

PEOPLE SCRUTINY PANEL

<p>Date: Monday, 11 November 2024 Time: 4.30 p.m. Venue: Mandela Room, Town Hall</p>

AGENDA

1. Welcome and Fire Evacuation Procedures

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 - People Scrutiny Panel - 14 October 2024 3 - 6

5. South Tees Safeguarding Children Partnership - Annual Report 2023-24 7 - 38

The Partnership Manager will be in attendance to present the annual report of the South Tees Safeguarding Children Partnership.

6. Teeswide Safeguarding Adults Board (TSAB) - Annual Report 2023-24 39 - 76

The Independent Chair of the TSAB, Adrian Green, will be in attendance to present the TSAB's Annual Report 2023-24.

A copy of the TSAB Strategic Plan 2022-25 is attached for information only.

7. Children Missing from Education (CME) - Further Evidence 77 - 86

The Head of Achievement will be in attendance to provide information regarding ethnic minority children missing education.

8. Overview and Scrutiny Board Update

The Chair will provide a verbal update on matters considered at the meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Board held on 23 October 2024.

9. Date and Time of Next Meeting - 16 December 2024 at 4.30 p.m.

10. 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, 1 November 2024

MEMBERSHIP

Councillors E Clynch (Chair), J Banks (Vice-Chair), L Henman, L Hurst, D Jackson, M McClintock, M Nugent, S Platt, J Ryles, S Tranter, G Wilson and L Young

Assistance in accessing information

Should you have any queries on accessing the Agenda and associated information please contact Claire Jones / Chris Lunn, 01642 729112 / 01642 729742, claire_jones@middlesbrough.gov.uk / chris_lunn@middlesbrough.gov.uk

PEOPLE SCRUTINY PANEL

A meeting of the People Scrutiny Panel was held on Monday 14 October 2024.

PRESENT: Councillors E Clynch (Chair), J Banks (Vice-Chair), L Henman, D Jackson, M McClintock, S Platt, S Tranter, G Wilson and L Young

OFFICERS: R Brown, C Jones, C Lunn and E Scollay

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Councillors M Nugent and J Ryles
M Adams, D Alaszewski J Tynan

24/22 **WELCOME AND FIRE EVACUATION PROCEDURE**

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

24/23 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Name of Member	Type of Interest	Item / Nature of Business
Cllr J Banks	Non-Pecuniary	Employed within education setting.
Cllr E Clynch	Non-Pecuniary	Employed within education setting.
Cllr D Jackson	Non-Pecuniary	School Governor.
Cllr S Tranter	Non-Pecuniary	Employed within education setting.
Cllr L Young	Non-Pecuniary	Employed within education setting.

24/24 **MINUTES - PEOPLE SCRUTINY PANEL - 16 SEPTEMBER 2024**

The minutes of the People Scrutiny Panel meeting held on 16 September 2024 were submitted and approved as a correct record.

24/25 **CHILDREN MISSING FROM EDUCATION - TERMS OF REFERENCE**

By way of a starting point and to facilitate discussion, the Democratic Services Officers tabled some potential terms of reference for the Children Missing from Education (CME) scrutiny review.

The Chair invited Members to discuss the proposals and to consider any revisions or additions.

Following discussion, the panel agreed the terms of reference as follows:

1. To understand the current position in terms of Middlesbrough Council’s Children Missing Education (CME) to examine key data and demographics/characteristics in respect of Children Missing Education in Middlesbrough and compare with regional and national statistics.
2. To examine how the Local Authority works with children, young people and their families, and education providers to identify and support CME (e.g. referrals and proactive identification).
3. To investigate what additional resources, if any, could be accessed to assist with CME.
4. To consider any potential implications/impact/challenges of CME on providers and services.
5. To consider the challenges of transient communities and how the Ethnic Minority Achievement Team (EMAT) track and work with newly arrived families.
6. To consider the increasing number of permanently excluded children in respect of CME.

NOTED

24/26

CARE QUALITY COMMISSION (CQC) INSPECTION - POSITION UPDATE

The Director of Adult Social Care and Health Integration was in attendance to present a position update on the Care Quality Commission (CQC) inspection of Middlesbrough Council's delivery of its duties under Part 1 of the Care Act 2014.

