

## ADULT SOCIAL CARE AND HEALTH SCRUTINY PANEL

|                                                                                                        |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Date:</b> Monday 1st December 2025<br><b>Time:</b> 4.00 pm<br><b>Venue:</b> Mandela Room, Town Hall |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

### AGENDA

1. Welcome and Fire Evacuation Procedure

In the event the fire alarm sounds attendees will be advised to evacuate the building via the nearest fire exit and assemble at the Bottle of Notes opposite MIMA.

2. Apologies for Absence

3. Declarations of Interest

4. Minutes- Adult Social Care and Health Scrutiny - 20 October 2025 3 - 6

5. Teeswide Safeguarding Adults Board (TSAB) Annual Report - 2024-2025 7 - 50

The Independent Chair of the TSAB, Adrian Green, will be in attendance to present the TSAB's Annual Report 2024-2025.

A copy of the TSAB Strategic Business Plan 2025-2028 is attached for information only.

6. Healthy Weight Declaration 51 - 72

The Health Improvement Specialist will provide additional evidence to support the Panel's review of 'Healthy Placemaking with a Focus on Childhood Obesity'. The presentation will provide an overview of the Healthy Weight Declaration.

7. Overview and Scrutiny Board Update

8. Date and Time of Next Meeting - 12 January 2026, 4pm

9. Any other urgent items which in the opinion of the Chair, may be considered.

Charlotte Benjamin  
Director of Legal and Governance Services

Town Hall  
Middlesbrough  
Friday 21 November 2025

#### MEMBERSHIP

Councillors J Kabuye (Chair), D Coupe (Vice-Chair), J Banks, D Branson, D Jackson, T Mohan, S Platt and Z Uddin

#### **Assistance in accessing information**

**Should you have any queries on accessing the Agenda and associated information please contact Claire Jones / Rachael Johansson, 01642 729112 / 01642 726421, [claire\\_jones@middlesbrough.gov.uk](mailto:claire_jones@middlesbrough.gov.uk) / [rachael\\_johansson@middlesbrough.gov.uk](mailto:rachael_johansson@middlesbrough.gov.uk)**

## ADULT SOCIAL CARE AND HEALTH SCRUTINY PANEL

A meeting of the Adult Social Care and Health Scrutiny Panel was held on Monday 20 October 2025.

**PRESENT:** Councillors J Kabuye (Chair), D Branson, D Coupe (Vice-Chair), D Jackson, T Mohan, S Platt and Z Uddin

**OFFICERS:** A Conti, Cowley, A Glossop, R Johansson, C Jones, D McAleavey and C Orr

**APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** Councillor J Banks

### 25/23 WELCOME AND FIRE EVACUATION PROCEDURE

The Chair welcomed all attendees to the meeting and explained the fire evacuation procedures.

### 25/24 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

| Name of Member   | Type of Interest | Item / Nature of Business                 |
|------------------|------------------|-------------------------------------------|
| Cllr David Coupe | Non-Pecuniary    | Councillor-Governor, South Tees NHS Trust |

### 25/25 MINUTES- ADULT SOCIAL CARE AND HEALTH SCRUTINY - 8 SEPTEMBER 2025

The minutes of the Adult Social Care and Health Scrutiny Panel meeting held on 8 September 2025 were submitted and approved as a correct record.

### SUSPENSION OF COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULES - ORDER OF BUSINESS.

In accordance with Council Procedure Rules 4.8.1 (d) and 4.8.25 (iii) the Chair proposed a motion to change the order of business at the meeting. The motion proposed that Agenda Item 7 "Healthy Placemaking – Terms of Reference" be heard next.

**AGREED that the order of business for the remainder of the meeting be items 7, 5, 6, 8, 9 and 10.**

### 25/26 HEALTHY PLACEMAKING - TERMS OF REFERENCE

The Democratic Services Officers presented some potential Terms of Reference for the scrutiny review topic 'Healthy Placemaking with a Focus on Childhood Obesity'. The Chair invited Members to discuss the proposals and to consider any revisions or additions.

**Agreed that the Terms of Reference for the scrutiny review of Healthy Placemaking with a Focus on Childhood Obesity, were approved as follows**

1. Establish an understanding of childhood obesity in Middlesbrough, including current prevalence rates, trends over time, variation by ward or demographic group and links to deprivation, ethnicity, and other social determinants.
2. Identify the key aspects of healthy placemaking and assess current and planned activity within Middlesbrough, such as public health, planning, transport and environment matters.
3. Examine how partnership working contributes to the current reduction of childhood obesity and identify how this could be further developed by considering areas of best practice.
4. Explore how healthy placemaking can be embedded more effectively into local council policies and strategies.

**HEALTHY PLACEMAKING - PLANNING**

The Strategic Policy Manager (Planning) and the Creating Active & Healthy Places Lead (Public Health South Tees) delivered a presentation on Healthy Placemaking through Planning.

The presentation provided an overview of the planning system, including national legislation, the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), and associated practice and design guidance. Members also received information on the Local Plan and the development control process, and how these shaped the built environment. The officers highlighted several relevant paragraphs from the NPPF (including paragraphs 96c, 97, 103 and 109 e & f), which emphasised the role of planning in promoting healthy, safe and accessible communities.

A definition of a 'healthy place' was shared, along with an explanation of how this aligned with the Council Plan priority of creating a healthy place; improving life chances for residents through tackling health inequalities, promoting inclusivity and reducing poverty. The Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy and Joint Strategic Needs Assessment were also referenced, with particular focus on the two missions most relevant to spatial planning; 'creating places and systems that promote wellbeing' and 'supporting people and communities to build better health.'

Members were informed that Middlesbrough's Local Plan (published March 2025) integrated health considerations throughout. The Creating Active and Healthy Places Lead highlighted that only around 30% of planning authorities across the country routinely used a Health Impact Assessment (HIA) as part of the planning process, and it was therefore positive that Middlesbrough was among those adopting this approach. The HIA was explained as a tool used to identify the potential health and wellbeing impacts of new plans or major developments, helping to ensure that design, location and access considerations supported healthier living for local communities. Examples were provided, such as encouraging new housing developments to include usable open spaces, promote food growing and be situated within accessible distance of supermarkets (800m) to support healthier food choices.

The Panel heard that the HIA process also informed decisions on applications relating to hot food takeaways. A heat map was presented which showed existing takeaway locations, 400m zones around schools and local Year 6 obesity prevalence by ward, highlighting the contrast between those in the North and South of the town. It was explained that the Healthy Weight Declaration and local policy supported the restriction of new takeaways.

Finally, Members were given an overview of how specialist roles including hybrid public health-planning posts, added value by embedding health considerations throughout the planning process and supporting healthy placemaking principles in decision-making.

A Member queried how fast-food takeaways were managed within the planning system, noting the wide range of food outlets and classifications. Members were informed that the definition of a fast-food outlet originates from Public Health guidance, while national bodies, including the Office for Health Improvement and Disparities (OHID) and the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) were continuing to develop a clearer, standard definition. The Strategic Policy Manager advised that a robust policy had been developed with thresholds in place so that new takeaway applications in specific areas would generally be recommended for refusal, while existing outlets would remain. It was explained that even an interim policy had deterred some applicants.

A Member asked how progress was measured. Officers explained that the impact of healthy placemaking was assessed through benchmarking against national good practice, monitoring how well health was embedded in the Local Plan and by tracking relevant indicators, including decisions on hot food takeaways.

Another Member queried the key challenges faced by officers. In response, officers highlighted the importance of maintaining political and organisational commitment to healthy placemaking, as well as building skills and awareness across the Council to ensure policies were consistently applied and ambitions delivered.

Members noted the information provided and the Chair thanked the officers for their attendance.

**NOTED.**

25/28

**HEALTHY PLACEMAKING - TRANSPORT & INFRASTRUCTURE**

The Head of Transport & Infrastructure and the Principal Transport Planning Officer delivered a presentation on Healthy Placemaking through Transport and Infrastructure.

The presentation included;

- Data on modes of travel and levels of uptake.
- Travel to school, including walking rates.
- An overview of the Highway Infrastructure Delivery Plan and Integrated Transport Strategy.
- The City Region Sustainable Transport Settlement and Levelling Up Fund.
- Road safety and road safety initiatives in schools.

During the presentation, it was noted that, Middlesbrough experienced high levels of childhood obesity and physical inactivity, despite having low car ownership (with 33.1% of households having no car or van) and short averages distances between home and school (1.6 miles for primary schools and 3.5 miles for secondary schools). A Member expressed interest in the vehicle ownership figures and requested further data, broken down by ward and demographic characteristics.

It was reported that 46% of children walk to school, with lower figures recorded over recent years. Members expressed concern and surprise at the declining rate and queried the reasons behind it. Officers stated that they believed the main barriers to walking were perception-based, with parents believing journeys were “too far” or unsafe, despite Middlesbrough being a compact town with low topography, with the average walk to school of 30 minutes and an average cycle time of 10 minutes. It was suggested that parental choice was the greatest influencing factor, and that schools were the most effective community leaders to support a cultural shift in attitudes.

A Member also raised concerns about the reduction in local bus services, noting that this limited travel choices for some families. Officers acknowledged the concern but explained that bus provision was outside of the Council’s control, as services were operated by private companies driven by commercial viability.

The Principal Transport Planning Officer then presented road safety data, which showed a downward trend in overall casualties, with a slight increase in child KSI (Killed or Seriously Injured) figures in recent years and an anomaly in data trends during the pandemic period. The Officer emphasised that, overall road safety levels in Middlesbrough were good, with relatively low accident rates.

Officers explained that a range of education and infrastructure initiatives were delivered in schools to promote safer, more active travel. This included 74 places for Balanceability, 1,057 Bikeability places for Year 3 and 1,259 for Year 5/6 pupils, as well as school assemblies, Dr Bike/Fix-It sessions, guided rides and secure cycle parking. It was noted that a behavioural shift (modal change) was required to reduce school gate congestion and increase active travel. Officers highlighted that parental confidence and clear communication would be key in addressing perceptions that walking is unsafe or that distances were too great.

The Principal Transport Planning Officer then outlined a number of wider initiatives aimed at encouraging sustainable and active travel and reducing reliance on private cars, supported through funding from the Tees Valley Combined Authority and the City Region Sustainable Transport Settlement. Current schemes out for consultation included the Green Lane cycleway and the Newport Road bus corridor and cycle improvements, which aimed to create the infrastructure needed to support healthier travel choices.

The Chair thanked the Officers for their presentation and responses to questions and noted that the additional information requested would be circulated in due course.

**NOTED.**

25/29      **OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY BOARD UPDATE**

The Chair provided an update on items discussed at the Overview and Scrutiny Board meeting held on 17 September 2025, which included:

- An update from the Executive Member for Education.
- Progress on the Forward Plan Actions.
- Agreement to the Terms of Reference for the 'Poverty' Scrutiny topic.

**NOTED.**

25/30      **DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING - 1 DECEMBER 2025, 4.00PM**

The next meeting of the Adult Social Care and Health Scrutiny Panel had been scheduled for 1 December 2025 at 4.00 p.m. in the Mandela Room, Town Hall.

**NOTED.**

25/31      **ANY OTHER URGENT ITEMS WHICH IN THE OPINION OF THE CHAIR, MAY BE CONSIDERED.**

None.

# Annual Report

## 2024-25



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## Introduction from Adrian Green, Independent Chair

Welcome to the Teeswide Safeguarding Adults Board's 2024/25 Annual Report. The Care Act 2014 requires all Safeguarding Adults Boards to produce an annual report providing the public with information on the progress made against the Board's priorities, the outcomes of safeguarding adult reviews and their recommendations and what the Board has done to improve practice that keeps adults in our communities safe from abuse and neglect.

Our committed partnership members ensure TSAB continues to be very well supported in the delivery of the Board and its Sub-Group's work.

Whilst it is disappointing that we narrowly missed one of our key performance indicators this year, TSAB will work with our partners to deliver an improvement in who is asked about their safeguarding desired outcomes. The Board strives to ensure that the public understands what abuse and neglect is and how to report it. There has been a 7% increase in concerns raised, and whilst not complacent, we hope that these increases are an outcome of the Board's continued engagement work.

The Board is committed to listening to people involved in or affected by safeguarding and I am proud of the work that has been achieved and the 30% increase in responses to our annual survey. This contributes directly to the activities reported within this report's 'You Said' We did' and our Safeguarding Week section. I also commend the partnership's continuing training offer, which last year supported 7,500 learners, helping to keep safeguarding practice up to date and the public safer.

When incidents of concern do occur, the Board has a duty to identify the learning opportunities to prevent reoccurrence, and this report provides a summary of the Safeguarding Adult Review notifications received and the actions undertaken on those that have been published.

As part of our planning cycle, the Board and its partners reviewed our vision and priorities for the next three years and these are presented for your information and will be reported upon from next year.

As ever, budgets are limited, our elderly population continues to increase in number and cases grow in complexity with increased needs. The NHS is in a period of significant restructure with the abolition of NHS England and significant change within the Integrated Care Board responsible for the commissioning of local health services. The TSAB will continue to work with and support our partners to ensure that we continue to prevent and support those at risk of being subject to abuse and neglect. As Chair, I would like to thank all the partners on the Board for their continued commitment and support, in particular the Business Unit team and the Sub-Group chairs.



Adrian Green.  
Teeswide Safeguarding Adults Board Independent Chair.

## What does the Board do?

The Teeswide Safeguarding Adults Board (TSAB) is a statutory body responsible for protecting adults' rights to live independent lives, free from abuse and neglect. The Board works collaboratively with partners to set the strategic direction for adult safeguarding in Tees and seeks assurance from partners that they have appropriate and robust safeguarding arrangements in place.

## Board Member Organisations

### 6 Statutory Partners:

- Cleveland Police
- Hartlepool Borough Council
- Middlesbrough Council
- NHS North East and North Cumbria Integrated Care Board
- Redcar & Cleveland Borough Council
- Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council

### 24 Non-Statutory Partners:

- A Way Out
- Beyond Housing
- Care Quality Commission
- Catalyst Stockton-on-Tees (Voluntary Development Agency)
- Cleveland Fire Brigade
- Department for Work and Pensions
- Hartlepool & Stockton-on-Tees Safeguarding Children Partnership
- Hartlepool Community Trust
- Healthwatch Hartlepool
- Healthwatch South Tees
- Healthwatch Stockton-on-Tees
- HMP Holme House Prison
- Middlesbrough Voluntary Development Agency
- North East Ambulance Service
- North Tees & Hartlepool NHS Foundation Trust
- Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Cleveland
- People First
- National Probation Service
- Redcar & Cleveland Voluntary Development Agency
- South Tees Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust
- South Tees Safeguarding Children Partnership
- Tees Esk & Wear Valleys NHS Foundation Trust
- Teesside University
- Thirteen Housing

## Board Structure

The Board has continued to engage with key strategic partnerships across Tees including the Local Safeguarding Children Partnerships, Community Safety Partnerships, Tees Harm Outside The Home (HOTH) and the Cleveland Anti-Slavery Network as well as regional and national Safeguarding Adults Networks.

## Sub-Groups

The Board has a number of Sub-Groups leading on key pieces of work in order to achieve the aims and objectives set out in the Board's Strategic Business Plan 2024/25. The purpose of the Sub-Groups are summarised below.

### **Communication & Engagement (CE)**

Leads the development, implementation and evaluation of a multi-agency strategy aimed at increasing awareness of safeguarding adults and promoting the involvement of adults at risk, carers and advocates in the Teeswide safeguarding adult's processes.

