



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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