The presentation included:

- Notification and timeline of the inspection.
- Preparation activities for staff and external partners.
- Plans for engagement with the CQC during the inspection.

Formal notification of the inspection was received from the CQC on 27 August 2024; the inspection was scheduled for 28 October 2024 - 1 November 2024. CQC inspectors would evaluate Middlesbrough Council services against the following key areas: safety, effectiveness, caring, responsiveness, and leadership.

The following preparations for the inspection were currently taking place:

- Staff Preparation - Regular briefings to ensure all staff understood the inspection process and CQC expectations with a focus on demonstrating quality in all key areas, including evidence of good practice and compliance.
- External Partner Engagement - External partners briefed on the inspection and their potential involvement.
- Representatives Identified for CQC Drop-In Sessions - Team representatives had been chosen to participate in CQC's open drop-in sessions. They would share good news stories and case studies showcasing the positive impact of services, highlighting areas of innovation, collaboration, and success.
- Key Workers Involved in CQC Case Reviews - Six cases have been selected by CQC for in-depth review. Key workers involved in these cases would receive tailored briefings in advance of their interviews with the CQC. Guidance would focus on being clear, confident, and transparent in presenting their work and outcomes for the individuals involved.

The following ongoing actions were noted:

- Continued staff briefings and preparations.
- Ongoing engagement with external partners.
- Finalise the preparation for CQC drop-in sessions and key worker case reviews.
- Address any remaining areas requiring attention before the formal inspection begins.

The presentation concluded with an overview of Adult Social Care's strengths and areas for development.

A Member raised a query in respect of the expectations of the outcome of the inspection and the likelihood of receiving a poor report or unexpected findings. The Director of Adult Social Care and Health Integration advised that open and transparent communication had taken place with the CQC and self-awareness of strengths and areas requiring development, was key. It was noted that financial challenges, impacts of cost reduction and ongoing transformation work had placed pressures on the department.

A query was raised as to whether there would be Member involvement in the inspection and if briefings would take place. It was confirmed that the Lead Member for Adult Social Care, the Elected Mayor, would be briefed.

The panel thanked the Director of Adult Social Care and Health Integration for the presentation and wished the department well with the inspection.

NOTED

24/27

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY BOARD UPDATE

The Chair provided an update on items discussed at the Overview and Scrutiny Board meetings held on 25 September 2024 and 30 September 2024.

At the meeting held on 25 September 2024, Members considered matters relating to: Community Cohesion; Q1 Corporate Performance Update; Q1 Revenue and Capital Budget Outturn Position; and Executive Forward Work Programme.

At the meeting held on 30 September 2024, Members considered the Call-In regarding the Disposal of Land at Nunthorpe Grange.

24/28 **DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING - 11 NOVEMBER 2024 AT 4.30 P.M.**

The next meeting of the People Scrutiny Panel had been scheduled for Monday, 11 November 2024 at 4.30 p.m. in the Mandela Room, Town Hall.

NOTED

24/29 **ANY OTHER URGENT ITEMS WHICH IN THE OPINION OF THE CHAIR, MAY BE CONSIDERED.**

None.

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MIDDLESBROUGH COUNCIL

PEOPLE SCRUTINY PANEL

11 NOVEMBER 2024

SOUTH TEES SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN PARTNERSHIP
ANNUAL REPORT 2023-24

SUMMARY

The STSCP Annual report summarises and reflects on the work of the South Tees Safeguarding Children Partnership (STSCP) between 01 April 2023 and 31 March 2024. This covers the fourth full financial year of operation by the STSCP. All details about the work of the Partnership and the materials it presents to professionals, children and young people, their parents carers and communities, and the comprehensive and complex network of services that work with them, are available on the STSCP website:

<https://stscp.co.uk>

The Partnership is a statutory body, led by an Executive. The Executive is made up of representatives from Redcar & Cleveland Council, Middlesbrough Council, North East, North Cumbria Integrated Care Board and Cleveland Police.

The **4 Priorities of the STSCP** are as follows:

Exploitation formerly VEMT (Vulnerable, Exploited, Missing, Trafficked): The aim is for children/young people to be free from the risk and harm of exploitation, going missing or being trafficked.

Neglect: The aim is to reduce neglect, reduce the impact of neglect and ensure help & support is provided at the earliest opportunity.

Empowering Young People: The aim is to create a clear focus on the needs and experience of young people.