### **Learning Training & Development (LTD)**

Leads the development, implementation and evaluation of a multi-agency learning, training and development strategy.

### **Operational Leads (OL)**

To provide a forum to enable safeguarding adult's operational leads from TSAB partner agencies to share good practice, problem-solve, access peer support and engage in multi-agency audits. The Sub-Group also provides qualitative data to inform the development of person-centred policies, procedures and strategies.

### **Performance, Audit & Quality (PAQ)**

Leads the development and implementation of a performance framework and provides an audit and quality assurance function on behalf of the TSAB.

### **Safeguarding Adult Review (SAR)**

Leads on the development and implementation of the Teeswide SAR Policy and Procedures to ensure that learning from any reviews undertaken locally and nationally is disseminated appropriately. The Sub-Group also considers notifications for SARs and makes recommendations to the Independent Chair.

### **Task & Finish Groups**

During 2024/25 there were a number of Task & Finish Groups to look at specific work streams:

- Adult Exploitation Strategy
- National Safeguarding Adults Week
- Policy, Procedures and Practice
- Annual Consultation Survey Review
- Collaborative Working and Information Sharing between Professionals to Protect Adults
- High Risk Adults Panel Review

## Key achievements 2024-25

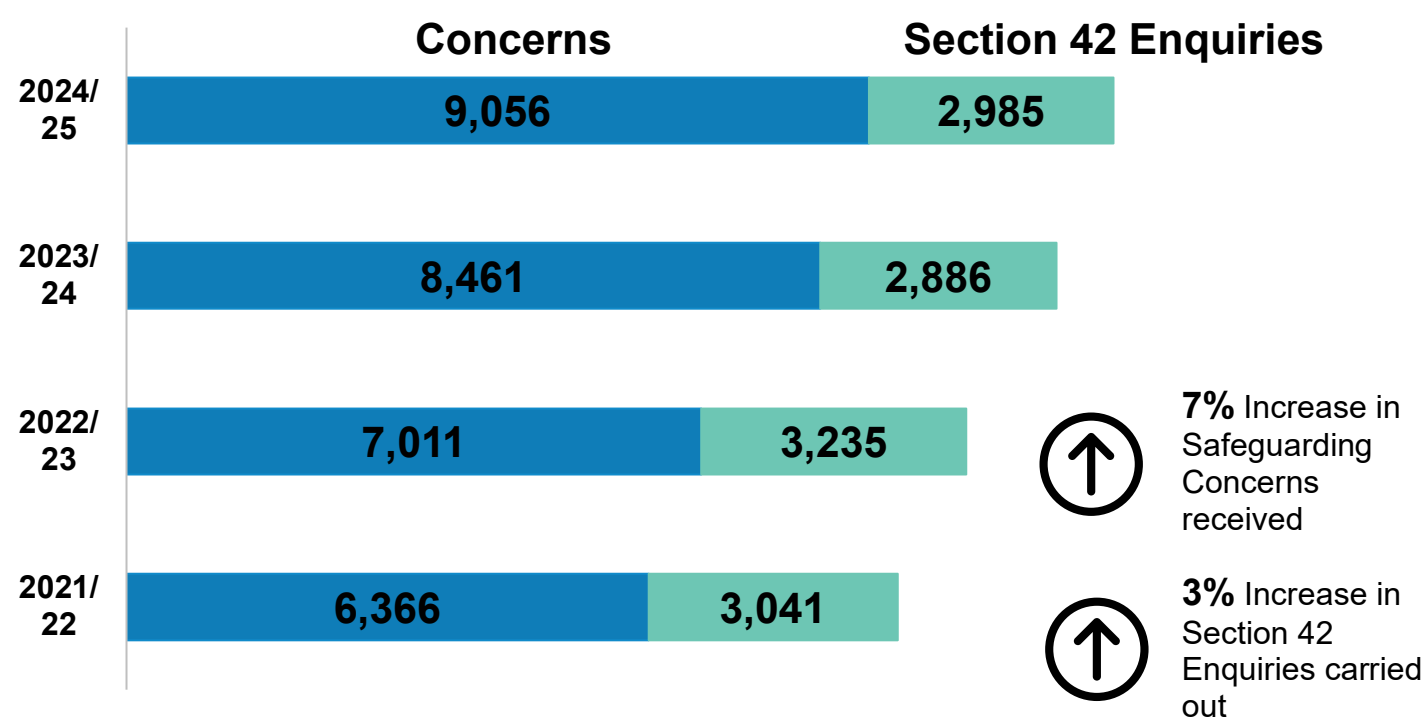


# Safeguarding Data 2024-25

## Concerns and Section 42 Enquiries<sup>1</sup>

**Safeguarding Concern** - a report made to the lead agency for the safeguarding process to raise concerns of adult abuse/ neglect.

**S42 Enquiries** - The Care Act 2014 (Section 42) requires that each Local Authority must make enquiries, or cause others to do so, if it believes an adult is experiencing, or is at risk of, abuse and/or neglect.



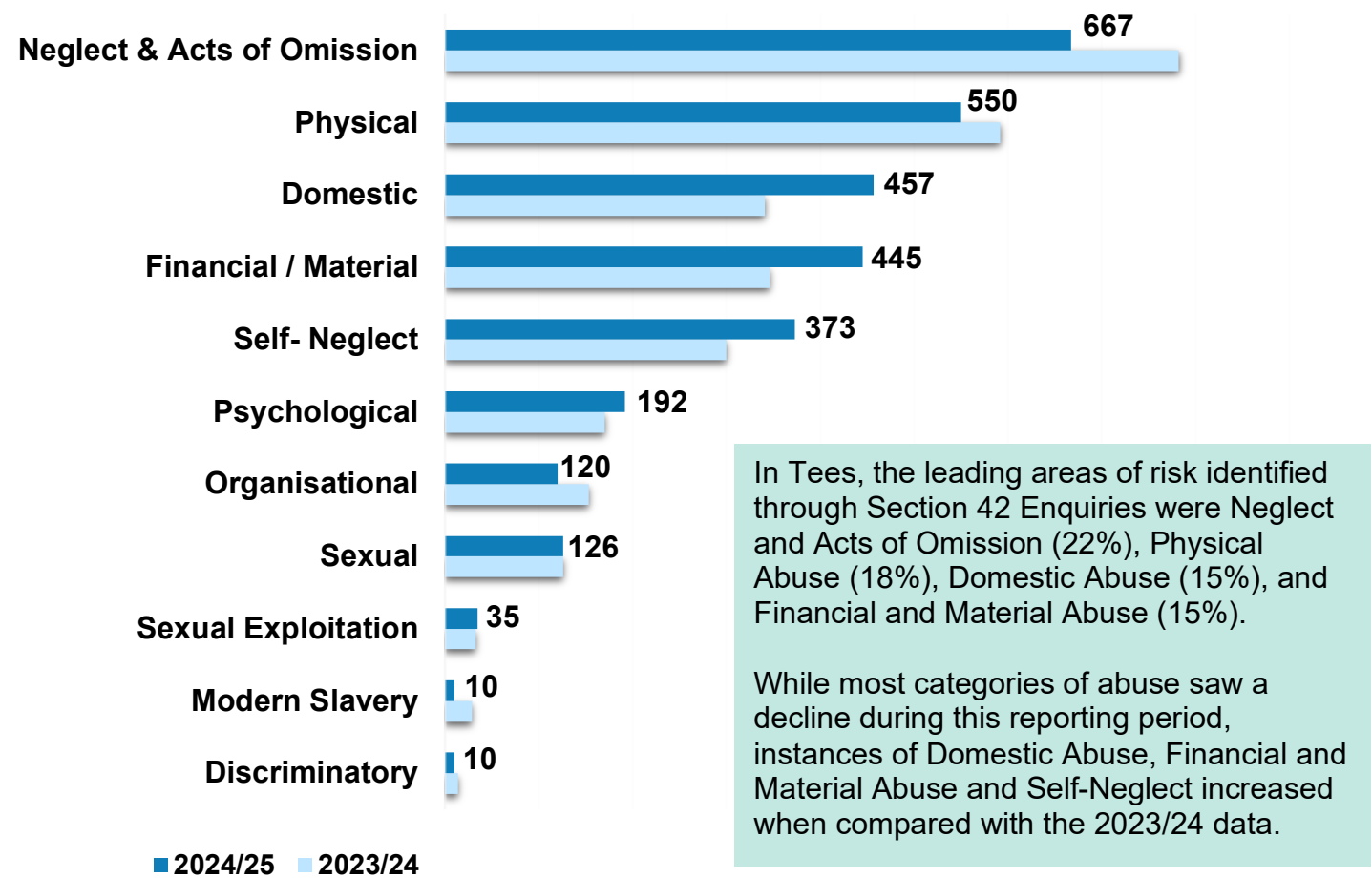
## Location of Risk: Section 42 Enquiries



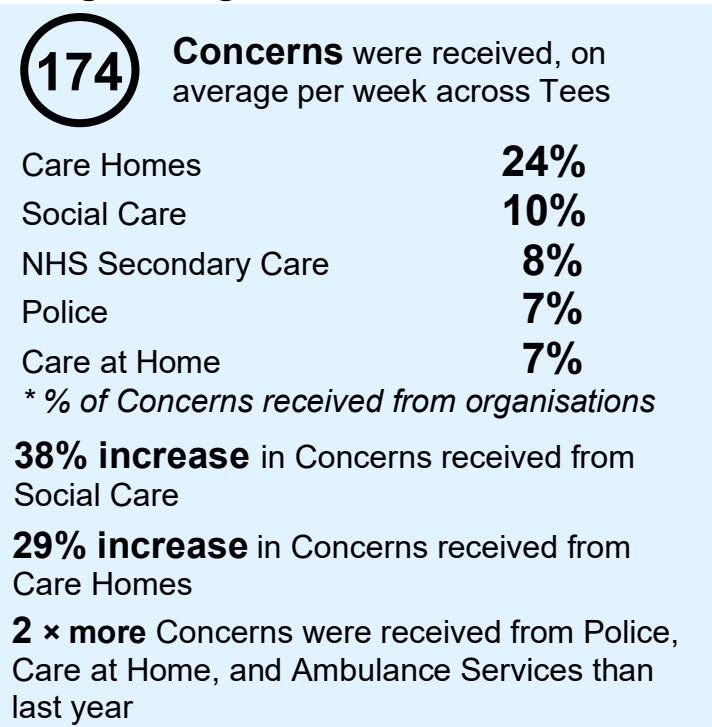
An individual's Own Home remains the most common setting for risk across Tees, reflecting trends observed in previously published national data.

<sup>1</sup> Data on this page relates to Section 42 Enquiries commenced

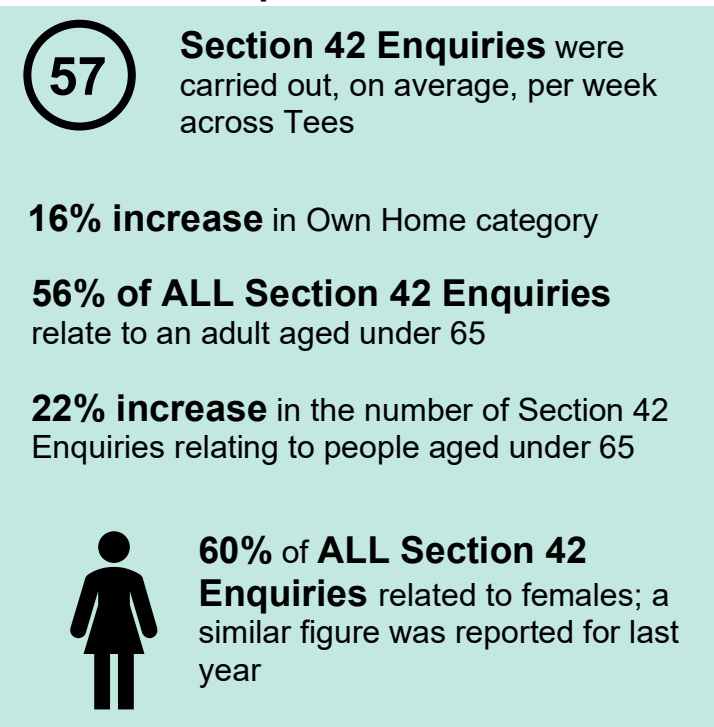
Types of Risk: Section 42 Enquiries

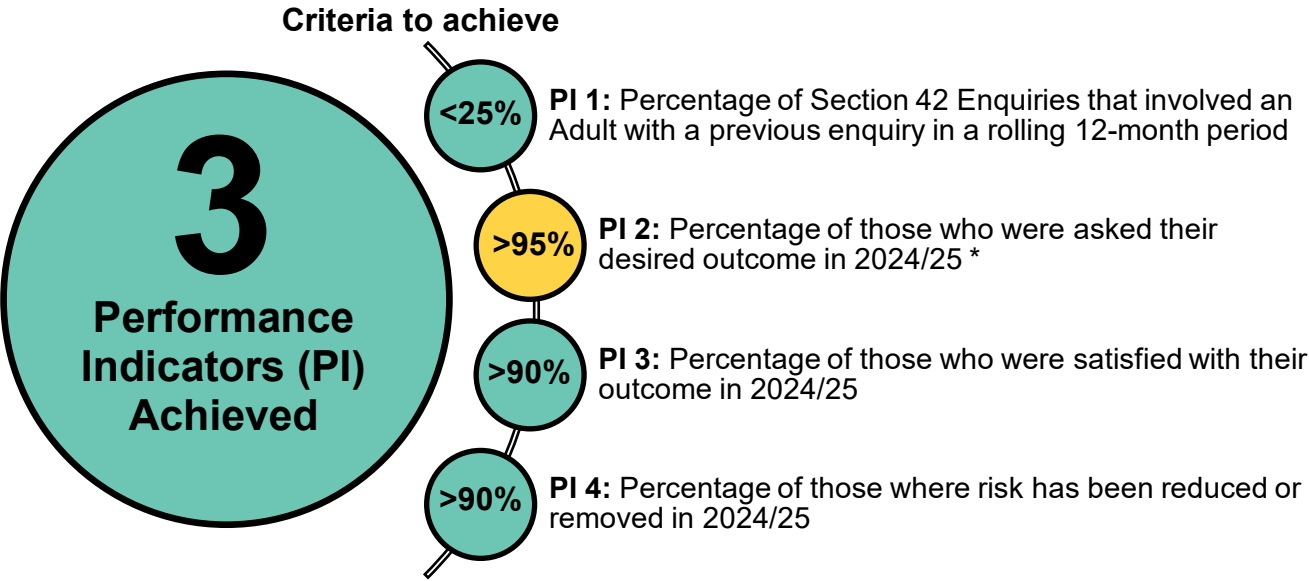


Safeguarding Concerns Received



Section 42 Enquiries Commenced

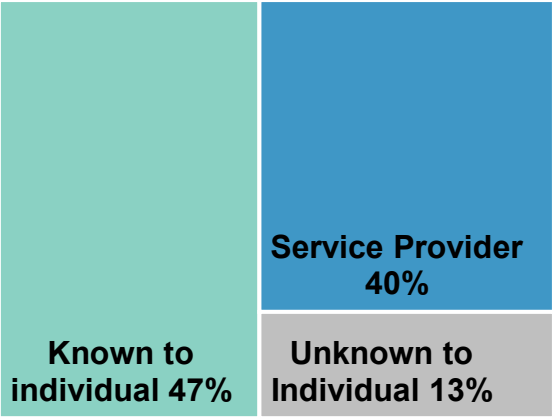




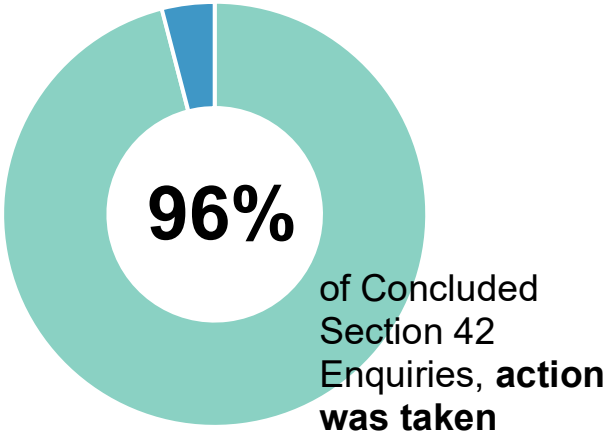
\* PI 2 narrowly missed its annual target, with the result falling just short of the expected criteria.

