

North Lincolnshire Safeguarding Adults Board

Annual Report 2022 - 2023



Foreword

I am very pleased to introduce the 2022-3 annual report. I would particularly like to thank our Experts Together group, and all the people who have given up their time to share their experience and knowledge to help us shape our plans as well as challenging and supporting the day-to-day work of the Board and its sub-groups. I would also like to thank Board members, and the Executive for the commitment and hard work throughout the year as well as the services, staff and everyone who works to ensure residents of North Lincolnshire can be empowered and supported to stay safe and live well.

The three sub-groups have continued to play an essential role in supporting the Board, with involvement from wider partners to support oversight of safeguarding activity, providing both mutual challenge and shared solutions. This report includes information on the work they have undertaken, including identifying themes and trends in safeguarding, informing areas for future development, innovation, and improvement.

This year we completed the review of our strategic plan and set out our new plan for the next three years. We increased our engagement with local community groups, with a new, fixed term post to support training and development. We continue to look for opportunities to share learning, locally, regionally and nationally and have strong links to other partnership boards in North Lincolnshire, through shared Executive Leads.

The joint self-assessment process which offers assurance from partners on their approach and performance, with regard to safeguarding children and adults, has been undertaken with honesty and a willingness to identify areas for improvement. Regulator inspections indicate we have strong or improving services working in North Lincolnshire. As partners we will continue to learn and reflect on how we can work together to improve safeguarding practice within North Lincolnshire, raising awareness on how we all play a part in keeping people safe and making sure that the voices of people with lived experience are heard in everything we do.

Kathy Clark – Independent Chair

Introduction

This Annual Report details the work carried out by the North Lincolnshire Safeguarding Adults Board (NLSAB), to fulfil its statutory responsibilities for strategic development and oversight of adult safeguarding across the North Lincolnshire area. The report covers the one-year period (1 April 2022 – 31 March 2023) highlighting the board's progress and achievements.

The report includes how partners have contributed to the work of the board to promote effective adult safeguarding during the last year.

The report evidences that the NLSAB has made good progress in delivering the priorities and objectives laid out within our Strategic Plan and is testament to the commitment and strong partnership arrangements in North Lincolnshire.

Partnership Key achievements

- Partners have made good progress delivering against the priorities and objectives identified within the strategic plan for example: engaging with adults with a lived experience to contribute towards policy, practice and awareness raising, enhancing understanding of safeguarding adults within the local community, voluntary sector and with partner agencies and ensuring that our partners are clear as to their roles, responsibilities and expectations.
- The Board hosted a conference in February 2023, co-designed and co-delivered with people with lived experience, with a focus on listening to people with lived experience and improving communication and launching the new Board Strategy.
- There is a demonstrated clear commitment to safeguard adults across the area, through representation and attendance by senior managers of all partner agencies at Executive level and board meetings.
- The council have been developing safeguarding focused case audit including feedback forms for people and their families to feedback on their safeguarding journey. This enhances mechanisms to capture and clearly evidence that safeguarding practice is person-centred and outcome-focussed and that any action taken in line with the person's views and wishes.
- In line with the government change in legislation and the formal establishment of Integrated Care Systems (ICS), the board has ensured that safeguarding arrangements continued to remain a priority locally whilst strengthening working arrangements with colleagues across the regional Humber Partnership and the Humber and North Yorkshire Integrated Care System.



Partnership Key achievements

- NLAG have enhanced the safeguarding referral form and added it to the WebV system, this enables staff to refer concerns in a timelier manner, and also improved the quality of safeguarding concerns.
- Followed through the recommendation in Adult A SAR in 2020, regarding the absence of a forensic service nationally and locally. North Lincolnshire Health and Care Partnership Board, in collaboration with the North Lincolnshire and East Riding SAB (supported by NHS England and the Faculty of Forensic and Legal Medicine), have developed a Forensic Medical Examination pilot service. The pilot is now live and is being independently evaluated by the Hull University.
- An Independent Domestic Violence Advocate (IDVA) is co-located within the council safeguarding team providing specialist advice and guidance.
- A new online safeguarding concern form has been created which allows referrers to raise concerns quickly and efficiently.
- Rotherham, Doncaster and South Humber NHS Foundation Trust have developed bespoke safeguarding training in relation to international recruitment.
- Humberside Fire and Rescue Services have held a number of fire safety campaigns to increase community understanding and raise awareness.
- Humberside Police have strengthened the training offer to frontline officers in relation to Mental Capacity and Adult Safeguarding.



About the North Lincolnshire Safeguarding Adults Board

The NLSAB brings together partner agencies to work together to on priorities to respond to and reduce the risks for adults with care and support needs in respect of abuse and neglect.

The board is a statutory partnership with specific duties and functions as set out within the Care Act 2014. The overarching purpose of the board is to ensure effective co-ordination of response and services to safeguard and promote the welfare of local adults who may be at risk of abuse and harm.

It does this by:

- Assuring itself that local safeguarding arrangements are in place as defined within the Care Act 2014.
- Assuring itself that practice is person-centred, and outcome focussed.
- Working collaboratively to prevent abuse and neglect where possible.
- Ensuring that agencies and practitioners give timely and proportionate responses when abuse or neglect have occurred.
- Assuring itself that safeguarding practice is continuously improving and enhancing the quality of life of adults in its area.

The duties of the board as set out within the Care Act 2014 include:

- The publication of a strategic plan, outlining how the board will meet its objectives and how partner agencies will support the delivery of the plan.
- The publication of an annual report, providing details of the work of the partnership to implement the strategy and achieve its objectives during the previous year.
- The commissioning of Safeguarding Adult Reviews (SARs) under section 44 of the Care Act 2014.

The NLSAB is made up of senior officers nominated by each member agency. Members have sufficient delegated authority to effectively represent their agency and make decisions on their agency's behalf, and, if they are unable to attend board meetings for any reason, they send a nominated representative of sufficient seniority.

The board is funded by the core statutory partners - North Lincolnshire Council, North Lincolnshire Health and Care Partnership and Humberside Police. This funding enables the board to commission an Independent Chair and a board Business Unit to help carry out its duties and functions.

Board membership

Core statutory members:

- North Lincolnshire Council
- Humber and North Yorkshire ICS: North Lincolnshire Health and Care Partnership
- Humberside Police

Additional members:

- Regulated health and social care provider representative
- Humberside Fire and Rescue Service
- Northern Lincolnshire and Goole NHS Foundation Trust
- Rotherham, Doncaster and South Humber NHS Foundation Trust
- Primary care
- National Probation Service
- East Midlands Ambulance Service
- ONGO (housing provider)

Advisory members:

- Cabinet Member for Adults and Health
- North Lincolnshire Council Principal Social Worker
- Care Quality Commission
- Healthwatch North Lincolnshire
- NHS England



Strategic Plan 2023 - 2025

In February 2023, the NLSAB launched its new Strategic Plan. The plan covers a 3-year period as recommended within the Care Act Statutory Guidance 2015.

Partners wanted the plan to be clear about intentions and priorities, so that the partnership had the best chance to work well together.

In developing the new strategic plan, the NLSAB have:

- Worked with people with a lived experience, with carers and with the workforce to hear what is important to them, including holding a development event, co-designed with people with lived experience, and the dissemination of surveys.
- Reviewed how the board were able to meet the commitments made in the previous three-year strategic plan, looking at what had worked well and what could be better.
- Considered the available data and information about performance and outcomes in North Lincolnshire, and -
- Reviewed local and national learning about best practice and areas for improvement.

North Lincolnshire
Safeguarding Adults Board

Strategic Plan

2023 - 2025



Strategic Plan 2023 - 2025

The Strategic Plan is intended to ensure the safeguarding principles and making safeguarding personal outcomes can be delivered in North Lincolnshire. The objectives are aligned to the six safeguarding principles.

Six strategic priorities have been identified, which are underpinned by thirteen strategic objectives. Business plans have been developed which describe the activities and outcomes the NLAB will achieve to deliver its objectives.

The business plans are designed to enable implementation and monitoring of actions in a clear and concise way, including clear timescales, measures of success and progress. The business plans are monitored, and progress is reviewed by both the Executive Group and Board on a regular basis.

Listening to the voice of people with a lived experience continues to remain at the heart of the plan - embracing the ethos of 'Experts Together'

Empowerment

Our plans will focus on –

Working directly with adults with care and support needs to enhance our communications, policies and procedures so that people are empowered to make their own decisions to live free from harm and abuse.