Working Together: The aim is to achieve excellent partnership working across all areas.

Gary Watson
Partnership Manager

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SOUTH TEES
**Safeguarding Children
Partnership Annual Report**
2023/2024



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As Chair for the STSCP Chief Officers Group, the update in the STSCP Annual Report and the next steps gives me a regular insight into the issues, both from looking back at reviews, inspection findings and ongoing potential risks and concerns. This helps me to balance, at the Council level, the competing demands we have for funding and resources and gives me a line of oversight across the South Tees area.

It is positive that we have this joint partnership as this enhances opportunities for learning and improvement and that the work with HSSCP (Hartlepool and Stockton Safeguarding Children Partnership) has been and continues to be strengthened, for example with a joint training programme. This again enables greater learning and consistency.

It is also positive that we have arrangements that are in line with the new Working Together 2023 requirements ahead of them being published - in that we chair our own Executive meetings and have separate independent scrutiny - which works well from yourself as a constant and independent - I know Kathryn has chaired for past two years and Helen Barker - chief superintendent from police has now taken over - which I think brings partners further closer together with all the challenges we face

I hope that you will find this report informative and interesting.

John Sampson

Managing Director

(Head of Paid Service)

Redcar & Cleveland Borough Council

Foreword by the STSCP Chair Kathryn Boulton

Yet another year on and as the South Tees Safeguarding Children's Partnership Executive, we are pleased to share the progress made across our Partnership. Sadly this will be my last Annual Report as I am moving to pastures new so many thanks to the support from partners, agencies and the STSCP business unit in my two year tenure as chair. I do pass over the chair of the partnership with confidence to DSI Helen Barker from Cleveland Police.

This Annual Report covering the year 2023-2024 is published by the four statutory partners (Middlesbrough Council, Redcar & Cleveland Council, Cleveland Police and North East and North Cumbria Integrated Care Board) who are responsible for putting in place effective arrangements to support the co-ordination, quality assurance and continuous improvement of activity to safeguard children and young people.

Effective joint working has continued and has been further strengthened, in this report the statutory partners set out critical areas of development to further improve the effectiveness of the statutory partnership arrangements including a robust multi-agency quality assurance framework that uses the learning from serious safeguarding incidents and auditing to make a difference to practice and service provision.

During this period the STSCP has completed no rapid reviews therefore no Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews have been required, however we have signed off 2 CSPR from early 2023. The partnership has also completed a number of multi-agency audits including the Section 11 audit challenge of key partners.

This report also sets out the achievements and the work that has progressed at time of unprecedented pressures on services. These achievements are a reflection of the committed individuals who either work directly with children, young people and their families or those with a specialist role in safeguarding in partner agencies.

We are in a strong position to implement the revisions to national guidance as outlined in the recently published Working Together 2023. Our current partnership arrangement reflect that which is stipulated, as does our use of Independent Scrutiny which is separate to the role of Chair. Schools have been represented on the Executive at strategic level, and through events run in partnership with schools. The annual school safeguarding survey (Section 175) has a high rate of completion and the questions are adjusted annually to take into account local issues which have been identified.

On behalf of the four statutory safeguarding partners, I would like to again thank everyone involved across our Partnership for their work, dedication, care and passion over the last year and for their continued commitment to ongoing learning and improvement. Our success is through the strengths of our partners, working together to create a place where all children and young people across Middlesbrough and Redcar & Cleveland are safe, free from abuse, neglect and supported to live happy and healthy lives.

During the past year we have reviewed our priorities, our vision and values and this is what we are working towards.

Kathryn Boulton
Chair of the STSCP
Executive Director of Children
Services Redcar & Cleveland Council

A partnership committed
to keeping children safe
and working together to
achieve the best possible
outcomes for children
and families.

