Berwick Upon Tweed to support local journeys around the town to test potential for sustainable hub for local freight.</p> <p>c. Department for Transport (DFT) capability and ambition funding secured for 100 cycle instructor training places to engage with existing and potential cyclists.</p> <p>d. DFT funding has been secured to develop an employability and education cycle loan to operate out of four locations in Northumberland.</p> <p>e. Work will continue to progress on the delivery of Levelling-Up Funded active travel schemes and work will be undertaken to identify a pipeline of schemes to submit to various funding opportunities.</p> <p>f. We will apply Local Plan policies to encourage new development in sustainable and accessible locations and encourage walking and cycling.</p> <p>g. Align our campaigns and approaches to change behaviour to evidence-based behaviour change models and ensure that our actions reduce inequalities.</p>

Transport indicators were not included in the original JHWS, it is therefore proposed that the national indicators shown in Table 4 will be used to support an understanding of progress within this theme.

Table 4 – Proposed indicators for Priority 3					
Transport Equity Indicators	N'land	Northeast	England	Time Period	Trend

RETAIN % adults walking for travel at least 3 times per week.	10.9%	15.2%	17.4%	2021/22	No change in gap
RETAIN % adults cycling for travel at least 3 times per week	2.3%	1.8%	2.3%	2019/20	Narrowing gap

5.6 The Inequalities Plan

In the table below we have used the three questions posed by the Inequalities Plan relate to our joint work on improving the building blocks of a good life and indicate how we will continue to maintain this community focus over the next 5 years.

What do communities want to do for themselves?

- Identify and share community assets.
- Looking out for each other.
- Volunteer & take social action to improve their area. E.g., Climate Change Champions, Love Northumberland volunteers.
- Organise opportunities for communities to come together and connect with others.

What might communities need some help with?

- Playing a part in giving their views – e.g., through participatory methods which are actively involved in shaping and monitoring improvements in their areas e.g., through Place Standard Tool
- Community Led Housing
- Access to small grants and funding advice to help communities put their ideas into action.
- Signposting communities to good quality advice and opportunities.

What can't communities do that agencies can?

- Develop and enforce policy and regulatory frameworks.
- Secure external funding to take forward projects.
- Lead by example with other developers, employers, and institutions to create healthy and equitable neighbourhoods, workplaces and economy.
- Consistently consider the impact on inequalities of our decision making.

6. Conclusion

This mid-point review of the JHWS theme 'Wider Determinants of Health' has used a range of information to describe achievements and progress against the priorities and actions, identifying limitations in some national indicators and areas where performance against national indicators has worsened.

The proposed amendments to the name of this theme, the priorities and associated actions and indicators reflect discussions within the Regeneration and Place Directorate Management Team within Northumberland County Council. The input from HWB partners is requested to develop this theme to ensure it reflects our shared priorities and identifies appropriate actions for the remaining period of the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy

7. Implications

Policy	This paper updates the theme 'wider determinants of health' which has now been renamed 'Building Blocks of a Good Life' of the Northumberland Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy. It considers and seeks to align with other organisational strategies and plan
Finance and value for money	It is not anticipated that the refreshed actions will require additional funding outside of existing plans. However, they will require additional implementation plans which may articulate the need for additional funding
Legal	This report supports the Health and Wellbeing Board to fulfil its statutory duty to complete a joint local health and wellbeing strategy. It is not anticipated that the refreshed actions will have legal implications, however they will require additional action plans and each organisation will need to consider legal implications at this point.
Procurement	There are no specific requirements for procurement articulated in this report, however the actions will require additional action plans and each organisation will need to consider procurement implications at this point.
Human resources	No new recruitment is identified. However, system partners will need to devote resources in terms of staff / officer time to deliver these actions. It may be that as part of an implementation plan, organisations consider if their recruitment practices can be strengthened to reduce inequalities.
Property	There are no specific implications for estates.
The Equalities Act: is a full impact assessment required and attached?	No - not required at this point An equalities impact assessment has not been carried out. However, the refreshed actions are specifically aimed at reducing health inequalities which include to people with characteristics protected by the Public Sector Equality Duty.
Risk assessment	A risk assessment has not been undertaken, though risk assessments may be needed as part of further implementation.
Crime and disorder	No specific implications.
Customer considerations	The refreshed actions are intended to improve the lives of our residents.
Carbon reduction	No specific implications, though social value considerations should include carbon reduction.

Health and wellbeing	This report is explicitly intending to improve the health and wellbeing of the population of Northumberland and reduce health inequalities
Wards	(All Wards);

8. Background papers

[Northumberland County Council Environment Policy Statement](#)
[Northeast Bus Service Improvement Plan](#)
[Northumberland Joint Strategic Needs and Asset Assessment](#)
[Northumberland Inequalities Plan](#)
[Northumberland Local Plan](#)
[Northumberland Climate Change Action Plan](#)

9. Links to other key reports already published

Not applicable

10. Author and Contact Details

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Appendix 1 – Update on and refresh of the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy theme ‘Tackling the wider determinants of health’ - Actions active in last 5 years

Priority 1: Housing Tackling fuel poverty by increasing the number of households with access to warm homes	
Commitment	Actions Achieved
1. Tackle fuel poverty through design standards and building control.	<p>Adoption of Northumberland Local Plan (March 2022) which includes a number of policies to support the delivery of JHWS priorities including supporting Health and wellbeing and healthy and sustainable homes. Policy HOU 1 (making the best use of existing buildings), Policy STP4 (climate change mitigation and adaption), policy STP 5 (health and wellbeing), Policy HOU 5 (housing types and mix), policy HOU 6 (affordable housing provision), policy HOU 11 (homes for older and vulnerable people), policy QOP (design principles) make specific reference either to healthy design or low carbon design.</p>
2. Promote energy efficiency schemes to public and front-line workers.	<p>Energy Redress scheme – EARN (Energy Advice for Rural Northumberland) - Community Action Northumberland</p> <p>Advice at events, home visits, and telephone support, and to over 3,000 households provided over 4,000 small energy-saving measures to over 700 households.</p> <p>Household support Fund (HSF) & N'land Emergency and Transition Support, Covid Winter Support Grant (CWSG) - NCT in partnership with Citizens Advice Northumberland</p> <p>Support with food, energy costs & equipment (£5.2m)</p> <p>CWSG (food / utility bills) 12/20-6/21 - £2.315m spent)</p> <p>DWP HSF (energy / water) 10/21-6/23 - £2.913m spent.</p> <p>Developed a network of Warm Spaces and Places - NCT with VCSE partners which complement the network of Warm Hubs supported by Community Action Northumberland</p> <p>Developed a Warming Homes Information Resource for Professionals - Warm Homes Group (multi agency group)</p> <p>Enabled frontline staff to navigate support and advice available for residents, helping residents to stay safe, warm and well at home and provided links to efficiency improvements</p>

<p>3. Maximise take up of retrofit measures</p>	<p>Major Repairs Reserve (MRR), through the Chronically Sick and Disabled Persons budget - NCC</p> <p>Dedicated Housing Occupational Therapist</p> <p>560 adaptations to council-owned dwellings, enabling those living with disabilities to remain in their own homes.</p> <p>Additional three one bed accessible 55+ units in Allendale.</p> <p>Major Repairs Reserve (MRR), Social housing decarbonisation fund (SHDF), Government funding schemes (LAD SHDF, HUG) - NCC, Registered Providers.</p> <p>Improving energy efficiency of housing stock (NCC 783/8563 homes 9.1%)</p> <p>Energy Company Obligation (ECO) scheme - Privately owned or privately rented properties, not in receipt of qualifying benefits Improving energy efficiency of homes (324 homes)</p> <p>Allocated funding to reduce health inequalities, increasing capacity of advice services through an Energy Plus pilot for residents with long term health conditions to link them to energy advice and retrofit measures - Integrated Care Board and NCC Public Health</p>
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Priority 2 Housing - Supporting people to living independently for as long as possible through regulations

<p>Commitment</p>	<p>Actions Achieved</p>
<p>1. Consider needs of older/disabled people to live independently</p>	<p>Empty three-bedroom wardens house in Allendale, have been converted to create 3 one-bed units for residents over 55. The Housing Occupational Therapist continues to work closely with the teams delivering all improvement works to the Council's housing stock to ensure that the needs of the tenants are considered and included within the work specifications where possible. Four further properties are anticipated to be completed in the next 18 months, providing a further 42 flats across Bedlington, Morpeth, Berwick and Alnwick. October 2023 70 people are currently seeking independent living accommodation.</p>
<p>2. Use Local Plan to create healthier places</p>	<p>Adoption of the Northumberland Local Plan in March 2022 included Strategic Policy (STP) 5 – Health and wellbeing (P57) and TCS 6 – Hot Food Takeaway (P115), supporting initiatives aimed at improving health and wellbeing. The guidance for application requires all applications to provide a Healthy Planning Checklist, and large-scale major applications for 100 or more residential dwellings/housing units or 10,000sqm (non-residential) floor space or minerals and waste applications to provide a Health Impact Assessment.</p>

3. Maximise Disabled Facilities Grant take up	Since January 2022, the MRR has funded around 560 adaptations to council-owned dwellings through the Chronically Sick and Disabled Persons budget, which includes the installation of 74 level access shower installations as well as major works to create additional living space to 3 homes.
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Priority 3: Increasing the number of people with long term health conditions moving into and sustaining work.

Commitment	Actions achieved
1. Continue to develop opportunities to integrate employment and health services	<p>Employment and Skills Partnership established to improve coordination of employment support system and health services.</p> <p>Development of Combined Authority and ICB (Integrated Care Board) Work and Health Strategy which is recommended for inclusion in Northeast Mayoral Combined Authority work programme.</p> <p>Delivery of the Work and Health Programme (branded Better Working Futures) through Northumberland Skills Employability Team.</p>
2. Employer focused interventions to improve recruitment/retention of people with long term health conditions	<p>Mange examples from individual employers including Northumbria’s Community Promise and Bernicia Housing.</p> <p>Employed Engagement Coordinator in Advance Northumberland to support employers to develop inclusive recruitment processes.</p> <p>The Better Health at Work Award supported by TUC and Public Health have resulted in 135 Northumberland workplaces covering 80112 employees achieving the award (33 Bronze, 26 Silver, 16 Gold, 12 Continuing Excellence, 48 Maintaining Excellence and 13 Ambassador Employers.</p> <p>The North of Tyne Combined Authority Good Work Pledge seeks to improve employer practices in supporting people with health conditions and disabilities. However, still requires greater focus to increase reach. 129 businesses accredited in the North of Tyne area, 12 are in Northumberland.</p>
3. Support carers into work/sustain work.	<p>Employment support delivered through partnerships (Bridge Northumberland, North of Tyne Working Homes etc.) supported economically inactive people, including those with caring responsibilities, into training and work.</p> <p>Return to Work Carers project, funded through Combined Authority, delivered by Carers Northumberland. Employment supported integrated with wider carer support.</p> <p>Individual organisations HR practices and carers policies.</p>

4. Support over 50s into work/sustain work.	No activities are commissioned specifically for this age group, but many service users of this age will access commissioned employment programmes delivered in partnership to 2023 (Bridge Northumberland, North of Tyne Working Homes) included support for 50+ (as do mainstream national commercial programmes – Restart, Work and Health Programme etc)
5. Support users of Mental Health and therapy services into work	<p>Mental Health Trailblazer (Individual Placement and Support in Talking Therapies) ran until 2019, during this time 1,450 people received support with their employability and skills while receiving talking therapies. Over 270 had moved into employment by the end of the project. Since the end of the pilot the learning has been taken forward as part of the Work & Health Strategy (see point 1) and we are awaiting further info regarding national roll out.</p> <p>CNTW (Cumbria, Northumberland, Tyne and Wear) continue to deliver IPS (Individual Placement Support) in secondary care.</p> <p>Coordination of employment support with VCS wellbeing and therapy services (Cygnus Support etc.).</p> <p>Review of employment support and mental health services integration evidence and options as part of the North of Tyne Work and Health strategy. It is anticipated the strategy will be taken forward with ICB and Northeast Mayoral Combined Authority.</p>
6. Actively engage with employers to promote good work	<p>North of Tyne Good Work Pledge (See point 2 above)</p> <p>Advance Northumberland – recently appointed employer engagement lead – promote Good Work Pledge and support employer recruitment and retention practices.</p> <p>Early discussions with Major Employer Forum to share good practice, identify support required and improve standards.</p>
7. Progression from low wage economy	<p>Regeneration initiatives such as Borderlands Inclusive Growth Deal, Energising Blyth, Ashington Town Deal and Rural Investment Plan</p> <p>Deliver skills and training for residents that meets their ambitions and supports Northumberland’s business future workforce needs e.g., Energy Central Campus, Skills for a low carbon economy.</p>

Priority 4: Ensuring local transport policy delivers on providing resilient, flexible, and sustainable transport options across the county, particularly rural areas.

Commitment	Actions Achieved
Improving Equity of Access to Public and Community Transport	<p>Northumberland Line is projected to open to passengers in 2024. The construction of the line has created nine new apprenticeships for local people and 93 full time equivalent local jobs so far.</p> <p>Public and Community Transport Health Needs Assessment ongoing (Mapping of current services, holding focus groups within</p>

	<p>communities, review of other models of public and community transport national and internationally) Completion target Dec 23.</p> <p>In March 2023, NCC agreed to participation in Northeast Enhanced Bus Partnership and Scheme which is a statutory partnership between local Transport Authorities, and bus operators which identifies a clear vision for bus service improvements and the standard to be met by local authorities and bus operators. This was necessary to unlock significant national funding to support new ticketing products and local bus service improvements and improved reliability and speed of bus routes, demand responsive transport in rural areas, park and ride schemes, and improved customer information.</p>
<p>Increase children and young people's active travel.</p>	<p>Transport behavioural change activity</p> <p>The <u>Schools Go Smarter initiative</u> promotes sustainable and active travel to teachers, children and parents. Schools are provided with support and information via the Councils website and monthly newsletters.</p> <p>NCC continue to support and fund school travel plan engagement via MODESHIFT STARS which is a national school's awards scheme that recognises excellence in schools moving to cleaner and greener ways to travel. Allendale Primary School won North East Primary School of the year in 2022 and <u>Stannington First School in 2023</u>. 3 schools have silver accreditation (52 hold this nationally).</p> <p>Schools are encouraged to take part in national events e.g., Walk to School Week, Bike Week, Walk to School Month, The Big Pedal as well as local events such as Love Northumberland and bespoke activities with individual schools.</p> <p>Parents are also engaged in discussing family travel habits and practical alternatives.</p> <p>Safer Routes to School Programme has delivered 7 school street schemes and other infrastructure improvements around schools.</p> <p>Road Safety training is also delivered as part of active travel interventions.</p> <p>NCC continue to fund the Ride Leader Training programme to support schools to develop their own cycling projects.</p> <p>Good practice in schools is celebrated via the Big Northumberland Gear Change Channels.</p> <p>NCC cycle libraries continue to allow schools and community groups free access and extended loan periods of cycles.</p> <p>For Autumn 2023 NCC is launching cycle libraries accessible for residents seeking further educational and employment opportunities, again for extended loan periods.</p>
<p>Increase walking and cycling</p>	<p>In 2020 Northumberland and Walking Cycling Board have published <u>Our Way</u> which sets out Northumberland's ambition to encourage</p>

through local infrastructure improvements and behaviour change approaches.

more people irrespective of their age and background to walk and cycle more. It aims to attract increased investment to support walking and cycling in our County.

Delivery of Local Cycling and Walking Improvement Programme, many of these schemes are at consultation/design phases with delivery between 2023- 2025 -2025 which have included schemes in Ponteland to Callerton, Hexham to Corbridge, Bedlington, Ashington, Bondicar Terrace to South Beach, Blyth Seaton Delaval.

The Big Northumberland Gear Change was launched as a campaign to encourage walking and cycling, the website provides information to residents.

NCC have partnered with Wheels for All to deliver taster events for residents to try adapted cycles and get involved with including cycling opportunities.



Northumberland County Council

Health and Wellbeing Overview and Scrutiny

Wednesday, 17 January 2024

NCASP Annual Report – September 2022 to September 2023

Report of Councillor(s) Guy Renner-Thompson, Cabinet Member for Inspiring Young People

Responsible Officer(s): Audrey Kingham, Executive Director for Children, Young People & Education

Neil Bradley, Executive Director, Adults, Ageing and Wellbeing

1. Link to Key Priorities of the Corporate Plan

This report is relevant to the 'tackling inequalities' priority included in the Northumberland County Council Corporate Plan 2023-26, and the commitment to providing sustainable support to children and families and supporting the most vulnerable in our society, including children and young people and adults at risk.

2. Purpose of report

This is the first Annual Report of the Northumberland Children and Adults Safeguarding Partnership (NCASP) 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.

The new Partnership arrangements acknowledge that children and adult arrangements are underpinned by different legislation and statutory guidance, however, recognises the similarities and shared benefits of a joint safeguarding approach across the life course. The revised structure includes a range of both joint (children and adults) and separate arrangements which are accountable to the Business groups. This will help ensure effective scrutiny and oversight whilst retaining an appropriate focus on adults and children's work respectively alongside bringing opportunities for shared development and learning. We have received national recognition for how we have developed our new safeguarding arrangements/partnership and our approach to scrutiny has been cited as a model of excellent practice.

The Independent Scrutineer has been in post since June 2023 and has provided NCASP with an appraisal of how the partnership arrangements have continued to develop and improve since implementation, acknowledging the strength and commitment of partners. The Independent Scrutineer's report sits alongside this report, for information.

The annual report shows we have effectively maintained a focus on work and business during the developments detailed above and gives clear and detailed information and analysis of the safeguarding work in Northumberland. It highlights partners' commitment and progress towards our vision to work together to provide added value across the safeguarding system, improve practice and outcomes and to safeguard, protect and promote the welfare of children, young people, adults and their families in our community.

3. Recommendations

- 3.1 To note and comment on the contents of the report.

4. Forward plan date and reason for urgency if applicable

This annual report is shared for information and does not require a decision.

5. Background

- 5.1 Northumberland County Council, along with Northumbria Police and North East North Cumbria, is a statutory partner of the NCASP.

The NCASP provides the strategic leadership, accountability and vision for safeguarding in Northumberland. There is a strong commitment from partners to working together, holding each other to account and seeking to learn and improve together, across both children and adult services.

Statutory Requirements:

[Working Together to Safeguard Children \(2018\)](#) states that Children's Safeguarding Partnerships must:

- Prepare and publish a report on work that has been done as a result of their arrangements (at least once in every 12 month period), including on child safeguarding practice reviews;
- Report on how effective the arrangements have been in practice and progress against agreed priorities;
- Evidence the impact of the work of the safeguarding partners and relevant agencies (including training) on outcomes for children and families;
- Include ways in which the partners have sought and utilised feedback from children and families to inform their work and influence service provision;

[The Care Act 2014](#) states that Safeguarding Adults Boards must:

- Publish an annual report detailing what the SAB has done during the year to achieve its main objective and implement its strategic plan;
- Detail the findings of any safeguarding adults reviews and subsequent action.

This Annual Report satisfies the statutory requirements for both Children and Adults Safeguarding. The information and analysis presented in this report demonstrates that the partnership has met its statutory duties and agencies have delivered safe and effective frontline services that strive to safeguard children, young people and adults.

There is evidence of improvements and effective partnership working despite the context of increasing pressures and risks arising from the pandemic and the

subsequent economic environment that may negatively impact on health and well-being going forward.