**Outcomes of Concluded Sections 42 Enquiries**

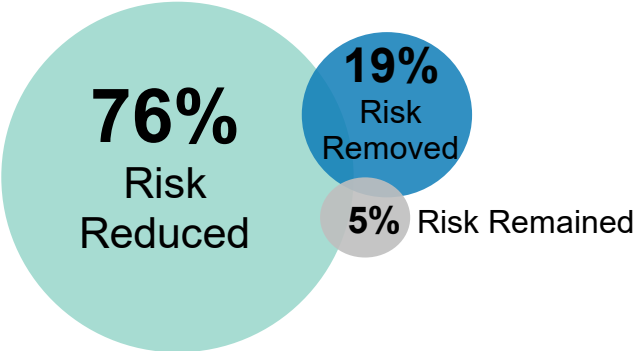
**Source of risk to the adult**



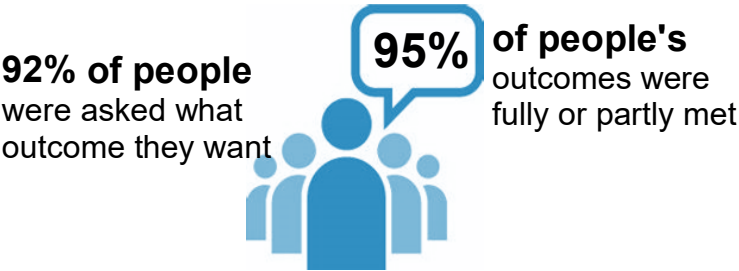
**Safeguarding Action**



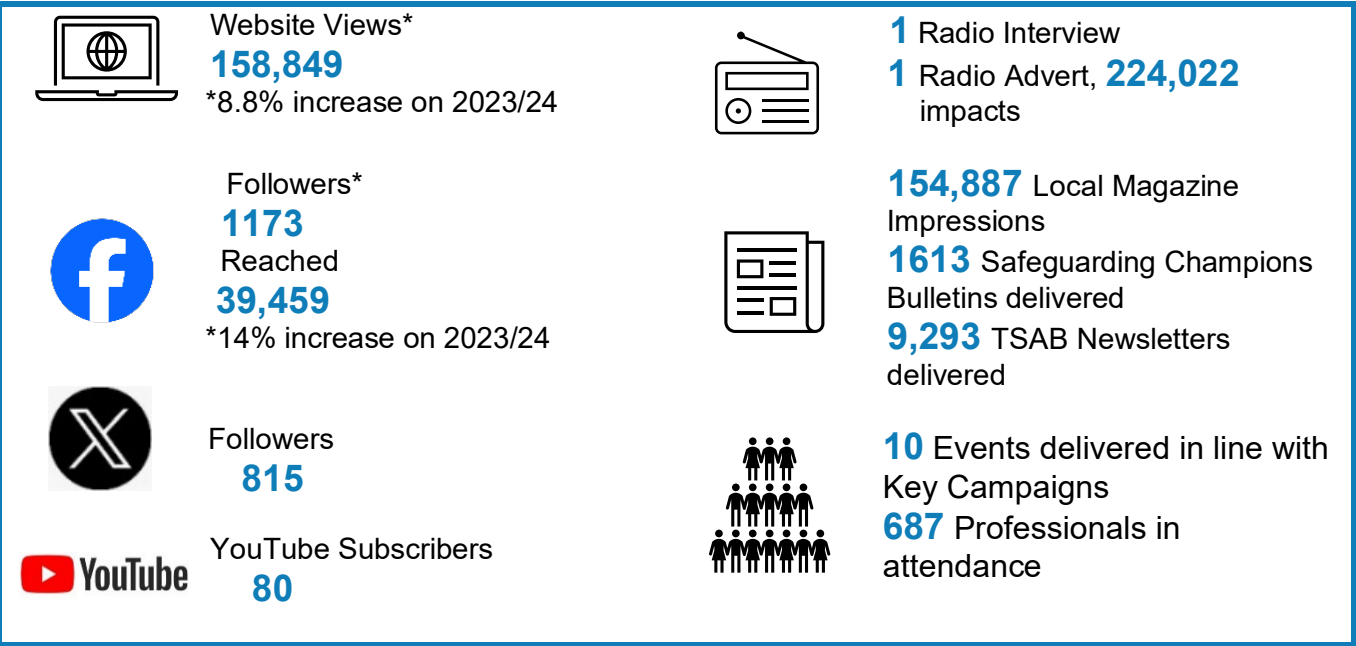
**Safeguarding Outcome**



**Adults Voice**



# Communication and Engagement



## Awareness Raising Campaigns

Throughout the year, the Board engaged collaboratively with partners on a wide range of awareness raising activities, utilising multiple communication and engagement methods with the aim of engaging professionals, members of the general public, harder to reach groups and digitally excluded individuals. The Board participated in a number of national campaigns including National Safeguarding Adults Week, as well as facilitating three local ‘Spotlight On’ Campaigns.

National Safeguarding Adults Week (NSAW) continues to be a key event for the Board, featuring a comprehensive communication and engagement plan of activity. This included a social media campaign, an advert on Hits Radio, and a radio podcast with the Board’s Independent Chair. Adverts featured in the Gazette and Hartlepool Life newspapers. A Safeguarding Poster was displayed by partners on digital screens and printed TSAB Safeguarding Literature was shared by partners, including Safeguarding Bookmarks via home library services in Stockton and Middlesbrough. 5 webinars were held for professionals covering Professional Curiosity, Autism and Suicidality, Financial Abuse and Scams, Exploitation and Cuckooing.

The Board’s ‘Spotlight On’ campaigns included, Carers Week and Elder Abuse Day, Transitional Safeguarding and Discriminatory Abuse.

## Safeguarding Champions

The Safeguarding Champions Scheme continues to grow, with **499** professionals from a variety of organisations across Tees currently enrolled (this is a **37.4%** increase when compared to 2023/24). Champions receive a quarterly e-bulletin containing safeguarding information and training and resources to support them to communicate safeguarding messages throughout their networks and communities.

## Safe Place Scheme

There are currently **96** [Safe Place](#) locations Teeswide.

The Steering Group, operating under the governance of the Board, continues to oversee the scheme throughout the year. The group monitors the number of venues joining the scheme and discusses additional work led by Safe Place Scheme leads, which further strengthens the scheme within each local authority. During 2024/25 additional work was also carried out to review the information pack for venues and to redevelop the training video for venues.



## Involving individuals with lived experience

The Board continues to seek to provide opportunities for members of the general public and those with lived experience to directly influence the work and priorities of the Board. In 2024/25 the Board:

- Co-hosted the “Prioritising Child Sexual Abuse” Roadshow, in conjunction with the Centre of Expertise on child sexual abuse, Hartlepool & Stockton Safeguarding Children Partnership, South Tees Safeguarding Children Partnership and the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Cleveland. The event included a very impactful presentation from an individual with lived experience.
- Facilitated a Safeguarding Workshop with carers at We Care You Care’s workshop. The feedback from carers prompted the development of two new posters, capturing messages from carers and promoting the service offer available across Tees for carers.
- Sought feedback from members of Stockton’s Lived Experience Forum to support with the review of the Annual Consultation Survey.
- Published and promoted the Annual Consultation Survey between October 2024 and January 2025, providing members of the public, individuals with lived experience and carers, the opportunity to influence the future direction of the Board’s priorities.
- Sought feedback from members of Recovery Connections on the “[Making Services Easier to Engage in Guidance](#)”
- Commissioned work with Signapse<sup>2</sup> to adapt the “What is Safeguarding?” and “What is Modern Slavery?” animations to include a British Sign Language Interpreter. Feedback was received, including from two deaf individuals, which resulted in positive amendments being made to the videos.
- Redeveloped the [Safe Place Scheme Video](#), involving members of Independent Voices and Larchfield Community. Members of Hartlepool Day Centre and Independent Voices were also involved in the auditing of Safe Place Venues and have provided feedback on the existing Safe Place Scheme Service User Leaflet to support its redevelopment.
- Held a weeklong campaign ‘A Spotlight on Transitional Safeguarding’ in conjunction with the Children’s Partnerships. The campaign featured an online event attended by 212 professionals.

*The overwhelming majority of respondents noted the power and impact of hearing from a presenter with lived experience of child sexual abuse.*

**Prioritising child sexual abuse: Teesside Roadshow Evaluation**



<sup>2</sup> A company using AI technology to create automatic sign language translation

## You said, we did...

In 2023/24 367 professionals and 163 members of the public completed our annual survey. You can see below some examples of how these responses have helped to inform the work of the Board in 2024/25:

### You said...

Professionals and members of the public felt less informed about Discriminatory Abuse.

### We did...

In March 2025 the Board facilitated a week-long campaign 'A Spotlight on Discriminatory Abuse', featuring a webinar for professionals and social media campaign.

### You said...

Members of the public felt less informed about psychological abuse.

### We did...

In June 2024, as part of 'A Spotlight on Carers Week and Elder Abuse Day', the Board launched a new animation 'Hidden Harms' which explores older adults and domestic abuse, including psychological abuse.

### You said...

Make sure individual's needs are listened to and information is shared appropriately and in a timely way with the organisations involved in protecting them.

### We did...

Re-developed TSAB's annual survey, with the support of Stockton's Lived Experience Forum. The new survey was launched in October 2024.

Launched two BSL videos on Safeguarding and Modern Slavery, including reporting options for those who are deaf, hard of hearing or are speech impaired. Developed new guidance on information sharing between professionals to protect adults.

### You said...

Strengthen links with organisations, children's partnerships and community safety partnerships at a strategic and local level to embed a 'think family' approach to safeguarding.

### We did...

Co-hosted the Child Sexual Abuse Roadshow and 'A Spotlight on Transitional Safeguarding' Campaign with the Safeguarding Children's Partnerships across Tees.

### You said...

Work more closely in engaging with local communities to report abuse and neglect.

### We did...

Delivered a number of awareness raising presentations, including Healthwatch Hartlepool, Stockton Wellbeing Champions, Independent Voices' Staying Safe Workshop and the Deaf Empowering Network.

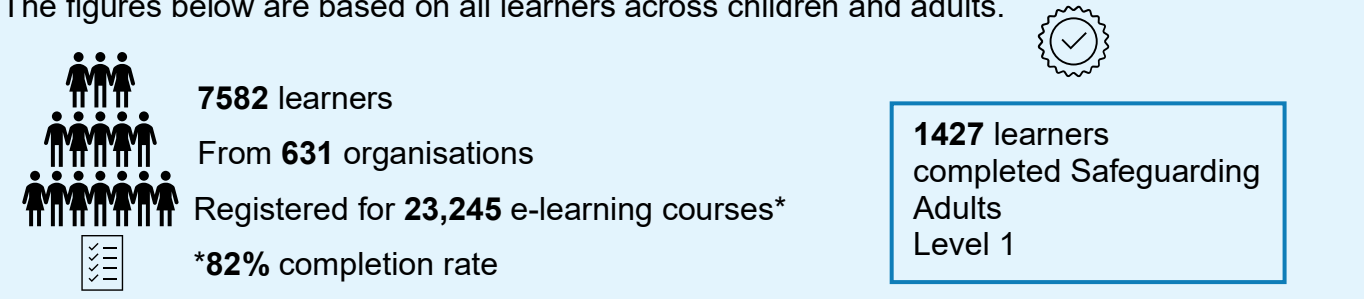
# Training

The Board provides free multi-agency training, designed to supplement single agency training provision. The Board continued to deliver its existing training programme as well as commissioning additional courses.

## Me-Learning

The Board commissions the e-Learning platform (Me-Learning) in conjunction with the local Safeguarding Children Partnerships. There are often crossovers between children and adult safeguarding work and therefore it is recognised that people who work with children and/or adults greatly benefit from having access to a wide range of safeguarding courses available in one place.

The figures below are based on all learners across children and adults.



## Webinars



## Webinar Feedback in 2024/25

*I have started to think and include clients in the decision when making a safeguarding referral, even more than I used to. I can see that trust between me and the client is being built up, helping the client to be more open and have more courage to ask for help. They are more open to ideas and solutions on how to sort out the problem at hand.*

**Learner feedback from the Making Safeguarding Personal Webinar**

*It will impact daily on how we approach, support our clients of domestic abuse and how we work with other professionals in being creative in our professional thinking collectively.*

**Learner feedback from the Complex Cases Webinar**

## Priority 1: Joint Working

**Aim: We will develop a whole system approach to safeguarding adults which is responsive to individuals' needs, views and wishes.**

### **What we said we would do:**

1. Ensure Board partners work together in an effective manner to protect adults from all forms of abuse and neglect.
2. Consider and act upon the impact of new legislation and statutory guidance on safeguarding practice.
3. Engage and Collaborate with the Local Safeguarding Children Partnerships, Community Safety Partnerships, Domestic Abuse Steering Groups, Health and Well-being Boards, Tees Exploitation Group (TEG) and partners to deliver joint priorities and objectives.
4. Engage and collaborate with the multi-partnership and multi-agency development work regarding Missing Adults, Transitions, Contextual Safeguarding and Adult Sexual Exploitation.
5. Further embed trauma informed practice, strengths based and person-centred approaches to all safeguarding adults' work.
6. Explore different safeguarding operating models and joint protocols to enhance partnership working and information sharing.

### **What we did:**

- Delivered a multi-agency audit schedule including Domestic Abuse, Transitions and Sexual Exploitation and The High-Risk Adults Panel (HRAP).
- Reviewed the Teeswide Inter-Agency Safeguarding Adults Procedure.
- Shared a draft version of the "Making Services Easier to Engage in" Guidance with members of Recovery Connections to review and provide feedback on. This resulted in changes to the guidance, including the title.
- The Adult Exploitation Strategy was developed, and an implementation group was convened. Progress on the implementation of the strategy will be reported on in 2025/26.
- Held a multi-agency in-person workshop, in collaboration with the Harm Outside the Home Chair and the Children's Partnerships, to begin the development of a Transitions process for children and young people transitioning to adulthood who are experiencing/ at risk of exploitation. Work in this area remains ongoing and will be reported on in 2025/26.
- A member of the TSAB Business Unit attended Stockton's Domestic Abuse Strategy Planning meeting in June 2024, promoting TSAB learning and resources.
- A Task and Finish Group was established to review the High-Risk Adults Panel arrangements across Tees.
- Developed new guidance on Collaborative Working and Information Sharing between Professionals to Protect Adults.
- In May 2024, a Ministerial Letter was sent to Directors of Housing, Adult Social Services, and SAB Chairs in England with recommendations on supporting individuals who are rough sleeping. TSAB held a meeting with partners and appointed a board member to lead a working group. These recommendations are now part of the TSAB Strategic Plan 2025–2028 and will be further detailed in the 2025–2026 annual report.