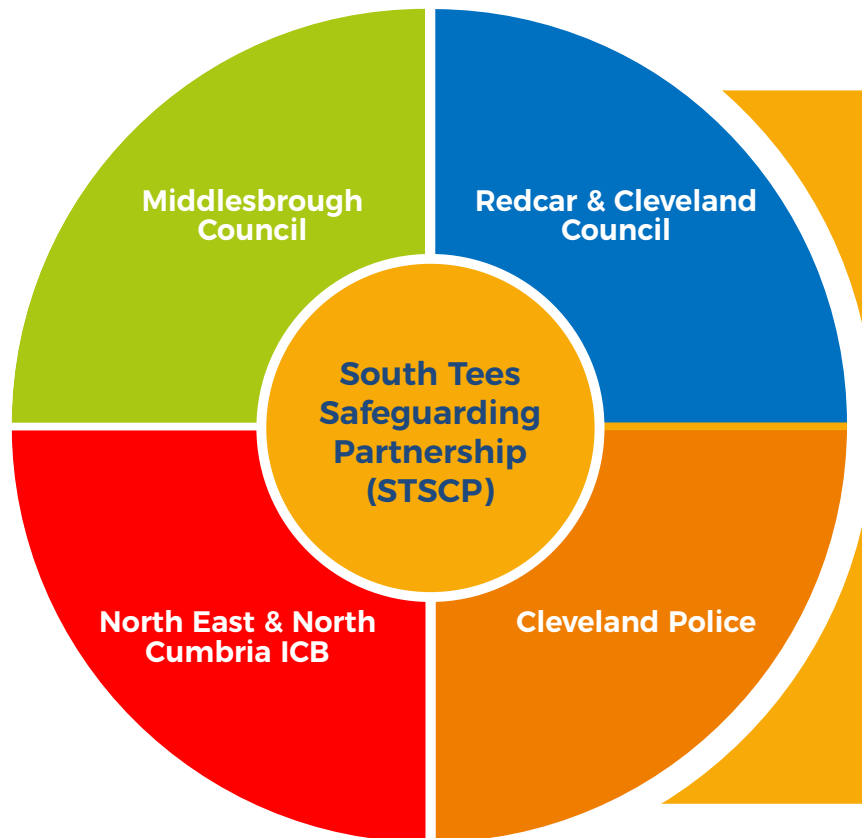


Who are the South Tees Safeguarding Children Partnership and what does it do?

Middlesbrough Council, Redcar & Cleveland Council, Cleveland Police and North East, North Cumbria Integrated Care Board have a statutory duty to put in place multi-agency safeguarding arrangements to protect and safeguard vulnerable children. This responsibility is driven by the South Tees Safeguarding Children Partnership which is funded, equally, by the four partners.

Membership of the partnership executive is drawn from:

- **Middlesbrough Council**
- **Redcar & Cleveland Council**
- **North East & North Cumbria ICB**
- **Cleveland Police**
- **Public Health**
- **South Tees Youth Justice Service**
- **Middlesbrough Education**
- **Redcar & Cleveland Education**



STSCP PRIORITY OBJECTIVES

Exploitation

The aim is for children/young people to be free from the risk and harm of exploitation, going missing or being trafficked.

Neglect

The aim is to reduce neglect, reduce the impact of neglect and ensure help & support is provided at the earliest opportunity.

Empowering Young People

The aim is to create a clear focus on the needs and experience of young people

Working Together

The aim is to achieve excellent partnership working across all areas.

With a focus on the Impact of Domestic Abuse on Children/Young People

Who are the South Tees Safeguarding Children Partnership and what does it do?



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How the STSCP does things is as important as what it does. To shape how it delivers its role, the STSCP has adopted the following principles and values:

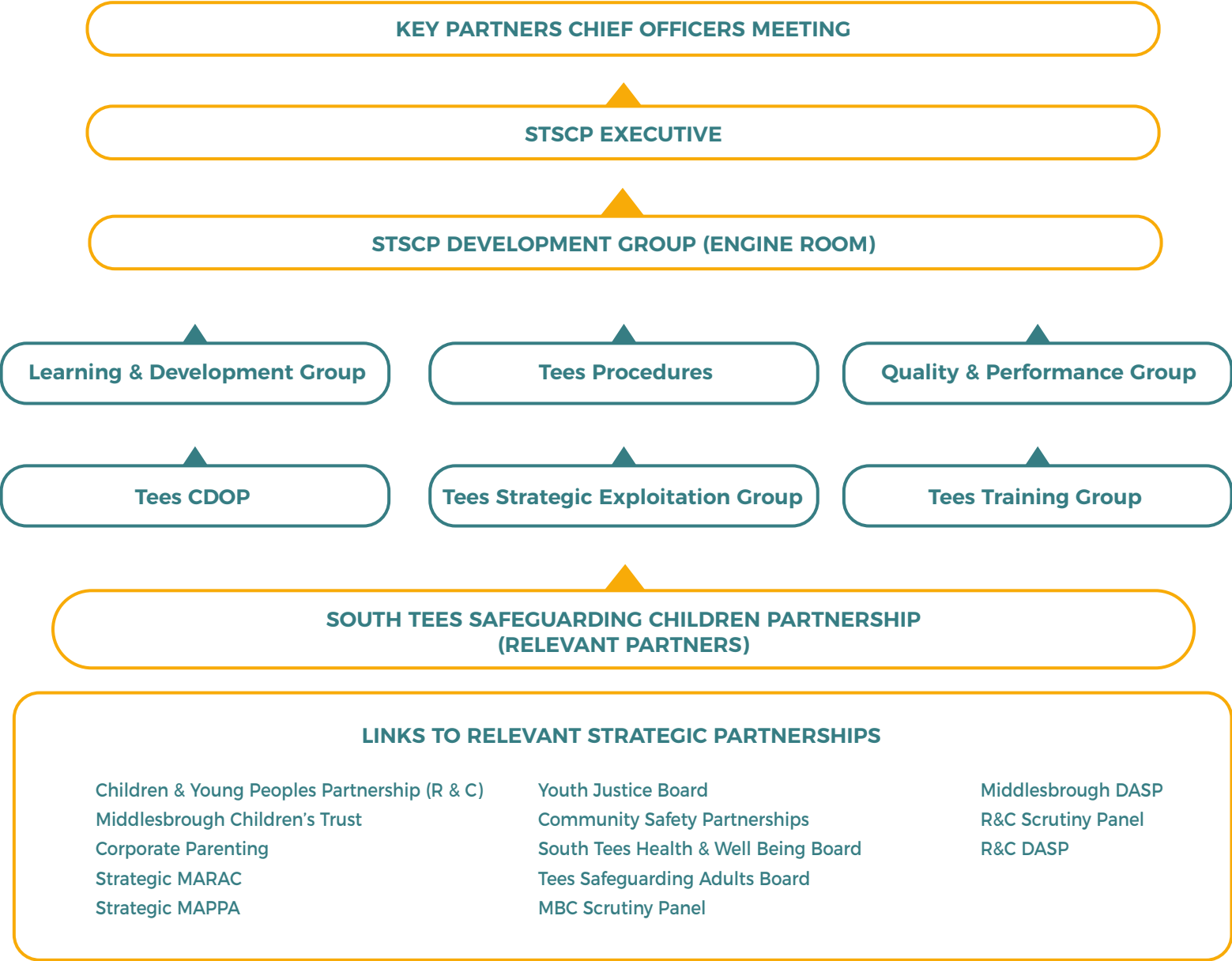
As the Safeguarding Statutory Partners, we will share equal responsibility for execution and oversight of the South Tees Safeguarding Children Partnership, enabling a common purpose and agreed behavioural values to reinforce shared priorities. We recognise that to be strong and effective, the Partnership must engage the right people and have worked collaboratively across South Tees to identify the organisations and agencies which need to be involved to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and young people across the South Tees.

The South Tees Safeguarding Children Partnership will promote appropriate support and challenge between partners; ensuring that leaders and staff within every organisation are held to account. We will also create the conditions to develop a transparent learning culture, driving best collaborative practice for good and outstanding outcomes for children and young people.

All our work will be underpinned by a consideration of the views and experiences of the children and young people across South Tees. We acknowledge that the new arrangements will only be effective if they make a difference to the wellbeing of children and young people and ask for help from professional partners and the community to make this a reality.

The partnership is chaired by a key partner on a two-year rotational basis agreed by the four statutory partners with the objective of providing oversight and governance. As part of our arrangements for external challenge, the Chair presents the board's annual report to both the Council's Scrutiny Panels for Children and Families and the South Tees Live Well Board. To drive delivery of its objectives, the partnership has a series of sub-groups as set out on the next page.