Strengthening the voice of carers, recognising the importance of their own personal wellbeing and resilience alongside those of the person they care for.

Partnership

Our plans will focus on –

Engaging with local community groups and voluntary sector to raise awareness and understanding of safeguarding adults, with a focus on diverse, isolated and under-represented communities.

Working with other partnership boards in North Lincolnshire and in the region to ensure a collaborative approach is taken to safeguarding.

Prevention

Our plans will focus on -

Continuing to raise awareness of safeguarding adults in a variety of formats to help people understand what abuse is, recognise the signs and know how to seek help.

Continuing to promote a positive learning and improvement culture where we continually reflect on our practice and learn from local, regional and national reviews and identify ways to prevent and reduce harm.

Proportionality

Our plans will focus on -

Delivering multi-agency and bespoke training and education where awareness and understanding needs to be enhanced.

Ensuring people are signposted to independent support, advice and advocacy to reduce risk and build future resilience.

Protection

Our plans will focus on -

Ensuring our policy, procedures and guidance are effective, flexible and adapt in response to learning.

Strengthening practice particularly around professional curiosity, carer awareness, legal literacy and trauma informed responses.

Using all available data and intelligence to help recognise emerging safeguarding themes and trends, including considering hidden harm and ensure action is taken when needed.

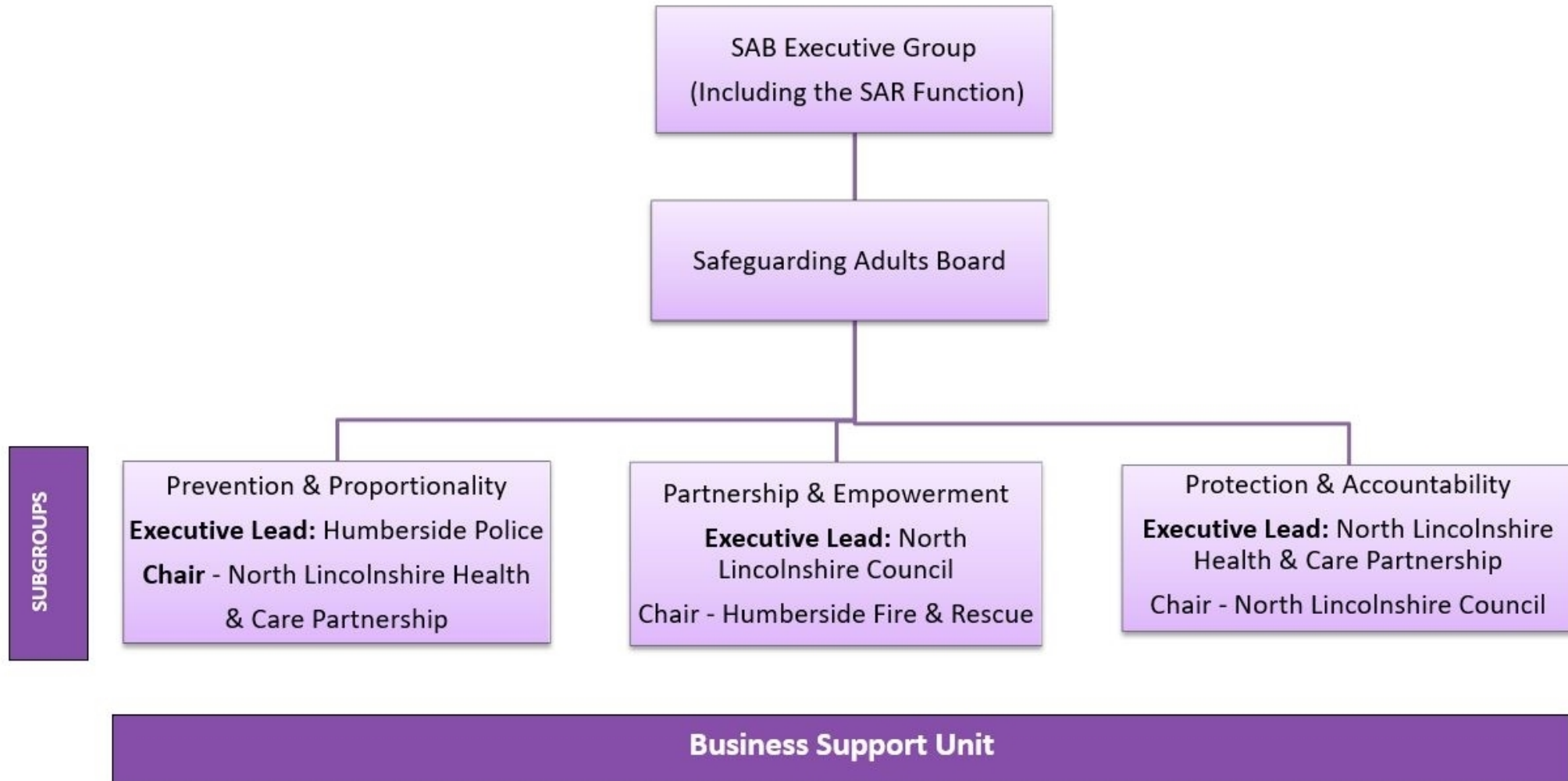
Accountability

Our plans will focus on -

Holding partners to account and ensuring effective system oversight of safeguarding adult arrangements, functions and performance.

Ensuring there are effective mechanisms in place to ensure information sharing is not a barrier.

Delivery Framework

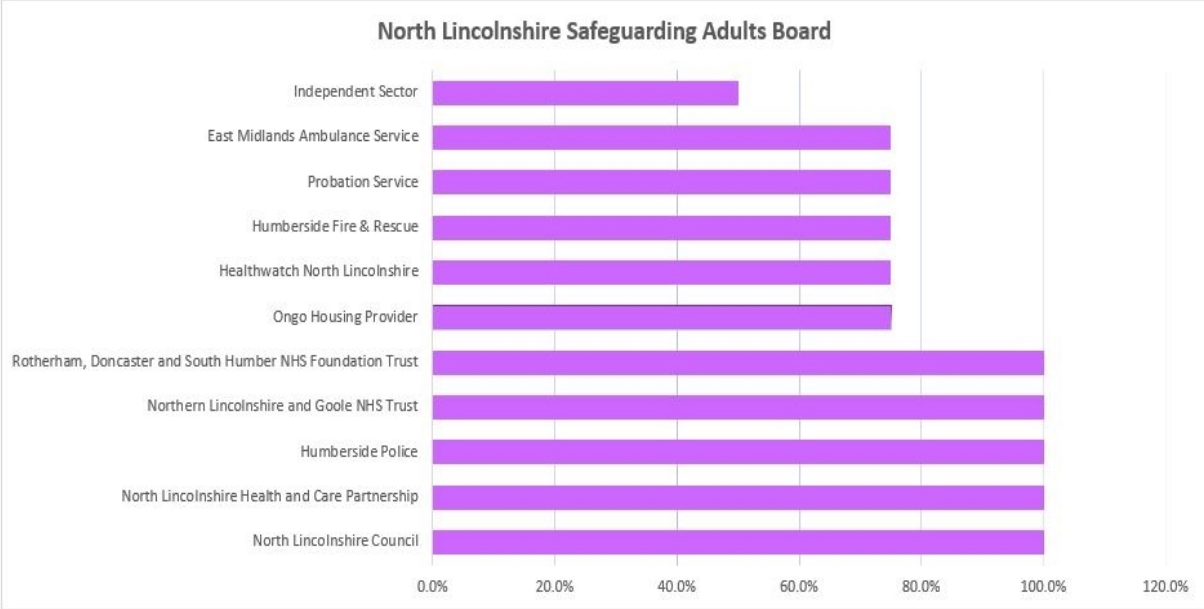
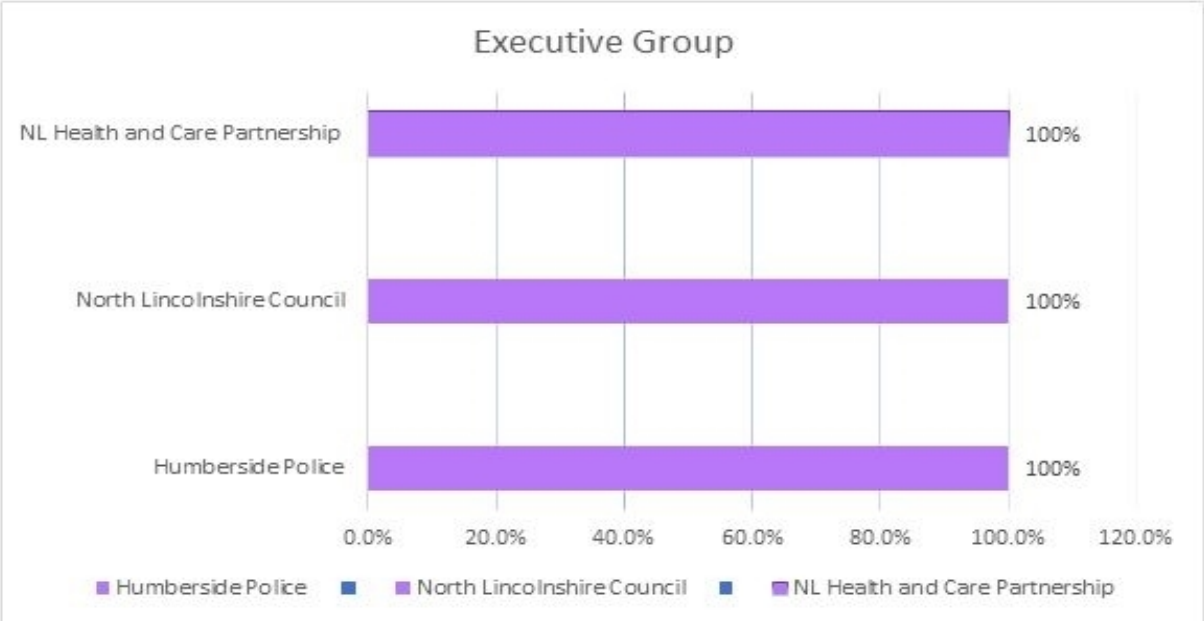