*Collaborative efforts between Adult Social Care and Children's Services have led to significant developments in the transitions process. This work ensures a smooth and timely transfer of support for young people moving into adulthood who require ongoing assistance.*

**Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council**



## Priority 2: People

**Aim: We will ensure the workforce is well trained, supported and equipped to safeguard the most vulnerable people within our communities.**

### What we said we would do:

1. Seek assurance from partners that staff understand the legislative framework and the principles of trauma informed practice to ensure the best outcomes for adults at risk.
2. Seek assurance from partners that staff are provided with single agency Safeguarding Adults training in accordance with the TSAB Training Strategy.
3. Seek assurance from partners that staff are provided with support and training, particularly in relation to the management of high risk/complex cases and with consideration of vicarious trauma.
4. Learn from the findings of local, regional, and national Safeguarding Adult Reviews (SAR), applicable Domestic Abuse Related Death Reviews (DARDR), Safeguarding Children Practice Reviews (SCPR) and any other relevant reviews and implement action plans.
5. Provide opportunities for partners to share learning and best practice in all aspects of safeguarding adults work which will promote staff and public confidence.

### What we did:

- Introduced impact assessments for managers, to assess the effectiveness of the TSAB training being delivered.
- Included learning from the Molly and James SAR in the Trauma Informed Practice Training.
- Continued to undertake Quality Assurance Framework (QAF) evaluations with Statutory Partners to seek assurance on the training and support provided to staff.
- Following learning identified in the James SAR and [The Domestic Homicide Oversight](#)

Mechanism: Homicide Abuse Learning Together (HALT) Study Briefings, the Board hosted a weeklong campaign 'A Spotlight on Carers Week and Elder Abuse Day'. This included two workshops for professionals 'Identifying and Supporting Carers' and 'Spotting and Stopping Abuse of Older Adults' and the launch of a new animation '[Hidden Harms](#)'.

- In collaboration with the Children's Partnerships, delivered a presentation at 2 GP engagement sessions on the learning from SARs and SCPR's. A total of 101 GP's attended.
- Held a week-long campaign with the Children's Partnerships - "A Spotlight on Transitional Safeguarding", following learning identified in the Jack SAR. The campaign featured an online event, including a presentation on the Jack SAR and Diabetes and Transition.
- Good news stories were shared in the TSAB Newsletter including a significant increase in the number of professionals from the Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise sector registered to access Me-Learning and Independent Voices winning 'Innovation Champion at the National SAB Excellence Awards.



*The ICB ensures that learning from statutory reviews is disseminated across health commissioned services where agencies are not directly represented, for example primary care. The learning is shared via quarterly engagement sessions with GP safeguarding leads and via the safeguarding professional forum whose members include safeguarding leads from across the private and charity sector.*

**NENC Integrated Care Board**



## Priority 3: Communication

**Aim: We will provide accessible and clear information, advice and support that helps people to understand what abuse is, how to prevent abuse from happening, how to seek help and how to engage with the work of the Board.**

### What we said we would do:

1. Ensure mechanisms are in place that enable adults, their families, and their carers to better inform the future direction and priorities of Adult Safeguarding across Tees.
2. Ensure that all public-facing materials are accessible and understandable.
3. Ensure adults and/ or their representatives or advocates who use safeguarding services are asked what they want as outcomes from the safeguarding process and that their views actively inform what happens.
4. Provide tools and resources to facilitate engagement with adults in need of safeguarding support.
5. Ensure the Safeguarding Champions initiative continues to improve engagement with local communities, harder to reach groups, the seldom heard and creates stronger links with the Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise sector.
6. Ensure robust information sharing across and between agencies and partnerships to ensure the best outcomes for adults using safeguarding services.

### What we did:

- A Task and Finish Group was established to review the Annual Consultation Survey and feedback was sought from the Lived Experience Forum. Inclusion North was commissioned to produce an Easy Read version of the new survey. A total of 697 survey responses were received (579 professionals and 118 members of the public) to inform the future direction and priorities of the Board. The total number of surveys completed increased by 31.5% when compared to 2023/24.
- Inclusion North was commissioned to create an updated Easy Read version of the [Protecting Adults from Abuse and Neglect leaflet](#).
- The TSAB website provider was commissioned to support with the work required to ensure the website is accessible to all. Work in this area remains ongoing.
- The Board successfully delivered three Spotlight on Campaigns (Carers Week and Elder Abuse Day, Transitional Safeguarding and Discriminatory Abuse) and National Safeguarding Adults Week to raise the profile of adult safeguarding amongst professionals and the public.
- A gap analysis of Safeguarding Champions was undertaken to support targeted recruitment. Engagement opportunities with professionals via events continue to be utilised to increase the Safeguarding Champion cohort, including the GP engagement sessions which resulted in 26 GP's joining the scheme.
- A Safeguarding Presentation was delivered at Independent Voice's "Staying Safe" Workshop for adults with Learning Disabilities.
- To ensure the Board continues to be inclusive, diverse communication methods have continued to be utilised in 2024-2025 including radio interviews and adverts, resident newsletters, newspapers, leaflets and posters.



*We actively promoted Safeguarding Adults Week, sharing key messages and raising awareness. The Council has also championed the recruitment of Safeguarding Champions internally and with partners.*

**Redcar & Cleveland Borough Council**



## Priority 4: Services

**Aim: Services are commissioned and provided by our partners to meet the individual needs of adults who are most at risk of abuse or neglect**

### What we said we would do:

1. Ensure that adults at risk of neglect and/or abuse can access support services and schemes such as the Safe Place Scheme and Ask ANI.
2. Seek regular assurance from our partners on the safe commissioning and delivery of services.
3. Implement our new performance monitoring processes and systems to obtain accurate, current, and validated information.
4. Provide opportunities to share information about innovative services and solutions for working with people with complex needs.
5. Work with the Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise sector to understand and share the range of services and support available to meet the needs of adults most at risk of abuse and neglect.

### What we did:

- The Safe Place Scheme training video was redeveloped with support from adults with learning disabilities from Independent Voices and Larchfield Community. Further work to re-develop the service user leaflet with support from Independent Voices and Hartlepool Day Centre is ongoing and will be reported on in 2025/26.
- The “Find Support in your Area” webpage continued to be reviewed, updated and promoted during campaigns. Findings from the Bernadette SAR Practitioner Survey resulted in new services being added to the page including homelessness teams, drug and alcohol services and neighbourhood safety teams.
- The QAF self-audit tool was strengthened to include safe commissioning of out-of-area care and to support service contract arrangements.
- Work remains ongoing to continue developing the TSAB Data Dashboard in PowerBi to incorporate data from other partner agencies.
- Awareness presentations were delivered to number of organisations to raise awareness of adult safeguarding and the work of TSAB, including Stockton Wellbeing Champions, Deaf Empowering Network, Hartlepool Healthwatch and a Provider Forum. An information stall, including TSAB leaflets in different languages was included at the Healthwatch Health and Care Ambassador Event for asylum seekers.
- Members continued to monitor the TSAB performance indicators each quarter via the TSAB Data Dashboard.



*Our Access Safeguarding Lead has led on a review of our Safe Places Scheme. This looked at how we support adults to feel safe in our town. Key to this was feedback from residents of Larchfield who provided an insight into how they would like to be supported. They also took part in the TSAB promotional video.*

**Middlesbrough Council**



*This year, we strengthened our safeguarding culture by delivering targeted training to new managers and care providers, sharing key learning from Safeguarding Adult Reviews (SARs), and promoting refreshed self-neglect guidance. Staff and partners were kept informed through forums, newsletters, bite-sized training, and accessible public information, ensuring safeguarding remains at the heart of our community.*

**Hartlepool Borough Council**



## Safeguarding Adult Reviews (SAR)

A SAR is undertaken when agencies who worked with an adult who has been subject to abuse or neglect, come together to find out if they could have done things differently and prevented serious harm or death from happening. A SAR does not blame an individual or organisation for their actions, its purpose is to learn from what happened and identify changes that could help prevent similar harm to others in the future.

Under the Care Act 2014, Safeguarding Adult Boards (SAB) are required to commission a Safeguarding Adult Review (SAR) when an adult dies or is seriously harmed as a result of suspected or known abuse or neglect and there is reasonable cause for concern about how, or if partners worked together to safeguard the adult.

In 2024/25 a total of 3 [SARs](#) were published: JJ, Jack and Susan

### SAR Sub-Group Activity

The role of the Sub-Group is to consider new SAR notifications, to oversee any ongoing SARs or other reviews, ensure any learning from reviews (locally, regionally or nationally) is considered by TSAB partners and taken forward in their own organisations, and to oversee the implementation of action plans arising from review activity across Tees. Membership of the Sub-Group comprises of senior managers from our key partner organisations. The SAR Sub-Group met on a bi-monthly basis, with bi-monthly notification meetings in between to ensure we meet the timescale for the consideration of a new SAR Notification could be met.

### SAR Data 2024/25

|                                |                                 |                                     |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 8 SAR Notifications Considered | 2 progressed to a Mandatory SAR | 2 progressed to a Discretionary SAR |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------------------|

4 were No Further Action under Section 44 of the Care Act 2014, however 3 of those cases progressed as a single agency review and learning will be presented to the SAR Sub-Group in 2025/26.

### SAR Sub-Group Achievements

- Monitored 14 open cases (as of 31<sup>st</sup> March 2025)
- No action plans were signed off as complete during 2024/25
- Considered the learning from 5 reports on Regional and National SARs
- 15 learning reports regarding Care Providers who have been subject to the [Responding to and Addressing Serious Concerns \(RASC\)](#) Protocol were considered

## North East SAR Champions Network

- A Task & Finish Group was set up in February 2024 to develop Cross Boundary SAR Guidance for Business Units, an update will be reported on in 2025-26.
- Effectiveness of the SAR Escalation Protocol raised nationally.
- National Survey to Business Managers regarding key questions around SARs, such as how timescales are captured.
- Discussed National SAR Analysis, Interface between SARs/Coronial Process and Ministerial Letter re Rough Sleeping.
- Regional offer to practitioners for a number of webinars during National Safeguarding Adults Week 2024.
- Speakers invited from RISE (Safeguarding in Sport) and North East Procurement Framework for Independent Reviewers.

## Published Safeguarding Adult Reviews 2024-25 (full reports are available [online](#))

### • JJ SAR

JJ was a 23-year-old, White British transgender male. JJ was diagnosed with Childhood Autism, Complex Post Traumatic Stress Disorders and Emotionally Unstable Personality Disorder. JJ had a number of physical health conditions. JJ was known to use illicit substances and was at risk of death due to misadventure as a result of self-harm. Key findings from JJ's case related to multi-agency working, engagement, legal literacy, risk assessments, safety planning and escalation, protected characteristics, professional challenge, trauma informed care and vicarious trauma.

### What we've done to implement recommendations:

- Learning from Regional and National SARs Report involving Discriminatory Abuse
- [Mental Capacity Act Resources Webpage](#) developed and published
- [Professional Challenge Procedure](#) and [Professional Challenge Briefing](#) reviewed
- [Professional Curiosity Briefing](#) reviewed
- Trauma Informed Practice training sessions continued during 2024/25
- Spotlight on Discriminatory Abuse Campaign
- Spotlight on Services article featured in TSAB Newsletter focusing on Hart Gables who support the LGBTQ+ community
- [Trauma Informed Practice Toolkit](#) developed
- Multidisciplinary Guidance Team (MDT) guidance reviewed and strengthened
- Sought assurance from partner agencies on how the learning from this case has been considered, implemented and embedded into practice, via Single Agency Analysis Reports

### • Jack SAR

Jack was 20 when he died alone in a hotel room due to diabetic ketoacidosis (DKA). He had been placed in the hotel under the severe weather protocol having been no fixed abode. He was known to both Stockton and Middlesbrough Council's Safeguarding Teams. There were concerns regarding self-neglect due to mismanagement of his diabetes, substance use disorders and homelessness. Key findings from Jack's case related to self-neglect due to mismanagement of diabetes, substance misuse, homelessness/housing, transitional safeguarding, cross boundary working, engagement and mental capacity.

### What we've done to implement recommendations:

- [Making Services Easier to Engage in Guidance](#) developed and published
- Learning from Regional and National SARs Report involving Transition
- Rough Sleeping Workshop convened
- Learning from Regional and National SARs Report involving Diabetes
- Multi-Agency Audit focusing on Transition
- Themed discussion on Transition at Operational Leads Sub-Group
- Spotlight on Transitional Safeguarding Campaign
- Transitional Safeguarding Webinar (included an overview of Jack's SAR and a speaker who talked about the risks associated with diabetes)
- Spotlight on Services article featured in TSAB Newsletter focusing on Matrix Neurological who support people with brain injuries
- Sought assurance from partner agencies on how the learning from this case has been considered, implemented and embedded into practice, via Single Agency Analysis Reports

#### • Susan SAR

Susan had a stroke when she was 37 leaving her with physical disabilities and communication difficulties. Susan was supported by her mother and other family members including her son. Susan's son had a diagnosed psychotic illness that was well managed when he took his medication. Susan's mother was also a huge support to Susan's son, ensuring that he took his medication and attended his appointments. Susan's son became mentally unwell following the death of his grandmother when he stopped taking his medication. Susan's son assaulted Susan. She died 18 days later at the age of 58 from unrelated physical health causes. Key findings from Susan's SAR were related to effective good practice, professional curiosity, triaging of assessments, flagging of previous Safeguarding Concerns.

### What we've done to implement recommendations:

- [Professional Curiosity Briefing](#) reviewed
- [Professional Curiosity Webinars](#) held during Safeguarding Adults Week delivered by the Susan author
- Good practice discussion held on enabling a professionally curious workplace at the Operation Lead Sub-Group
- Learning from the SAR incorporated into the Complex Cases and Safeguarding Training for managers courses
- Sought assurance from partner agencies on how the learning from this case has been considered, implemented and embedded into practice, via Single Agency Analysis Reports

### SAR Findings Not Implemented

**Molly Recommendation:** *The local Crown Prosecution Service should identify how the current national review (Operation Soteria) will be implemented locally and provide updates to TSAB.*

Attempts were made to raise the criminal justice issues in Molly's case, together with Newcastle SAB and their findings from Operation Sanctuary and Thematic Analysis of SARs involving ASE via the National SAR Escalation Protocol. Local discussions were paused until the national picture was known. No formal response was received in relation to the criminal justice issues raised. TSAB tried to pursue this locally by writing to local CPS contacts. No response was received, and the action was marked as 'incomplete' in September 2024.

## Partner Activity

**Hartlepool Borough Council (HBC)** continues to support the work of the Teeswide Safeguarding Adults Board (TSAB), with representatives chairing both the Communication & Engagement and Safeguarding Adult Review Sub-Groups. These Sub-Groups promote multi-agency engagement, sharing best practice, embedding learning from reviews, and the development of local policy. We regularly promote the Board's work through articles in our adult staff newsletter and resident magazine Hartbeat and actively support Spotlight On campaigns and National Safeguarding Adults Week. The Council also engages with local safeguarding champions and providers to share learning from Safeguarding Adult Reviews (SARs). Our commitment to adult safeguarding was recognised with a 'Green' rating in the Quality Assurance Framework (QAF), which highlighted our work with elected members as good practice. This was reflected in a Care Quality Commission (CQC) rating, which identified strengths including a strong multi-agency safeguarding partnership and effective systems, processes and practices to safeguard people from abuse and neglect. In 2024/25, we invested in approaches that support Trauma-Informed Practice and Making Safeguarding Personal. The CQC recognised this, noting that safeguarding enquiries were carried out with the person's wishes and best interests at the centre, that the local authority was very person-focused and responsive to safeguarding concerns, and that people were supported to participate in the safeguarding process as much as they wanted and helped to understand safeguarding.