STSCP Governance Structure



South Tees the place

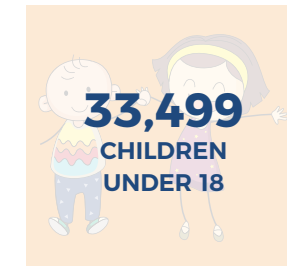
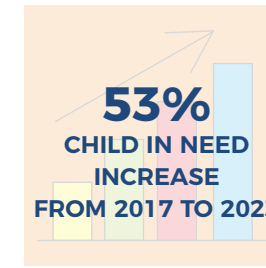
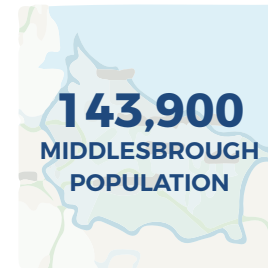
The area which the South Tees Safeguarding Partnership serves is a place of contrasts, Middlesbrough a densely populated town while Redcar & Cleveland covers a widespread seaside and countryside landscape.

The 2021 Census estimated the population of the South Tees to be 280,400 people. Approximately 23% (62,491 people) are aged 0 to 19. From the 2011 to 2021 Census, the South Tees's overall population increased by 3%. Many people who have come to live in the area have been attracted by the value for money housing offer, our schools, growing economy and our connectivity via road and rail into the Tees Valley conurbation and beyond.

Page 16 “The Social Gradient in English Child Welfare Services”, a study by Kingston University academics and Ofsted analysts, said that children from the poorest neighbourhoods in England were almost fourteen times more likely to be referred to social care services than those from the richest areas. This impact can be seen on the demand for support from children social care across South Tees:

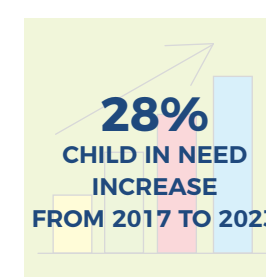
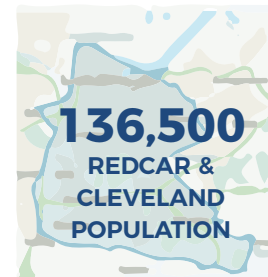


Middlesbrough



- 316 children on a child protection plan with a rate of per 10,000 population of 92.6 (March 2024) compared to the England rate of 43.2
- 525 looked after children with a rate of per 10,000 population of 153.8 (March 2024) compared to the England rate of 71.
- Over a thousand contacts for support each month, with 1619 recorded in March 2024.

Redcar & Cleveland



- 249 children on a child protection plan with a rate of per 10,000 population of 91.4 (March 2024) compared to the England rate of 43.2.
- 420 looked after children with a rate of per 10,000 population of 154.2 (March 2024) compared to the England rate of 73.
- Over a thousand contacts for support each month with 1143 recorded in March 2024.

South Tees the place

The South Tees is a very diverse area, with a large number of nationalities included in a minority ethnic population of 20%. The largest minority ethnic groups in the area are the Indian and Pakistani communities, but more recently there has also been a significant increase in economic migration, mainly from Eastern Europe.

Both Middlesbrough and Redcar & Cleveland local authorities have high aspirations for their children and young people. Equally, both areas have significant challenges to address, as can be seen from the following information.

Demand on Social Care

Demand for Children's Social Care is closely associated with key drivers which include deprivation, poor housing, high levels of unemployment, which are prevalent in the North East, and particularly Teesside.

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- The North East has the highest rate of social care demand in the country, for instance the Child Protection rate for the North East is 64.8 per 10,000 compared to an England rate of 41.4 per 10,000.
- Within the North East, Teesside has the highest rate of demand, and within Teesside, Both Middlesbrough and Redcar & Cleveland have a high rate of demand for social care. For instance, taking the example of child protection, Middlesbrough has the highest rate per 10,000 in the country at 140.2 with Redcar & Cleveland at 76.9.
- The latest DfE Children In Need census shows Middlesbrough has the 5th highest level of need for social care in the country and Redcar & Cleveland are ranked 8th.