Board attendance

Throughout 2022 and 2023 the Executive group and the full board met quarterly. In the intervening periods the subgroups (Protection & Accountability, Prevention & Proportionality, and the Partnership & Empowerment) regularly met and carried out safeguarding activity as outlined within the strategic plan, reporting progress and outcomes directly to both the Executive group and the board.

The NLSAB continues to demonstrate a sustained level of attendance and participation from members. There is a clear commitment to safeguard adults across the area, through representation by senior managers of all partner agencies that have an investment in good safeguarding practice.

Mechanisms are in place to ensure partners unable to attend meetings due to operational and logistical reasons can - and do contribute to delivering the board's objectives. Partnership contributions to the work of the board are also monitored via the agency self-assessments and one-to-one meetings with the Independent Chair.



Actions completed by the subgroups to meet board objectives

Partnership & Empowerment subgroup

The Partnership and Empowerment subgroup consists of adults with a lived experience, partners from Humberside Police, Humberside Fire and Rescue, Healthwatch, North Lincolnshire Health and Care Partnership, North Lincolnshire Council, ONGO, and Advocacy Services. The group is chaired by Watch Manager, Humberside Fire and Rescue Services. Engagement and commitment within the partnership remains strong.

The group understand the value of working together with partner agencies and other professionals to get the best result for adults with care and support needs who are at risk of abuse and neglect. The group also recognise the importance of ensuring that the voice of adults who have a lived experience is heard, listened to, and that this directly informs the work of the partnership.

The group meet quarterly, its aims are –

- ✓ To continue to promote awareness and understanding of safeguarding adults within the local community, voluntary sector and with partner agencies.
- ✓ To make sure that safeguarding information is available to adults in an easily accessible format, jargon free and easy to understand.
- ✓ To support adults and their families / carers to be empowered and feel involved in their safeguarding journey, making sure their views and wishes directly inform what happens.
- ✓ To co-produce key strategies, information and leaflets with adults who have a lived experience, carers and other partner agencies.

Partnership & Empowerment subgroup

The **'Experts Together- Safeguarding Together'** conference took place in February 2023, the event was led by people with lived experience of adult safeguarding along with professionals across partner agencies, it provided an opportunity for reflection, learning & feedback.

The event was well attended with over 230 professionals and frontline practitioners, from various agencies taking part. Attendees heard directly from people who shared their experiences and spoke about their safeguarding journeys.

Members of Starlight Arts (a local charity providing opportunities for disabled people to engage with music therapy, Makaton and drama) spoke about the importance of communication, they shared their own personal experiences of why communicating with people at the right time, in the right way is integral to safeguarding practice, they gave examples of how communication impacted their lives.



Unpaid carers shared their experiences of being involved in safeguarding, talking about what worked well, and the things that mattered to them.

'Carol' shared her experiences of self-neglect; speaking about the difficulties she faced and how the multi-agency safeguarding response made her feel.

Professor Michael Preston-Shoot spoke about the challenges when working with self-neglect, he spoke about learning from reviews and shared best practice principles 'the five domains' when working across the multi-agency partnership. Professor Preston-Shoot congratulated North Lincolnshire, recognising that partners were thinking creatively, and understood the importance of escalating concerns, and were working hard to ensure all voices were listened to.

The analytic framework: five domains





Partnership & Empowerment subgroup

The **'Experts Together- Safeguarding Together'** conference saw the formal launch of the newly updated NLSAB Strategic Plan, and the Experts Together Workforce tool.

The tool was designed by people with care and support needs and aims to support practitioners in having strengths-based and person-centred conversations. The tool stimulates thinking and encourages conversation around how adults may perceive risks, supports positive risk taking and helps to ensure people are empowered to live the lives they want to live.

The tool outlines the things that matter to people the most and that should be at the heart of adult safeguarding practice:

- Communicating in the right way, at the right time
- Listening
- Taking time to build trust
- Giving people choices
- Giving people control

Things that matter to me.....

- Communicating with me in the right way, at the right time
- Listening to me
- Knowing I can trust you
- Giving me choice
- Giving me control



In addition to utilising the workforce tool, partners were also encouraged to sign-up and commit to the pledge of 'ask, listen and act'.

Partnership & Empowerment subgroup

Feedback from practitioners and people with a lived experience, was how moving and impactful the event was.

Attendees were asked to comment on how the information and experiences shared at the event would impact on their future practice, and the difference it would make.

The conference was great, the overall message, the voices of people and the networking opportunity was really beneficial

I will definitely be more reflective – remembering who the expert actually is!! The use of language and the way we communicate is so important. The littlest of things can have the biggest of impacts.

The experts were obviously so involved with co-production, and this made it so much more real for me

I pledge to train the workforce champions in Makaton. Making the effort to communicate with people in the way they want will make the biggest difference – how would you feel if someone spoke to you, and you didn't understand!

I wanted to make a difference, and I felt I was able to do that – so thank you

It's made me think about safeguarding in a totally different way – I am not the expert, the person is. We should always listen to people's voice and that should guide us

Partnership & Empowerment subgroup

During the last year, the group have worked with adults who have a lived experience, and their families to help them recognise the signs of abuse, know how to report concerns and seek help to keep themselves and others safe. The group have refreshed the information in relation to the categories of abuse on the NLSAB website, ensuring that each section is explained in a way which is clear, concise and easy to understand.

In partnership with people who have experience of safeguarding and Healthwatch North Lincolnshire, feedback forms have been developed. The forms will be going live soon, and will enhance the mechanisms to capture and evidence that safeguarding practice is person-centred and outcome-focussed, as well as ensuring that action taken is in line with people's views and wishes. The feedback will help shape and enhance our safeguarding partnership and inform our policies and strategies moving forward.



The group have worked with the Experts Together partnership to review and update various sections on the NLSAB website. An accessibility tool has now been added which allows the user to automatically increase font sizes, change text and background colours and contrast, and also provides readable fonts. In addition, a number of key areas have been added and enhanced such as –

- Links to the Livewell North Lincolnshire website – an online information hub to help people find support groups, community groups and activities to help people to live their best lives.
- Information, guidance and tools in relation to Autism.
- Guidance on keeping safe online and information relating to e-safety and fraud.
- Information on appropriate advocacy and links to local and national services.



The group will continue ensure relevant information is shared, and the NLSAB website is regularly updated and continues to be a valuable source of information and guidance for partner agencies and people within the community.

Prevention & Proportionality subgroup

The subgroup understands it is important that a proportionate response is given to any safeguarding situation, and that partner agencies work in the best interests of adults who have care and support needs within North Lincolnshire.

The subgroup consists of representatives from North Lincolnshire Council, ONGO, Cloverleaf Advocacy Services, Humberside Police, independent provider sector, Northern Lincolnshire & Goole Hospitals NHS Trust, North Lincolnshire Rotherham Doncaster and South Humber NHS Foundation Trust, North Lincolnshire Council and is chaired by the Designated Safeguarding Nurse, North Lincolnshire Health and Care Partnership.