5.2

6. Options open to the Council and reasons for the recommendations

6.1

7. Implications

Policy	The Annual Report 2022-23 demonstrates the extent to which the functions of the NCASP, as set out in the national statutory guidance (Working Together to Safeguard Children (2018) and The Care Act 2014) are being effectively fulfilled.
Finance and value for money	No direct implications
Legal	The Annual Report 2022-23 evidences how NCASP arrangements meet the statutory duty to prepare and publish an Annual Report, in accordance with Working Together to Safeguard Children (2018) and the Care Act 2014. The Local Authorities (Functions and Responsibilities) (England) Regulations 2000 confirm that the matters within this report are not functions reserved to Full Council.
Procurement	No direct implications
Human resources	Safeguarding investigations can in some circumstances lead to disciplinary action against staff. Safeguarding training is mandatory for all staff working in Northumberland County Council.
Property	No direct implications
The Equalities Act: is a full impact assessment required and attached?	This is an information report so does not require an EIA.. Referral statistics suggest that the gender and ethnic balance of safeguarding referrals broadly match those of the care management caseload.
Risk assessment	Management of risks in individual cases is a core element of safeguarding. There are various multi-agency risk assessment groups including Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conferences (MARAC) and the Missing Slavery, Exploited and Trafficked Group (MSET).
Crime and disorder	Northumbria Police are members of the NCASP as are the Safer Northumberland Partnership, and there is close joint

	working to ensure that prompt and appropriate action is taken where it is thought that a crime may have been committed.
Customer considerations	There is a continuing need to ensure that children and adults are adequately protected from the risk of abuse or exploitation and those in need are offered the services to maintain their health and development.
Carbon reduction	No direct implications
Health and wellbeing	Promoting the safety, welfare, health and wellbeing of vulnerable children and adults is the primary function of the NCASP and its work.
Wards	(All Wards);

8. Background papers

Not Applicable

9. Links to other key reports already published

Click or tap here to enter list of relevant previous reports, with titles and dates – or write "Not applicable".

10. Author and Contact Details

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NCASP

NORTHUMBERLAND CHILDREN AND ADULTS
SAFEGUARDING PARTNERSHIP



NCASP Annual Report

September 2022 to September 2023

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I am very pleased and privileged to be the first partnership chair for the Northumberland Children and Adults and Safeguarding Partnership.

Following the decision in 2021 to integrate our respective safeguarding partnership arrangements, underpinned by the view that this would add value to our safeguarding work, I am very proud of the progress that has been made to develop and implement that decision in a timely way, particularly given the size of the task.

This has been effective due to the committed partnership engagement with the developments and the significant work undertaken by the project lead, business managers and subsequently with the independent scrutineer.

I believe we have in place a structure and processes which will ensure effective scrutiny, oversight and development of our partnership safeguarding work, within which we will retain an appropriate focus on adults and children's work respectively alongside bringing opportunities for shared development and learning.

I am particularly proud of the approach we have developed for scrutiny with our independent scrutineer and the associated methods detailed in the report. This approach has been praised and validated by the DfE as an exemplar of good practice.

We have effectively maintained a focus on work and business during the developments detailed above and this annual report gives clear and detailed information and analysis of the safeguarding work in Northumberland. I believe we have a culture of honest engagement and constructive challenge across our partnership, which is crucial for effective safeguarding work. We want to extend 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 believe we have shown great commitment and progress towards our vision to work together to provide added value across the safeguarding system, improve practice and outcomes and to safeguard, protect and promote the welfare of children, young people, adults and their families in our community.

It remains crucial however, that as safeguarding is everyone's business, we all maintain a focus on and professional curiosity about our work and strive to continuously improve our effectiveness in safeguarding our residents.

Graham Reiter

NCASP Partnership Chair

INTRODUCTION

This is 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.

ABOUT NORTHUMBERLAND CHILDREN AND ADULTS SAFEGUARDING PARTNERSHIP (NCASP)

The Northumberland Children and Adults Safeguarding Partnership replaces both the Northumberland Strategic Safeguarding Partnership (NSSP) and the Northumberland Safeguarding Adults Board (SAB), which was formally a joint arrangement with North Tyneside SAB.

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

STATUTORY REQUIREMENTS:

Children's Safeguarding Partnerships must¹:

- Prepare and publish a report on work that has been done as a result of their arrangements (at least once in every 12 month period), including on child safeguarding practice reviews;
- Report on how effective the arrangements have been in practice and progress against agreed priorities;
- Evidence the impact of the work of the safeguarding partners and relevant agencies (including training) on outcomes for children and families;
- Include ways in which the partners have sought and utilised feedback from children and families to inform their work and influence service provision;

Safeguarding Adults Boards must²:

- Publish an annual report detailing what the SAB has done during the year to achieve its main objective and implement its strategic plan
- Report on what each member has done to implement the strategy
- Detail the findings of any safeguarding adults reviews and subsequent action

OUR VISION

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

MULTI-AGENCY SAFEGUARDING ARRANGEMENTS (MASA)

There is a shared and collective responsibility between organisations and agencies to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and adults. Responsibility for this joined up approach locally rests with three **Safeguarding Partners**³ who have a duty to have robust arrangements in place.

¹ [Working Together to Safeguarding Children \(2018\)](#)

² [Section 43 of the Care Act \(2014\)](#)

³ Lead partners for Northumberland are: The Chief Executive Officer (Northumberland County Council); The Chief Officer (NENC Integrated Care Board); Chief Constable (Northumbria Police)

New safeguarding arrangements have been developed to build on the strengths of the previous arrangements under the Northumberland Strategic Safeguarding Partnership (NSSP) and the Northumberland Safeguarding Adults Board (SAB)

Our *Multi-agency Safeguarding Arrangements (MASA)* sets out how the Safeguarding Partners will work together, and with other agencies, to safeguard and promote the welfare of children, adults and families.

See: [Multi Agency Safeguarding Arrangements \(MASA\)](#)

OUR JOURNEY SO FAR..

Review of Partnership Arrangements

- A joint Executive and Partnership Board ensured the Partnership continued to meet its statutory requirements, whilst a full review was undertaken to ensure the needs of both partnerships are met, and any new arrangements were carefully planned and implemented.
- Whilst the main focus has been on reviewing the parameters, themes and reporting arrangements, consideration has also been given to the supporting structure of NCASP and its alignment to wider Partnerships.

NCASP Structure Development

- 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.
- **It is important to note this model will continue to evolve in line with the needs of the Partnership and the wider safeguarding context.**

NCASP STRUCTURE – FROM APRIL 2023:

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.

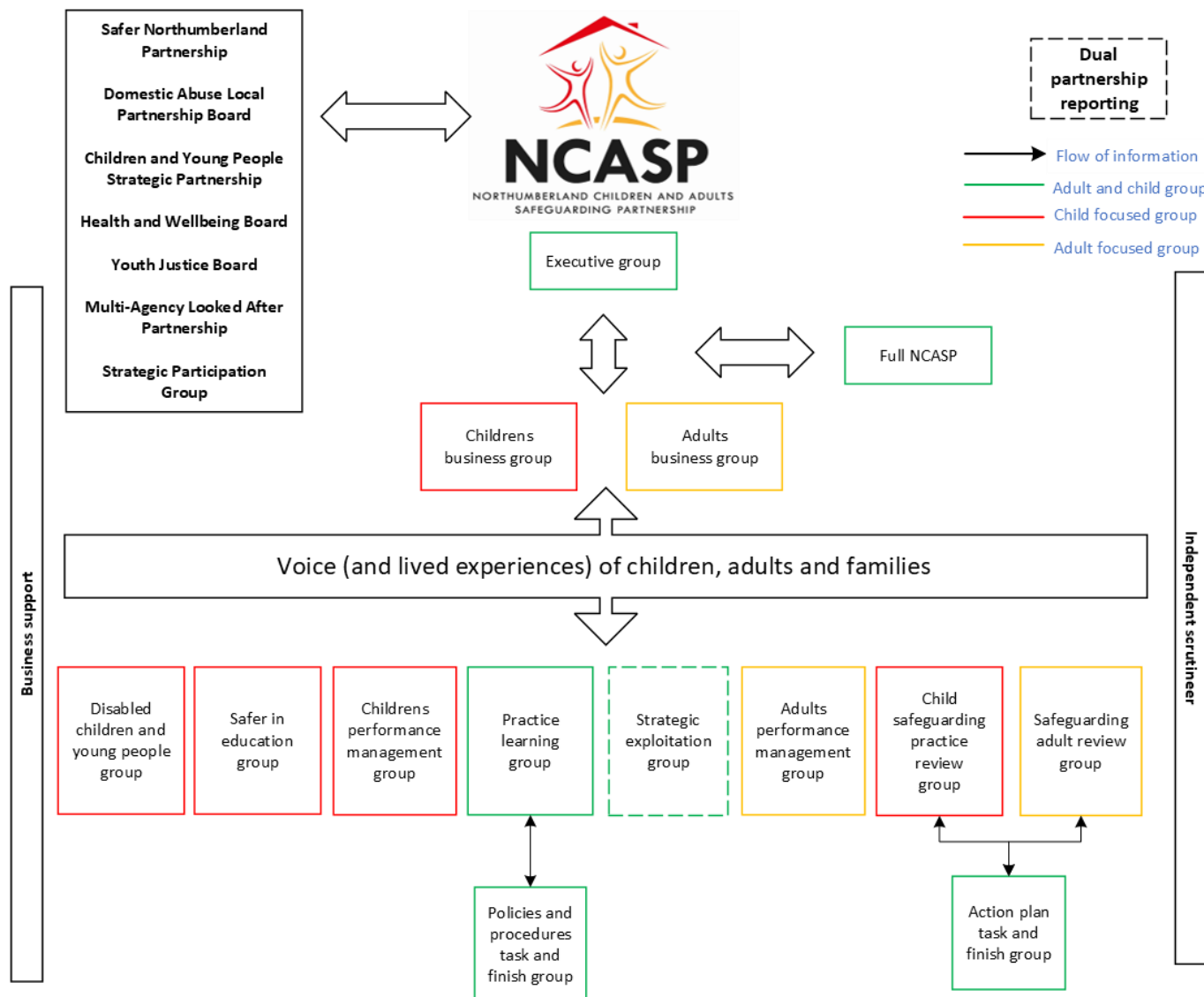
The partnership arrangements enable partners to support and challenge from within the multi-agency system and operate from within an environment where effective multi-agency practice can flourish.

The revised structure includes a range of both joint (children and adults) and separate arrangements which are accountable to the Business groups. A key consideration in the design of the new model has been to

facilitate the flow of information between groups via memberships and priorities. An outline of the subgroups and their purpose is set out in the [Terms of Reference](#).

The Partnership will continue to be overseen by an Executive group which includes the three statutory safeguarding partners (Children/Adults Local Authority, Integrated Care Board, Police), and also Cumbria, Northumberland, Tyne & Wear (CNTW) and Northumbria Healthcare (NHCFT) NHS Foundation Trusts. Whilst the value of extending the membership of the Executive group is recognised, the responsibility for decision making remains with the safeguarding partners (in accordance with statutory guidance).

NCASP Structure:



SCRUTINY OF ARRANGEMENTS

When developing local arrangements, the NCASP considered a number of options (based on national learning⁴) and agreed a blended approach to scrutiny, these are:

- An **Independent Scrutineer**
- NCASP **self-assessment**
- Partners' **safeguarding audits**

- ❑ Regional **peer review**/challenge arrangements – via Tyne, Wear & Northumberland Safeguarding Partnership, Association of Directors of Childrens Services (ADCS) and Association of Directors of Adult Social Services (ADASS)
- ❑ Independent scrutiny through the local authority and Integrated Care Board **scrutiny committees**
- ❑ **External inspections** and reviews

An Independent Scrutineer (IS) was appointed in June 2023. The chairing of the Business Groups forms part of the Independent Scrutiny role and will fulfil the objective to act as a constructive critical friend, promote challenge and reflection to drive continuous improvement. It will also help in seeking assurance and assessing whether the three safeguarding partners are fulfilling their statutory obligations.

A Scrutiny Framework for NCASP has been developed, setting out key objectives and descriptors (based on the [Checklist for Independent Scrutiny](#)); this applies to both children and adult safeguarding arrangements. For more information about scrutiny, see our [MASA](#)

The Independent Scrutineer in Northumberland provides scrutiny and challenge across the Partnership, hold partners to account, and provides an independent view of effectiveness of **both children and adults safeguarding arrangements**.

During their first 3 months (June to September 2023) the Scrutineer has met with (and sought the views of) Safeguarding Partners, Business Managers, and the chairs of sub groups. They obtained information from a number of sources, including the NCASP development sessions, chairing of the Business Groups meetings in June and September 2023, a review of meeting minutes and action logs, and NCASP processes and systems.

The scrutineer also attended and observed the work of the sub and task and finish groups and reported..

- Overall observation of the subgroups is positive. The groups are chaired by the right partners and all chairs report to the Business Groups (from September 2023) on their groups progress using an agreed report template, highlighting what is working well, where there are challenges and areas for improvement. Where there are challenges that cannot be resolved at the Business Groups these will be escalated to the executive team by the IS for consideration and intervention if required.
- The task and finish groups are identified through learning from case reviews, practice learning audits and performance management. Those observed to date have clear terms of reference, defined outcomes, and timescales for completion of the work. Draft reports from the task and finish groups will be considered at the Business Group meetings, after which learning will be shared with the PLG and executive team through the IS report.

The Scrutineer has provided NCASP with an appraisal of how the partnership arrangements have continued to develop and improve since implementation, acknowledging NCASP has moved forward at a pace and will continue to evolve over the year. The IS role is also evolving and will continue to do so.

See: [Independent Scrutineer Report \(June 2023 to September 2023\)](#)

Looking forward, key areas for development are:

<p>How NCASP evidences its impact and effectiveness (for improving outcomes for children, adults and families)</p>	<p>Areas of practice requiring independent scrutiny (e.g. children missing education)</p>	<p>How the voice and lived experiences of children, adults and families inform the work of NCASP.</p>
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We have received national recognition for how we have developed our new safeguarding arrangements/partnership and our approach to scrutiny has been cited as a model of excellent practice.

SCRUTINY ACTIVITY DURING 2022-23

Interviews, Focus Groups, Learning Events, Workshops, Webinars

- Development sessions with partners and relevant agencies aimed at integrating/developing safeguarding partnership, and priorities.
- 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.

LEADERSHIP

The Safeguarding Partners provide strategic leadership for all those working together to safeguard children and adults. They set the strategic direction, vision and culture of the safeguarding arrangements, including shared priorities and resources required. Working in collaboration with each other and other partnership boards helps to ensure strong governance and offers additional systems of assurance and accountability (including single agency inspections).

NCASP's Partnership Chair also chairs the Domestic Abuse Local Authority Partnership Board (DALAPB) as well as the Children & Young People Strategic Partnership (CYSP) and the Youth Justice Board (YJB). Safeguarding Partners and group members chair/attend other strategic boards and committees and understand (and appreciate) the importance of cross-partnership working.

There are often cross cutting priorities where collaboration is required to ensure there is a streamlined approach. Whilst developing our strategic priorities, we have considered areas of work being undertaken elsewhere (across the whole partnership) and how we can work together and support each other.

The lead members for children and adults are invited to observe the Business Groups. NCASP delivered training to elected members⁵ to help them understand their role in relation to safeguarding adults and children and domestic abuse, how to recognise signs of abuse, how to report it and access support services.

Introduction to NCASP sessions have been included in induction programme for children's social care staff⁶, the business managers are also attending team meetings across the partnership to update on developments and to further engage with practitioners.

REGIONAL COLLABORATION

There are a number of ways we work together regionally. There are established Business Manager Networks (regional and national) for both children and adults, and the safeguarding partners attend regional forums providing good links with NCASP. Two of our safeguarding partners work across 5 other LA areas, which is also a benefit to us.

The Tyne, Wear and Northumberland Safeguarding Partnership (TWNSP) brings together all business managers, independent scrutineers, organisation safeguarding leads and independent chairs across 6 areas. The partnership exists to share learning and collaborate on regional pieces of safeguarding activity (children and adults).

A sub-group of the Tyne, Wear and Northumberland Safeguarding Partnership (TWNSP) was established in October 2022 to look at regional collaboration in relation to the Independent Scrutiny role across Newcastle, Sunderland, Gateshead, North Tyneside, South Tyneside, and Northumberland.

The focus of the group is to:

- Establish a consistent approach to the Independent Scrutineer role across our region
- Establish a support network and protocol, including regular meeting arrangements, for Scrutineers to work together to maximise effectiveness; discuss and share practice strengths and learning and create opportunities to shape joint solutions and practice improvements.

Work so far has included mapping the 6 partnership role descriptions (against the [checklist](#)) and reviewing how each partnership undertook scrutiny, thematic analysis. The group has also considered and agreed areas of practice/scrutiny to develop some collaborative regional work.

The children's [multi-agency procedures and practice guidance](#) are shared regionally. Any amendments to procedures/protocols agreed locally are also shared across the six areas and incorporated into the shared procedures, where possible. This offers consistency for partner agencies working across the wider region. This also means that any changes as a result of learning from case reviews can also be implemented across the six areas.

WHAT HAS BEEN ACHIEVED

Although we have been working hard to develop and implement our new safeguarding arrangements, we have continued to make progress against our priority areas of work and operate business as usual to improve safeguarding of children and adults and meet its statutory obligations.

⁵ [Elected Members - Safeguarding Workshop](#)

⁶ [Introduction to NCASP](#)



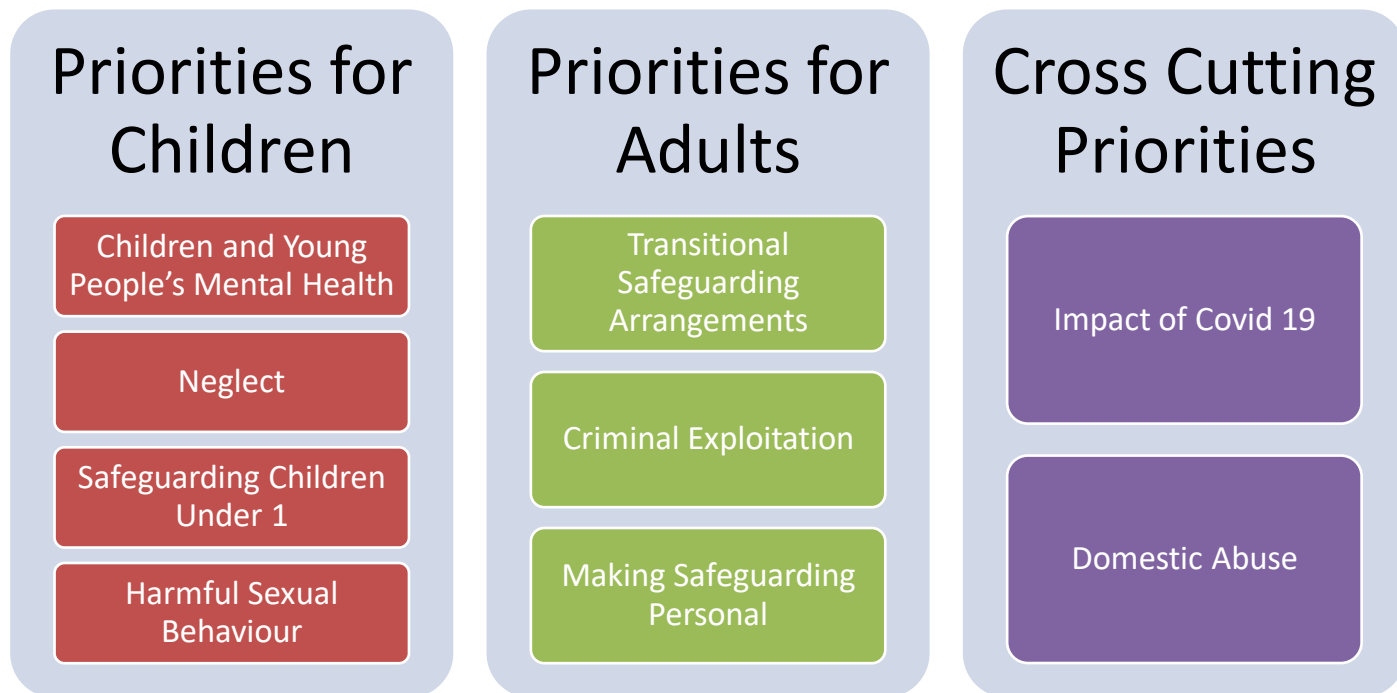
WHAT HAVE WE DONE AND WHAT IMPACT HAVE WE SEEN?