**Middlesbrough Council (MBC)** have championed and supported the development of the Adult Exploitation Strategy and look forward to progressing its vision through the Adult Exploitation Working Group. During National Safeguarding Adults Week in November 2024, we hosted events to raise staff awareness, including a presentation from Social Work England on fitness to practice and a session focused on understanding exploitation. Practitioners heard from guest speakers from Cleveland Police and took part in group activities covering Safe Places, the Modern Slavery, Human Trafficking and Exploitation Pathway, identification of Adult Exploitation, and use of the TSAB Exploitation Tool. The session concluded with a presentation from CC Inform highlighting learning resources for staff. To increase public awareness in Middlesbrough, we created simple posters and social media messages encouraging recognition of abuse and how to report or access support. In 2024, Middlesbrough developed a provider engagement event for Safeguarding Adults Week: Let's Start Talking – Taking the Lead on Safeguarding in Your Organisation. In November 2024, we held our second Professional and Organisational Learning Day, supporting agencies and commissioned providers to learn from partners including My Sisters Place, A Way Out, Halo, Arch, and DePaul, and to share work around Prevent, fraud awareness, and safeguarding outreach. During Social Work Week in March 2025, we shared learning from Domestic Homicide Reviews (DHRs) and Safeguarding Adults Reviews (SARs), highlighting the challenges faced by informal carers. Presentations were delivered alongside colleagues from the Dementia Hub, We Care You Care, and Teesside Hospice, and the event was opened to TSAB Sub-Group members



**Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council (RCBC)** has made a strong and proactive contribution to the Teeswide Safeguarding Adults Board (TSAB) Strategic Business Plan for 2024–2025. We have continued to support the Board in achieving the aims and objectives of the Strategic Plan, including chairing the Learning, Training & Development Sub-Group, the Adult Exploitation Strategy Working Group, and actively contributing to other TSAB Sub-Groups. The Council has strengthened its Making Safeguarding Personal processes to ensure the voice of the adult informs learning after safeguarding procedures conclude. Learning from Safeguarding Adult Reviews (SARs) and Domestic Homicide Reviews (DHRs) has been widely shared and embedded within the service. A robust process has been developed to ensure safe admissions for individuals placed in bed-based provision outside the borough. Work continues with the intelligence team to improve data quality, and staff have actively engaged in TSAB training opportunities. We also completed the Quality Assurance Framework (QAF), achieving an overall Green rating. Our Care Home Out of Authority Provider Assurance Form was identified as an area of best practice and shared with members of the Operational Leads Sub-Group.



**Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council (SBC)** actively supported the Teeswide Safeguarding Adults Board's (TSAB) strategic priorities throughout 2024/25. Our initiatives and campaigns were guided by the message that safeguarding is everyone's business and the six key safeguarding principles, which are central to protecting our communities. We maintained a strong collaborative approach, working with partners including the Police, NHS, Probation, Housing, and the Voluntary Sector. This multi-agency work ensured the needs and voices of those requiring support were met and heard. A key initiative was the implementation of the Right Care, Right Person approach within Adult Social Care (ASC), with training provided to partners. SBC contributed to the development of the Teeswide Adult Exploitation Strategy 2024–2027, informed by learning from Molly's Safeguarding Adult Review (SAR). To continuously improve our practice, staff members across Adult Social Care (ASC) received regular updates on local, regional, and national SARs and Domestic Abuse Related Death Reviews (DARDRs). The Adult Safeguarding Team supported the development of Trauma-Informed Practice Guidance to embed this approach in frontline work which is essential when working with vulnerable adults. We actively engaged in and promoted access to the High Risk Adults Panel (HRAP), Peer Advocacy and a new idea has been developed jointly with our colleagues from SBC Housing of the Repeat Homeless and Rough Sleeper Team project as part of the Council's wide Powering Our Future initiative. We proudly supported National Safeguarding Adults Week (Nov 18–22, 2024), themed Working in Partnership, through events that engaged staff, partners, and the public in raising awareness of abuse, prevention, and reporting. The Make it Real Board continued to be recognised for its contributions, with experts by experience central to service delivery and co-production, especially in assessments and risk management. To assure TSAB of service quality, we completed several audits, including the Quality Assurance Framework (QAF), achieving a 'Green' rating across all domains demonstrating our commitment to providing safe and responsive services.



**Cleveland Police** have actively supported TSAB priorities through daily collaboration and subject matter expertise in review work. The force is a committed member of the SAR Governance arrangements, contributing to all SAR reviews and learning activities. An enhanced SAR tracker has been developed to monitor progress and ensure accountability in implementing recommendations. Cleveland Police completed its bi-annual TSAB self-audit, fully contributing to the Adult Safeguarding QAF assessment demonstrating operational alignment with TSAB standards achieving a Green Rating. This rating confirms consistent excellence in adult safeguarding practices, supported by evidence of good practice. The force continues to support and promote TSAB awareness campaigns, annual surveys, and newsletters via social media. Cleveland Police maintains strategic leadership in MARAC through the Detective Superintendent Adult Safeguarding Lead. Ongoing efforts are in place to strengthen and improve operational MARAC arrangements. Additionally, Cleveland is a pilot force for the Domestic Abuse Protection Order, reflecting innovation and leadership in safeguarding and its commitment to tackling violence against woman and girls and Domestic Abuse. Working with partners from within the local strategic sex work forum, Cleveland Police has devised guidance for all officers when dealing with sex workers, particularly within the engagement role. Sex Work Liaison officers have been trained on all districts within the force area, whose role now includes building relationships and engagement with sex workers. The aim of this is to increase confidence in Cleveland Police and encourage reporting. Work is ongoing with regards to our attendance at adult strategy meetings, to ensure attendance where required, and that the record keeping is consistent. This will ensure better outcomes for vulnerable adults. Cleveland Police continues to demonstrate strategic alignment, operational focus, and proactive engagement with TSAB priorities. The force's contributions reflect a strong commitment to safeguarding adults across Tees wide.



**North-Tees, Hartlepool (NTHFT) & South Tees (STHFT) Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust** continue to contribute to high-risk panels, audits, and multi-agency task groups on policy, procedures, and pathways, alongside this we revised and developed internal guidance to support staff in safeguarding adults at risk. This includes policies on patients with known mental illness absconding from ED, missing in-patients, rapid tranquillisation, and non-attendance of appointments. Weekly vulnerable adults' meetings continued to bring together specialist staff to address concerns requiring further intervention. While North Tees supports this work, some policies differ slightly however, alignment is underway. Weekly safety panels are in place across both Trusts to ensure timely responses. Training compliance improved, with strengthened links between adult and children's services, highlights include an April Transitions conference, protected supervision time for operational leads and the young people's diabetes team, and continued placements for student nurses and medical students. Learning from reviews was shared via training, communications, and governance structures. The Mental Health Steering Group oversees training gaps and strengths, with trauma-informed care remaining a priority. We supported national and Board campaigns including Mental Health Awareness Week, World Suicide Prevention Day, VAWG 16 Days of Action, Discriminatory Abuse, and National Safeguarding Adults Week. Safeguarding Champions received enhanced communication to promote resources and learning within clinical teams. A multi-agency approach to Right Care Right Person (RCRP) was undertaken, with communications to ED and Urgent Treatment teams clarifying responsibilities where police are not the appropriate first response. Progress continues toward electronic patient records and process alignment across sites. South Tees

completed the QAF, which was well received and highlighted good practice in transitional work and supervision with the young people's diabetes team. Both sites have completed their QAF action plans. As part of the Mental Health Strategy, a central staff site continues to offer up-to-date guidance and signposting for mental health support offering up-to-date information, guidance, and signposting to national, local and internal sources of mental health support for patients, relatives and colleagues.



**North East & North Cumbria (NENC) Integrated Care Board (ICB)** maintains a strong commitment to prevention and early intervention, recognising their importance in safeguarding children, families, and adults. The ICB continues to implement national guidance, lead in its convening role, and drive engagement and collaboration across multi-agency partnerships. It remains committed to learning from safeguarding reviews and incidents to improve outcomes, keeping the voice of the population central to its work. Designated leads attend NHS provider safeguarding committees to monitor performance, ensure compliance with safeguarding standards and contractual obligations, and assess the safety and effectiveness of safeguarding arrangements. As a statutory partner, the ICB contributes to each safeguarding partnership/board's annual report, outlining key achievements and priorities. Safeguarding and quality governance is maintained through local delivery teams and wider ICB structures, ensuring continued oversight and contribution to partnership work. The ICB supports Safeguarding Adult Reviews through Governance Group membership and by engaging primary care services where relevant. It actively participates in Sub-Groups, chairs the Performance, Audit and Quality (PAQ) Sub-Group, and contributes to focused priority work. In 2024, the ICB engaged in the Quality Assurance Framework (QAF), providing assurance of effective safeguarding processes. It also supported other partners in the QAF process, offering guidance on health-related aspects. The ICB promotes the TSAB training offer and shares new or updated guidance across primary care networks.



**Tees, Esk and Wear Valleys NHS Foundation Trust (TEWV)** successfully completed its Quality Assurance Framework submission, receiving positive feedback and an overall 'Green' rating. The Trust has strengthened safeguarding training by re-establishing its internal domestic abuse training package and developing a new MAPPA (Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements) training package. Topical safeguarding sessions were delivered to safeguarding link professionals, and National Safeguarding Week was actively promoted across hospital sites. In 2024/25, TEWV launched its Co-creation Framework, co-developed over several months to define core values and typologies of co-creation for use internally and with external partners. A co-produced video was also created to support the implementation of a Think Family approach, promoting holistic and inclusive care. The Organisational Learning Group continued to evolve, enhancing how safeguarding learning is shared across the Trust. Safeguarding learning is regularly disseminated, and new communication methods are being explored to improve access to learning resources. NICHE undertook a Phase 2 Assurance Review of Practice and Governance in 2024/25, focusing on patient safety incidents, complaints, and safeguarding events. The final report, published in December 2024, provided good assurance that governance of quality concerns and overall quality governance meet expected standards. The Trust reviewed its safeguarding supervision arrangements and developed a plan to extend all-age safeguarding supervision to a wider range of services in 2025/26, further strengthening support and oversight.



**Healthwatch Stockton** continues to actively support the Teeswide Safeguarding Adults Board (TSAB) through a range of communication and engagement activities. Between April 2024 and March 2025. We have promoted TSAB campaigns, surveys, newsletters, and training opportunities across our social media channels, with 18 dedicated posts on Facebook/X and 3 on LinkedIn, reaching hundreds of local residents. We have also featured TSAB content in our quarterly newsletters, including the Summer 2024 edition sent to over 440 subscribers and published multiple TSAB articles on our website, including updates on safeguarding initiatives, newsletters, and the annual survey. In addition to this, Healthwatch Stockton is exploring opportunities to further support safeguarding priorities through our Enter & View programme. This statutory function enables us to gather anonymous feedback from service users, families, and staff, helping to identify concerns and promote safer outcomes. As new models of care are rolled out across the region, we are also working to ensure that referral pathways are inclusive and responsive to the needs of diverse communities. We remain committed to amplifying public voice and supporting system-wide safeguarding efforts, and we look forward to continuing our partnership with TSAB.



**Healthwatch Hartlepool** over the past year, has continued to support and promote the strategic priorities of the Teeswide Safeguarding Adults Board (TSAB). We regularly share links to the TSAB newsletter and other safeguarding information across our social media platforms to help raise public awareness of adult safeguarding issues and processes. Staff and volunteers have accessed a range of safeguarding training modules via the TSAB website. Safeguarding training is a mandatory component of both our Volunteer Induction and Enter and View training programme, ensuring all team members are equipped to recognise and respond to safeguarding concerns.



**Hartlepower Community Trust** continues to support the work of the Teeswide Safeguarding Adults Board (TSAB), primarily through attendance at TSAB meetings and contributing to discussions from a voluntary sector perspective. We actively promote TSAB's work by sharing the TSAB newsletter with approximately 430 subscribers to our own newsletter. Through our support for both aspiring and established voluntary organisations, we champion TSAB values and priorities, emphasising the importance of adult safeguarding and how to apply sound safeguarding practice



**Thirteen Group** continues to support the Board in promoting awareness campaigns, the annual survey and the TSAB Newsletter on social media. Thirteen also promote TSAB material, including courses, surveys and campaigns in their own Newsletter which is uploaded to our intranet for our 1600 colleagues to read and be informed. Colleagues utilise the training opportunities available through TSAB to continue to develop their knowledge and skills around adult safeguarding. Thirteen is also a member of various groups that feed into the board i.e. Operational Safeguarding Leads and Multi Agency Audit groups. As part of our prevention work, we have delivered several Dementia Friends sessions, these have been in partnership with Dementia Action Teesside and to date we have over 450 Dementia Friends here at Thirteen.



**The National Probation Service** in Stockton, Hartlepool, Middlesbrough, and Redcar, have worked throughout the year to improve our response to Safeguarding Adults, guided by the most recent Self-Assessment (QAF) Audit supported by TSAB. We now have named Safeguarding Adults Champions and are enhancing our response to Domestic Abuse through joint work with the police. We are also focused on embedding trauma-informed practice across our services. Our aim is to improve engagement, identify when safeguarding is required, enable signposting to specialist agencies, and gain a deeper understanding of the reasons behind individuals' behaviors. To support this, every Probation Practitioner is completing learning on Trauma-Informed Practice, which includes lived experience presentations and specialist training for designated practitioners within the PDUs on the Trauma Recovery Model. These practitioners are currently sharing their learning within teams as part of mandatory continuous professional development events.



## Our Priorities 2025-26

2025-26 will see the implementation of a new three-year [Strategic Plan](#), with new priorities, aims and objectives.

### Priority: Information, Engagement and Involvement

**Aim:** We will provide accessible clear information, advice and support to engage and involve the workforce and local communities in helping to understand what abuse is, how to prevent abuse from happening, how to seek help, and how to engage with the work of the Board.

### Priority: Confident, Competent Practice

**Aim:** We will ensure the workforce, across all sectors, is well trained, supported, competent and confident to safeguard adults within our communities.

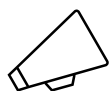
### Priority: Emerging Challenges and Enabling Solutions

**Aim:** We will be responsive to emerging trends and challenges and provide a solutions and outcomes focused co-ordinated response to safeguarding issues.

The **six safeguarding principles** set out in the Care Act 2014 will underpin the Board's strategic aims and objectives and all aspects of safeguarding adults work across Tees:

1. Empowerment
2. Proportionality
3. Partnership
4. Prevention
5. Protection
6. Accountability

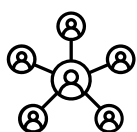
The Board's [Strategic Business Plan 2025-28](#) has been developed following feedback from the Annual Consultation Survey 2024/25 and feedback from the Board's Development Day. The top 3 priorities identified by professionals, service users and the general public included within the Strategic Plan are as follows:



1. Raise awareness of how professionals and organisations can better support those who have experienced trauma to access and engage with services.