SAFEGUARDING THRESHOLDS			
TYPE OF ABUSE: PHYSICAL The act of causing physical harm to someone else. Can include, but not exhaustive: - Hitting - Spitting - Pushing - Restraint - Intentional or reckless injury including Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)	NON - REPORTABLE, NO HARM OR ABUSE, LOW RISK / NO IMPACT Lower level concern where threshold for a safeguarding enquiry is unlikely to be met. Agencies should keep a written internal record of what happened and what action was taken (based on internal processes and procedures). Where there are a number of low - level concerns, consider whether the threshold is met for a safeguarding enquiry due to increased risk. Examples: - Isolated incident, simply resolved - Minor events that still meet the criteria for incident reporting - No harm or abuse intended - Appropriate moving and handling procedures not followed on one occasion - not resulting in harm - Error by staff causing little / no harm - Robust recording - Risk assessments / action plans in place - Incident not caused by a Person in Position of Trust (PiPoT)	REPORTABLE, SOME HARM OR RISK OF HARM, MEDIUM RISK Incidents should be reported to the Safeguarding Adults Team within the council, where a decision whether to progress the concern to a S42 enquiry will be made. Examples: - Unexplained minor marking or lesions, cuts or grip marks found on a number of occasions, or on a number of adults with care and support needs cared for by the same team / carer - Inappropriate restraint that caused marks but no external medical treatment / consultation required - Repeated incidents / patterns of similar concerns - Incident not caused by a Person in Position of Trust (PiPoT)	REPORTABLE, SIGNIFICANT HARM OR RISK OF HARM, HIGH RISK Incidents at this level must be reported to the Safeguarding Adults Team within the council, where a decision whether to progress the concern to a S42 enquiry will be made. You may need to contact the police / emergency services. Examples: - Unexplained significant injuries - Intended harm towards an adult with care and support needs - Deliberately withholding food, drinks or aids to independence - Physical actions that result in significant harm or where there is ongoing distress for the adult with care and support needs - Predictable and preventable incident between adults with care and support needs, where injuries have been sustained or emotional distress caused - Inappropriate restraint that requires medical treatment - Assault or act resulting in serious injury / death (covers manslaughter where there was a reckless element rather than deliberate) - Incident caused by a Person in Position of Trust (PiPoT)
ACTIONS / OUTCOMES TO CONSIDER AT EVERY STAGE	- Advice and information - Review of care plans - Risk management planning - Staff training - Review of needs / services - Signposting - Complaints - Disciplinary process - Provider performance review form (PPR)	- Raise a safeguarding concern - Safeguarding plan - Care Act Assessment - GP appointment reexplained bruising / marks - Referral to Occupational Therapy	- Raise a safeguarding concern - If there is an indication a criminal act has occurred, the police must be informed and consulted - Immediate safeguarding plans must be implemented - Follow your organisation's PiPoT policy

Safeguarding data evidenced that between 1 April 2021 and 31 March 2022 a total of 2285 safeguarding concerns were received in North Lincolnshire which was a 37% increase from 2020/21, compared to a 9% increase across all local authorities. Alongside insight from multi-agency case reviews, this led the subgroup to review the safeguarding threshold guidance, which gives guidance in relation to when a safeguarding concern should be submitted, ensuring a consistent approach is taken across the partnership.

The threshold also supports decision making around the kinds of incidents that may be addressed through alternative processes (lower-level concerns where no harm has occurred).

The SAB threshold document has been expanded and enhanced following research from other SABs, feedback from providers and partners. The threshold covers all categories of abuse as defined within the Care and Support Statutory Guidance 2015 and includes guidance on additional themes such as pressure ulcers, falls, and maladministration of medication.

The document has been shared with all partners and care providers and awareness raising sessions have been held via Microsoft Teams to promote and support the implementation.

Feedback for the updated document has been overwhelmingly positive with comments including: -

“It’s great - self-explanatory”

“Clear guidance on what is nonreportable and reportable”

“Great guidance”.

Prevention & Proportionality subgroup

The subgroup seeks to support partner agencies in keeping up to date with their safeguarding knowledge and skills, a wide range of training and education sessions have been co-ordinated and delivered to over 400 professionals and practitioners. The training has included -

- Safeguarding adults' awareness delivered to local solicitor's firms
- Domestic abuse – the impacts of elder abuse, delivered by specialist services
- People in a Position of Trust (PiPoT) - an overview of organisational responsibilities
- Introduction and overview to the enhanced threshold document
- Motivational interviewing
- Legal literacy and adult safeguarding
- A partnership approach to self-neglect
- Adult safeguarding and homelessness

Feedback from the training shows that all training delivered and coordinated by the NLSAB was rated as either good, or excellent.

95% of attendees felt what they had learnt would make a positive difference to their future safeguarding practice.

The board has been assured by its partners that their workforce in North Lincolnshire have sufficient training at the right level to discharge its safeguarding responsibilities. The following training courses were available to the workforce through partner agencies during the year:

- Safeguarding Adults Tier 1 (eLearning) – providing an overview of what is meant by abuse and neglect, the duty to safeguard adults with care and support needs, ensuring immediate safety, and how to report concerns.
- Safeguarding Children Tier 1 (eLearning) – providing an overview of what is meant by safeguarding children, the duty to protect children and how to report concerns.
 - Safeguarding Adults Tier 2 – aimed at frontline practitioners. Providing an overview of safeguarding concerns and enquiries, making safeguarding personal, decision making in relation to safeguarding concerns and ensuring that staff can apply their own organisational procedures and processes for reporting and documenting safeguarding adult concerns.
 - Safeguarding Adults Tier 3 – aimed at frontline practitioners and managers. Staff are trained in how to undertake effective safeguarding enquiries, ensuring that enquiries are person centred, and outcome focussed, in line with the Care Act 2014 and best practice.
 - Mental Capacity Act & DOLs in Practice - Levels 1 and 2 – Staff are trained in the application of the Mental Capacity 2005 and have an understanding of the Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards.

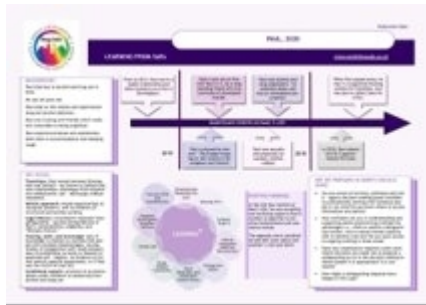
Prevention & Proportionality subgroup

The group regularly review key messages from published regional and national reviews and investigations such as - Safeguarding Adult Reviews (SARs), Serious Case Reviews (SCRs) and Domestic Homicide Reviews (DHRs) ensuring that any learning relevant to North Lincolnshire is appropriately shared and implemented.

Regular 'learning from safeguarding adults reviews (SARs) briefing' have been developed by the subgroup - each briefing is based on a published, regional or national SAR, and it aims to provoke critical thinking among various professions, with emphasis on prevention and early intervention. Partners are encouraged to use these briefings to stimulate thinking and reflect on how the learning could be relevant within their organisations.

Briefings developed and disseminated include –

- Paul (homelessness and substance misuse)
- Michael (cuckooing and exploitation)
- James (transitions from child to adulthood)
- Mrs Webster (organisational abuse, neglect and acts of omission)



The group have created several seven-minute briefings – these briefings are based on research, which suggests that seven minutes is an ideal time span to concentrate and learn. The briefings have been designed as learning aids which can be used within team meetings, supervisions or as simple reminders of the key issues around key safeguarding themes and current issues including –

- Information sharing
- Record keeping
- Adult criminal exploitation
- Adult sexual exploitation
- Learning Disability and Mortality Review (LeDeR)
- Forensic examinations in adult safeguarding



There continues to be close links across all the NLSAB subgroups, and other partnership boards (Community Safety Partnership, Children's Multi-agency Resilience and Safeguarding) ensuring that any relevant information and cross-cutting learning from practice is shared with all partners, enabling them to make changes or improvements that will keep adults with care and support needs in North Lincolnshire safer in the future.

Prevention & Proportionality subgroup

In addition to the wide range of training and education offered to partners, the information and guidance published on the NLSAB website is regularly reviewed and refreshed and includes a range of tools to support practitioners.

Monthly communications are shared and disseminated to a large safeguarding network which provides information and tools in respect to national policy, legislation update, international / national key themes, campaigns, resources available to practitioners, training opportunities and services available.