The following information seeks to evidence some of the work going on across the whole partnership, and the impact of that work.

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

Prior to the formation of the joint partnership, Northumberland's Strategic Priorities were informed by separate Children and Adults Strategic Plans. The Safeguarding Adults Strategic Plan was joint with North Tyneside and was produced for 2021-24.

A new joint Children and Adults Safeguarding Strategic Plan has now been created for 2023-24 which supersedes the previous plans. Further information can be found in our [Strategic Plan 2023-2026](#)



PRIORITY 1: CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S MENTAL HEALTH

What is the data telling us?

- ❑ Increased demand for mental health services – across all tiers of intervention.
- ❑ Increasing rates of self-harm, prevalence amongst young people. Repeat attendees and predominance of females
- ❑ Positive mental health service developments; Family Hubs, NEWST, Front Door, Schools
- ❑ Multi agency audit highlighted how to avoid missed opportunities in mental health cases and the need for more co-ordinated, SMART-er planning

There has been a significant increase in children social care assessments where child mental health has been identified as a factor. The rise would indicate that the need for referrals regarding mental health are well recognized and understood by agencies and referrals are being made at the appropriate time. There are increasing demands on all health services regarding child mental health.

The percentage of 0-18yrs urgent referrals seen by Universal Crisis Team within 24hrs remains stable and analysis shows that all were offered within 24hrs; however, non-attendance and cancellation have been the reasons for not reaching 100%. The percentage of children and young people within CYPS who have waited less than 12 weeks to access treatment continues to be 100 % within Mental Health pathways - impacted due to increasing demands within the Neurodevelopmental Diagnostic pathway. It is positive that those who are experiencing moderate to severe psychological / emotional distress are provided with prompt access.

CNTW have reviewed the demand and capacity of the Safeguarding and Public Protection (SAPP) team which has led to additional resource at Named Nurse level. We will continue to review demand and capacity in light of sustained increase in reported incidents and review processes and approaches as necessary to ensure this demand can be met whilst maintaining quality.

NHCFT self-harm data continues to increase with a 70-30% split in terms of more females. HDFT 0-19 service report that low lying mental health difficulties are increasingly featured in their work. The service works closely with early help lead at the front door to develop a single point of allocation for referral into their services.

A Self-harm task and finish group has been set up to explore the increase in numbers and consider any preventative actions to reduce the incidence of self-harming behaviours and to identify actions to improve understanding and communication regarding what leads young people to self-harm, how best to support them and improve their resilience. The key areas being - schools, communities (including councillors and key organisations), parents and young people.

There is a shortage of specialist inpatient CAMHS beds which is in part due to breakdown of community placements, this reflects the national picture. This has been escalated within the ICB and NCASP Executive. The challenge of implementing additional support for children and young people with complex mental health has been highlighted by Designated Nurse (Safeguarding Children) and Community Clinical manager (CYPS). A working group has been developed to look at developing a multi-agency framework for this vulnerable group, this will be reported on in 23/24 as it is in the very early stages of development.

NHCFT continue to build on pathways of care to support those with mental health needs. We provide a range of metrics which have allowed us to identify increasing trends of young people accessing our unplanned care settings due to deliberate self-harm. We are actively involved with partners to take a joined-up approach to exploring and addressing needs/risks.

Northumbria Police have an all-age Street Triage Service which is open to children across Northumberland. The CNTW nurses and police officers who work on the service deploy to incidents of children in mental health crisis and have continued to provide a face-to-face service throughout the COVID pandemic. In the last 12 months our Street Triage officers have undertaken training in ACE's, learning disabilities and child exploitation to ensure they have a more holistic understanding of children's presenting behaviours. The Street Triage service also ensure they are sighted on the impact of parental mental ill health on children and young people's mental health and make safeguarding referrals for children impacted by a parent or carers mental health crisis.

Northumberland Adolescent Service (NAS) Health Hub provides physical health and wellbeing support for young people who have experienced Trauma and Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs). The goal of the service is to upskill young people and reduce the impact of past trauma on their future. The NAS health Hub is in a unique position as we work with some of the most vulnerable young people in Northumberland. Often these young people have not accessed support services and as a result may have unmet Health and emotional needs which impact on their current thoughts, behaviors and decision making.

The health Hub is made up of Specialist Services, multi-disciplinary workers and Targeted projects aimed at improving the physical and emotional health of young people that come into contact with NAS Services. The specific role of the Health and Wellbeing worker is to provide low level mental health support and signposting them to specialist teams if needed. Currently the service is aimed at Young People who are involved with Youth Justice Service (YJS) or the substance misuse team. The plan is to expand this team to ensure that all aspects of health are addressed for the young people who need it most.

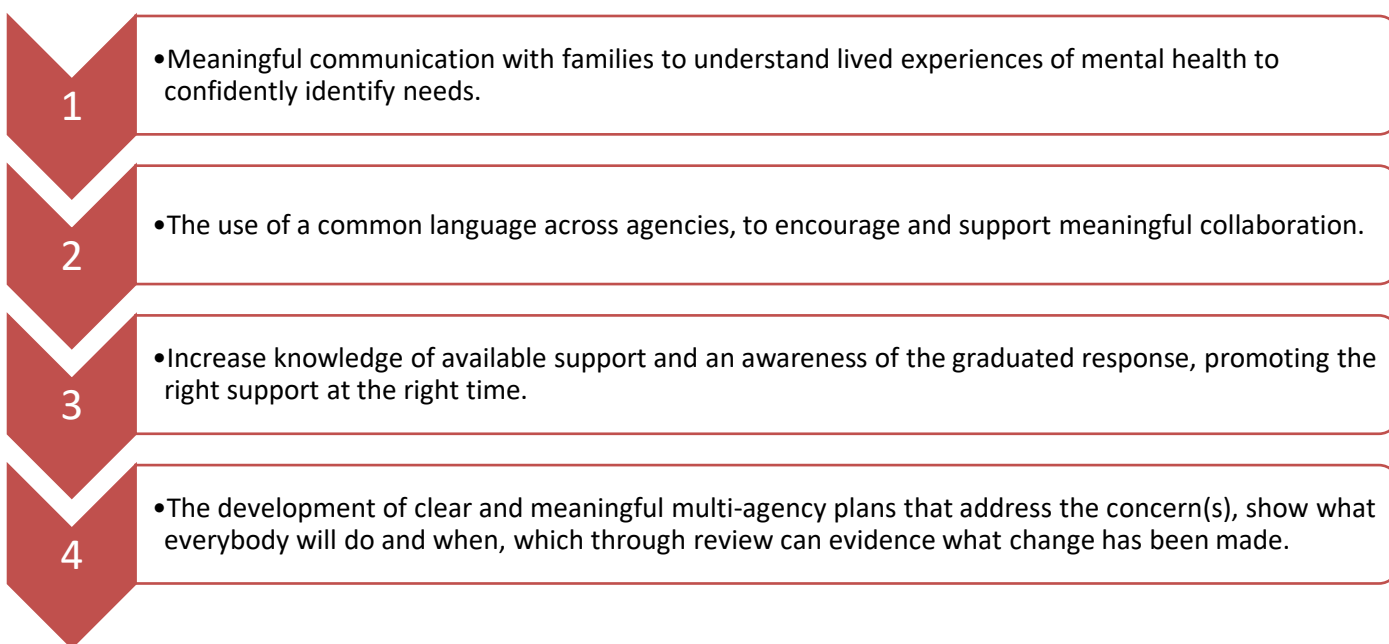
Early help service have developed a 'teens pad' to ensure services/strategies and support are more transparent and accessible to teens and families. This was in response to consultation with young people about what they wanted.

MULTI AGENCY AUDIT SUMMARY – CHILD MENTAL HEALTH

A multi-agency audit was undertaken in December 2022 which highlighted patterns and themes and report findings were reported in March 2023. The auditors acknowledged that difficulties with mental health is an increasingly complex issue for children and young people.

There were lots of strengths in practice when agencies had the confidence and skills to recognise significant concerns about a child's mental health early, which was supported by assessments that detailed the specific behaviours that made people concerned and what needed to happen. These judgements were based on meaningful and collaborative discussions with the child, their family and the professionals that knew them well. The actions of agencies reflected the needs of the child and knowledge of the graduated response to ensure the most appropriate support was in place, through referral pathways that worked well.

However, these strengths were not consistent across all of the records reviewed. Auditors found some missed opportunities to support children with their mental health. As some plans did not detail what they hoped to achieve (even though most children were engaging with support for their mental health) it was difficult to understand progress or the impact of the interventions. To scale higher, the auditors identified the following areas of focus:



PRIORITY 2: NEGLECT

What is the data telling us?

- Ongoing higher than average neglect cases in child protection
- High prevalence of neglect reflected in health referrals

There is a strong association between a family's socio-economic circumstances and the likelihood of a child experiencing abuse or neglect. In Northumberland neglect continues to be prevalent with a high percentage of child protection plans for neglect.

Work has been undertaken with the IRO (Independent Reviewing Officer) Service to better understand the continuing high prevalence of neglect within the data. This alongside, the increased percentage of children entering care where neglect is a factor (55%) Page 58, however it may be due to the Neglect Summit

which took place in May 2022 which could have increased professionals' awareness further regarding the signs and indicators of neglect.

All agencies have produced their own action plans following the summit and a Partnership Evaluation and Assurance Plan was devised to measure and evaluate any progress made. Assurance plans will be reviewed by November 2023 and further discussions will take place in the Practice Learning Group to outline the impact of the Summit. This will inform subsequent actions (as neglect remains a priority area for the NCASP)

The Designated Nurse Safeguarding Children and Specialist safeguarding practitioner have developed a training package for primary care staff to access.

NHCFT's safeguarding training and supervision offer have neglect and its impacts throughout the lifespan firmly at the core. We continue to capture and share information and data to support our understanding of neglect. We take a multi-disciplinary approach to regularly reviewing and supporting parents who misuse substances throughout pregnancy to recognise risks of substance misuse on unborn babies and make changes to keep themselves and their babies happy and healthy during pregnancy and following birth.

Northumbria Police are committed to reducing instances of child neglect. All reports are subject to daily oversight from the Detective Inspector within dedicated Child Abuse Teams. There is a drive to work with partners throughout the county to establish the root cause of the issues and provide help and support to prevent any reoccurrence. When a prosecution is justified these are driven by supervisory oversight to make the process as quick as possible to limit the impact to victims throughout. All investigations are conducted by specialist investigators within Child Abuse Teams who are trained in interviewing children.

The issue of self neglect amongst adults and its impact on children was raised for consideration, following a case discussion at SARG. It is not felt that this is a big concern, however agreed work would be undertaken (looking at referrals from Adult Social Care) to help us understand to breadth of the issue.

Neglect (including self-neglect) is a priority focus of work for us – see: [Strategic Plan 2023-2026](#)

PRIORITY 3: SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN UNDER 1

What is the data telling us?

- Continued significant proportion of s47s, ICPCs and CP cases involve under 1s; short duration of plans indicate planning for young babies is robust and timely
- Continued significant proportion of CP cases are re-plans within 2 years, but low numbers for under 1s

There has been a slight increase in referrals for under 1s and (from the rapid reviews) under 1s remains the highest category for significant incident notification. In response to the increase in children under the age of 1 going through front door with physical injuries, a task and finish group has been set up to explore the increase and consider any wider determining factors. In particular those cases that were not known to statutory services.

Reassurance was provided that in rapid reviews, a lot of good practice was seen to be delivered. Preventative programmes including ICON and safe sleep messages are embedded in practices, resources are shared with parents at multiple touch points to ensure that key messages around infant crying and the dangers of shaking a baby are understood. However there is little evidence of evaluation of parental understanding or impact, in particular for parents with learning difficulties. NHCFT now have a pathway to ensure that parents with learning disabilities have access to all information, and additional support needs are identified as soon as possible.

A new initiative [eyes on the baby](#) is being implemented in Northumberland which will include training for all agencies to deliver this message.

All reports of non-accidental injuries are brought to the attention of specialist police child abuse teams (CAP) and scrutinised and reviewed at Detective Inspector level. Staff attend and share information at all levels of multi-agency meetings to ensure accurate interventions and safety plans are in place.

Detective Inspectors attend all rapid review meeting for serious injury and SUDI and continues with the child death review panel and joint learning review processes (CSPR) where any identified learning will be embedded. Lessons learned are disseminated and staff attend formal delivery sessions as part of their CPD for the SCADIP accreditation. All reports of this nature are investigated by Child Abuse specialist detectives who have a national SCADIP qualification. (Specialist child abuse qualification from the College of Policing).

A pre-birth team is now operational and assessments are being undertaken at an early stage for babies in cases that are likely to require legal intervention. Review of the pre-birth team will give us additional information regarding the impact of this on families and outcomes for those children.

We have developed and embedded our pre-birth team in one of our Family Hubs and a multi-agency pre-birth team meeting monitors progress of the team. The evaluation of the first year undertaken in August 2023, highlighting outcomes that are extremely positive. The work undertaken by the team is viewed positively, particularly the engagement with fathers and we are engaging with Newcastle University to evaluate this area of work.

Feedback regarding intervention from the pre-birth team from families outlined the following:

- **Family A:** *“We were ashamed and scared that our baby was going to be taken away, but we are now learning new things.”*
- **Family B:** *“We were initially annoyed as we were not informed that they were going to be involved but they were absolutely honest with us from the beginning and that others should be open minded about involvement.”*
- **Family C:** *“The baby was at the forefront for everyone.”*

Within the work completed in children’s social care, there is an under use of preventative resources and courses that are available and there is a real drive on ensuring that resources available are factored into any plan for children. The ongoing development of Family Hubs is expected to support this.

ANALYSIS FROM MULTI AGENCY AUDIT REGARDING UNDER 1’S

Audit undertaken to gain better understanding of referrals regarding Unborn's and children under the age of 1. **The audit was to consider the following:**

- Is vulnerability considered?
- Are relevant professionals consulted?
- Is harm and strengths identified
- Is learning from previous reviews considered?

In summary, the referrals looked at have highlighted good evidence of information sharing which has clearly been considered and has informed decision making, which was felt to be appropriate and proportionate. Also, that the actions from the referrals had made a difference for the children.

Vulnerability of Unborn's and children under 1 was recognised in over half of the cases seen and there was some evidence that learning from previous reviews had been considered. Overall, there was good identification of factors that impact on a child’s vulnerability and numerous referrals to support agencies had been made. It should be highlighted that when these referrals were made to First Contact, thorough exploration of history was considered; vulnerability was highlighted and gaps in information were sought before decision making was finalised.

Agreed further work across agencies regarding the inclusion of fathers and completion of the Multi Agency Referral Form to ensure relevant information is considered and recorded. This should include vulnerability of babies and use of history to inform decision making.

ANALYSIS FROM MULTI AGENCY AUDIT REGARDING ABSENT FATHERS

Although not exclusively an issue relating to under 1s, it is appropriate that the work around absent fathers is shared here. There remains an ongoing gap which has been identified in several case reviews previously, it was decided that this would be further explored.

What has been highlighted from this multi-agency audit is that records are not always accurate or include basic information regarding the child's father and what role he may play in the child's life. Alongside this when we are informed that parents are separated, there is sometimes a lack of curiosity as to whether father plays an integral part in caring for, safeguarding and everyday life for the child.

There appears to be a different approach to ascertaining information about father's role depending on the age of the child and (with the use of networks) father's role and part in plans needs to be strengthened.

Agencies understanding about absent fathers was highlighted in the dialogue following completion of the audits and in line with the findings, it could be determined that our systems sometimes make fathers absent, place more emphasis on what mother is not doing meanwhile mainly providing services for mothers. Fathers are much more than a biological person and there needs to be a multi-agency approach to better understanding this, what we mean by absent fathers and how this might be recorded consistently across all agency's records.

Learning about absent fathers (and hidden men/partners) is included in training and a briefing for practitioners has been developed (7-min guide: [Working with Dads](#))

SiRS (sharing information regarding safeguarding) is in place to ensure any potentially concerning history in relation to fathers is shared as soon as possible within the antenatal period to enable full assessment and safety planning.

Dad's Pad: Family hub staff trained to be **fathers champions** so we can support and promote fathers being involved in their child's development including contact with professionals from conception right through to adulthood.

Free 'DadPad' app launches to support dads in Northumberland

- Dads-to-be and new dads in Northumberland now have free access to the DadPad app to help them give their baby the best start in life.
- The DadPad is packed with trusted advice and support specially tailored for dads to help them gain confidence and practical skills at what can often be an overwhelming time.
- It was first developed by Inspire Cornwall CIC together with the NHS and is now fast becoming the essential guide for dads.
- Northumberland County Council has invested funding from its trailblazing Family Hub programme and worked with the team at Inspire Cornwall CIC to make the DadPad app free for all dads in the county.
- [Watch on YouTube: find out how the DadPad is making a difference to families](#)

More information is available on the [dad and male carers zone](#) of the Family Hubs website.

PRIORITY 4: HARMFUL SEXUAL BEHAVIOUR

It was a priority of the Schools' Engagement sub-group to ensure that schools are prepared and resourced to take appropriate action in their own school communities to challenge sexual abuse, violence and harassment. The aim is for children to feel safe in school and feel confident to speak out about sexual abuse; schools have better information to prevent and act on incidents; schools involve other appropriate agencies when needed; parents have confidence in school systems; the statutory RSHE curriculum combats sexual abuse, violence and harassment effectively.

Ofsted amended the inspection handbook (from September 2021) and this provided a framework for the actions of SEG, mainly delivered through the Schools' Safeguarding Team.

The main changes are:

- Schools and colleges should assume online sexual abuse, violence and harassment take place within the school community, even if there are no reported cases.
- Inspectors will ask what schools and colleges are proactively doing to combat this, including preventative measures, the curriculum including implementation of the statutory RSHE curriculum, and responses to allegations.
- Where adequate processes to combat sexual abuse are not in place, Ofsted is likely to deem safeguarding ineffective, which in turn will likely result in an inadequate overall grade.

Good progress was achieved in fulfilling our aim, for example:

- We Identified, gathered and shared good practice examples from schools/settings of effectively managed cases involving sexual abuse, violence and harassment. Findings were shared more widely with schools.
- We provided a summary of '[Multi-Agency Response to Sexual Harassment and Abuse of Learners: emerging practice](#)' and ensured appropriate actions were taken in response.
- We co-ordinated the NSPCC audit of sexual harassment and violence in schools with Northumberland settings and reported the findings to NSSC (now NCASP).