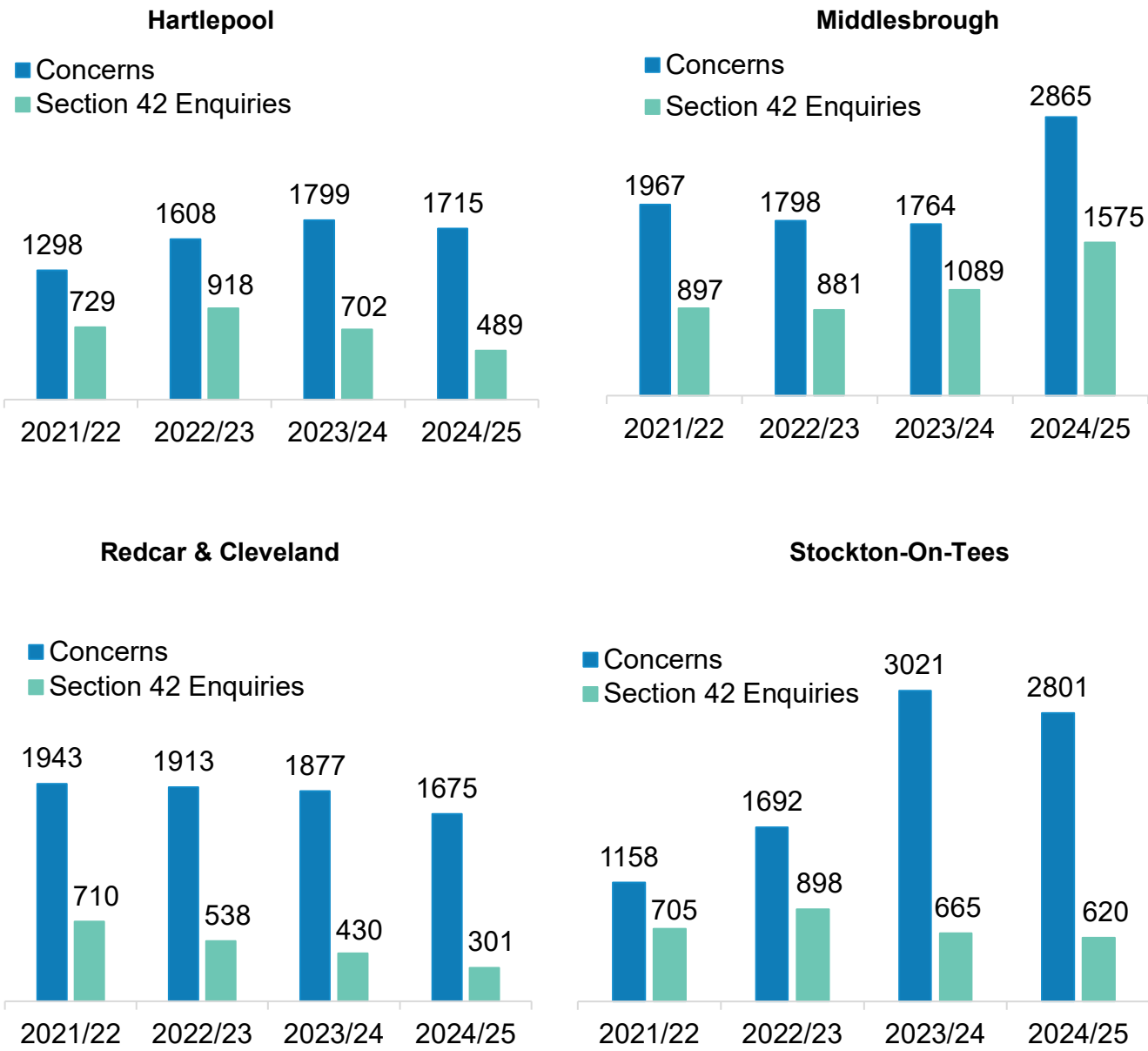
2. Work more closely in engaging with local communities and local services on how to report concerns of abuse and neglect.



3. Work more closely with organisations to improve the lives of people and families most at risk of abuse and neglect.

# Appendix 1

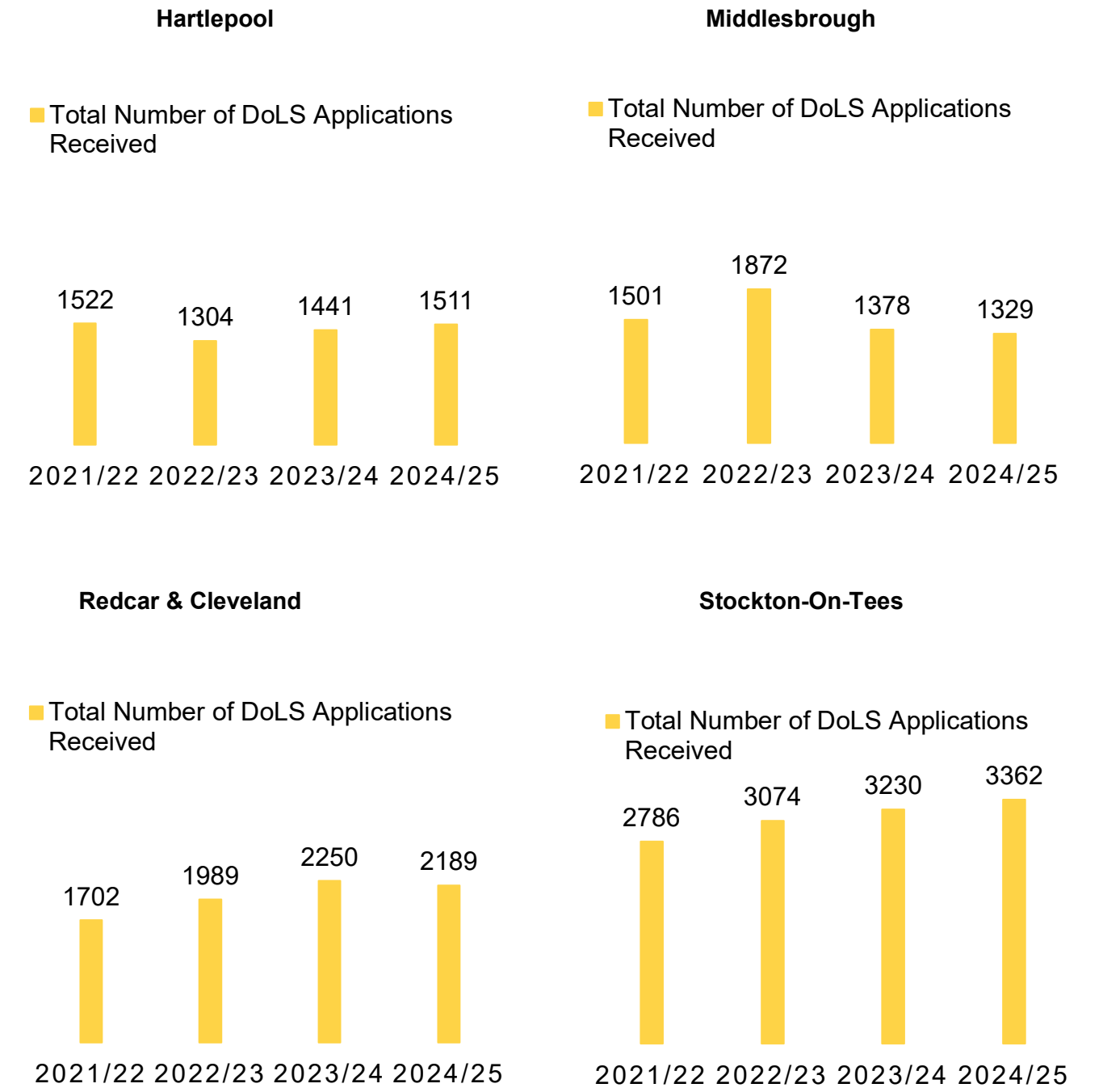
## Concerns and Section 42 Enquiries by Local Authority in Tees:



## Appendix 2

The Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards, under The Mental Capacity Act 2005, provide legal protection for those individuals who are 18 years old and above and who are, or may become deprived of their liberty in a hospital or care home.

**Total Number of Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards (DoLS) Applications Received:**



## Glossary

**Ask ANI** - The Ask for ANI (Action Needed Immediately) codeword scheme was developed by the Home Office to allow victims of domestic abuse to access support from the safety of their local pharmacy during in the pandemic. The guidance was withdrawn in October 2024, with the scheme being no longer available in pharmacies from November 2024 due to pandemic measures being removed however, the Safe Spaces scheme continues to operate in pharmacies, banks, and building societies across the UK, providing a safe place for victims to seek help.

**ASE (Adult Sexual Exploitation)** - Sexual exploitation is the sexual abuse of an adult in exchange for attention, affection, food, drugs, shelter, protection, other basic necessities and/or money, and could be part of a seemingly consensual relationship. It involves someone taking advantage of an adult, sexually, for their own benefit through threats, bribes, and violence.

**Domestic Abuse Related Death Reviews (DARDR)** - Formerly known as Domestic Homicide Reviews (DHRs), DARDR is a multi-agency review which seeks to identify and implement lessons learnt from deaths which have, or appear to have, resulted from domestic abuse, either by homicide or suicide.

**DoLS (Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards)** - are part of the Mental Capacity Act (MCA) 2005. The Safeguards aim to make sure that people in care homes and hospitals are looked after in a way that does not inappropriately restrict their freedom.

**HRAP (High Risk Adults Panel)** - The purpose of the High Risk Adults Panel is to work in collaboration with a core group of multi-agency professionals and extended members to reduce/remove or manage the risk of 'our' most vulnerable individuals who are identified as being complex and at high risk of harm.

**Making Safeguarding Personal (MSP)** - is an initiative which aims to develop a person-centred and outcomes focus to safeguarding work in supporting people to improve or resolve their circumstances. MSP is applicable to all agencies working with adults in relation to safeguarding, including those at the initial stages of a Safeguarding Concern being identified.

**MARAC (Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference)** - information sharing and action planning meeting for victims of domestic abuse who are at risk of serious harm or death.

**Power BI** – Power BI is a data visualisation tool that pulls together information to produce high quality performance reports.

**RASC (Responding to and Addressing Serious Concerns)** - a TSAB policy and procedure which sets out the framework for dealing with serious concerns of care providers on a multi-agency basis.

**Rough Sleeping** - the most acute and extreme form of homelessness that is characterised by someone about to, or actually, bedding down in the open air (such as on the street, in tents, doorways, parks, bus shelters or encampments) or places not designed for habitation (including cardboard boxes, stairwells, cars and other makeshift and not fit for purpose places). Rough

sleeping does not include instances of those in hostels, shelters, recreational shelters such as campsites or spaces of protest, squatters, and travellers.

**Safeguarding Adult Reviews** - A Safeguarding Adults Review is a statutory requirement of the Care Act 2014 (Section 44). The purpose of a SAR is to:

- Determine what the relevant agencies and individuals involved in the case might have done differently that could have prevented harm or death.
- Learn lessons from the case and apply the learning to future cases to prevent similar harm occurring again.
- Explore examples of good practice where this is likely to inform and improve inter-agency practice.

The Care Act 2014 sets out the criteria for carrying out a SAR and SABs **must** carry out a review if:

- There is reasonable cause for concern about how the Safeguarding Adult Board (SAB), its members or other persons involved worked together to safeguard the adult; **and**
- The adult has died, and it is known or suspected that the death resulted from abuse or neglect, including self-neglect; **or**
- The adult is alive, but it is known or suspected that they have experienced serious abuse or neglect, including self-neglect.

**Safeguarding Champions** - volunteers from a broad range of organisations that are far reaching and able to link directly with the community and clients they support.

**Safe Place Scheme** - Safe Place Scheme locations are venues in the community where people who need extra support can go if they need some help. This 'help' can range from a phone call to home or help with directions.

The idea is that vulnerable people can use these venues if they are feeling unsafe, whilst out in the community. Many who benefit from the scheme may never actually need to use it, but the existence of the 'Safe Place' venues allows people to feel safer and go out and about more (live more independently).

**Service User** – someone who uses health and/or social care services.

**Vicarious Trauma** – is sometimes referred to as 'secondary trauma'. Anyone who engages empathetically with survivors of traumatic incidents can be affected and experience trauma themselves through their connection with the person.



[www.tsab.org.uk](http://www.tsab.org.uk)



Neighbourhood 1.1 - Adults and Health and Wellbeing, Dunedin  
House Columbia Drive, Thornaby, Stockton-on-Tees, TS17 6BJ



01642 527263



@TeeswideSAB



@TeeswideSAB



## See it, report it!

If you suspect a neighbour, friend or family member is being neglected or abused,  
or you need help yourself.

Call **Cleveland Police** 101 or 999 in an emergency.  
Call your local Adult Social Care Team:

|                                |               |                                                                                                        |
|--------------------------------|---------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Hartlepool:</b>             | 01429 523 390 | <a href="mailto:iSPA@hartlepool.gov.uk">iSPA@hartlepool.gov.uk</a>                                     |
| <b>Middlesbrough:</b>          | 01642 065 070 | <a href="mailto:adultaccessteam@middlesbrough.gov.uk">adultaccessteam@middlesbrough.gov.uk</a>         |
| <b>Redcar &amp; Cleveland:</b> | 01642 771 500 | <a href="mailto:AccessAdultsTeam@redcar-cleveland.gov.uk">AccessAdultsTeam@redcar-cleveland.gov.uk</a> |
| <b>Stockton-on-Tees:</b>       | 01642 527 764 | <a href="mailto:FirstContactAdults@stockton.gov.uk">FirstContactAdults@stockton.gov.uk</a>             |
| <b>Evenings and Weekends:</b>  | 01642 524 552 |                                                                                                        |



# TSAB Strategic Business Plan 2025-28

# Contents

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## Vision:

**Adults in the Tees area with care and support needs  
can live safely, free from abuse and neglect.**

## What we do

We seek assurance that organisations work in partnership to deliver joined up services that safeguard adults with care and support needs from abuse and neglect. The work of the SAB is underpinned by the Care Act.

The Care Act 2014 sets out the objectives and functions of Safeguarding Adults Boards (SABs) as:

- Ensure that local safeguarding arrangements are in place as defined by the Care Act 2014 and statutory guidance
- Ensure that safeguarding practice is person-centred and outcome focused
- Work collaboratively to prevent abuse and neglect where possible
- Ensure agencies/individuals give timely and proportionate responses when abuse or neglect has occurred
- Ensure that safeguarding practice is continuously improving and enhancing the quality of life of adults in the area

We will do this by:

- Providing leadership, challenge and direction to ensure that partner agencies improve outcomes for adults at risk of abuse or neglect
- Promoting values of openness, trust, respect and learning
- Seeking assurance, listening to and empowering our communities by supporting the workforce to keep adults who may have care and support needs safe from abuse or neglect

## Safeguarding Principles

The safeguarding principles set out in the Care Act 2014 will underpin all aspects of safeguarding adults work across Tees.

| Empowerment:                                                                                                | Prevention:                                                                                                            | Proportionality:                                                                                                            |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| I am asked what I want as the outcomes from the safeguarding process and these directly inform what happens | I receive clear and simple information about what abuse is, how to recognise the signs and what I can do to seek help. | I am sure that the professionals will work in my interest, as I see them and they will only get involved as much as needed. |
| Protection:                                                                                                 | Partnership:                                                                                                           | Accountability:                                                                                                             |
| I get help and support to report abuse and neglect. I get help so that I am able to take part               | I know that staff treat any personal and sensitive information in confidence, only sharing what is                     | I understand the role of everyone involved in my life and so do they.                                                       |

|                                                            |                                                                                                                        |  |
|------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|
| in the safeguarding process to the extent to which I want. | helpful and necessary. I am confident that professionals will work together and with me to get the best result for me. |  |
|------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|

**The Board’s Planning Cycle**

The TSAB Strategic Plan for 2025-28 has been developed in consultation with our partners, key stakeholders, staff and communities across Tees. The TSAB works closely with other partnerships and organisations to achieve and support objectives that keep adults with care and support needs safe in Tees. The Strategic Business Plan identifies which actions the Board leads on, and which it contributes to and influences.