Data collated from the NLSAB website analytics evidence that after communications are circulated traffic to the website increases by at least 20% (within 2 days).



The subgroup has been actively working to engage with local community groups and voluntary sector to raise awareness and understanding of safeguarding adults and deliver joint training and education, with a focus on diverse, isolated and under-represented communities. The NLSAB Training and Development Officer has been integral to this work and driving it forward.

The group are currently working closely with the Humberside Police Community Cohesion Officer, who has well-established relationships with a wide range of communities across North Lincolnshire. The group has been able to link in with various community groups and partnerships including - Humberside Violence Against Women and Girls Independent Advisory Group (VAWG IAG), the Modern Slavery Partnership, the Sikh Temple in the town centre and the Central Mosque.

We are utilising the knowledge and expertise of our community hubs and have linked with the 'Crosby Collective' - a non-profit organisation which aims to develop our local communities and offers a platform for collaboration.

The group have also established links with the Voluntary Action North Lincolnshire (VANL) who works closely with a wide range of Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise (VCSE) sector organisations, running regular safeguarding forums for our local VCSE sector organisations. There are plans for the NLSAB to present at the VANL's annual safeguarding event taking place later in the year, and the group are now represented on the subgroup.

Protection & Accountability subgroup

The board is committed to ensuring that safeguarding arrangements, and partner agencies of the board act to help and protect adults who may be at risk in North Lincolnshire.

The Protection & Accountability subgroup consists of representatives from Humberside Police, North Lincolnshire Health and Care Partnership, Northern Lincolnshire & Goole NHS Trust, Humberside Fire & Rescue, independent provider sector, Rotherham, Doncaster and South Humber NHS Foundation Trust, Healthwatch, ONGO and is chaired by the Assistant Director, Adult Social Services for North Lincolnshire Council.

The NLSAB has an established multi-agency scrutiny and assurance framework in place which is overseen by the subgroup. The framework provides assurance to partners in relation to safeguarding practice and ensure that policies and procedures are effective.

Within the framework there are a number of mechanisms which provide opportunities to work in partnership to learn and to improve practice across the multi-agency safeguarding system.

- Joint self-assessments – undertaken in partnership with the Childrens Multi-Agency and Resilience Safeguarding Board (CMARS), completed annually by all partners to provide assurance that adults with care and support needs are safeguarded effectively.
- Case specific audits – multi-agency audits relating to emerging themes or multi-agency practice.
- Line of sight to practice events – led by a member of the subgroup to consider a number of safeguarding cases in relation to a particular theme, or a specific case.
- Agency specific assurance events – undertaken in partnership with the CMARS, providing an opportunity for safeguarding partners to visit specific agencies to meet and talk to practitioners. It is an opportunity to showcase good practice.

The Scrutiny & Assurance Framework enables partners to –

- Talk with, and receive direct feedback from adults at risk, adults with lived experience and their families.
- Have assurance of whether partner agencies are fulfilling their responsibilities to safeguarding adults who are at risk of abuse or neglect.
- Have assurance of whether partner agencies are joined up and working together to safeguard and promote the wellbeing of adults at risk across the safeguarding system.
- Have a direct line of sight to frontline practice.
- Have live conversations with frontline practitioners.

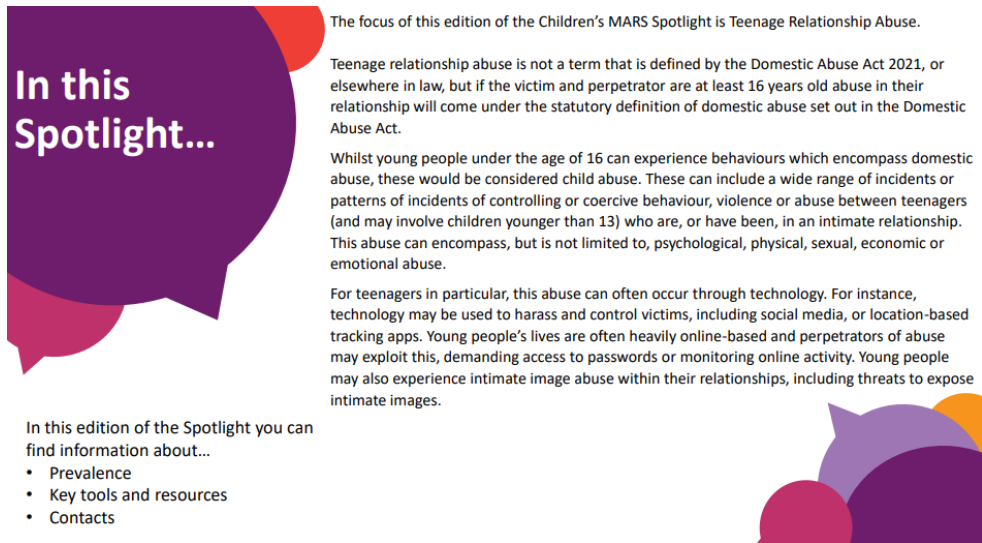
Protection & Accountability subgroup

The NLSAB and its subgroups have strong links with other key partnerships where appropriate, including the Domestic Abuse Partnership Board, Community Safety Partnership and the CMARS.

A joint board approach is taken to areas of shared focus such as domestic abuse and risk outside the home.

In February 2023 a joint CMARS and NLSAB multi-agency line of sight to practice event took place in relation to two cases, the aim of the event was to increase learning regarding domestic abuse within teenage relationships.

Following on from the event a 'Spotlight Briefing' was developed, providing useful tools and effective approaches to working with teenagers and young adults who are experiencing abusive relationships.



In this Spotlight...

The focus of this edition of the Children's MARS Spotlight is Teenage Relationship Abuse.

Teenage relationship abuse is not a term that is defined by the Domestic Abuse Act 2021, or elsewhere in law, but if the victim and perpetrator are at least 16 years old abuse in their relationship will come under the statutory definition of domestic abuse set out in the Domestic Abuse Act.

Whilst young people under the age of 16 can experience behaviours which encompass domestic abuse, these would be considered child abuse. These can include a wide range of incidents or patterns of incidents of controlling or coercive behaviour, violence or abuse between teenagers (and may involve children younger than 13) who are, or have been, in an intimate relationship. This abuse can encompass, but is not limited to, psychological, physical, sexual, economic or emotional abuse.

For teenagers in particular, this abuse can often occur through technology. For instance, technology may be used to harass and control victims, including social media, or location-based tracking apps. Young people's lives are often heavily online-based and perpetrators of abuse may exploit this, demanding access to passwords or monitoring online activity. Young people may also experience intimate image abuse within their relationships, including threats to expose intimate images.

In this edition of the Spotlight you can find information about...

- Prevalence
- Key tools and resources
- Contacts

Good practice –

- Practitioners were tenacious and were willing to deal with difficult subjects and have difficult conversations.
- Practitioners were confident and celebrated the periods of stability for the family.
- Communication between agencies was strong. All practitioners knew the family and were aware of the dynamics.
- Professionals were quick to recognise Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) and the need to do things differently when working with past trauma.
- Both cases evidenced professional curiosity.
- The communication and joint working between Adults and Children's Services was positive and led to good outcomes.
- The use of fewest best interventions was evident.
- Practitioners had a good level of knowledge of the impact of loss and grief.

Top actions -

- Ensuring that practitioners and partners understand the offer from local domestic abuse specialists and what specific interventions can be accessed.
- Work with partnership boards to strengthen tools and resources across the partnership to address emerging risk and to ensure work can be done early with perpetrators so that they do not go on to repeat the behaviour.
- Ensure people know how to access specialist bereavement support.

Protection & Accountability subgroup

The subgroup act as a reference group and utilise the specialist knowledge of partners, including people with a lived experience to support with the review and updating of safeguarding policies, procedures, guidance, and tools.

The NLSAB suite of documents are regularly reviewed by the subgroup to ensure they are reflective of legislation and case law, and to ensure they also adapt in response to learning from case audits, learning reviews and people's experiences.

Over the course of the year the subgroup have refreshed and updated a number of policies – including the People in a Position of Trust (PiPoT).

The purpose of this policy is to provide a framework for managing cases where allegations have been made against a person in a position of trust (PiPoT) and is focussed on the management of risk. It provides guidance to ensure appropriate actions are taken to manage allegations against people who work, either in a paid or unpaid capacity, with adults with care and support needs.

This policy is based on the Care Act 2014 which requires that partner agencies and their commissioners of services should have clear recordings and information sharing guidance, set explicit timescales for action and are aware of the need to preserve evidence.