The Youth Justice Service manage young people accused or convicted of Harmful Sexual Behaviour (HSB) offences. The team are all AIM 3 trained and work closely with both Police Online Investigation Team (POLIT) and Management of Sexual or Violent Offenders (MOSOVO) to manage both risk to the child and those around them. YJS take a child first approach to better understand underlying causes of HSB and interventions are tailored to non-judgmental change.

NHCFT include HSB in Level 3 training and this is discussed within supervision on a case-by-case basis. HSB and child on child abuse is included in safeguarding training to raise awareness for primary care staff.

PRIORITY 5: TRANSITIONAL SAFEGUARDING ARRANGEMENTS

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

What is the data telling us?

- Need to continue to develop intelligence to support transitional reporting
- Findings of audit of 18-25 year olds referred to Safeguarding Adults to inform our work

Transitional Safeguarding continues to be a strategic priority within Northumberland; this aligned with a Think Family/Life course approach with local drivers coming from several joint adult and children learning reviews. Reviews identified areas of learning and improvement (which has been acted upon):

1

The need for a Transitional Safeguarding Protocol

2

Joint workshops to help people understand each other's roles and responsibilities

3

Improving legal literacy of practitioners

4

Early identification and response to trauma

There are several initiatives already available within Northumberland to support good transitional planning such as an all age Strategic Exploitation sub group, exploitation training on a number of different approaches. We have a joint transitional safeguarding protocol which sets out pathways for young people (particularly those not known to child protection services), a transitions policy and transitions panel that reviews the support of young people who are 14+.

A Transitional safeguarding [7-minute guide](#) has been developed and workshops have been held with staff.

C.A.R.E (Caring about Adversity, Resilience and Empowerment) Northumberland provides a multi agency approach to trauma-informed resilience.

C.A.R.E Northumberland is a multi agency strategy across both children and adult services to reduce children's experience of adversity and minimize the impact of adverse childhood experiences on the health and wellbeing of both children and adults.

We have implemented a Trauma Informed Learning Framework which aims to develop practitioner understanding and recognize the impact of trauma as being widespread and across the life course.

Adult Services are currently reviewing our approach to social care transition. This includes self-assessing ourselves using the NICE Guideline 43 'Transition from children's to adult' services for young people using health or social care services'. We have used this assessment to help develop a themed audit of adult social care records for 18 – 22 year olds. Learning from this audit, and the NICE Guideline baseline assessment, will support us to develop an evidence based plan to improve our approach to all social care transitions including transitional safeguarding.

NHCFT have an integrated safeguarding service working from the antenatal period right across the lifespan. The trust has an established young person's transition group, which includes representation from the safeguarding team. The group works to ensure that robust transition processes are in place across Trust services and lead developments in this area.

NAS Service hold monthly transitions panel with senior managers from adult social care to discuss young people who have identified needs and would benefit from post 18 support from adult social care. Young people can be discussed at this panel from the age of 16 years and over. If it is deemed that they do not meet threshold of need from adult social care at the current time, there is a review date identified or other services/information offered.

One of the ICB's safeguarding priority workstreams is 'transitional safeguarding' with a particular focus on mental health and children in care, promoting a trauma informed approach. This will be a long-term plan over the next 3 years and is being led by Assistant Director of Nursing for the North (NL, NT NCLE & GH), with support from Des nurse and wider ICB colleagues. The team will work closely and consistently with providers/partners to ensure smooth transition between children and adult services.

The initial plan is to explore and identify what is working well, where there are gaps and how the ICB can work differently. This will inform the first year plan and organisation can decide who is placed to continue in the ongoing workstream, this is currently a health led workstream as identified in the ICB joint forward plan with the intention of bringing partners onboard at a later date as the plan progresses.

A comprehensive guide for partners has been developed to support the Care Leavers Accommodation & Support Protocol ([CLASP](#)). The guide will be used by front line workers and managers and outlines the agreed joint-working agreements between Northumberland County Council, Children's Services, Housing Services and Housing Providers within Northumberland. We also have a [joint Housing Protocol for homeless 16 and 17 year olds](#), which was reviewed in April 2023.

Protecting vulnerable people is a force strategic priority for Northumbria Police. To support this, a Force Vulnerability Strategy was launched last year with four key pillars:



Our aim is to achieve a safe environment for people, their families, and wider communities to thrive without fear of harm, and to ensure perpetrators are identified and targeted with further harm removed or minimised. 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.

Key to our focus on vulnerability is our Early Intervention Strategy, which focusses on prevention and building community resilience. In support of this strategy, the force has launched an Adult Out of Court Disposal Team (TREAD). This team looks at opportunities to divert low level offenders from the criminal justice system and focus on the root causes of their offending. The team have developed links with charities and have pathways for support for veterans, female pathways, substance misuse pathways and a specific pathway for support for the 18 - 25-year-old cohort, exploring employment and training opportunities. This team are successfully tackling underlying vulnerabilities which draw individuals into the Criminal Justice System.

PRIORITY 6: CRIMINAL EXPLOITATION

What is the data telling us?

- Developments in recording of Criminal Exploitation abuse types will enable better monitoring by the LA in 2023/24
- Further work identified with Multi-Agency Exploitation Hub for comparative data.

Tackling Criminal and Sexual Exploitation continues to remain a priority for Northumberland throughout 2022-2023 to improve the lives of all vulnerable people in Northumberland who are at risk of being sexually or criminally exploited.



NCASP's 'Tricky Friends' animation developed to provide support to adult and young people, in response to learning from case reviews. This was added to our website and a 7-minute guide was circulated across the partnership. Scrutiny of data has highlighted a slight decrease in numbers from the previous year.

Several Operations have been ongoing across Northumbria area. Close links between Adult Safeguarding and Northumbria Police along with partner agencies have been maintained to provide **identification and intervention at the earliest opportunity** to reduce the risk to vulnerable adults within Northumberland.

NCASP has continued to drive the exploitation agenda with an all age response and has continued the delivery plan focusing on engagement and awareness. This has included continued data sharing across agencies to assist in identifying emerging themes and areas of concern within the locality.

NHCFT have embedded criminal exploitation and into our Level 3 safeguarding training for adults. This is also routinely discussed within supervision sessions with staff throughout the trust and have focused on community teams such as District Nurses who may have more access to adults at risk in their homes and the community. We have developed **robust multi-agency plans** if an adult at risk accesses A&E so we can alert relevant professionals and engage in safety plans for those most at risk.

Criminal Exploitation training continues to be delivered on a multi-agency basis. Sessions are co-facilitated by the Social Care Training Team, safeguarding practitioners and the Safer Northumberland Partnership.

Recognising vulnerability to Extremism and Radicalisation

A new Prevent Pathway was established (in 2021) and is being embedded into practice. This ensures that any individual referred into safeguarding as a result of a concern around vulnerability to being radicalised or adopting extremist views has a robust and prompt response from services to identify appropriate support. The Prevent Pathway created a clear process and improved understanding within social care teams about the appropriateness of referrals, resulting in:

- ❑ A rise in Prevent referrals from Social Care staff.
- ❑ Counter-Terrorism Policing North East highlighting this as good practice.. ‘partners and their staff are knowledgeable around Prevent and recognise their collective duty in protecting those susceptible to extremism and radicalisation.’
- ❑ Northumberland’s Channel Chair and Prevent Co-ordinator receiving a commendation from Northumbria Police for their contribution and commitment to ensure processes are in place and awareness is raised.

Tackling Organised Exploitation (TOEX) are part of the North East Regional Crime Unit (NEROCU) who support front line investigations such as modern-day slavery and human trafficking, organised immigration crime, adult and child sexual exploitation and county lines.

This targeted approach has so far seen the following results regionally:



Northumberland Housing teams have been actively attending training to ensure that they have an improved knowledge of these issues, how they can be identified, and how young people and their families can be signposted to the correct support. This training has included:

- ✓ Transitional Safeguarding
- ✓ Contextual Safeguarding
- ✓ Exploitation

[Grace Northumberland Rape Crisis](#) works with women and girls aged 13 plus who have experienced any form of sexual violence, at any time in their lives. They offer specialist sexual violence counselling, practical

and emotional support (including an ISVA service) and a specialist helpline. We have a specialist Independent Sexual Violence Advisor who concentrates on rural areas. Grace works from a number of outreach bases throughout Northumberland.

- Thank you so much.. without your help, I would not be here.
- In this journey you were with me, the only person, you fight for me..
- Thank you for all your help, you're the first worker that I felt I could trust. After everything that's happened.. it's very hard for me to trust someone.

[Link to NCASP Exploitation Strategy 2023-24](#)

[7-Minute Guide to National Referral Mechanism \(NRM\)](#)

PRIORITY 7: MAKING SAFEGUARDING PERSONAL

What is the data telling us?

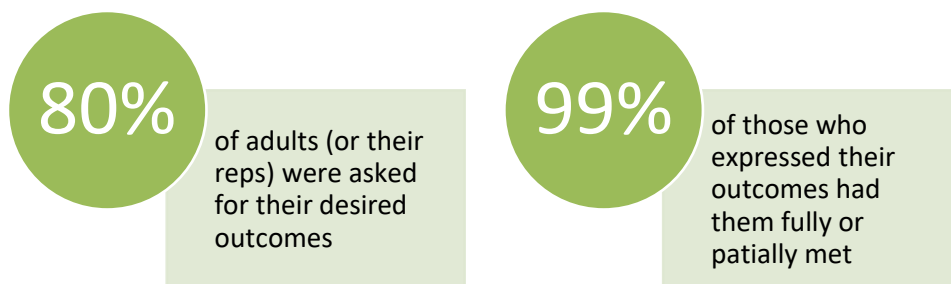
- Difficult to evidence MSP by partners via data.
- LA report high proportion of cases where the desired outcomes were achieved. (Dec 22 99%)

We are committed in Northumberland to Making Safeguarding Personal (MSP) by promoting a person-centred approach, recognising the individual is the expert on their own life, by ensuring our practices are designed to engage the person or their family to enable choice and control.

Our 2021-22 report highlighted the need to focus upon involving and hearing the voices of people who use services in the work of the Boards. This continues to be an identified area of development moving into the new NCASP arrangements within Northumberland.

The **Making Safeguarding Personal Toolkit** has been distributed and embedded within Northumberland to support best approaches and effective applications of safeguarding and support people to work through what their desired outcomes and purpose of safeguarding might be.

In 2022-23:



These are some of the highest rates across the region and the principles of MSP continue to be embedded across a range of safeguarding training programmes.

A [7-minute guide](#) has been produced and an 'access anytime' webinar is available. Attendance at the Adult Social Work forum allowed us to share the MSP Tools and Resources more widely.

MSP is incorporated into the NHCFT value '**Patients First**' which is a fundamental part of all the care and treatment we provide. It is embedded into our training and supervision within the trust, and within our safeguarding referral form, which asks the practitioner to consider this and engage the adult at risk in the referral form and ask the patient what they want from the referral.

MSP is also included in GP and Primary Care training and all MSP tools and resources are now shared widely across the Social Work forum.

Northumbria Police **Victims Code of Practice** ensures that the views of our victims are considered when decisions are made regarding safeguarding and investigation. The recent force wide **“Vulnerability Matters”** campaign will increase and improve identification & recognition of all forms of vulnerability ensuring victims views are captured.

Adult Services have introduced **Storyboards** as a mechanism to evidence the impact of our services and interventions. These are easy to understand and highlight the key measures and outcomes whilst demonstrating person centred practice, in this [example](#) it is clear that supporting the client to ensure their cat was well cared for was central to ensuring they achieved their desired outcome.

MULTI-AGENCY AUDIT OF SAFEGUARDING ADULTS REFERRALS

These audits are focussed upon Making Safeguarding Personal, robust decision making, legal frameworks, quality of practice, recording of strength-based practice, improving outcomes, effectiveness of partnership working. The audits identify recurring key issues and themes. These are benchmarked regionally and nationally.

What did we find?

- Quality of recording was inconsistent
- Meeting process was not always being followed
- Organisational Safeguarding procedures were not always robust
- Non completion of S42 Enquiry Reports

What difference have we made?

- ✓ Improved safeguarding recording helps to support decision making and identify patterns of concern. *Good quality recording is vital should the case progress to any future learning reviews including statutory Safeguarding Adult Reviews*
- ✓ Positive feedback has been received from safeguarding staff following training and new guidance
- ✓ Notable improvements in our response to organisational abuse – positive feedback received from providers
- ✓ NCASP have been assured that actions have been taken as a result of audit.. it’s difficult to measure impact at this stage but this will be picked up in future audits.

The audit demonstrated that most of our recording was in line with Northumberland Safeguarding Adult Policy and Procedures which is a marked increase from the previous audit. There was evidence to suggest that decision making was proportionate and Making Safeguarding Personal was evident (although inconsistent).

Our Multi-agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) information is robust and well recorded. Triage workers demonstrated analysis of concerns via their recording.

Case Study example: the Decision Maker (Safeguarding Manager) and Triage Worker demonstrated professional curiosity, identified risks and subsequently ensured the safety of the victim by arranging a safe place to talk to her on her own.

PRIORITY 8: IMPACT OF COVID 19

What is the data telling us?

- Increasing demand over the last 3 years reported by partner agencies

- Continuing impact of the pandemic and increased pressures on individuals and their families
- Increasingly complex cases
- Numbers subject to a CP plan increasing over the year and above the regional average; in last quarter seen a decrease in CP numbers.

Our partners have continued to work together to develop an understanding of the impact of Covid 19 on safeguarding children and adults by:

- Capturing and sharing key information
- supporting and training our staff to identify and manage the significant and complex mental health difficulties and domestic abuse rises which we have seen during and following Covid.

Partners have continued to see high levels of demand on services since covid, however there has been a slight decrease in referrals. Whilst most service delivery has returned to pre-pandemic practices, the increased pressures on individuals and their families *continues* to have an impact.

Throughout 2022 – 2023 we have continued to work on our referral processes and a new system was implemented ensuring that appropriate safeguarding referrals were identified. This is likely a contributing factor in the reduction of referrals, ensuring referrals are proportionate and meeting safeguarding threshold.

Self Neglect

- remains prominent in Northumberland
- training to be provided to staff and partner agencies
- audits to be completed to evidence impact of training and outcomes

Physical harm

- continues to increase
- is now the top category of abuse within Northumberland occurring within the family home

Following the recent cost of living crisis, further understanding of the impact on safeguarding referrals is required throughout the next year.

Dispersed Temporary Accommodation

Self-contained accommodation was developed during COVID-19 to help protect and safeguard children, young people and vulnerable adults. This model has continued post covid with additional units being brought forward to increase options for accommodating families. This has proved suitable for effects of Long Covid and enabled increased awareness of infection control in Temporary Accommodation.

We conducted a survey of staff to ask if they would prefer to continue with virtual or face-to-face training and the results highlighted face-to-face as a preference with the option of virtual in some situations. As a result, we now offer a **hybrid model of training** utilising both face to face and virtual delivery methods.

The Wider Impact:

- mental health problems are more common in vulnerable and disadvantaged groups following individual or community-wide periods of social isolation
- the disproportionate impact among vulnerable and disadvantaged groups extends to other outcomes like income, employment, access to food and discrimination, this also includes criminality in some cases.
- these disparities are especially pronounced at the intersections of multiple vulnerabilities and disadvantages, for example, those with low income, insecure employment, and minority ethnic group status

- ❑ social restrictions that confine people to their homes for extended periods increase the risk of abuse and exploitation, particularly among girls and women
- ❑ Further inequalities are evident in people's capacity to comply with social distancing measures, with this being most difficult for those on low incomes, in insecure employment and living in overcrowded homes.

FOCUS ON... IMPACT ON EDUCATION

What is the data telling us?

- ❑ Attendance at school remains below pre – pandemic levels - emerging attendance strategy should be NCASP's business
- ❑ CME numbers increased sharply, reflecting effective tracking. Use of part time-tables is high, possibly reflecting need to manage behaviours and re-engage children with school. EHE numbers increased in 2022/23.

Attendance

In Northumberland (and nationally) the pandemic had an adverse impact on school attendance.

A significant number of children and young people are struggling for a variety of reasons to re-engage with education, there are increasing numbers of children at risk of missing education, and the number of parents choosing to home educate their children has risen.

From a safeguarding perspective this gives us cause for concern, and through school/professional networks and the partnership we have continually asked the question that *if children are not in school then where are they and are they safe?* This has been a priority for the Schools' Engagement sub-group.

Local data (as of 1st August 2023) tells us that:

	Overall absence			Persistent absence		
	Primary	Secondary	Special	Primary	Secondary	Special
Northumberland	6%	8.8%	9.4%	16%	23.5%	40.9%
North East	5.6%	9.5%	12.5%	17.3%	29.3%	35.3%
National	5%	9.3%	12.3%	17.5%	27.1%	39%

Northumberland is performing better in all measures and all phases against North East and National averages, apart from overall absence in Primary and persistent absence in Special schools. This is a better position than at the beginning of the academic year and demonstrates the positive impact of education support services and multi-agency working.

The direction of travel is encouraging. At the beginning of the pandemic Northumberland was ranked in the 45th percentile of all local authorities in England for persistent absence, rising to 88th when the pandemic was at its height, and improving now to 43rd.

There are many varied and complex reasons for school absence. In Northumberland at the moment the main reasons are:

- ❑ Emotionally-based school avoidance or EBSA (wellbeing issues)
- ❑ Social and emotional and mental health needs (primary special need SEMH)
- ❑ Refusal/parentally condoned absences - some parents' views of school's importance has shifted significantly since Covid and some don't see the importance of attending school as much following being allowed to stay at home during Covid.

A focus for us is the attendance of children with a social worker. Education Welfare Support Officers are deployed to support these children, with appropriate links with Early Help and social workers. There is a good understanding amongst professionals about how education is a protective factor and being in an education setting can be a source of safety for children who are having adverse childhood experiences.

Schools are encouraged to take a 'support first' approach before considering legal action against parents whose children are not attending school, and from September are re-introducing parent contracts to positively influence parental behaviour regarding school attendance. However schools are taking legal action as a last resort, in the form of warning letters and penalty notices, as one of several strategies to improve attendance.

The hoped for positive momentum during the year has been achieved, and it is hoped will continue from September 2023 when the new Northumberland multi-agency attendance strategy is launched.

Children missing from education in Northumberland

There are a small proportion of children in the UK who are not on a school roll and are also not receiving adequate home education. These children are referred to as 'children missing education' (CME).

In the academic year 2021/22, only 10 children were reported missing from education in Northumberland, the lowest of any LA that had >0 children missing from education (N=23). Proportionally, this corresponds to 0.02% of children in Northumberland being missing from education in 2021/22 (DfE, 2023c). Unfortunately, 'Children missing education' is a new dataset collected by the government, and there is no open-source data published prior to 2021/2022.

As expected, the number of children being tracked through our CME process, identified as at risk of missing education, is higher this year than last year, although numbers towards the end of the academic year have started to fall. In June 2023, 799 children were being tracked, and 55% of those pupils have SEND.

The main reasons for CME continue to be non-attendance, attending alternative provision and the use of part time timetables. The latter comprises a combination of pupils struggling to engage in education, and those being re-integrated back into school and eventually full time timetables. This is a gradual process that is monitored through the monthly multi-agency CME tracking panel. Numbers of pupils who are CME are expected to remain high next year and follow the same pattern of peaking during the Spring term before reducing towards the end of the academic year.

The Principal Education Welfare Officer is a member of the Safer in Education sub-group (previously Schools' Engagement sub-group) and provides multi-agency partners intelligence regarding CME so that school attendance is understood as a protective factor and 'everyone's business' to promote it with the children and families we support.