If Middlesbrough were a village of 100 children

Page 18

32
(Almost a third) live in income Deprived Households

6
Open Case living in 5 most Deprived Wards

45
Pupil Premium

44
Access Free School Meals

SECONDARY SCHOOL

There are more boys than girls
51 boys
49 girls

Boys 0-4	13
Boys 5-12	24
Boys 13-17	14
Girls 0-4	13
Girls 5-12	23
Girls 13-17	13

19
School Children have English as additional language

34
School Children from Ethnic Minorities

15
Access SEN Support

5
Have an Education, Health & Care Plan

2
Children looked after

1
CP

3
CIN (all)

7
Early Help



36
Children are in Secondary School

3
Children are in Special School

1
Pupil Referral Unit

8
Children will not attend school today

Primary 1 or more fixed term exclusion	0
Secondary 1 or more fixed term exclusion	14
Special school 1 or more fixed term exclusion	6

7
Children are in Nursery

53
Children are in Primary School



If Redcar & Cleveland were a village of 100 children

31
(Almost a third) live in income Deprived Households

3
Open Case living in 5 most Deprived Wards

32
Pupil Premium

30
Access Free School Meals

SECONDARY SCHOOL

There are more boys than girls
52 boys
49 girls

3
School Children have English as additional language

6
School Children from Ethnic Minorities

18
Access SEN Support

4
Have an Education, Health & Care Plan

Boys 0-4	11
Boys 5-12	28
Boys 13-17	12
Girls 0-4	10
Girls 5-12	27
Girls 13-17	12

2
Early Help

1
CP

2
CioC

8
CIN (all)

6
Children will not attend school today

Primary 1 or more fixed term exclusion	<1
Secondary 1 or more fixed term exclusion	3
Special school 1 or more fixed term exclusion	9

8
Children are in Nursery

50
Children are in Primary School

40
Children are in Secondary School

2
Children are in Special School

<1
Pupil Referral Unit

Page 19



What have we achieved in the last 12 months?

An essential objective of this report is to demonstrate the impact of the partnership and the multi-agency safeguarding arrangements that it has put in place. The following part of the report takes a month by month look at the activity of the board and the safeguarding impact that this has had.

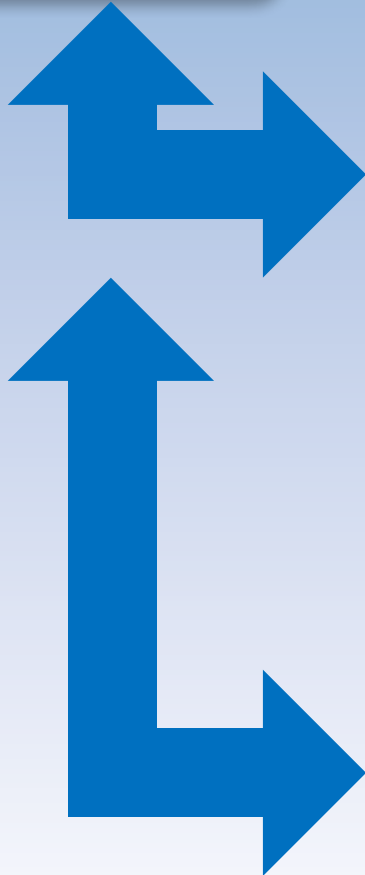


Rapid Reviews and Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews which had been carried out during the previous year identified that non-accidental injuries in babies and children under the age of one was a key area of learning for professionals across Tees. In response, the Partnership organised a **Non-Accidental Injury in under 1's and Hidden Partners Tees-wide Learning Event** which was attended by approximately 100 professionals from across all partners to focus on key issues including process, findings from the National Panel, emerging local themes and to reinforce consistent professional curiosity.

Safeguarding impact: Professionals are better equipped to identify those children at greater risk and intervene at a much earlier stage to safeguard against non-accidental injuries and to be curious of partners in and around the households of young families.

The conference raised awareness of non-accidental injury in under 1's and hidden partners, while considering the learning from recent case reviews undertaken across the Tees area. The session included a drama production from Odd Arts and included lived experience speakers from Dads & Lads.

What have we achieved in the last 12 months?



May saw the first line of sight review undertaken into cases of neglect that had been referred to the Partnership for a detailed review. An independent reviewer was tasked with examining three separate cases involving a child and their siblings who were subject to a number of concerns including neglect, physical and sexual abuse, domestic abuse and poor home conditions over a prolonged period of time. The review was to identify learning and therefore enhance practice. This Review was completed and signed off by the board in June 2023.