The policy builds upon existing relevant statutory provision. The guidance for 'managing allegations against people in a position of trust' is contained within section 14 of the Care and Support Statutory Guidance 2015.

Each partner agency is required to provide assurance to the NLSAB that arrangements to deal with allegations against a person in a position of trust, within their organisation are adequate and are functioning effectively. The subgroup have developed an electronic form which enables partner agencies to provide quarterly updates in relation to referrals received and outcomes.

The subgroup maintains oversight of learning to ensure PiPoT arrangements are working effectively between, and across partner agencies. Appropriate cross organisational challenge is an important part of this process.

Protection & Accountability subgroup

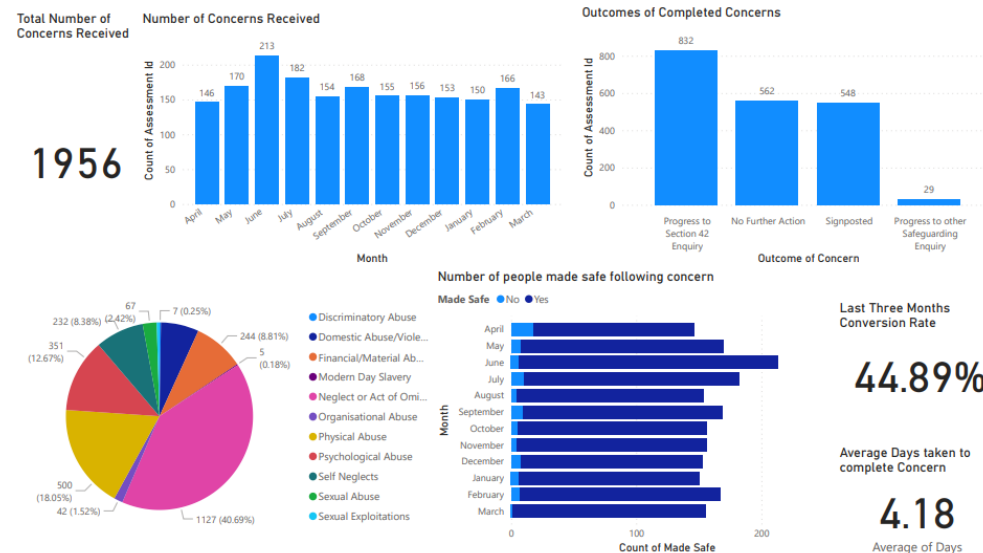
The NLSAB and its partners have continued to work together to prevent and reduce the risk of harm to people with care and support needs.

The subgroup regularly analyses and monitor the effectiveness of safeguarding activity, at each meeting they review and scrutinise available data and intelligence to identify themes and trends, informing areas for development, innovation and improvement.

The available intelligence includes:

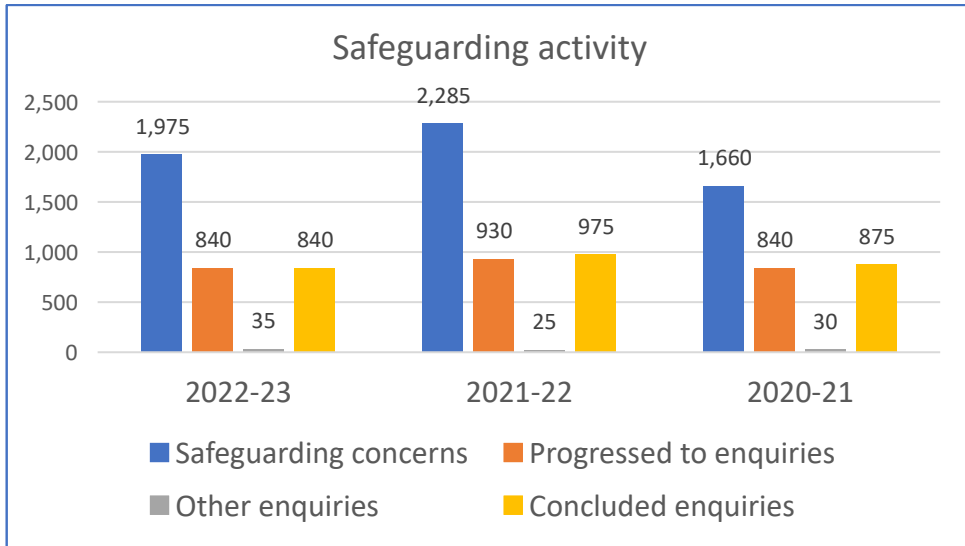
- NLSAB data dashboard
- CQC report information including analysis of the five domain levels
- Information from reviews such as Safeguarding Adult Reviews (SARs), Learning Disability (LeDeR) Reviews, Domestic Homicide Reviews (DHRs)
- Relevant datasets from other agencies / organisations
- Learning from mechanisms within the Scrutiny & Assurance Framework

Over the last 12 months the subgroup have developed an interactive Power BI data dashboard, the dashboard allows partners to have oversight on key safeguarding categories and demographics and includes real-time data in relation to timescales and ongoing enquiries. The dashboard includes key areas such as concerns, enquiries, geographical location, timescales and outcomes. In addition to the dashboard a quarterly story board is also shared, this gives context and triangulates the data – the story board provides an overview of our local picture and how it compares, themes and trends that could be improved, ‘what good looks like’ and what needs to happen next.



During 2023 and 2024 the subgroup are working on further enhancing the dashboard, to include information in relation to which agencies are completing enquiries and enhanced information in relation to the voice of the person at risk and their families.

Safeguarding adults data in 2022/23



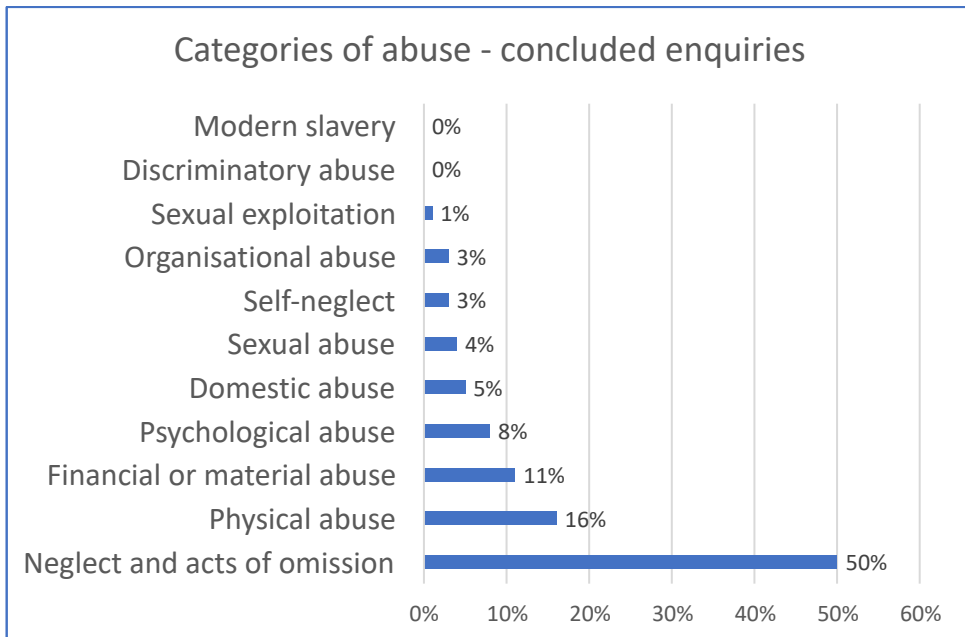
During 2022-23 a total 1,975 safeguarding concerns were received, which is a decrease of 14% in comparison to the previous year. The decrease could be attributed to the preventative and educational work undertaken around the re-launch of the enhanced safeguarding threshold document.

Of those 1,975 safeguarding concerns, 840 became safeguarding enquiries, and a total of 840 safeguarding enquiries were completed during the year.