Children with a Social Worker: The education of children with a social worker has a high profile across children's services and with schools. A successful Relationships Matter conference (a collaboration between the Virtual School, Be You and NEWST) launched a local authority approach to relational and trauma-informed practice and we are working to develop and embed this learning.

Training has been delivered to social workers and a Task and Finish group is developing resources and strategies to strengthen school-social care relationships. A performance monitoring framework has been developed, and case file audits are in place to evaluate the integration of barriers to education in children's safety plans.

Children in elective home education (EHA) in Northumberland

Another explanation as to why children and young people are not in school is that their caregivers have elected to home-school.

The DfE records these instances and publishes statistics on what they have named 'elective home education (EHE) every year. In the academic year 2021/22, 420 children were in EHE in Northumberland. This

corresponds to 0.91% of children in Northumberland, which is lower than the national average for elective home education (1.36%) (DfE, 2023b).

The number of children being electively home educated in Northumberland peaked in June 2023 at 467, the highest that has been recorded. The proportion of those children with SEND has however remained constant over the last 5 years at approximately 25% (with less than 10% having EHCPs). 201 children are new to EHE this academic year, and a small number have returned to school places.

Pathways into education, training and employment at age 16 for EHE learners are becoming better understood and indicate positive education outcomes for the majority of those young people.

In September 2022 the DfE introduced a termly reporting system for local authorities to gather intelligence about CME and EHE at a national level. This has provided us with helpful contextual data, although not yet validated. This return defines reasons for EHE which have now been adopted by the Education Welfare Service to provide more insight into why parents in Northumberland choose EHE for their children. At the same time we have undertaken our own deep dive investigation into EHE that concluded in August 2023 and the findings will be presented to the Safer in Education sub-group.

It will be a priority in 2023-24 to review the existing multi-agency EHE strategy, and recommendations from the current DfE consultation into CME/EHE will be adopted once they are published.

Operation Endeavour

Operation Endeavour is Northumberland's local agreement with Police to notify schools when child concern notifications are received regarding children going missing. The process works in the same way as Operation Encompass (re domestic abuse) and has allowed schools to act swiftly to safeguard children and better understand individual children's needs. The number of CCNs recorded through Operation Endeavour during this year has increased significantly, by 66%, and is indicative of the ongoing impact of Covid.

PRIORITY 9: DOMESTIC ABUSE

What is the data telling us?

- Continued increase in Domestic Violence, rising around national holidays and events.
- DA for polder people emerging theme from DHRs/SARs - joint T&F group with DALAPB
- Increase in DA incidents involving children and overall offences against children. Recent increase in repeat incidents, high risk cases, and those involving 16/17 year olds and ethnic minorities
- CPVA work demonstrates effective use of tools and training and work in this area feels ahead of others

Domestic Abuse continued to be a priority for NCASP and DA Partnership Board developing service provisions for advocacy and advice, specialist support for those with complex needs and protected characteristics, housing-related support, support for children and counselling and therapy.

NHCFT launched a young person's **sexual violence pathway**. This was developed in conjunction with specialist regional health services and provides a consistent supportive pathway to ensure that young people who are victims of sexual violence receive a consistent and robust package of support and care.

- NHCFT have another IDVA now trained (taking total to 2).
- Outreach work has been undertaken by our IDVA/ISVA to ensure that services in rural areas are aware of indicators of DA and CPVA and the pathways to follow.

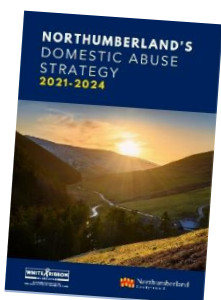
During the 16 days of Action and other key events (e.g. World Cup) NHCFT undertook extensive awareness raising among our workforce and the public - including a projection onto the exterior of our NSECH site, Social Media posts, Diva Walk.

At NHCFT's annual safeguarding conference, we delivered a session on domestic abuse (violence against women and girls) and the link to Terrorism and the INCEL movement which was well received and then cascaded to other partner agencies.

Domestic Abuse Summit

The DA Local Partnership Board facilitated a multi agency domestic abuse summit in October 2022 to review the progress of the strategy along with consulting on the priorities. Challenges identified included ensuring the availability of resources, staffing levels and managing waiting lists.

In line with the Local Authority commitment to ending violence against women and girls and recognizing its White Ribbon Accreditation, the [DA Strategy](#) sets out its vision:



'Northumberland is a county committed to having a zero-tolerance approach to domestic abuse and sexual violence. Everyone matters and for that reason our vision is to make it everyone's business to help prevent and put a stop to domestic abuse and sexual violence in the county. We will listen and learn from victims, survivors and their children. We will be proactive, provide support and raise awareness in our communities. We will seek to change culture. Our vision is a vision for all and by working together we can make a difference.'

Northumberland have completed a Domestic Abuse Needs assessment to sit alongside our DA Strategy. There has been a particular focus on rural areas within the North and West of the locality along with a focus on adult counselling.

We have an **integrated Domestic Abuse service** for support in Northumberland.. [#YouAreNotAlone](#) visit: <http://nland.uk/DomesticAbuse>. Download: [POSTER: Northumberland Integrated Domestic Abuse Support Service](#)

White Ribbon Accreditation

The Northumberland White Ribbon steering group met in November 2022 to review year one of the three-year plan.

A number of achievements were identified..

- Established network of White Ribbon Ambassadors and Champions.
- Domestic Abuse services recommissioned from 1st April 2022, including a Changing Behaviour service.
- A timetable of events for the 16 days of action to raise awareness of domestic abuse, and violence against women and girls, and the support available.
- Domestic Abuse and Child to Parent Violence and Abuse training strategy in place.
- White Ribbon Ambassador and Champion network events.
- A Northumberland Education padlet platform of regularly updated and quality assured teaching resources for schools to address themes such as gender-based violence, safe and respectful relationships, sexual abuse and harassment in place

An overview of year two priorities..

- Development of resources for White Ribbon Ambassadors and Champions, with regular opportunities for feedback.
- Promote White Ribbon accreditation to local partners, groups, and businesses, and include as an option within the social value framework for commissioned services.
- Ongoing development and delivery of the training offer.
- Develop confidence in the school's workforce to recognise, respond and incorporate themes relating to sexual harassment and abuse into teaching and learning cross the curriculum and visibly within PSHE.
- Working in partnership with the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner to improve women's safety in public places.

CNTW: Domestic Violence training package has been developed by Named Nurses informed by learning from local reviews. Over 300 staff have accessed the training so far, and this will continue to be rolled out. We have shared the learning from Domestic Homicide Reviews undertaken within the year with particular focus on addiction services who have received the Trust DV training. The impact has been an improved understanding of recognizing and responding to domestic abuse concerns.

Operation Encompass

Continues to be co-ordinated by the Virtual School's Schools' Safeguarding Team and was monitored through the Schools' Engagement sub-group. CCNs for children witnessing or experiencing domestic abuse remain high (slightly higher than last year) following the pandemic.

Schools value this protocol. An indication of this is that **69** Northumberland schools were inspected by Ofsted during the academic year and only one was judged to be ineffective for safeguarding (emergency support measures are in place for this school as required by the DfE and NCASP).

'No Excuse for Domestic Abuse'.

An intensive engagement initiative took place in partnership with the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC) to coincide with the FIFA World Cup, International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women and the Christmas period. Northumbria Police aimed to target DA perpetrators and engaged with a group of perpetrators who participate in behaviour change via a local DA support service, to seek feedback on proposed social media content.

The force's Communications & Engagement Team advised that interaction with social media content was high and public feedback positive.

Child to parent violence (CPVA)

CPVA project uses therapeutic approaches to engage parents in a program of work which aims to change their response to their child, in turn changing the child's behaviors. It can include physical violence from a child to a parent or other behaviors like damage to property, emotional abuse or financial abuse.

Parents are often reluctant to discuss the abuse due to fear of being blamed or misunderstood by professionals, alongside the risk of their child being criminalized. CPVA overlaps with the victim perpetrator dynamic and is therefore a complex area of work. The underlying causes for CPVA are often misunderstood.

The project has been successful in reducing violence in the home, improving communication and reducing the need for Police involvement. As the project is based in YJS the team can complete OOC assessments where CPVA is the main issue. This allows a holistic assessment with interventions which reframe ideas around offending. Since the project was established, **97** cases have progressed.

Child to parent violence and abuse (CPVA) continues to be embedded within Northumberland with a clear pathway in place whereby cases are identified and discussed between Adult Safeguarding and Children’s Safeguarding within the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub. The partnership continues to be committed to raising awareness of a coordinated approach in response to CPVA though data tells us that identification is improving as reported issues have increased highlighting:

- ❑ There is a 70-30% gender split (male: female)
- ❑ The majority of young people referred are aged 11-15 years

A multi-agency audit was completed via the CPVA steering group and a multi-agency action plan was devised, actioned and reviewed. The impact of the CPVA training toolkit has been evaluated and the quantitative and qualitative evidence showed that it has been effective in supporting good practice. CPVA briefings continue to be delivered on a virtual basis to a multi-agency audience.

Case Study

Narrative and impact of intervention of CPVA worker:

[YP] was referred to the service for showing violence and aggression towards his parents and damaging the family home. He was showing controlling behaviours and has even threatened his dad with a knife. Mum had become very fearful of [YP]. I completed NVR with both parents with a lot of focus on parental presence empowering them to challenge [YP’s] behaviours in a more considered and supportive way, not putting in place punitive consequences and boundaries that the parents were unable to keep.

I completed work with [YP] around expressing his emotions in a different way and positive friendships. It was noticed that [YP’s] behaviour would heighten when certain friends were around.

After all work was completed, [YP] had a new friendship group and was engaging back in education. Parents both felt more empowered and reported a much more settled home with no more damage to the property.

Feedback from young person and family about the intervention:

- “Helped me with my anger” - young person
- “How to use different ways of dealing with my child's anger issues and ways of coping” – parent/carer
- “It’s great to help families out with children with challenging behaviour” – parent/carer

Example of good practice: Great communication between CPVA team and youth justice allocated worker.

OTHER UPDATES..

CHILD EXPLOITATION



National Child Exploitation Awareness Day 2023 (#CEADay23) – 18th March 2023

A briefing was circulated across NCASP to raise awareness and encourage everyone to think, spot and speak out against abuse - [National Child Exploitation Awareness Day 2023 - NCASP Briefing](#).

We also took part in the #HelpingHands social media campaign.

Northumbria Police continue to support any victims of sexual exploitation and recognise the long-term impact offending of this nature can have on victims. Specially trained officers from CAP are deployed to respond to reports of this nature. An example of where this approach supported the model in Northumberland is a male who was recently convicted of numerous historical sexual offences resulting in a

25-year sentence. This was a testament to the patience and work put in by dedicated officers who were able to support the victims through an arduous process.

On National CEA Day, we took the opportunity to highlight the importance of using appropriate language and terminology when discussing children and young people strengthening our commitment to capture the voice of the child.

North East Learning Session - Child Financial Exploitation - October 2022

The Children's Society ran an online learning session⁷ in the North East which was attended by 375 participants, including frontline practitioners (such as Social Workers, Probation Officers and Family Workers) and senior managers. Some of the key findings and insights from this session are presented in this report: [Key findings from learning session](#).

Missing and Exploitation support sits within the Northumberland Adolescent Service with far reaching input across the county. Input includes practical responses to missing episodes in the form of Return Home Interviews (RHI). Exploitation support is multi-faceted including practical 1:1 intervention with young people, consultations for Social Care and Early Help, training, contribution to wider service delivery including multi-agency groups.

Missing, Slavery, Exploitation and Trafficking Group (or MSET), coordinates and ensures the effectiveness of multi-agency arrangements for safeguarding children and young people who go missing or are at risk of exploitation. MSET is not about care planning, partners are encouraged to manage risk within existing multi-agency safeguarding structures prior to escalation to the MSET with the meeting offering added value to reduce risk (alongside wider contextual disruption of perpetrators and places) and provide oversight of patterns and trends

The MSET covers children and those young people in transition to adulthood. The meeting is chaired by Northumbria Police and co-chaired by Senior Management from Children's Social Care.

The Strategic Exploitation Group receives an annual report (for scrutiny and assurance) about the local offer of support and risk management. The annual report provides **data** (and supporting narrative), highlights **key issues and emerging themes**, and **identified actions**.

Some key issues and emerging themes:

- ❑ increase in the use of the [National Referral Mechanism \(NRM\)](#) for young people. It is believed that recent training has increased staff awareness, which is the cause of this increase rather than an increase in trafficking.
- ❑ **Additional Needs** - increase in young people with additional needs at risk of exploitation/going missing. ADHD, ASD and Dyslexia have all be discussed in RHI's. This has raised a discussion around hidden disabilities and the importance of early intervention. ELKLAN training has been delivered to a large proportion of RHI workers.
- ❑ Increase in **weapons related offending** in the past 12 months (from 14 in 2021 to 21 in 2022). We see a sharp rise around the time of serious incidents in the county. For example, following the murder of a young person, in the west of the county, 4 offences for carrying offensive weapons were reported by schools and Police in one weekend. A key theme for this type of offence is younger children displaying curiosity in weapons with no establish intent to use. Diversion and prevention efforts are managed via the Youth Justice Service.

⁷ [Slides from session](#)

- ❑ **Online Exploitation** – increased use of screentime has coincided with an increase in reports of online grooming, sharing and distribution of indecent images. Parents also tell us they do not always feel well equipped with sound knowledge of technology to monitor and disrupt these concerns. The police have led on a campaign with schools to raise awareness
- ❑ Continued increase in girls being referred for exploitation support, predominately where there are concerns around online communication and relationships. In addition, we have noticed an increase through missing episodes of girls being reported missing together. To support with this, a successful bid was submitted to the Home Office, and (through the Young Women and Girls Fund) we have secured a young women’s worker. This role is to work with young women and girls who are at risk of exploitation and/or gang related harm. Within the first two months seven young women were receiving one to one support from the worker.
- ❑ Prominent areas for substance misuse continue to be focused in the south-east. The substances most frequently reported are Alcohol and Cannabis. Nitrous oxide (NOS) cannisters continue to be found in areas known for youth congregation (i.e parks).

A number of police investigation to address specific concerns around organized crime are ongoing across our region.

Police Harm Reduction Team have built and maintain close links with the Missing From Home Coordinators, and the LA with daily contact to share information on repeat and concerning missing people (children and adults). This enables more effective response to missing people at an operational level. It also allows professional challenge to decision making partners ensuring incidents are dealt with applying appropriate risk rationale.

Contextual safeguarding training has been offered to all Social Workers and Managers within Northumberland County Council. Local partner agencies including fire service, police and housing were also in attendance. We are in the early stages of adopting this approach in Northumberland and a pathway (which considers young people within their own contexts as well as harm outside of the home) has been developed and will be piloted soon.

There is a Regional Contextual Safeguarding Board, which is focussed on driving this approach forward regionally.

LOCAL AUTHORITY DESIGNATED OFFICER (LADO)

The role of LADO is set out in statutory guidance⁸.

Summary

Over the past reporting year, referrals made to LADO have increased by **112.6%** with the complexity also increasing. In response to this increase, the decision was made to make the LADO a standalone bespoke role.

We are seeing the impact of LADO awareness sessions being delivered to different agencies, this is reflected in the increase in referrals. Understanding of the referral criteria has been strengthened across agencies and the quality of referrals is improving, resulting in more robust information being gathered (in terms of referral information). The highest number of referrals to LADO continue to be from children’s social care (this category includes referrals from children’s homes). There has been an increase in referrals regarding volunteers or adults who are working across multiple settings.

⁸ [Chapter 2: Organisational responsibilities \(workingtogetheronline.co.uk\)](#)

The impact of covid on services working practices and adult's own coping mechanisms continues to be a key theme. The highest referral category type is 'Physical' with a noted increase in the 'Online' category being used (with many online concerns linked to 'Sexual' category).

Areas for further development include:

- ❑ Continuing to improve use of children's social care recording system
- ❑ Developing forms for recording and reporting purposes.
- ❑ Continuing to offer LADO awareness sessions (to as many services as possible) to ensure process for managing allegations is shared and understood.

See: [Local Authority Designated Officer \(LADO\) - Information Sheet and Flowchart](#)

LEARNING FROM REVIEWS

Our case reviews are adequately resourced to enhance learning, to embrace contextual as well as individual and family concerns and to involve 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 toolkit has been designed to be used as a reference tool and the review stages have been mapped against national and regional Quality Markers. 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](#)

LEARNING FROM SAFEGUARDING ADULT REVIEWS

In accordance with the Care Act 2014 Safeguarding Adult Boards have a statutory duty to carry out Safeguarding Adults Reviews (SARs). 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 concern about how the partner agencies have worked together to safeguard the adult.

During 2022-23 Northumberland have not undertaken any SARs however the safeguarding Adult Review Group (SARG) has considered 6 referrals in this period. Three of these cases are awaiting a decision by the group whether they meet the criteria and these decisions will be made imminently. The remaining three cases did not meet the criteria for a SAR however in two instances it was determined that some multi-agency lessons could be learned and a Lessons Learnt exercise is currently being undertaken and will be reported in next year's report.

LEARNING REVIEWS

Two Learning Reviews were undertaken in 2021-22 and we can now update on their findings:

Learning from 'Harry'

A Safeguarding Learning Review was commissioned by both the Northumberland Safeguarding Adults Board and the Northumberland Strategic Safeguarding Partnership following the death of Harry, age 19. The aim of the review was to highlight good practice and identify opportunities for learning from the way that agencies worked together to support Harry. This was a joint Children and Adults Learning Review.

A [7-minute guide](#) was developed and shared for practice learning.

Learning from 'Jill'

Whilst the Safeguarding Adults Review Committee (SARC) decided that the SAR criteria had not been met for Jill, the circumstances potentially identified a number of opportunities for multi-agency learning and therefore warranted a Learning Review.

The purpose of the Safeguarding Adults Learning Review was not to apportion blame but to promote effective learning and improvement action plan for future interventions. The aim is that lessons can be learnt from the case, and those lessons can be applied to future cases.

A [7-minute guide](#) was developed and shared for practice learning.

Summary of themes from reviews:



The Safeguarding Adult Review Group (SARG) collates the findings from Safeguarding Adults Reviews (including learning reviews), evaluates the learning/findings, and provides further audit and scrutiny to gain a broader view of the findings on behalf of NCASP. The group also oversees and monitors recommendations and action plans.

Findings from all reviews are shared with the Practice Learning Group to consider the implications for training/procedures, and how learning will be shared across the partnership.

FOCUS ON.. MENTAL CAPACITY ACT

Reviews locally, regionally, and nationally continue to highlight Mental Capacity Act (MCA) as area of challenge for partner agencies. Northumberland Safeguarding Adults Board published a Safeguarding Adults Review in 2019 which included key learning in relation to the application of the MCA. This has also continued to be a recurring theme in subsequent Learning reviews as highlighted above.

NCASP has a key role in ensuring that learning from these reviews is embedded in front-line practice and with the aim of preventing recurring learning being identified in subsequent reviews.

Mental Capacity Act (adults) is a key area of work for NCASP. Complex Mental Health is also one of our priorities – see [Strategic Plan 2023-2026](#)

A working group has been established with the aim of achieving the following:

- Ensure that learning from Reviews where MCA has been highlighted, is embedded in front-line practice
- Ensure that practitioners have a thorough understand of MCA and are confident in its practical application
- Empower staff to be confident in their decision making
- Ensure that MCA is appropriately applied during transition from children to adult services where applicable

The North East SAR Champions group is a collaborative partnership committed to ensuring that Learning from SARS and other enquiries is shared across the North East Area.