The plan will shape the direction of the Board for the next 3 years, the actions will be reviewed annually and adapted where required to respond to emerging issues and priorities. The strategy will be underpinned by an annual Business Plan and progress will be reported on at Board meetings across the year, in the form of Sub-Group updates. In addition, the Strategic Business Plan Progress Monitoring Framework will provide a mid and end of year update against all the Strategic Business Plan actions.

In line with the Care and Statutory Support Guidance, TSAB will produce an Annual Report at the end of each financial year to report on progress of the Strategic Plan and provide an overview of achievements from partners in relation to the Annual Business Plan.

The Business Plan will be delivered through the work of the five main Sub-Groups; Communication and Engagement, Learning, Training and Development, Operational Leads, Performance, Audit and Quality and Safeguarding Adult Reviews, and any other relevant Task & Finish Groups as required.

**Measuring Success**

Through quantitative and qualitative assurance methods each objective and corresponding action will be monitored and measured for progress made through 2025-28. Each Sub-Group has a workplan they own which they review and monitor at each Sub-Group meeting. The workplans provide detailed actions of how each Sub-Group will strive to assist in the achievement of the objectives outlined in the Strategic Plan. Progress updates on the workplans will be provided as part of the Sub-Group updates at each Board meeting.

Priorities and Aims

The overarching Priorities and Aims for 2025-28 are set out below:

|                                                                                     |                                                             |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|    | <b>Priority: Information, Engagement and Involvement</b>    | <b>Aim:</b> We will provide clear and accessible information and advice and work with local communities to raise awareness of what abuse is, how to prevent abuse from happening, how to seek help, and how to engage with the work of the Board. |
|   | <b>Priority: Confident, Competent Practice</b>              | <b>Aim:</b> We will ensure the workforce, across all sectors, is well trained, supported, competent and confident to safeguard adults within our communities.                                                                                     |
|  | <b>Priority: Emerging Challenges and Enabling Solutions</b> | <b>Aim:</b> We will actively identify and respond to emerging trends and challenges, working together to provide a solutions and outcomes focused, co-ordinated response to safeguarding issues.                                                  |

## Board Priorities

The TSAB will seek assurance from statutory organisations and multi-agency partners that the following aims, objectives and actions are delivered.

### Priority: Information, Engagement & Involvement

**Aim:** We will provide clear and accessible information and advice and work with local communities to raise awareness of what abuse is, how to prevent abuse from happening, how to seek help, and how to engage with the work of the Board.

| Objectives: We will                                                                                                                                                           | 2025-26 Actions: We will do this by                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | Assurance Methods                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | Lead                                 |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1. Listen to the voice of adults with care and support needs, their families and carers, and facilitate sharing user experience to inform our future direction and priorities | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Further developing mechanisms which support gathering feedback from individuals with care and support needs who have used safeguarding services</li> <li>Using co-design and engagement, where possible, to ensure the voice of adults at risk, their carers, and families is heard in respect of safeguarding adults</li> <li>Using the information we gather as a feedback loop to improve practice and promote co-production / co-design with partners</li> </ol> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Annual Consultation Survey</li> <li>Annual Communication &amp; Engagement Report</li> <li>Feedback from Focus/User Groups</li> </ul>                                                                                                                        | Communication & Engagement Sub-Group |
| Further develop the Safeguarding Champions initiative to improve engagement with local communities and services                                                               | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continuing to engage and involve local communities, including, harder to reach and seldom heard groups, with the work of the Board, considering equity and equality of access across all aspects of the Boards work.</li> <li>Providing Safeguarding Champions with the tools and resources they need to ensure they can carry out the role effectively and ensure there is representation from across all agencies including the VCSE sector</li> </ol>             | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Annual Communication &amp; Engagement Report</li> <li>Annual Consultation Survey Results</li> <li>Feedback from individuals, families and carers &amp; focus groups</li> <li>Newsletter and Bulletin subscribers</li> <li>Safeguarding Champions</li> </ul> | Communication & Engagement Sub-Group |
| 3. Ensure that the TSAB website and all public facing materials are accessible and easy to understand, with clear information that signposts                                  | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continuing to develop the TSAB website, along with the web hosts, to ensure that all resources and content complies with accessibility standards</li> <li>Ensuring that the TSAB website provides an up to date platform for signposting to specialist support services</li> </ol>                                                                                                                                                                                   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Website</li> <li>Accessibility Guidelines Measure</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                | Communication & Engagement Sub-Group |

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |                                                                                                        |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| to support services                                                                                                                                                                                                               |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |                                                                                                        |
| 4. Ensure adults and /or their representatives, who use safeguarding services are asked what they want from the safeguarding process and their views inform the outcome, following the principles of Making Safeguarding Personal | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Continuing to monitor and report on the TSAB Performance Indicator relating to outcomes and consider service improvements across partner agencies as required</li> <li>2. Implementing a multi-agency audit programme considering how well Making Safeguarding Personal is embedded in practice</li> </ol>                                                              | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Key Performance Indicators</li> <li>• Quarterly PowerBi Dashboard Data</li> <li>• Multi-Agency Audits</li> <li>• Lessons Learned Reports</li> </ul>                                                               | <p>Performance, Audit and Quality Sub-Group</p> <p>Operational Leads Sub-Group</p>                     |
| 5. Ensure adults who are at risk of abuse and neglect are aware of local sources of support and schemes such as the Safe Place Scheme                                                                                             | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Delivering a Communication and Engagement Plan including raising awareness of how professionals and organisations can report abuse and neglect, and better support those who have experienced trauma to access and engage with services</li> <li>2. Review the 'Find Support in your area' webpage to ensure it reflects local service provision across Tees</li> </ol> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Campaign and website analytics</li> <li>• Social media</li> <li>• Adult Exploitation Strategy Implementation Plan</li> <li>• National Safeguarding Adults Week Evaluation</li> <li>• Website analytics</li> </ul> | <p>Communication &amp; Engagement Sub-Group</p> <p>Adult Exploitation Implementation Working Group</p> |

**Impact/ Outcomes** – People will receive clear and concise information about what abuse is, how to recognise the signs and how to seek help, and will be provided with opportunities to engage in the work of the Board

## Priority: Confident, Competent Practice

**Aim:** We will ensure the workforce, across all sectors, is well trained, supported, competent and confident to safeguard adults within our communities

| Objectives: We will                                                                                                                                                                      | 2025-26 Actions: We will do this by                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | Assurance Methods                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | Lead                                                                                                                                       |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1. Seek assurance that staff are legally literate and understand the legislative framework and the principles of trauma informed practice to ensure the best outcomes for adults at risk | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Promoting a culture of continuous learning and improvement where staff are enabled, encouraged and supported to be professionally curious</li> <li>Seeking assurance that there is a comprehensive understanding and appropriate application of the Mental Capacity Act.</li> <li>Routinely reviewing and updating policies and procedures to ensure that they reflect best practice and legislative changes</li> <li>Seek assurance from partners that staff are provided with single agency Safeguarding Adults training in accordance with the TSAB Training Strategy</li> </ol> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Delegate Feedback</li> <li>Impact Assessments</li> <li>Training Evaluations</li> <li>QAF/self-audit tool</li> <li>Reviewed Policies, Procedures &amp; Guidance</li> </ul>                                                                                                       | <p>Learning, Training &amp; Development Sub-Group</p> <p>Performance, Audit &amp; Quality Sub-Group</p> <p>Operational Leads Sub-Group</p> |
| Learn from, and embed into practice and policy, the findings of local, regional and national SARs, DARRs, SCPRs and other relevant reviews and implement the action plans                | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Developing and implementing action plans for all SARs and other applicable reviews</li> <li>Continuing to develop methods to share and review learning from reviews to ensure it is embedded in practice and policies</li> <li>Maintaining links with the National and Regional safeguarding networks to inform projects and workstreams</li> <li>Reviewing the SAR Policy and Procedures following the sector led improvements identified through the National Analysis of SARs</li> </ol>                                                                                         | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>SAR/other learning review action plans</li> <li>National SAR library</li> <li>Practitioners Surveys</li> <li>National SAB Business Manager meeting minutes</li> <li>Regional ADASS Leads Meeting minutes &amp; workplan</li> <li>Sector led improvements action plan</li> </ul> | <p>Safeguarding Adult Review Sub-Group</p> <p>Learning, Training &amp; Development Sub-Group</p> <p>Business Manager/Chair</p>             |
| 3. Provide the wider workforce with the opportunity to access a comprehensive multi-agency training offer in collaboration with the Safeguarding Children Partnerships                   | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Developing and delivering the TSAB Training Plan to align with TSAB priorities, ensuring that the voice of people with lived experience of abuse and neglect and the learning from local reviews, is included in the training, resources and events</li> <li>Explore new and innovative approaches to training delivery considering different methods of learning</li> </ol>                                                                                                                                                                                                        | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Training Plan 2025-26</li> <li>Training Strategy 2025-26</li> <li>Training Course Directory</li> <li>QAF/self-audit tool</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                             | <p>Learning, Training &amp; Development Sub-Group</p> <p>Relevant Partnerships</p>                                                         |

|                                                                                                                                                                             |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |                                                                                                    |                                                                                      |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                                                                                                                                                             |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |                                                                                                    | Business<br>Managers                                                                 |
| 4. Seek assurance from partners that staff are provided with support, training, capacity and supervisory oversight in relation to the management of high risk/complex cases | <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Continuing to seek assurance from partners via the QAF on the training and support provided to staff, with the consideration of vicarious trauma</li><li>2. Provide opportunities for staff to share best practice and seek peer support, guidance and direction, where cases are open, in relation to managing complex/high risk cases collectively</li></ol> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• QAF/self-audit tool</li><li>• OL meeting minutes</li></ul> | Performance,<br>Audit and Quality<br>Sub-Group<br><br>Operational Leads<br>Sub-Group |

**Impact/ Outcomes** - Communities will have confidence that professionals are competent, confident and well trained in supporting and working in the best interests of adults at risk of abuse and neglect and will only be involved as far as is reasonable, proportionate, justifiable and necessary.

## Priority: Emerging Challenges, Enabling Solutions

**Aim:** We will actively identify and respond to emerging trends and challenges, working together to provide a solutions and outcomes focused, co-ordinated response to safeguarding issues

| Objectives: We will                                                                                                                                      | 2025-26 Actions: We will do this by                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | Assurance Methods                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | Lead                                                                                                                                                                          |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1. Seek assurance that Board partners are working together effectively to protect adults with care and support needs from all forms of abuse and neglect | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Working with relevant partners, partnerships and user groups to develop a consistent robust approach for transitional safeguarding planning including young people at risk of exploitation</li> <li>Providing opportunities to share information about innovative services and solutions to improve the lives of people and families most at risk of abuse and neglect</li> <li>Utilising staff engagement forums to seek feedback in understanding the barriers, enablers and challenges faced by frontline practitioners</li> </ol> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Case Studies</li> <li>Good news stories</li> <li>Staff feedback &amp; Practice Support Forms</li> <li>Transitions Protocol</li> <li>Newsletter/Bulletin</li> </ul>                                                                                                                            | <p>Operational Leads Sub-Group</p> <p>Communication &amp; Engagement Sub-Group</p> <p>TSAB, HSSCP, STSCP Business Managers Meetings</p> <p>HoTH Transitions Working Group</p> |
| Receive assurance that safeguarding arrangements across Tees are robust and effective                                                                    | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Delivering the annual Quality Assurance programme, which includes the Quality Assurance Framework/ Self-audit tool</li> <li>Delivering a multi-agency case file audit schedule, which includes a repeat audit of the High Risk Adults Panel, to report on the effectiveness of the 12 month review</li> <li>Continue to develop the PowerBi dashboard to produce high quality performance reports which support the analysis and further development of multi-agency safeguarding practice</li> </ol>                                 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Quality Assurance Framework – Self-audit tool</li> <li>Multi-agency Audit Schedule, Tool &amp; Lessons Learned Reports</li> <li>HRAP risks/system barriers, non-attendance and non-completed actions are escalated to TSAB</li> <li>PowerBi Dashboard Data and supporting analysis</li> </ul> | <p>Performance, Audit and Quality Sub-Group</p> <p>Operational Leads Sub-Group</p>                                                                                            |

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |                                                                                                                                                                                                        |                                                                                                                                                                                     |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p>3. Collaborate and align with Safeguarding Children Partnerships, Community Safety Partnerships, Health &amp; Wellbeing Boards and other relevant partners to deliver on key joint priorities</p>                                       | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Working collaboratively with relevant partners, partnerships and user groups to oversee and monitor the implementation of the Adult Exploitation Strategy</li> <li>2. Establish mechanisms to ensure there is collaboration in relation to cross cutting issues to encourage sharing of priorities and reduced duplication</li> <li>3. Continuing to build upon the joint working protocol and workplan with the Safeguarding Children's Partnerships to deliver on joint objectives and actions, and extend out to other relevant Partnerships</li> </ol>                         | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Adult Exploitation Implementation Action Plan</li> <li>• Tees Adults and Children Joint Working Protocol &amp; Action Plan</li> </ul>                         | <p>Operational Leads Sub-Group<br/>Adult Exploitation Implementation Working Group<br/>Communication &amp; Engagement Sub-Group<br/>Business Managers<br/>Relevant Partnerships</p> |
| <p>4. Work with partners to ensure there is a coordinated approach to protecting individuals with care and support needs who are most at risk of harm, with an appropriate offer of support and interventions, relevant to their needs</p> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Working with relevant agencies to protect and provide appropriate support for adults with care and support needs who are experiencing rough sleeping and/or are self-neglecting</li> <li>2. Establishing a Working Group to strengthen the joined up local approach to protecting individuals with care and support needs, who are rough sleeping</li> <li>3. Working to break down the barriers to accessing services across our communities and highlighting the importance of escalating concerns about more vulnerable individuals, including those self-neglecting</li> </ol> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Annual Report 2024-25</li> <li>• Working Group minutes/action plan</li> <li>• Communication Plan</li> <li>• Awareness Campaigns/Evaluation Reports</li> </ul> | <p>Rough Sleeping Working Group</p> <p>Rough Sleeping Champion</p> <p>Communication &amp; Engagement Sub-Group</p>                                                                  |
| <p>5. Seek assurance that service provision commissioned by partners meets the individual needs of adults most at risk of abuse and neglect</p>                                                                                            | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Continuing to engage and work in partnership with commissioned providers to ensure the needs of individuals most at risk of abuse and neglect are met</li> <li>2. Maintaining and correlating accurate records of services subject to the 'Responding to and Addressing Serious Concerns Protocol', including mapping data within the PowerBi data dashboard</li> </ol>                                                                                                                                                                                                            | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• OL meeting minutes</li> <li>• PowerBi Data Dashboard</li> <li>• RASC Lessons Learned Reports</li> </ul>                                                       | <p>Operational Leads Sub-Group<br/>Safeguarding Adults Review Sub-Group<br/>Performance, Audit &amp; Quality Sub-Group</p>                                                          |

**Impact/ Outcomes** – Professionals will identify emerging challenges, and provide a collaborative response to adults with care and support needs who are most at risk of harm, providing solutions and outcomes led by the wishes of the adult