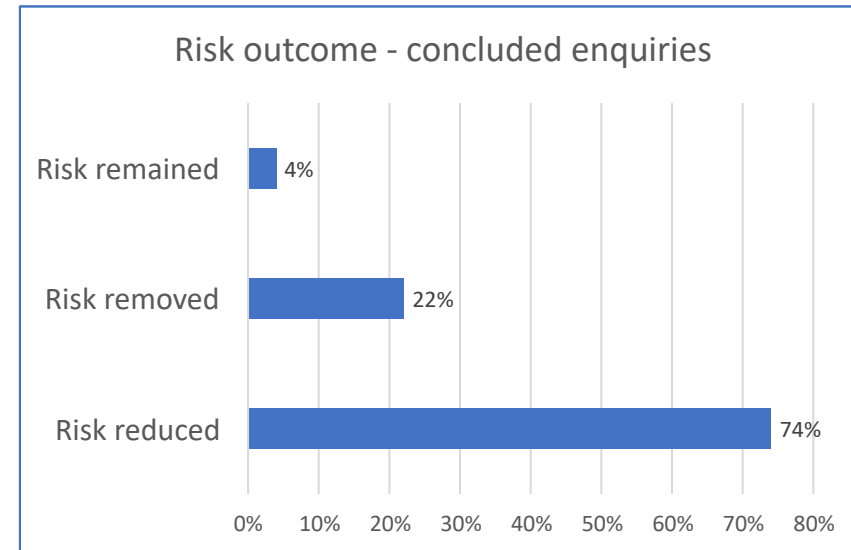
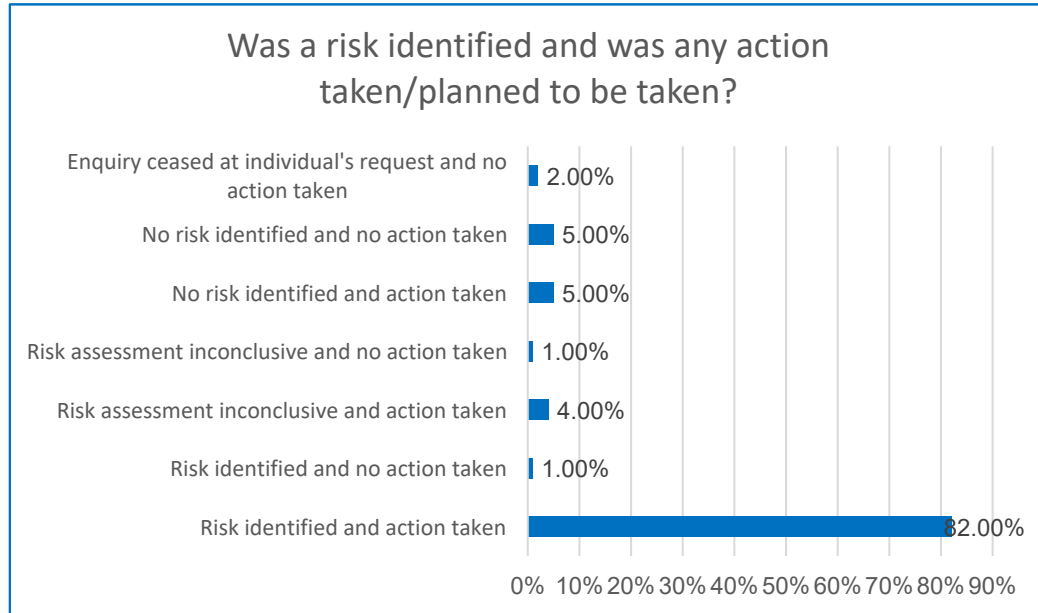
As in previous years, a large proportion of safeguarding concerns (48%) received were from care providers as is the case in many local authorities. In North Lincolnshire this is seen as positive and provides assurance that our providers have a good understanding of their safeguarding responsibilities and our local operating procedures.

On occasions when a safeguarding enquiry was not required, other forms of support, advice and guidance, or other services will have been provided, dependent on the adults' views, wishes and needs.

In line with previous years data and trends, neglect & acts of omission, physical and financial abuse continue to be the highest categories of abuse. It is important to note, however that a person may experience more than one type of abuse.



Safeguarding adults data in 2022/23

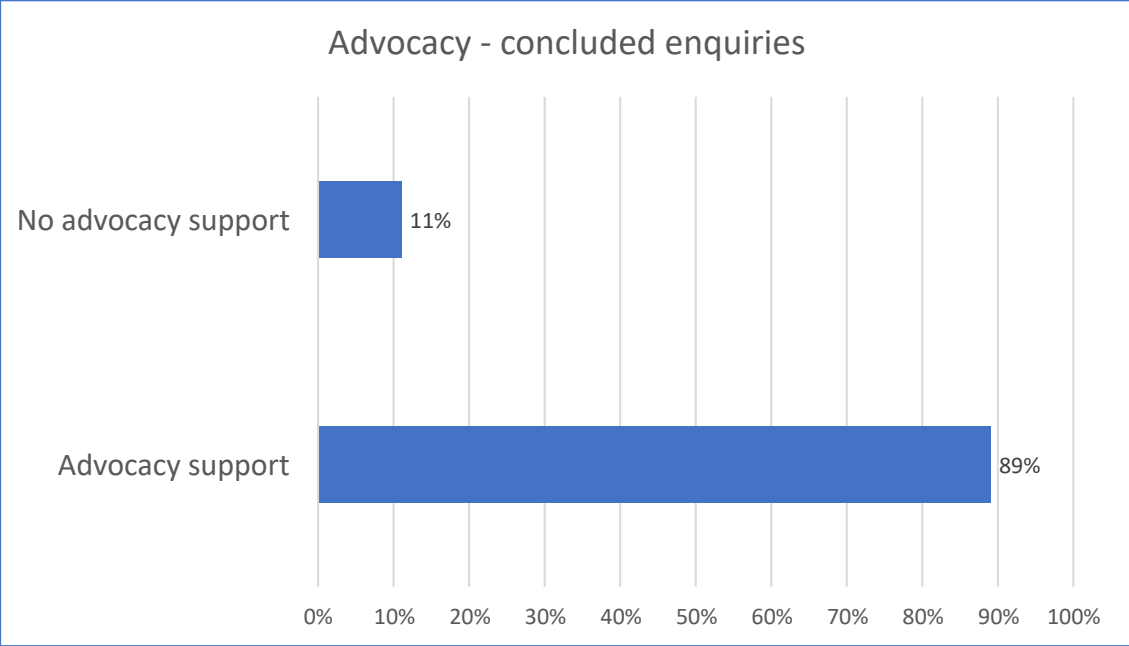
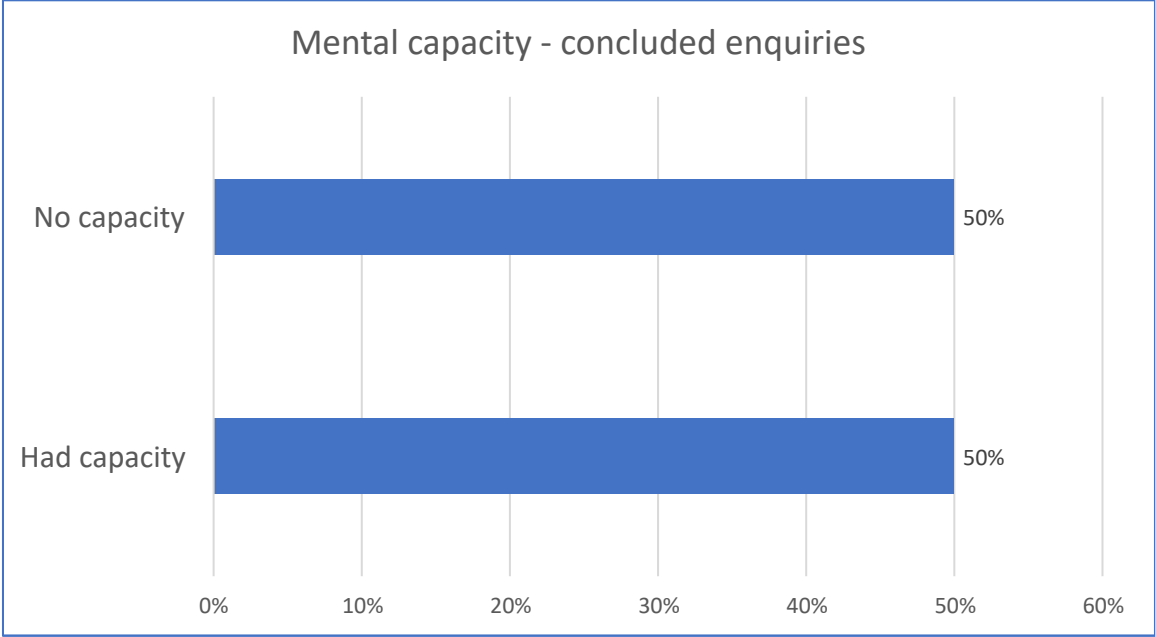


At 82% risk identified and action taken remains the highest outcome of concluded S42 enquiries, indicating that a correct threshold for S42 enquiries is in place.