In 2022-23 the group have undertaken the following activity:

SARs Links to Parallel Processes (including LeDeR)

- ICB developing work - very early stages but will include effective collaboration across reviews in terms of reducing repetition and sharing of learning.
- SAR champions were invited to have conversation with their local ICB reps to determine whether this can be replicated across the region.

Independent Reviewer Training

- Key points highlighted were: lack of experienced reviewers, duplication of learning, appropriateness of reports, other methodologies for reviews (learning)

Rapid Review

- SCIE have developed SAR in Rapid Time training - methodology could be adopted but still requires substantial commitment in terms of time and resources.
- Some Rapid Reviews conducted across the region will be uploaded to the SAR Library (regional).

SAR / Review Learning Toolkit

- Work continues to develop the SAR / Review methodology toolkit held in the NE SAR Library.

SAR Spotlight

- Provides an opportunity to share updates and highlight any emerging themes / learning.
- A key issue highlighted in 2022-23 is **Fire Deaths** where the common themes are Immobility, Smoking, and Self Neglect.
- task and finish set up (by North Tyneside) with regional representation (aims to establish a regional approach).

Quality Markers

- SAR champions have created the NE Quality Marker Checklist with the aim of providing a consistent approach to producing good high-quality SARs.

LEARNING FROM CHILD SAFEGUARDING PRACTICE REVIEWS

Serious Incident Notifications (SINs)

The [LCSPR framework](#) has recently been updated to incorporate the [Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel's guidance for safeguarding partners](#). This has strengthened understanding of the criteria for Serious Child Safeguarding incidents and the rapid review process. There is an effective system in place for the notification of all incidents meeting the criteria and a clear process for rapid reviews to be held. This process has been implemented and is overseen by the NCASP business manager. Partners and relevant agencies understand the purpose and are fully engaged with (and contribute to) rapid reviews and LCSPRs.

Well-conducted rapid reviews (which identify immediate learning) avoid the need for an additional lengthy review which may result in only limited additional learning. However, where a case is particularly complex,

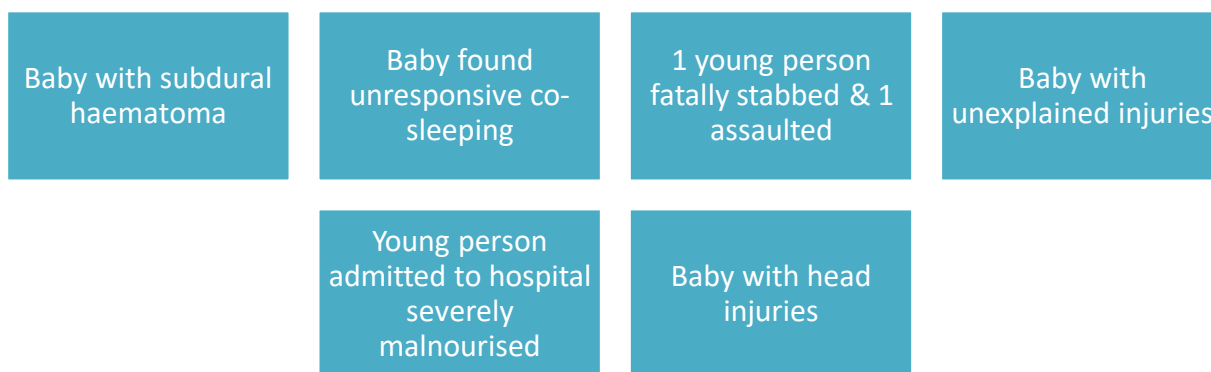
or the potential for further learning is identified, a LCSPR will be considered. The [LSCPR Framework and Practice Guidance](#) sets out the process and ensures consistency, whilst allowing flexibility with methodology.

There has been an increase in serious cases being notified, these have been reviewed and agreed to be appropriate referrals. We have noted increase in numbers of under 1s with injuries to babies and have set up a task and finish group to look at the cases and consider any wider determining factors. The publication of CSPR Panels data has also prompted regional discussions.

RAPID REVIEWS & CHILD SAFEGUARDING PRACTICE REVIEWS

A **Rapid Review** meeting is convened following notification of a Serious Incident⁹. All agencies who have (or had) involvement with the child or family are required to contribute to the Rapid Review and attend the meeting.

During this reporting period, we have submitted **6** SINS. Rapid reviews were held for all cases, with learning identified and acted upon. A Local Child Safeguarding Practice Review (LCSPR) recommended for one case (Sophia). We were also involved with Rapid Review undertaken by Leeds.



The national panel have agreed with all of our recommendations and have commended our rapid reviews for being well written with clear action plans. Ongoing work and actions have continued in relation to previous reviews. We completed a joint Children and Adults Learning Review (see [learning from Harry](#)).

LOCAL CHILD SAFEGUARDING PRACTICE REVIEW – SOPHIA

We have appointed a Lead Reviewer who is being supported by a multi-agency review team. The lead reviewer is from within our own system so we have been able to progress quickly. **Sophia is being supported to be involved with review** (and chose the pseudonym).

This review is using an [Appreciative Inquiry](#) (AI) approach. As an approach, AI does not apportion blame. It embraces professional curiosity and challenge, by asking open questions about what worked well alongside what might and should be different in the future. Practitioners learning event is scheduled for October after which a report will be drafted and considered. The aim is to have final report signed off and published by end of Jan 24.

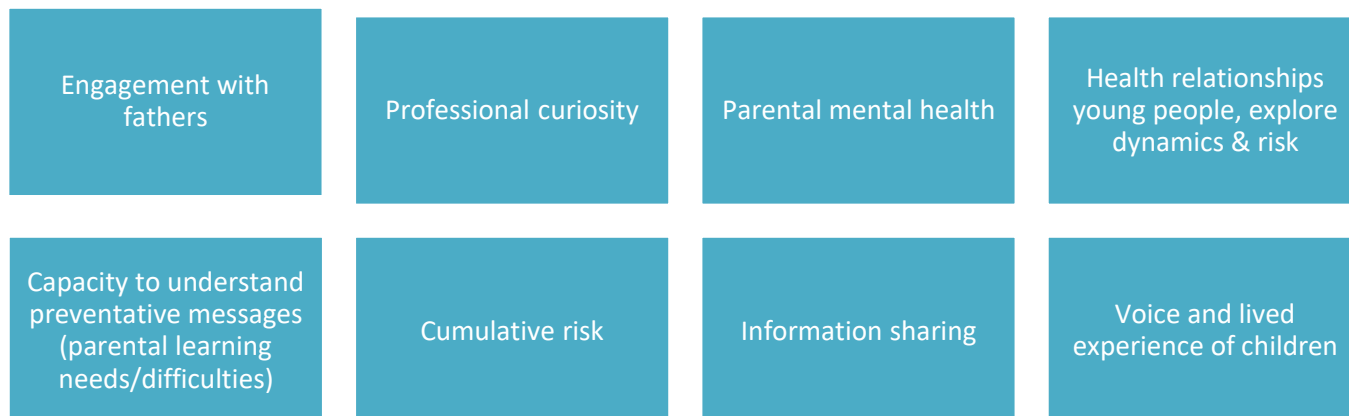
A [Voice and Lived Experience of a Child - Factsheet](#) has been developed (and shared) following learning identified by rapid review.

Reflective learning workshops

There have been 2 reflective learning workshops for cases which did not reach the criteria for SIN however partners agreed these cases considered further reflection to identify any learning and good practice.

⁹ [Chapter 4: Improving child protection and safeguarding practice workingtogetheronline.co.uk](#)

Summary of themes from all reviews:



The Child Safeguarding Practice Review Group (CSPRG) collates the findings from LCSPRs (including rapid reviews), evaluates the learning/findings, and provides further audit and scrutiny to gain a broader view of the findings on behalf of NCASP. The group also oversees and monitors recommendations and action plans.

Findings from all reviews are shared with the Practice Learning Group to consider the implications for training/procedures, and how learning will be shared across the partnership.

Some briefings developed following learning from reviews:

- [Voice and Lived Experience of a Child - Factsheet](#)
- [Self Harm \(CYP\)](#)
- [Transitional Safeguarding](#)
- [Professional Curiosity](#)
- [Trauma Informed Practice](#)

LEARNING FROM OTHER REVIEWS

All national reviews and regional case reviews are discussed at NCASP and any learning relevant for Northumberland is implemented. This includes reviewing our procedures and training offer and making changes, where necessary. As we share regional safeguarding procedures, we can make sure this is implemented across the six areas.

An example of this is the national panels review re bruising in immobile babies. We reviewed our pathway which already reflected good practice highlighted in the review, and we made sure this was covered in training. The National CSPR Panel's reviews are also used to inform learning for our rapid reviews (where relevant).

LEARNING FROM MULTI AGENCY AUDITS

We carried out a number of multi-agency audits during this period. Those linked to our priorities have been included in the relevant sections above.

MULTI AGENCY ANALYSIS OF THE EFFECTIVENESS OF CORE GROUPS

As a result of a learning review (Daniel), one of the actions identified was to explore this theme and to give reassurance to the partnership.

This audit was completed to explore whether the use of core groups was effective in our child protection systems. The findings outlined were only a random sample of cases that only covered the first three months of there being a child protection plan in place. The themes that have been identified however give a snapshot of practice within this framework in Northumberland and therefore analysis needs to incorporate these patterns and themes.

In most of the cases seen, the relevant agencies were invited to Initial Child Protection Conferences and whilst they were sometimes assigned tasks within a plan, the use of first names in some instances may have been confusing not only for the core group but also for parents. Plans were not always contained within agencies records and were seen as variable in quality which may impact on the understanding and implementation of actions identified.

Core group meetings in the main were held however agencies were not always invited and there was no evidence from any agency that the focus was on the plan and identifying whether actions were being progressed. Core groups were seen to be a general update and minutes of these meetings were not always received by other agencies and the process around this was unclear within records. There was however some evidence of challenge within core groups.

What was of concern was that GPs were not always invited to ICPCs and reports were not always being completed, however there has already been some work completed between the ICB and the Safeguarding Unit and improvement has already been noted in these areas.

In conclusion, this audit highlighted a number of areas that could be strengthened and within this, we need to be mindful of the families we are working with and if plans are vague and unclear and child protection processes are not always being followed (core groups not always being held and appropriate agencies not always being invited) then it could be argued that this may set the families up to fail.

The purpose of this audit was to explore the effectiveness of core groups, and this has been a real learning opportunity for agencies and some measures have already been put in place to improve the effectiveness.

ANALYSIS FROM MULTI-AGENCY AUDIT OF THE MULTI-AGENCY SAFEGUARDING HUB (MASH)

What is working well? (Children and Adults)

- Good sample size with 10 adult and children's cases audited by a good mix of partner agencies.
- In all cases partner agencies agreed that the worry met the threshold for partner agency information gathering.
- In 8 of the 10 cases, RAG rating was agreed as appropriate. (Children's)
- In 10 cases RAG rating was agreed for all as appropriate (Adult's)
- In all cases partner agency research is said to be clear, relevant and in the right boxes. Evidencing training to partner agencies has been affective
- In all cases partner agency research is said to be well pulled together by children's services. There was some really helpful feedback that came alongside this for how we might strengthen this even further.
- Strong analysis identified in Adult's MASH with clear safety planning and easy to establish what was happening next
- In half of the children's cases, the views of the child was heard. We are committed to hearing every child's voice but not every child needs a same day visit and at times we are not able to contact the family on the same day. In all cases where the child's voice was not heard that day (as it was assessed as not being needed imminently for safety) they were heard within the assessment that followed.

- In the majority of the cases for adults, the clients views were achieved. Rationale was provided on the cases where the client was not spoken with and attempts made to speak with them.

Children's: The audit narratives said lots of really positive things like..

- good quality pulling together of information
- information was clear, relevant and easy to read
- I knew exactly what the plan was and agreed with this

If the case was not going for strategy there was clear rationale and evidence of multi-professional discussion. Information sharing evident and good communication seen throughout..

- Can see that MASH pulls together all the information to ensure that opportunities to keep children safe are not missed
- clear oversight seen
- this work has really highlighted how well MASH works and all the good quality multi-professional working that happens

Partner comments about Adult MASH..

- Good information sharing
- Clear processes
- Clear decision making
- Clear identification of harm
- Good analysis from social workers and decision makers
- Majority of MASH had no gaps in information
- Limited use of abbreviations or jargon and information is clear to read
- Good partner agency contributions
- Management oversight is really helpful to explain how decisions are being reached
- Northumberland Threshold tool highlighted within rationale and decisions
- Process flows through MASH form
- Strategy discussions held on each MASH episode

Partner agencies commented that they like that children's services do a family and relationships section so they understand who everyone is, where they live, who they live with and what contact they have with the children. They also commented that the use of headings and bullet points helped them to understand the information and seems to keep everyone focused.

What are we worried about?

Children's:

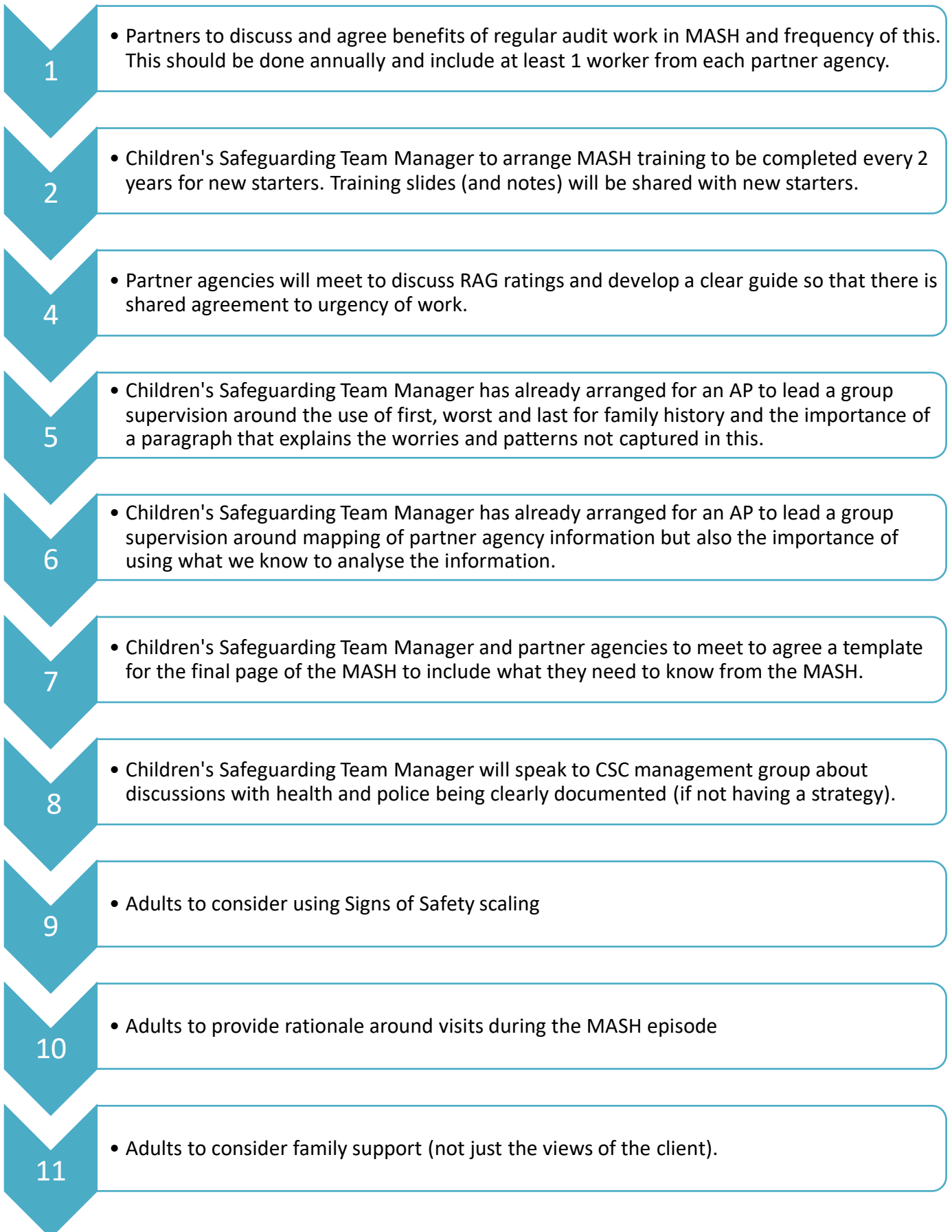
- Importance of historical information – Signs of Safety (First/Worst/Last) might not always fully capture the history.
- Disagreement about RAG rating - partner agencies should meet to review the RAG rating criteria.
- Clear safety plans – a template with headings (like we have for partner agencies) may help.
- Outcome of social worker's visit not always known (when case closed).

Adults:

- Scaling in line with Children's to be considered
- Consider how family can support in safety planning

- ❑ Rationale around visits not being completed needs to be clearer
- ❑ Voice of the family not just the client not consistently gathered during the MASH

Next Steps:



Child Death Reviews

There is a statutory requirement¹⁰ for Child Death Review Partners¹¹ to ensure arrangements are in place to carry out child death reviews, including the establishment of a CDOP. The merged CDOP panel (North and South of Tyne) has been functioning for three years. CDOP met 10 times (between April 2022 - March 2023)

[Child Death Overview Panel – Annual Report \(2022-2023\)](#)

This is the third annual report of the joint N&S Tyne CDOP, which contains a summary of the activity carried out by the panel across the 6 LA areas represented: Northumberland, North Tyneside, Newcastle, Gateshead, South Tyneside and Sunderland.

In 2022/23 there were a total of **106 child death notifications** (compared to 91 last year). 14 (13%) notifications for Northumberland (19 last year). The highest number of child deaths were below the age of 27 days. A child is most at risk of death within the first year of life, and particularly within the first 27 days of life. **Child death reviews:** The panel reviewed and closed 103 cases in 2022/23 (compared with 73 cases last year), 20 (19%) for Northumberland.

The number of cases notified to the CDOP differs from the number of cases which the panel reviews during a given year as the child death review process, prior to the CDOP meeting, can take several months, particularly if there are police or coronial processes to be concluded.

It is worth noting that the child death process also creates an opportunity at the meetings held before the panel review (Joint Agency Response Meetings, Morbidity and Mortality and Child Death Review Meetings) for services to identify other smaller, micro-changes to practice, e.g. a need for workplace training or amendments to internal policies and procedures.

See: [CDOP Annual Report 2022-2023](#) for more information, including examples of modifiable factors and action taken to reduce child deaths.

MULTI-AGENCY TRAINING & IMPACT EVALUATION

Annual Reports on Multi-Agency Training (April 2022 – March 2023):

- [Safeguarding Children](#)
- [Safeguarding Adults](#)
- [Early Help and Prevention](#)
- [Children's Social Care](#)
- [Domestic Abuse](#)

Evaluation and Impact reports:

- [Trauma Informed Practice - Training Impact Evaluation](#)
- [Child to Parent Violence and Abuse \(CPVA\) Toolkit Training: Impact Evaluation](#)
- [Change Star Training Review](#)
- [Talking Toolkit - Project Evaluation](#)

- [Trauma informed practice] This is the most thought-provoking training course I have attended and I have been a social worker for many years. The use of VIRTUAL REALITY and you being that person is such a

¹⁰ [Child Death Review Statutory and Operational Guidance / Chapter 5 of Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018](#)

¹¹ Local Authority & ICB (6 Local Authorities and 1 ICB in our footprint)

strong way of feeling someone's lived experience. It was emotive, emotionally exhausting but so powerful. It has shaped my perspective, I cannot recommend this type of training enough..