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# Healthy Weight Declaration Adult Social Care and Health Scrutiny

**Laura More**

**Health Improvement Specialist  
Creating Healthy Environments**



## Living with Obesity

| Year  | Indicator                                               | Middlesbrough | North East | England |
|-------|---------------------------------------------------------|---------------|------------|---------|
| 23/24 | Reception prevalence of obesity/severe obesity (4-5yrs) | 13.8%         | 10.8%      | 9.6%    |
| 23/24 | Year 6 prevalence of obesity/severe obesity (10-11 yrs) | 25.6%         | 24.5%      | 22.1%   |
| 23/24 | Overweight/obese adults                                 | 71.4%         | 70.4%      | 64.5%   |
| 23/24 | Physically active adults (150mins+ per week)            | 61.1%         | 64.5%      | 67.4%   |

- Obesity **reduces** life expectancy and **increases morbidity** including cardiovascular disease, type 2 diabetes, at least 12 types of cancer and poor mental health
- Evidence overwhelmingly suggests that obese children are **significantly more likely** to become obese adults, increasing their risk for long-term health problems like heart disease, diabetes, and certain cancers
- NHS costs of obesity estimated **£6.5 billion per year**, nationally
- Wider societal costs (loss of productivity, social care, etc.) estimated at **£58 billion per year**
- Contributes to **16 million days** of sickness absence in UK
- Influencing factors of **wider determinants of health** – not just individual choices

# National Context Around Obesity Prevention

## Current policies

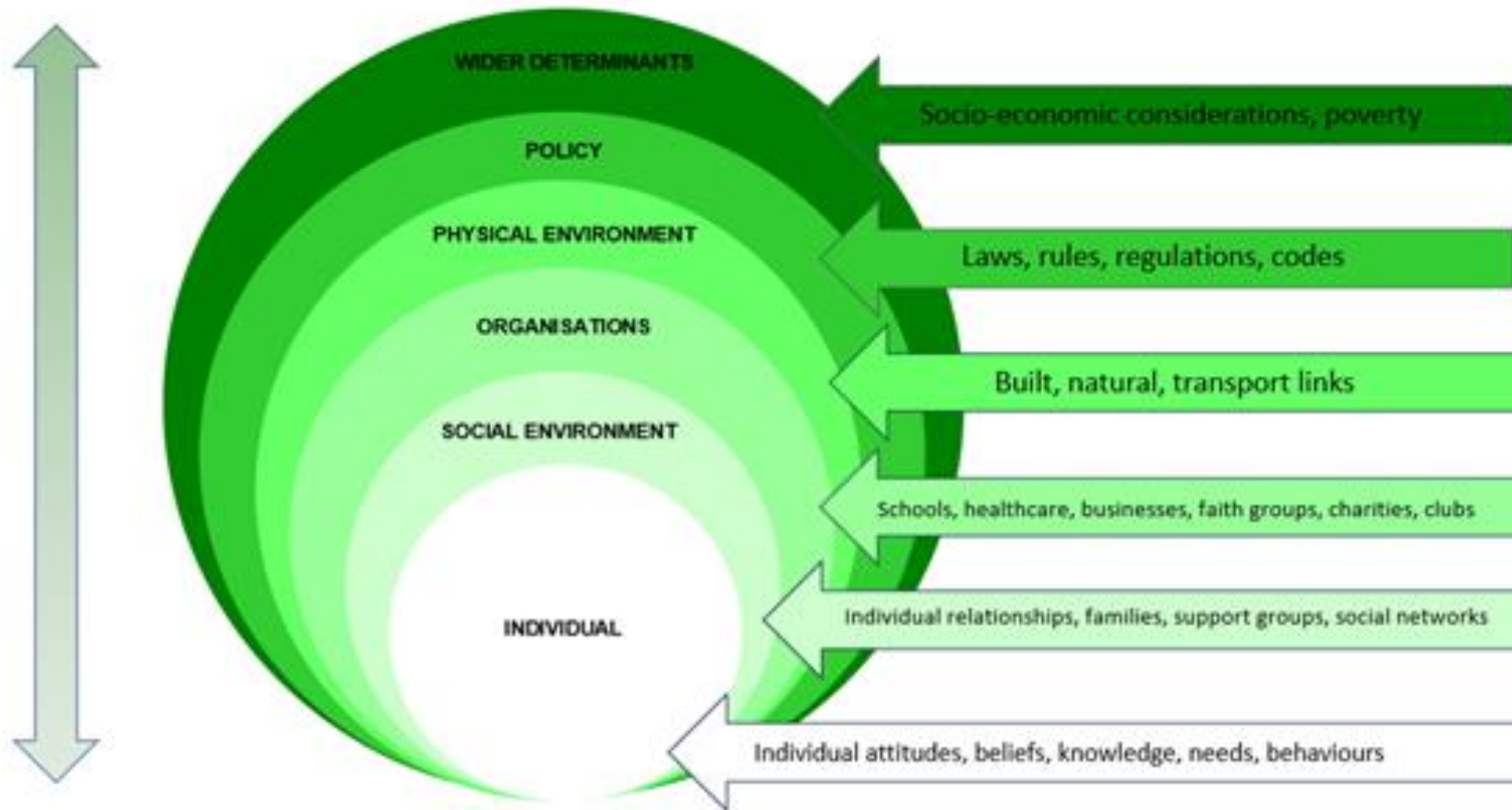
- Unhealthy food is restricted on tv programmes aimed at under 16s
- Soft drinks levy
- Calorie information on menus
- Restricted product placement in supermarkets
- School Food Standards

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- International Code of Marketing of Breastmilk Substitutes
  - National Planning Policy Framework
  - Restrictions on multibuy deals

## Future Policies – January 2026

- Introduction of 9pm watershed for unhealthy food advertisements on tv
- Full ban of paid for unhealthy food advertisements online
- Absence of national commitment on healthy weight
  - **Local action is more important than ever!**

# Whole Systems Approach



# Whole System Approach

To tackle obesity we need to take action across many different areas...

Influencing what people buy and eat

Encouraging healthy schools

Expanding access to public sport and leisure services

Promoting active workplaces

Providing weight management programmes

Designing built and natural environments

Enabling active travel and public transport

Preventing obesity in children and families

Embracing system-wide approaches

# Healthy Weight Declaration

- Council-wide commitment to improve health and well-being of people who live and work in Middlesbrough
- Adopted February 2024

Page 56 16 commitments designed to take a whole systems approach to creating healthier environments and empower individuals to make healthier lifestyle choices

- ‘Health in all policies’ approach advocated at leadership level to address wider determinants of health that impact food availability, food access and physical activity
- Includes working with other local partners and organisations, such as the NHS Foundation Trust, Integrated Care Board (working towards regional Healthy Weight Declaration), Food partnerships, to ensure impact beyond council-controlled areas



# HWD Commitment Themes

## **Strategic/System Leadership**

Recognising the LA has an important role in addressing healthier weight due to the control it has over key parts of the system

- Advocating for healthier weight environments across the system

## **Commercial Determinants**

Addressing private sector activity that affects people's health directly or indirectly via business actions

- Promoting responsible retail
- Considering commercial partnerships

## **Organisational Change & Culture Shift**

Embedding public health priorities across all departments

- Lead by example in the community
- Influence wider change across partners

## **Health Promoting Infrastructures**

Creating an environment that enable the healthy choice to be the easy choice

- Enabling active travel
- Positive food environment
- Creating food security

# The Healthy Weight Declaration in Action

## Engaging with Comms & Marketing

- Joint workshop to explore the HWD commitments and consider how comms could support it

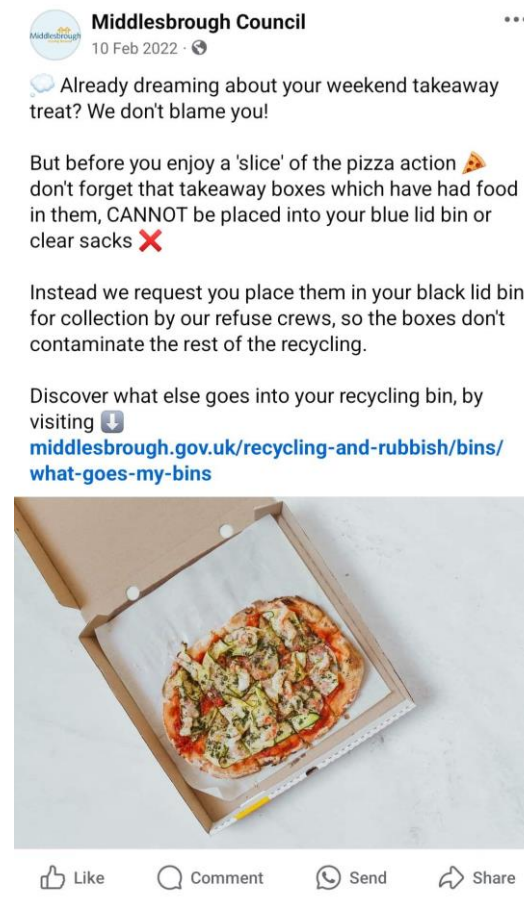
## Actions agreed

- Staff to complete weight stigma training
- Nutrient Profile Model to be used when including food in any social media posts
- Staff actively consider tone and imagery of any messages they share

## Result

- Improved use of imagery and shifting of narrative

2022



2025



# The Healthy Weight Declaration in Action

How does this contribute to the Healthy Weight Declaration?

4. Invest in the healthy literacy of local citizens to make informed choices; ensuring clear and comprehensive healthy eating and physical activity messages are consistent with government guidelines
7. Consider how commercial partnerships with the food and drink industry may impact on the messages communicated around healthy weight to our local communities
8. Protect our children from inappropriate marketing by the food and drink industry such as advertising and marketing in close proximity to schools, 'giveaways' and promotions within schools, at events on local authority controlled sites

# The Healthy Weight Declaration in Action

## Eat Well Awards

### Schools

- Recognises schools for taking a whole school approach to food
- Relunched September 2025
- 3 schools achieved bronze, 3 more schools working towards award

### Early Years

- Recognises early years settings for taking a whole setting approach to food
- Relunched September
- 2 early years settings working through award

### Business

- Recognises food businesses that reformulate food, promote healthier options and take action to increase sustainability
- Launching January 2026
- To be embedded in new council café provider contracts



# The Healthy Weight Declaration in Action

How does this contribute to the Healthy Weight Declaration?

4. Invest in the healthy literacy of local citizens to make informed choices; ensuring clear and comprehensive healthy eating and physical activity messages are consistent with government guidelines
6. Engage with the local food and drink sector where appropriate to consider responsible retailing such as, offering and promoting healthier food and drink options, and reformulating and reducing the portion sizes of high fat, sugar and salt products
8. Protect our children from inappropriate marketing by the food and drink industry such as advertising and marketing in close proximity to schools, 'giveaways' and promotions within schools, at events on local authority controlled sites

# The Healthy Weight Declaration

## The Challenges

- Obesity is a complex issue
- Results of action can take a long time to be reflected in health data
- Working in a systemic way takes a long time and requires capacity from a broad range of departments and wider organisations
- Conflicting priorities of departments and organisations can slow progress

## Commercial Determinants of Health

The commercial determinants of health (CDoH) are the conditions, actions and omissions by corporate bodies that affect our health. (World Health Organisation Definition)

They are the activities of private sector industries that impact us both positively and negatively by shaping the environments in which we are born, grow, live and work

## Unhealthy Commodity Industry (UCI)

UCIs are for-profit and commercial enterprises/businesses delivering commercial products that lead to significant associated negative health consequences

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Examples include:

- Tobacco
- Gambling
- Food and Beverage
- Alcohol
- Fossil Fuel

The products of these industries are linked to many chronic, non-contagious diseases (non-communicable diseases – NCDs), including cancer, heart disease, stroke, overweight and obesity, mental health

In 2019, NCDs accounted for 88.8% of all deaths in England and they make a significant contribution to disabilities and worsening health-related quality of life alongside driving inequality

## Common Approaches

- Lobbying and Political Party Donations
- Shifting Responsibility to the Consumer
- Targeted Advertising and Marketing
- Self Regulation and Corporate Social Responsibility

In a local authority this could look like:

- High level of advertisements for industry products
- Industry funded training opportunities
- Education programmes funded by industry
- Grants to charities funded by industry

## What's Happening in Middlesbrough?

- We need to increase our understanding on the current level of influence or existence of relationships between the council and UCIs
- Collaboration needed between council departments and wider partners to develop a standardised approach to engagement with UCIs to ensure there is good governance in decision making

## The Benefits of Taking Action

- Allows the council to have confidence that decision making has taken the potential impact of UCI practices into account and partnerships align to council values
- Increased transparency on how the council approaches engagement with wider organisations
- Improves local people's opportunity to make informed choices
- Protects children from potentially harmful influences

Thank you for your time today

Any questions?



# Healthy Weight Declaration 16 commitments

# The 16 Core Commitments

## Strategic/System Leadership

- 1 Implement the HWD as part of a long-term, 'systems-wide approach' to obesity;
- 2 Advocate plans that promote a preventative approach to encouraging a healthier weight with local partners, identified as part of a 'place-based system'
- 3 Support action at national level to help local authorities promote healthy weight and reduce health inequalities in our communities
- 4 Invest in the health literacy of local citizens to make informed healthier choices; ensuring clear and comprehensive healthy eating and physical activity messages are consistent with Government guidelines;
- 5 Local authorities who have completed adoption of the HWD are encouraged to review and strengthen the initial action plans they have developed by consulting Public Health England's, Whole Systems Approach to Obesity, including its tools, techniques and materials;

# The 16 Core Commitments

## Commercial Determinants

- 6** Engage with the local food and drink sector where appropriate to consider responsible retailing such as, offering and promoting healthier food and drink options, and reformulating and reducing the portion sizes of high fat, sugar and salt products;
- 7** Consider how commercial partnerships with the food and drink industry may impact on the messages communicated around healthy weight to our local communities.
- 8** Protect our children from inappropriate marketing by the food and drink industry such as advertising and marketing in close proximity to schools; 'giveaways' and promotions within schools; at events on local authority controlled sites;

## Health Promoting Infrastructures/Environments

- 9** Consider supplementary guidance for hot food takeaways, specifically in areas around schools, parks and where access to healthier alternatives are limited;
- 10** Review how strategies, plans and infrastructures for regeneration and town planning positively impact on physical activity, active travel, the food environment and food security
- 11** Where Climate Emergency Declarations are in place, consider how the HWD can support carbon reduction plans and strategies, address land use policy, transport policy, circular economy waste policies, food procurement, air quality etc.;

# The 16 Core Commitments

## Organisational Change/Cultural Shift

- 12** Review contracts and provision at public events, in all public buildings, facilities and 'via' providers to make healthier foods and drinks more available, convenient and affordable and limit access to high-calorie, low-nutrient foods and drinks;
- 13** Increase public access to fresh drinking water on local authority controlled sites; and encouraging re-useable bottle refills;
- 14** Develop an organisational approach to enable and promote active travel for staff, patients & visitors, whilst providing staff with opportunities to be physically active where possible;
- 15** Promote the health and well-being of local authority staff by creating a culture and ethos that promotes understanding of healthy weight, supporting staff to eat well and move more;

## Monitoring and Evaluation

- 16** Monitor the progress of our action plan against the commitments, report on and publish the results annually.

## Additional Local Commitments

The suggested list includes action on:

- Supporting children and young people
- Food poverty
- Providing access to healthy and sustainable food
- Enhancing the health of staff
- Improving the out of home food offer
- Increasing physical activity