



# Northumberland

## County Council

COMMITTEE HEALTH AND WELLBEING OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

DATE: 7 February 2023

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TITLE OF REPORT NORTH TYNESIDE AND NORTHUMBERLAND  
SAFEGUARDING ADULTS BOARD ANNUAL REPORT  
2021-22

Report of Director of Adult Social Services

Cabinet Member: Councillor Wendy Pattison, Adult Wellbeing

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### **Purpose of report**

To provide an overview of the work carried out under the multi-agency arrangements for Safeguarding Adults during 2021/22.

### **Recommendations**

Members to note the content of the North Tyneside and Northumberland Safeguarding Adults Annual report 2021/22.

### **Link to Corporate Plan**

This report is relevant to the 'Living and Learning' priority included in the Northumberland County Council Corporate Plan 2021-24, and the commitment to supporting the most vulnerable in our society and helping people to live healthy lives.

### **Key issues**

1. The attached Annual report describes the work of the North Tyneside and Northumberland Safeguarding Adults Board (SAB) during 2021/22, and provides information about operational safeguarding activity during the year. The report describes a range of improvements in safeguarding arrangements and details the work carried out during 2021-22 across all partner organisations, working together to improve safeguarding arrangements for vulnerable people.
2. Following on from the significant increases in safeguarding activity reported last year, in 2020/21 Northumberland continued to experience increases in safeguarding demand. Northumberland data shows a 38% increase in safeguarding concerns, and a 6% rise in safeguarding enquiries, compared to last year. The main location of abuse has again been within people's own homes, though there has been an increase in safeguarding reports related to Nursing or Care homes. In terms of local trends there has been a continued rise in domestic abuse, physical

abuse, and self-neglect.

3. A key focus for the SAB this year has been understanding the impact of the pandemic on local safeguarding activity. This has enabled the SAB to respond to changing safeguarding needs, identify lessons learnt, and has directly informed future planning and priorities. An example of this can be seen in some specific targeted work undertaken in response to the noted increase in self-neglect, as an impact of the pandemic. It is evident that some people have delayed requesting help or support and this means that their presenting needs are now at a higher level or are more acute. It is also clear that the pandemic has created additional layers of complexity for safeguarding practice, particularly in relation mental health, social isolation, and substance misuse. MASH (Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub) arrangements have continued to provide effective multi-agency responses and holistic assessments of risk at the first point of contact, and a review of the MASH has recently been undertaken.
4. The report sets out the SAB's work in response to the 5 key strategic priorities in the SAB Annual Strategic Plan, which have been informed by local safeguarding data; experiences and feedback; partner self-assessments; and regional priorities. It also outlines some key highlights of the SAB's work during this year, which has included a focus upon a range of themes and awareness campaigns.
5. There have been no Safeguarding Adult Reviews (SARs) undertaken in Northumberland during this reporting year, however a number of new case referrals have been considered, and two learning reviews have commenced. Learning from previously completed local SARs and Learning Reviews have continued to be monitored, alongside findings from regional and national reviews.
6. This will be the final Annual report of the North Tyneside and Northumberland Safeguarding Adults Board. Following an independent review of the Board arrangements and subsequent consultation, a decision was reached that the time was right to separate the joint Board and develop place-based SABs in each Local Authority area. This will allow each area to align arrangements with other strategic boards, and to fully understand the holistic view of safeguarding and safety in their communities. In Northumberland, the Safeguarding Adult and Children's Boards became an integrated Partnership from April 2022. This builds upon examples of successful collaboration on some key areas of work, and further develops the 'Think family' model and approach to safeguarding across the life course.

## **Background**

The County Council has strategic responsibility for overseeing multi-agency arrangements in its area for safeguarding adults at risk. This includes making enquiries and arrangements for investigating and where necessary acting on referrals alleging that 'adults at risk' are being abused or neglected. It also includes wider arrangements for ensuring that the safety, independence, and dignity of 'adults at risk' are protected.

In accordance with the Care Act the SAB has a statutory duty to publish an Annual Report detailing how effective their work has been in safeguarding and promoting the welfare of adults at risk. The SAB also has a statutory responsibility to develop and publish a strategic plan setting out how they will meet their objectives and how their member and partner agencies will contribute.

The attached Annual Report describes the strategic activity undertaken by the North Tyneside and Northumberland Safeguarding Adults Board, and the most significant specific issues dealt with during 2021/22 under the Safeguarding Adults policy and procedures. It also provides statistical information about operational safeguarding activity.

## **Implications**

<b>Policy</b>	This Annual Report meets the SAB statutory requirements set out in the Care Act 2014.
<b>Finance and value for money</b>	No direct implications
<b>Legal</b>	The Annual Report 2021-22 evidences how the Safeguarding Adults Board (SAB) arrangements meet the statutory duty to prepare and publish an Annual Report demonstrating how partners safeguard 'adults at risk'. In accordance with the statutory functions set out in the Care Act (2014).
<b>Procurement</b>	No direct implications
<b>Human Resources</b>	Safeguarding investigations can in some circumstances lead to disciplinary action against staff. Safeguarding training is mandatory for all staff working in Adult Social Care.
<b>Property</b>	No direct implications
<b>Equalities</b> (Impact Assessment attached) Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/>	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.
<b>Risk Assessment</b>	Management of risks in individual cases is a core element of safeguarding. Management of risks in commissioned services is a core role of contracting work. There are various multi-agency risk assessment groups in place including Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conferences (MARAC) and Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA).
<b>Crime Disorder &amp;</b>	Northumbria Police are members of the Safeguarding Adults Board, and there is close joint working to ensure that prompt and appropriate action is taken where it is suspected that a crime may have been committed.

<b>Customer Consideration</b>	There is a continuing need to keep under review the balance between maximising the control 'adults at risk' have over their support arrangements and ensuring that they are adequately protected from the risk of abuse or exploitation – although greater individual control can often also in itself be a means of reducing people's vulnerability.
<b>Carbon reduction</b>	No direct implications
<b>Health and Wellbeing</b>	Promoting the safety, welfare, health and wellbeing is a primary function of the SAB and its work.
<b>Wards</b>	All

**Background papers:**

North Tyneside and Northumberland Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report 2021-22

**Report sign off.**

***Authors must ensure that officers and members have agreed the content of the report:***

	initials
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