- [Trauma informed practice] I understand the mechanism of trauma better now, and I can see the ways it has been affecting me, and what I could be doing about it now. If I can care for myself better, I will be able to respond better to those I work with.
- [talking toolkit] it made me think more creatively, gave me ideas and confidence to use more interactive activities'
- [CPVA toolkit] The feedback from the triangles was really positive. Especially from mam, she totally understood the change in family dynamic when using a visual tool.

CNTW have made substantial progress rolling out level 3 training across the organisation. The Academy continues to offer this training on a weekly basis (via Microsoft Teams) to ensure consistent compliance. This has resulted in a sustained increase in safeguarding reporting which demonstrates an increased awareness of safeguarding and public protection issues in Trust staff. A Vulnerability not age awareness session is being developed.

SOME CASE EXAMPLES HIGHLIGHTING MULTI-AGENCY WORKING

Case Study A

A complex adult patient spanning multiple agencies regarding, safeguarding, mental health, MCA, exploitation, homelessness and frequent attends with NEAS, Police and NHS. Due to the number of agencies involved the patient often felt disillusioned with the support they are being provided as it wasn't joined up and was therefore contacting multiple agencies seeking support. Professionals felt frustrated due to the lack of communication between agencies and any progress for the patient, but also the impact the contact was having on their and other service resources.

NHCFT chaired several meetings with multiple agencies (LA, NHCFT, CNTW, NEAS, Police, probation and third sector agencies) to determine the best way to support the patient and manage the presentation and attends at services. A bespoke management and support plan was developed, in conjunction with the patient, for agencies to refer to which defined for them how to best to respond and support the patients when they were contacting and attending services. This subsequently redirected services into a more proactive and consistent approach and allowed services to understand the most updated needs for that patient.

This resulted in the patient feeling more secure and a reduction in attends for all services, which has been maintained.

Case Study B

An elder of the Gypsy, Roma and Traveller (GRT) community passed away and disputes arose within the family regarding the Will and arrangements for the funeral. This escalated into threats of violence and damage and resulted in the Police attending and a family moving from the location temporarily.

The family groups involved included vulnerable adults and a child aged 12. Multi-agency work, involving NCC Housing Operations, Homelessness & Housing Options and GRT Liaison as well Childrens Social Care and Northumbria Police, enabled the families at risk to gain an offer of temporary accommodation and support.

The Police neighbourhood team put a patrol plan in place around the location to deter any potential for disorder. A multi-agency safeguarding meeting was held, Children's Services took the lead on safeguarding of the child, with meetings facilitated with the child's mother, the plan being to suggest safe accommodation for the child and one of either the parents or elder sibling in the short term.

Through proactive, collaborative working across all agencies, a young person and their family was safeguarded from an escalating situation.

EARLY HELP / FAMILY HUBS – YOUNG PEOPLE’S VIEWS INFLUENCING SERVICE DEVELOPMENT

Family hubs in localities consulted with young people asking questions to unpick what they felt young people would benefit from in the community in their area, as a result some family hubs have introduced:

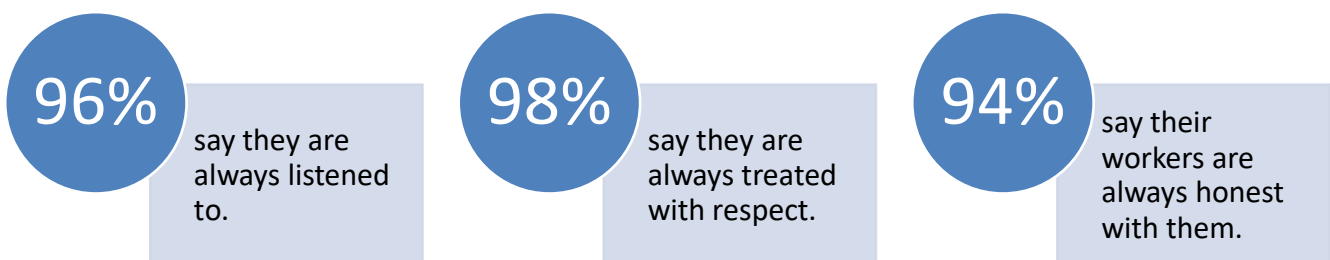
- ❑ drop in for young people (south-east) to help provide a safe, stimulating enjoyable environment which included a sensory room for young people and social education.
- ❑ After school group (central) in partnership with Learning Hive and Full Circle Food to provide learning opportunities for parents while children engage in arts and crafts and the whole family are supported to cook and healthy food.
- ❑ Family Help and Family hub staff collaborate with agencies/schools and partners to ensure a holistic approach in combating issues such as bullying, exploitation, self harm and social media.
- ❑ Family Hub and Family Help staff work closely with parents and caregivers to ensure they are provided with support and guidance to provide the best start in life and support their child with their emotional development and look out for worry indicators.
- ❑ 4 staff trained to be children’s well being practitioners who receive clinical supervision from Primary Mental Health Service managers.
- ❑ Staff trained across the 0 – 19 Health service and Family Help / hubs to co- deliver Relax kids and Charge up emotional well being group support for young people
- ❑ Primary Mental Health Workers (PMHWs) based in the family hubs so Children and young people who need more targeted wellbeing support can receive this in a warm and friendly family hub in their own community.

NORTHUMBERLAND ADOLESCENT’S SERVICE (NAS) - YOUNG PEOPLE’S FEEDBACK

Since the Young People’s Feedback Form went live in January 2021 there have been a total of 420 responses from Young People, Parents/Carers and Professionals. There were a total of 236 responses received during the May 2022 – April 2023 period. This equates to a 123% increase in responses on the previous year.

The feedback form asks young people to rate the overall service they have received out of five, with one being “Poor” and five being “Brilliant”. Over the 12-month period the average score was 4.57 out of 5. This highlights that most young people are happy with the service they are receiving.

The feedback highlighted a number of Key points:



The Feedback form also provide young and families an opportunity to comment on what has worked well for them. Below are a number of quotes and comments made during the past few months:

- *“16 plus and the support workers.. have supported me with understanding independence and also supported me with any worries i have had and been there to answer any questions i have asked the best they could. They've helped me gain confidence in my independent life skills.”*
- *“(Workers name) helped me realise the important things in life. She never once told me to stop, she advised me otherwise and lead me in the right direction. (workers name) showed me she cared and one of the main reasons I engaged was because she showed me she cares and she does the job she does because she wants to help. I couldn't be more grateful for everything she has done and helped me with. She has*

watched and help me grow from an immature 14 year old girl who thought drugs and alcohol were fun, to a young mother. She forever tells me how proud she is, I think so much of her and will forever be grateful for everything because I wouldn't be where I am without her."

- *"Helped me in understanding the opportunity's I have and about moving into somewhere on my own."*
- *"They have helped me become more confident in speaking out about issues that are important to me."*
- *"It was amazing and helped a lot they provide lots of opportunities to do stuff I would never have been able to do without the option. VMC is a great way to connect with friends and it's also a great way to help other young people to get through their struggles."*
- *"The accommodation team were very adept at responding to my problems and working with me to find appropriate solutions."*

CHILDREN'S VOICES PILOT – RESEARCH PROJECT (DFE FUNDED)

- We are currently working with North Tyneside to contribute to research around highlighting the child's voice within records and the use of gathering feedback wherever possible and appropriate to do so.
- The staff have embraced this and have utilised the equipment to more effectively record interventions in 'real time'.
- This has given opportunities to utilise a different way of working and has contributed to a further strengthening of understanding from children and young people about intervention in all cohorts.
- The next steps are currently being explored as the pilot ends at the end of September.

FEEDBACK FROM PARTNERS..

We asked partners..

What has *worked well* over the year?

- Involvement in the review of partnership arrangements
- Collaboration to identify priorities going forward
- Improved status of education in refreshed arrangements
- Appointment of business managers and re-instatement of business groups.
- The development of the new NCASP structure and the setting of the new priorities under this new structure offers a more proactive and streamlined approach, an example being areas of concern which have been identified in subgroups led to the development of task and finish group to further explore these areas. Thus, offering the opportunity to identify, assess and evaluate impact.
- The identification of early help measures through collaborative working within our MASH facilities. This area of business is held up as a model across the country for best practice this needs to be built on moving forward.
- Sharing of ideas and things that have worked well, whilst not being afraid to challenge each other to ensure that progress is made.

Practice Days and quality assurance activity has identified good multi agency working and contribution to outcomes (for children, adults and families) as well as opportunities for constructive challenge when required, which has strengthened working relationships across the partnership.

Development of the family hubs:

- ✓ Strengthened relationships with health teams – 0 19 Service, midwifery, Primary Mental health
- ✓ Birth registrations now routinely carried out in the family hubs which supports with the hubs being accessible for all

- ✓ Early Help education team is strengthening links with schools. Since the introduction of this team there has been a significant increase in the number of EHA's completed by schools as the lead professional.
- ✓ Family hubs being 0 – 19 (25 SEND) so families can receive multi agency support and sign posting throughout their child's life from conception until adulthood when needed. Families therefore able to receive the right support at the right time.

What could be developed in 2024?

- Multi Agency Information sharing. This area is the focus of numerous reviews both children and adults.
- Ongoing development of the family hubs especially young people's offer and SEND offer
- A system / process in place to prevent families bouncing between Early Help and Social work teams but which ensures children have the appropriate support and safeguards in place so they are not at risk of harm.
- More frequent face to face meetings. It's often a better format to share thoughts and ideas and gain involvement from all attendees.

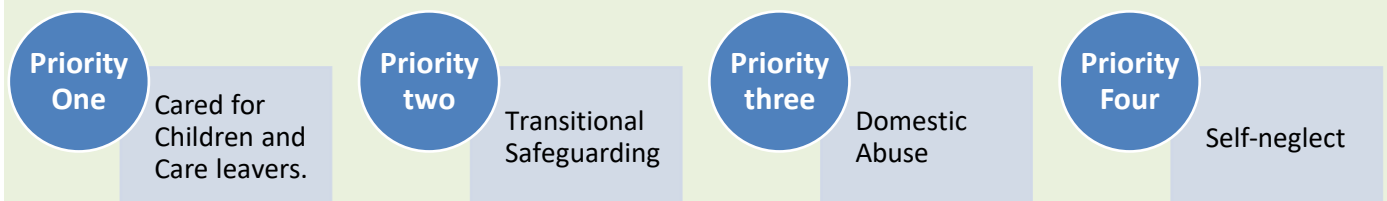
LOOKING FORWARD

OUR STRATEGIC PLAN 2023-2026

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).

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

NENC ICB: Within the Strategic Framework four key priorities have been agreed by Designated Professional Leads for 2023/24: these have been shared in the Joint Forward Plan to support the delivery of the Integrated Care Strategy; these will be further developed in the strategies and workplans that will underpin this Strategic Framework.



A senior Safeguarding Professional will be identified to lead the workstreams for each of the 4 priority areas developing strategies and work plans as required and where coproduction will be a central tenant.

The work will be coordinated in the Senior Safeguarding Leadership Group which will report quarterly into the Health Safeguarding Executive. To support the enablers task and finish groups from the Safeguarding Forum will be established and report into the Senior Safeguarding Leadership Group.

INDEPENDENT SCRUTINEER'S CONCLUSIONS

The first report of the new Independent Scrutineer covers the period June 2023 - September 2023 and provides an appraisal of the effectiveness of partnership joint arrangements.

The report follows the [Checklist for Independent Scrutiny](#) and the [Bedford University six steps for independent scrutiny framework for safeguarding partnership arrangements](#) and provides comments on how we are doing against the following standards:

1	•Safeguarding partners are involved in strategic planning and implementation
2	•The wider safeguarding partners, including relevant agencies, are actively involved in safeguarding children and adults
3	•Children, young people and adults are aware of and involved with plans for safeguarding them for abuse, neglect and exploitation
4	•Quality assurance processes are in place for data collection, audit and information sharing
5	•There is a process for identifying and investigating learning from local and national safeguarding case reviews
6	•There is an active program of multi-agency safeguarding training

Some observations..

- Governance and structural arrangements of the partnership are embedding, and the work of the subgroups are strengthening their individual infrastructures and functions based on the [terms of references](#)
- The Business Support Unit functions well. The two Business Managers are enthusiastic and work closely together; the business support officer is very competent in co-ordinating the business.
- Quality assurance processes are developing and strengthening – QA Framework is being developed.
- The PLG is exploring the development of a multi-agency learning hub to ensure learning from case reviews, multi-agency audits and performance data is effectively disseminated.
- There are robust processes in place for identifying when a serious safeguarding incident requires a rapid response and consideration of whether a local Child Safeguarding Practice Review (CSPR) or a Safeguarding Adult Review (SAR) are required.
- There is an active multi-agency training programme for both children and adults. Evaluations of the impact of the training on practice is gaining momentum with some excellent examples presented to PLG.

In summary, the Independent Scrutineer highlights that the new joint NCASP arrangements have developed at a pace since April 2023. There is strong partner engagement and a culture of positive relationships and partnership working, with a strong appetite for the success of joint children and adult arrangements.

FULL REPORT: [Independent Scrutineer Report - June 2023 to September 2023](#)

HOW TO CONTACT NCASP

If you have any queries about this report (or about NCASP) you can email: ncasp@northumberland.gov.uk

APPENDIX 1

MEMBERSHIP

Although the partnership has three Statutory Safeguarding Partners (the Local Authority, Integrated Care Board and the Police) our membership is also made up of additional co-opted and designated members from a range of partner agencies.

Membership for 2022-23 included:

Independent Safeguarding Scrutiny and Assurance Chair / Independent Scrutineer

Northumberland County Council (Children & Adults)

- Children's Services (including Children's Social Care)
- Adult Services (including Adult Social Care)
- Housing
- Public Protection
- Public Health

North East North Cumbria Integrated care Board (Children & Adults)

Harrogate and District Foundation Trust (0-19 Service)

Northumbria Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust (Children & Adults)

Cumbria, Northumberland, Tyne and Wear NHS Foundation Trust (Children & Adults)

Northumbria Police (Children & Adults)

Northumberland Fire & Rescue Service (Children & Adults)

Probation Service (Children & Adults)

CAFCASS (Children)

USEFUL LINKS AND RESOURCES

- [Multi Agency Safeguarding Arrangements \(MASA\)](#)
- [NCASP Groups - Terms of Reference](#)
- [Strategic Plan 2023-2026](#)

Children	Adults
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Working together to safeguard children <input type="checkbox"/> Chapter 3: Multi-agency safeguarding arrangements <input type="checkbox"/> Chapter 4: Improving child protection and safeguarding practice <input type="checkbox"/> Chapter 5: Child death reviews 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> The Care Act 2014 <input type="checkbox"/> Section 43: The Care Act 2014 (SABs)
Multi-agency procedures and practice guidance	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> North and South of Tyne Safeguarding Children Partnership Procedures Manual <input type="checkbox"/> Core Procedures <input type="checkbox"/> Safeguarding Practice Guidance <input type="checkbox"/> Thresholds of need - DOCUMENT & Information about thresholds <input type="checkbox"/> Local Child Safeguarding Practice Review (LCSPR) - FRAMEWORK AND PRACTICE GUIDANCE & FLOWCHART <input type="checkbox"/> Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) - Information Sheet and Flowchart & Referral Form <input type="checkbox"/> Resource library (Northumberland) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Northumberland Safeguarding Adults Board Procedures <input type="checkbox"/> Core Procedures <input type="checkbox"/> Practice Guidance <input type="checkbox"/> Safeguarding Adult Reviews <input type="checkbox"/> Mental Capacity Act 2005 Resource and Practice Toolkit <input type="checkbox"/> Contacts and Practice Resources

GLOSSARY

ACEs	Adverse Childhood Experiences
ADASS	Association of Directors of Adult Social Services
ADCS	Association of Directors of Childrens Services
ASC	Adult Social Care
C.A.R.E	Caring about Adversity, Resilience and Empowerment
CAFCASS	Child and Family Court Advisory and Support Service
CAMHS	Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services
CME	Children Missing Education
CNTW	Cumbria, Northumberland, Tyne and Wear NHS Foundation Trust
CP	Child Protection
CPVA	Child to parent violence and abuse
CSC	Children's Social Care
CYPS	Children & Young People's Service
CYPSP	Children & Young People Strategic Partnership
DALAPB	Domestic Abuse Local Authority Partnership Board
DHR	Domestic Homicide Review
HDFT	Harrogate and District NHS Foundation Trust
HSB	Harmful Sexual Behaviour
ICB	Integrated care Board
ICPC	Initial Child Protection Conference
IDVA	Independent Domestic Violence Advisors
IRO	Independent Reviewing Officer
IS	Independent Scrutineer
LADO	local authority designated officer
LCSPR	Local Children Safeguarding Practice Review
MASA	Multi-agency Safeguarding Arrangements
MASH	Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub
NAS	Northumberland Adolescent Service
NCASP	Northumberland Children And Adults Safeguarding Partnership
NEWST	Northumberland Emotional Wellbeing Support Team
NHCFT	Northumbria Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust
NRM	National Referral Mechanism
RCPC	Review Child Protection Conference
RHI	Return Home Interview
SAPP	Safeguarding and Public Protection Team
SAR	Safeguarding Adult Review
SEND	Special Educational Needs and Disabilities
SNP	Safer Northumberland Partnership
TWNSP	Tyne, Wear & Northumberland Safeguarding Partnership

UCT	Universal Crisis Team
YJB	Youth Justice Board
YJS	Youth Justice Service

DECISIONS TAKEN BY CABINET SINCE LAST OSC MEETING AND FORTHCOMING CABINET DECISIONS - DECEMBER 2023 – MARCH 2024

DECISION	CABINET DATE/DECISION
Cabinet Papers - 7 November 2023	https://northumberland.moderngov.co.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=140&MId=2258
<p>North East Devolution</p> <p>The report asked members to consider and determine if consent should be given to the making of an Order that would abolish the North East and North of Tyne Combined Authorities, whilst at the same time establishing a new North East Mayoral Combined Authority.</p>	<p>7 November 2023</p> <p>RESOLVED that:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) the content of the report be noted; (b) Cabinet agree in principle that the Council should consent to the making of the order; (c) the Chief Executive be authorised, in consultation with the Leader of the Council, to issue the Council’s formal consent to the Secretary of State when requested; (d) the Chief Executive be authorised, in consultation with the Leader of the Council, to finalise the terms of the side agreement regarding the support arrangements associated with these proposals; and (e) the Chief Executive be authorised to take all other steps necessary to implement these proposals
<p>Setting the Scope and Targets for the Climate Change Action Plan 2024-26</p> <p>Cabinet was asked to agree the scope and targets to be addressed in detail in the Council’s Climate Change Action Plan 2024-26 and to ensure alignment with the Council’s Environment Policy Statement</p>	<p>7 November 2023</p> <p>RESOLVED that:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Cabinet agree that the Climate Change Action Plan 2024-26 is a key element of the Council’s wider Environmental Policy Statement, which commits the Council to strengthen the work being undertaken to maintain, protect and enhance the environment through a broad range of policies and activities, including active travel, nature recovery, planning, procurement, public health/disease control and general environmental services provision; (b) Cabinet agree that the Climate Change Action Plan will include a focus on greenhouse gas reduction and climate change resilience through nature in collaboration with the Council’s strategies for wider ecology and biodiversity issues; (c) Cabinet agree to restate the Carbon Neutral target for the county by 2030 and clarify that it refers to carbon dioxide only;