In 96% of enquiries identified risks were either removed or reduced.

It is important to recognise, that sometimes people may choose to live with risk, or it may remain with safeguarding plans and strategies in place.

Safeguarding adults data in 2022/23



The number of individuals who lacked capacity in relation to the safeguarding concern was 50%.

89% of adults were supported by an advocate.

Safeguarding adults data in 2022 / 23

Making Safeguarding Personal (MSP)

MSP is about having conversations with people about how to respond in safeguarding situations in a way that enhances involvement, choice and control as well as improving quality of life, well-being, and safety. The Care Act 2014 advocates a person-centred, rather than a process driven approach.

Making someone safe doesn't always lead to making someone happy. In effective safeguarding practice it is important to understand there is a balance between rights and risks.

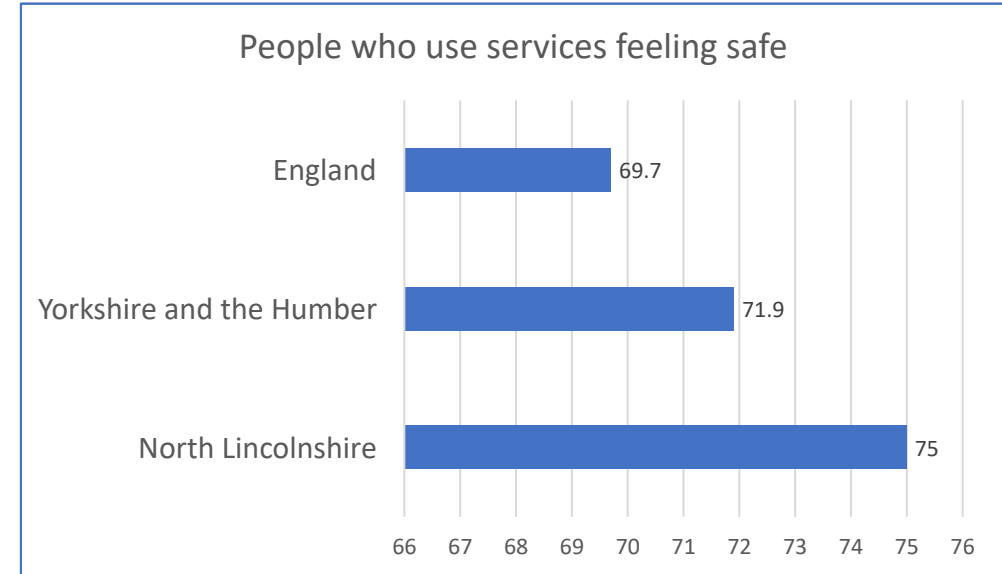
MSP questions in the dataset comply with the standards set by NHS digital, ensuring they are comparable with all other authorities across England.

92%

of individuals and / or their representatives were asked their views and wishes in relation to the S42 enquiry

97%

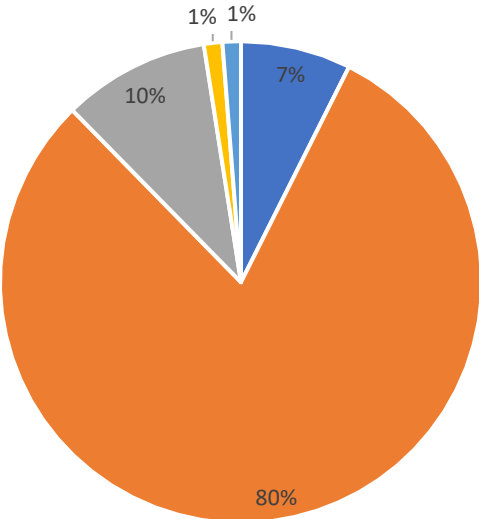
of individuals and / or their representatives felt their views and wishes had either been partially or fully met



In North Lincolnshire, the score for people using services who they felt safe is 75% - this is 3.1% higher than the regional average, and 5.3% higher than the England average. This data was drawn from section 4A of the Adult Social Care Outcomes Framework (ASCOF) in England for the period 1 April 2022 to 31 March 2023. The data measures how well care and support services achieve the outcomes that matter most to people.

Safeguarding adults data in 2022 / 23

Care Quality Commission ratings North Lincolnshire Care Homes and Home Care



■ Outstanding ■ Good ■ Requires Improvement ■ Inadequate ■ Not Yet Inspected

This information relates to the quality assurance of registered care providers following Care Quality Commission (CQC) inspections. The data indicates a high-quality care sector in North Lincolnshire with 88% of providers being inspected as either good or outstanding.

Where a provider has been rated as inadequate or requires improvement, board partners work closely together with the provider to offer support and guidance and to seek assurances that people are safe.

Safeguarding data and intelligence is also utilised to enable partner agencies to work with providers, taking an early intervention and prevention approach to safeguarding. The development of the interactive data dashboard allows themes and trends relating to care providers to be identified quickly.

Safeguarding Adult Reviews

What is a Safeguarding Adult Review (SAR)?

A SAR takes place when agencies who worked with an adult who suffered abuse or neglect, come together to find out and think about how they could have done things differently.

The aim of a SAR is to promote effective learning and improvement. SARs should be used to explore examples of good practice, as well as those not so good, and should identify learning which can be applied to future cases.

The law says Safeguarding Adults Boards must arrange a SAR when:

There is reasonable cause for concern about how NLSAB, its partners or others worked together to safeguard the adult
AND

The adult died and NLSAB suspects the death resulted from abuse or neglect

OR

The adult is alive and NLSAB suspects the adult has experienced abuse or neglect.

SARs are overseen by NLSAB Executive SAR Group, consisting of representatives from the board's statutory partners (North Lincolnshire Council, North Lincolnshire Health and Care Partnership and Humberside Police). The group has been chaired by Chief Superintendent Darren Wildbore of Humberside Police.

During the year, the SAR Executive Group received one new SAR referral and an author has been identified.

The subgroup continues to track recommendations identified in previous SARs to ensure learning is embedded.

Following the publication of Adult A SAR in 2020, in the absence of a forensic service nationally and locally, North Lincolnshire Health and Care Partnership, in collaboration with the NLSAB commenced a pilot, supported by NHS England and the Faculty of Forensic and Legal Medicine, to develop a Forensic Medical Examination service. The pilot went live in May 2022 and in April 2023 an independent evaluation into the pilot will commence by Hull University. Due to the success of the pilot and positive outcomes achieved for vulnerable adults, funding is being sought to enable the pilot to continue for a further 12 months.

The NLSAB has maintained links and reporting relationships with the Community Safety Partnership (CSP) who manage Domestic Homicide Reviews (where they involve adults with care and support needs).

Areas of future focus

As evidenced within this Annual Report, the board have made considerable progress this year in relation to delivering the priorities and strategic objectives outlined within the Strategic Plan.

We recognise the importance of ensuring that our focus remains on the issues which are going to make the greatest difference to safeguarding people in North Lincolnshire. The following key themes have been identified by board partners as areas of future focus -

- Seeking to strengthen the voice of carers within the safeguarding partnership.
- Continuing to understand the real-life experiences of people who have been through the safeguarding journey to better understand the difference it has made, and how we can develop our future practice.
- Partners working together to enhance and strengthen mechanisms, ensuring information sharing is not a barrier.
- Continuing to analyse all available data and intelligence to help recognise emerging safeguarding themes and trends, including considering hidden harm and harm categories where there are low reports of concerns, and ensure action is taken when needed.

- Continuing to build on the success of the interactive data dashboard, enhancing data around people's voice and experiences.
- Continuing to promote a positive learning culture where partners continually reflect on practice and learn from local, regional and national reviews and identify ways to prevent and reduce harm.
- Continuing to ensure that policies, procedures and guidance are effective, flexible and adapt in response to learning.
- Working with other partnership boards to avoid duplication and ensure a collaborative and effective approach is taken to safeguarding adults.
- Building on the established relationships and enhancing engagement with local community groups, and the voluntary sector to raise awareness and understanding of safeguarding adults, with a focus on diverse, isolated and under-represented communities.

The Care Quality Commission (CQC) have now started their assessments of how local authorities are meeting their Care Act responsibilities, in order to provide independent assurance to the public. The new assurance framework will shine a light on adult safeguarding, the NLSAB welcomes this assessment looks forward to the further opportunities for collaboration.