	<p>(d) Cabinet agree a new target to work with Government and other key stakeholders to achieve net-zero for all greenhouse gases for the county of Northumberland by 2040, a strategy for which will be developed as part of the new Climate Change Action Plan 2024-26;</p> <p>(e) Cabinet agree that the local and regional adaptation response to the risks and impacts of a changing climate be included in the Climate Change Action Plan 2024-26;</p> <p>(f) Cabinet agree a new target to become a carbon neutral organisation by 2030, a strategy for which will be developed as part of the new Climate Change Action Plan 2024-26;</p> <p>(g) Cabinet agree that the scope of the Climate Change Action Plan 2024-26 continues to only include direct, territorial emissions (i.e. those produced in Northumberland) as its focus for projects but that it should do more to raise awareness amongst stakeholders of scope 3 (indirect) emissions (i.e. those produced outside of Northumberland) and how they can be reduced; and</p> <p>(h) Cabinet agree the core structure of the Climate Change Action Plan 2024-26 including a commitment to set out a strategy for planning in relation to the climate change targets.</p>
<p>Strengthened Biodiversity Duty and Reporting Obligations</p> <p>The report set out the Council's new obligations to take action to conserve and enhance biodiversity and to report on such actions, and proposed a 'first consideration' of such actions as required under S.40 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 as amended.</p>	<p>7 November 2023</p> <p>RESOLVED that Cabinet accept the document attached to the report as a record of the Council's first consideration of actions the Council can take to conserve and enhance biodiversity in accordance with S.40 (1C) of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 as amended, which will then be used by Officers to develop an implementation plan.</p>
<p>Approval of the Council Tax Scheme</p> <p>The report sought approval for the local Council Tax Support Scheme for 2024-25 to continue to provide support at</p>	<p>7 November 2023</p> <p>RESOLVED that County Council be recommended to approve the Council Tax Support Scheme attached as Appendix 1 to be adopted as the Council's local scheme for 2024-25.</p>

<p>a maximum level of 92% of council tax liability.</p>	
<p>Corporate Feedback Performance 2022/2023</p> <p>The Annual Report reviewed the operation of the complaints process over twelve months (01.04.2022 to 31.03.2023), including statistical data, and provided the local authority with how it keeps itself informed about the effectiveness of its current arrangements for handling customer complaints.</p>	<p>7 November 2023</p> <p>RESOLVED that the findings of the report on complaint handling within the authority be noted.</p> <p>This report will be considered by the Communities and Place OSC on 29 November 2023.</p>
<p>Corporate Performance Quarter 1 2023-24</p> <p>The report provided a summary of the progress against the Council's three Corporate Plan priorities using the Council's performance at the end of Quarter 1, 2023/24 (Q1).</p>	<p>7 November 2023</p> <p>RESOLVED that progress against the three Corporate Priorities as summarised in the report be noted.</p>
<p>Summary of New Capital Proposals considered by Officer Capital Strategy Group</p> <p>The report summarised proposed amendments to the Capital Programme considered by the officer Capital Strategy Group.</p>	<p>7 November 2023</p> <p>46.1 Kyloe House CCTV Upgrade RESOLVED that:</p> <p>(a) Cabinet approve the receipt of the capital grant of £0.221 million from the Department for Education (DfE); and</p> <p>(b) Cabinet approve the amendment to the Capital Programme to include the funding and spend.</p> <p>46.2 Replacement of Boating Pontoon in Wansbeck Riverside Park</p> <p>RESOLVED that Cabinet approve the proposed spend on the Boating Pontoon and amend the Capital Programme in 2023-24. Note that the project will be wholly grant funded under an agreement with Cambois Rowing Club.</p> <p>46.3 Highways Laboratory Expansion</p> <p>RESOLVED that:-</p> <p>(a) Cabinet approve the expenditure of the £0.615 million which is already included in the MTFP under Highways Laboratory Expansion project; and</p>

(b) Cabinet note that a portion of the allocation will be slipped into financial year 2024-25. This is currently anticipated to be 50% but will be dependent on the date of approval.

46.4 North East Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP)

RESOLVED that:-

(a) Cabinet note the agreement for the North East Joint Transport Committee (JTC) to release BSIP capital funding to assist scheme promoters with development of the programme;

(b) Cabinet approve the BSIP capital funding to develop the “Bus Priority Infrastructure – Tranche 1” programme; and

(c) Cabinet approve the amendment to the Capital Programme to include £0.121 million funding from Transport North East (TNE) to enable development of the BSIP Tranche 1 programme.

46.5 Parks Enhancement Capital Programme

1. Cleasewell Hill Park

RESOLVED that:-

(a) Approve capital expenditure of up to £0.240 million for the refurbishment scheme at Cleasewell Hill Park;

(b) Approve the reallocation in the Capital Programme of £0.200 million from the existing Parks Enhancement Programme and £0.040 million contribution from Choppington Parish Council which has been agreed in principle subject to formal approval; and

(c) Note that if funding of £0.040 million from Choppington Parish Council is not received works will be scaled back and expenditure will be limited to £0.200 million.

2. Gallagher Park

RESOLVED that:-

(a) Cabinet approve capital expenditure totalling £0.019 million for car park repairs, overflow provision and fencing at Gallagher Park; and

(b) Cabinet approve the reallocation in the Capital Programme of £0.010 million from the existing Parks Enhancement Programme and £0.009 million from Cllr Robinson, Cllr Taylor, and Cllr Wilciezk’s Members’ Local Improvement Scheme funds.

3. Plessey Woods – Bouldering Park

RESOLVED that:-

- (a) Cabinet approve capital expenditure totalling £0.159 million for Plessey Woods Bouldering Park; and
- (b) Cabinet approve the reallocation in the Capital Programme of £0.088 million from the existing Parks Enhancement Programme, £0.067 million from Section 106 contributions and £0.005 million from Cllr Robinson's Members' Local Improvement Scheme funds.

46.6 Strategic Regeneration Investment

RESOLVED that:-

- (a) Cabinet accept grant funding to establish the Northumberland Stewardship and Rural Growth Investment Programme as follows, noting that the establishment of the programme and projects below was previously agreed by Cabinet in February 2023:
- Accept grant funding of £4.810 million including £2.000 million capital and £2.810 million revenue for the Northumberland Small Business Service (NSBS).
 - Approve the addition of the £2.000 million capital funding to the Capital Programme in line with the three-year funding profile further in the report.
 - Accept grant funding of £3.510 million including £1.543 million capital and £1.967 million revenue for the Rural Asset Multiplier Programme (RAMP).
 - Approve the addition of the £1.543 million capital funding to the Capital Programme in line with the three-year funding profile further in the report.
- (b) Cabinet approve the below projects and the reallocation of capital funds of £0.600 million in 2023-24 from the Ashington North East Quarter Redevelopment (Phase 2). The Strategic Regeneration Projects budget will reallocate £0.600 million to the Ashington North East Quarter Redevelopment (Phase 2) project in 2024-25. Note that the Ashington North East Quarter Redevelopment (Phase 2) does not require the funds in 2023-24 due to slippage in the project delivery.
- Approve the allocation of capital funds of £0.500 million in 2023-24 for Hexham HSHAZ Public Realm Scheme.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approve the creation of a new capital project in 2023-24 for the Berwick Gateway and approve the allocation of capital funds of £0.050 million in 2023-24 for the Berwick Gateway. • Approve the allocation of capital funds of £0.010 million in 2023-24 for the detailed design of the Royal Border Bridge Floodlighting Scheme. • Approve the allocation of capital funds of £0.020 million in 2023-24 to finalise the successful Rural Business Growth Service project. • Approve the allocation of capital funds of £0.020 million in 2023-24 for the detailed design of the Alnwick Cobbles Streetscaping scheme. <p>46.7 Great Northumberland Forest Tenant Lead Pilot</p> <p>RESOLVED that:-</p> <p>(a) Cabinet approve the proposed spend of £2.550 million for the Great Northumberland Forest Tenant Lead Pilot and note the funding of £2.550 million from the national Nature for Climate (NfC) fund; and</p> <p>(b) Cabinet approve the inclusion of an additional £2.550 million (2023-24 £1.500 million and 2024-25 £1.050 million) in the capital programme.</p>
<p>Delegate Authority to Award Leisure Contract</p> <p>The report sought permission to delegate authority to enable the contract award of the Northumberland Community Leisure and Well-being Service to the preferred bidder, following final evaluation by the panel</p>	<p>7 November 2023</p> <p>RESOLVED that Cabinet delegate authority to the Executive Director of Public Health, Inequalities and Stronger Communities in consultation with the Leader, also Portfolio Holder for Environment and Local Services, the Deputy Leader, also Portfolio Holder for Corporate Services, the Portfolio Holder for Healthy Lives, the Director of Law and Corporate Governance and the Executive Director of Transformation and Resources to award and enter into a contract for the Northumberland Community and Wellbeing Service with the preferred bidder.</p>

FORTHCOMING CABINET DECISIONS

<p>Adaptions for Disabled People</p> <p>To report on additional Disabled Facilities Grant funding received from Government, and to ask the Cabinet to consider the case for revisions to the Council's discretionary grants policy.</p>	12 December 2023
<p>Budget 2024-25 and Medium Term Financial Plan 2024-28</p> <p>This report provides an update on the development of the 2024-25 Budget and the Medium-Term Financial Plan (MTFP) covering the period 2024 to 2028, prior to the receipt of the Local Government Finance Settlement 2024-25 in December 2023.</p>	12 December 2023
<p>Corporate Risk Management</p> <p>To inform Cabinet of the latest position of the County Council's corporate risks following review by Executive Management Team.</p>	12 December 2023
<p>Education, SEND and Skills Annual Report</p> <p>Annual Report of the Director of Education, SEND & Skills.</p>	12 December 2023
<p>Merger of North and South Northumberland Coroner Areas</p> <p>To seek approval from Cabinet to agree to the merger of the North and South Northumberland coroner areas, to become one Northumberland area effective from 1 April 2024.</p>	12 December 2023
<p>Northumberland Leisure and Wellbeing Procurement and Provision</p> <p>The purpose of the report is to provide an update on the Northumberland Leisure and Wellbeing Procurement and Provision.</p>	12 December 2023
<p>Financial Performance 2023-24 – Position at End of September 2023</p> <p>The report will provide Cabinet with the revenue and capital financial performance against budget as at 30 September 2023.</p>	12 December 2023
<p>Q2 Corporate Performance Report</p>	12 December 2023
<p>PFI Furniture, Fixtures and Equipment (FF&E) Responsibilities</p> <p>This report seeks governance approval for NCC to take over responsibility for the provision of FF&E for the PFI Fire and Rescue Service buildings at West Hartford and Pegswood, with an annual saving on the PFI unitary charge of £79,471 amounting to £1,192,065 for the remainder of the contract.</p>	12 December 2023

<p>Outcomes of the Tender for New School Buildings for Astley High and Whytrigg Middle Schools</p> <p>Update Cabinet on the outcomes of the tender process for the construction of new school buildings for Astley High School and Whytrigg Middle School and seek the delegated approval to award the construction contract.</p>	12 December 2023
<p>Setting of the Council Tax Base 2024-25</p> <p>To advise Cabinet of the tax base calculation for 2024-25 for all domestic properties liable to pay council tax.</p>	12 December 2023
<p>Summary of New Capital Proposals considered by Officer Capital Strategy Group</p> <p>This report details the Capital Proposals considered by the Capital Strategy Group on 30 October 2023.</p>	12 December 2023
<p>Ashington Regeneration Programme - Update, Funding and Site Acquisitions</p> <p>This report provides an update on the delivery of the Ashington Regeneration Programme and seeks approval for the strategic acquisition of the Wansbeck Square and Woodhorn Road sites from Advance Northumberland (Commercial) Limited to create the required development platform to enable implementation.</p> <p>The report also seeks approval for the development and submission of an outline bid for £2.5m to the North of Tyne Combined Authority's Northumberland Line Economic Corridor Investment Programme which, if successful, will provide important match funding for the redevelopment of Wansbeck Square Strategic Site.</p>	16 January 2024
<p>Budget 2024- 25 and Medium Term Financial Plan 2024-28 Update</p> <p>The report will provide an update following the provisional Local Government Finance Settlement. The report will also update members with regard to the efficiencies identified to date, and progress in relation to the compilation of the Capital Programme.</p>	16 January 2024
<p>National Funding Formula & School Funding 2024-25</p> <p>An annual report to update Cabinet in relation to the implementation of the Department for Education's National Funding Formula, and to seek</p>	16 January 2024

delegated powers to set the formula values in order to distribute the 2024/25 Dedicated Schools Grant.	
<p>Notification of the Estimated Collection Fund Balances 2023-24 – Council Tax and Business Rates</p> <p>The report will advise members of the estimated surplus or deficit balances on the Collection Fund in relation to Council Tax and Business Rates at 31 March 2024. The Local Government Finance Act 1992 (as amended) requires the Council as the Billing Authority to calculate a Council Tax Collection Fund estimate by 15th January each year. The Non-Domestic Rating (Rates Retention) Regulations 2013 require the Council as the Billing Authority to calculate a Business Rates Collection Fund estimate on or before 31st January each year.</p>	16 January 2024
<p>National Funding Formula & School Funding 2024-25</p> <p>An annual report to update Cabinet in relation to the implementation of the Department for Education's National Funding Formula, and to seek delegated powers to set the formula values in order to distribute the 2024/25 Dedicated Schools Grant.</p>	16 January 2024
<p>Budget 2024-25, Medium Term Financial Plan 2024-28 and 30 Year Business Plan for the Housing Revenue Account</p> <p>The report presents to Cabinet, the updated Budget 2024-25, Medium Term Financial Plan 2024-28 and 30 year Business plan for the Housing Revenue Account.</p>	16 January 2024 Council 17 January 2024 21 February 2024
<p>Summary of New Capital Proposals considered by Officer Capital Strategy Group</p> <p>This report summarises the reports considered by the Capital Strategy Group on 28 November 2023.</p>	16 January 2024
<p>Climate Change Action Plan 2024-26</p> <p>To replace the expiring Climate Change Action Plan 2021-23 and to set out our intended strategies for reaching our climate change targets across the next three years and beyond.</p>	12 March 2024
<p>Financial Performance 2023-24 – Position at end of December 2023</p> <p>The report will provide Cabinet with the revenue and capital financial performance against budget as at 31 December 2023.</p>	12 March 2024

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Northumberland County Council

Health and Wellbeing Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Work Programme and Monitoring Report 2023 - 2024

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Chris Angus, Scrutiny Officer
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TERMS OF REFERENCE

- (a) To promote well-being and reduce health inequality, particularly in supporting those people who feel more vulnerable or are at risk.
- (b) To discharge the functions conferred by the Local Government Act 2000 of reviewing and scrutinising matters relating to the planning, provision, and operation of health services in Northumberland.
- (c) To take a holistic view of health in promoting the social, environmental, and economic well-being of local people.
- (d) To act as a consultee as required by the relevant regulations in respect of those matters on which local NHS bodies must consult the Committee.
- (e) To monitor, review and make recommendations about:
 - Adult Care and Social Services
 - Adults Safeguarding
 - Welfare of Vulnerable People
 - Independent Living and Supported Housing
 - Carers Well Being
 - Mental Health and Emotional Well Being
 - Financial Inclusion and Fuel Poverty
 - Adult Health Services
 - Healthy Eating and Physical Activity
 - Smoking Cessation
 - Alcohol and Drugs Misuse
 - Community Engagement and Empowerment
 - Social Inclusion
 - Equalities, Diversity and Community Cohesion.

ISSUES TO BE SCHEDULED/CONSIDERED

Regular updates: Updates on implications of legislation: As required / Minutes of Health and Wellbeing Board / notes of the Primary Care Applications Working Party
Care Quality Accounts/ Ambulance response times

To be listed:

Themed scrutiny:
Other scrutiny:

**Northumberland County Council
Health and Wellbeing Overview and Scrutiny Committee
Work Programme 2023 - 2024**

9 January 2023

Page 108	Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy Refresh – Giving Children and Young People the Best Start in Life	To update members on progress on actions within the JHWS. Members are asked to review this theme and propose amendments to priorities, actions, and indicators to measure progress for the remaining period of the strategy 2023 – 2028.
	Joint Health and Health and Wellbeing Strategy Refresh – Tackling the Wider Determinants of Health	To update members on progress on actions within the JHWS. Members are asked to review this theme and propose amendments to priorities, actions, and indicators to measure progress for the remaining period of the strategy 2023 – 2028.
	Adults and children’s Safeguarding Board Annual Report	To provide an overview of the work carried out under the multiagency arrangements for Safeguarding Adults and Children.

5 March 2024

	Director of Public Health Annual Report	DPH’s Annual Report highlighting the priorities for the DPH for the coming year.
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2 April 2024

	NHCT Quality Accounts	Annual report on the quality of service. The Committee is requested to receive and comment on the presentations from each Trust and agree to submit a formal response to each Trust.
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	NEAS Quality Accounts	Annual report on the quality of service. The Committee is requested to receive and comment on the presentations from each Trust and agree to submit a formal response to each Trust.
7 May 2024		
	CNTW Quality Accounts	Annual report on the quality of service. The Committee is requested to receive and comment on the presentations from each Trust and agree to submit a formal response to each Trust.
	NUTH Quality Accounts	Annual report on the quality of service. The Committee is requested to receive and comment on the presentations from each Trust and agree to submit a formal response to each Trust.

Northumberland County Council
Health and Wellbeing Overview and Scrutiny Committee Monitoring Report 2023-2024

Ref	Date	Report	Decision	Outcome
1	11 July 2023	Update on Pressures in Adult Homecare Services	RESOLVED the A. the report on the current issues with homecare in Northumberland be received for information, and B. the initiatives proposed to try to resolve workforce shortages be noted.	Adult Home Care data and progress monitoring to be provided at a future committee.
2	11 July 2023	Contingency Plans and Management Arrangements for Commissioned Adult Social Care Services	RESOLVED the report be received for information.	No further action
3	12 September 2023	Cramlington Pharmacy Update	RESOLVED that: A. the report and comments made be noted. B. a Task and Finish Group be established to examine pharmaceutical services in the county.	A task and finish group be established in the new year to examine Pharmacy provision across the County
4	12 September 2023	Northumberland Coroner's Annual Report	RESOLVED that the report be received.	No further action

5	7 November 2023	Oncology Performance Update (NUTH)	RESOLVED that the information and comments made be noted	A further update will be provided in May when NUTH present their Quality Accounts
6	7 November 2023	Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy Refresh – Adopting a Whole System Approach to Health and Care	RESOLVED to: A. note and comment on the achievements described in the report, and B. that the proposed amendments to priorities, actions, and indicators or evidence of achievements for the theme be noted.	The comments of this committee will form part of the overall Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy
7	7 November 2023	Welfare Rights Annual Report	RESOLVED that the report be received for information.	No further action
8	12 December 2023	Berwick Hospital Update	RESOLVED that the information be noted and a further update be provided in due course.	Further update be provided in due course.
9	12 December 2023	Complaints Annual Report 2022- 23: Adult Social Care and Continuing Health Care Services	RESOLVED that the report be noted.	No further action
10	12 December 2023	Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy Refresh – Empowering People and Communities	RESOLVED that: A. note and comment on the achievements described in the report, and B. that the proposed amendments to priorities, actions, and indicators or evidence of achievements for the theme be noted.	An update on progress to be provided at future date

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