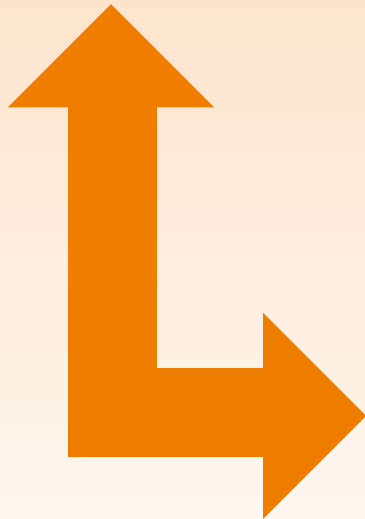
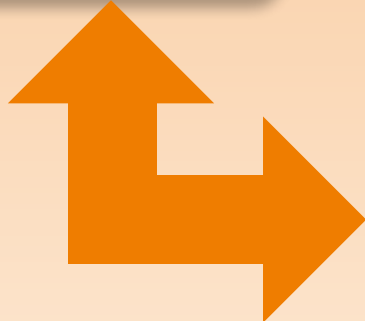
Safeguarding impact: Reviews of this type are vital to ensure that safeguarding practice within South Tees is continually evolving to provide independent feedback and challenge and to ensure protection is in place for children alongside support for their parents/carers. The review recommendations are informing the work of the Neglect task and finish group into the review of policies and procedures to support relevant families.

The review of the Tees Performance Management Framework started with a review of all data collected across the Tees, including quantitative and qualitative data. This review will also develop a multi-agency Performance and Management Framework, and data collection activity undertaken against performance indicators to enable agencies to make intelligence led decisions and focus resources in areas that are emerging as potential issues.

Safeguarding impact: The proactive review which will be completed in the first quarter of 2024/25 will allow partners to jointly assess performance, highlight areas of good practice alongside identifying areas which need more robust work to be undertaken. This will enable the partners to identify areas of work to investigate and seek out assurance to safeguard our children and young people.



What have we achieved in the last 12 months?



A Child Safeguarding Practice Review action plan Challenge model has been introduced, this model places more emphasis on demonstrating that the actions have taken place and that the impact on children and families has been understood. Each agency presents the information to a panel of peers, and the session is chaired by an independent scrutineer.

In this month the **CSPR Kingfisher** a thematic review involving Neglect was subject to this model, the outcome from the session was that further work was required on the understanding of escalation processes across agencies, the inclusion of Housing and Substance Misuse Services in the next section 11 audits.

In 2023-24 this model has continued to be used and continues to be well received by the practitioners and managers who have attended the events.

Safeguarding impact: The challenge events ensure the results of Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews are followed up and actions are fully implemented and monitored, while reinforcing the review recommendations and learning.

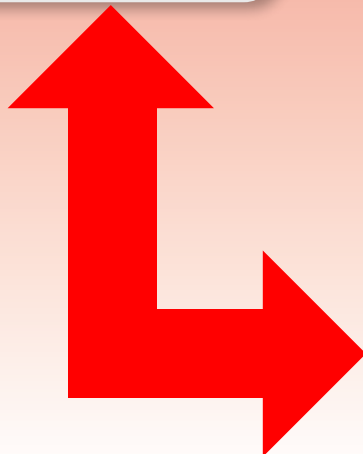
The Partnership published the **CSPR Angel** where it considered how professionals assess and safeguard children who have moved across local authority boundary area's and are or have been the subject of child protection plans and care proceedings in the past, and where the parent's first language is not English. Met with the National Panel regarding the case and received positive feedback.

The Quality & Performance group carried out an audit on children's cases where Domestic Abuse (DA) was present and confirmed that communication with partners was working well, along with professional challenge. Items that we were concerned about included embedding the Tees escalation process and direct work with the child(ren).

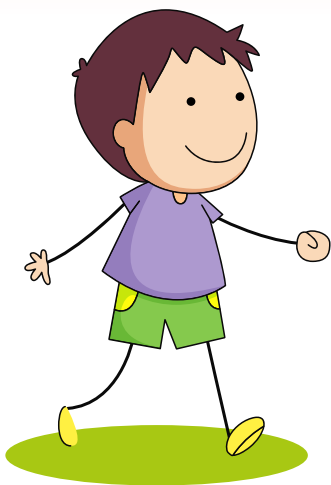
Safeguarding impact: Professionals need to focus on families that move across boundaries often and share information as these families can be especially vulnerable. Making use of an interpreter should be promoted, along with having a health visitor included in assessments and planning for the unborn babies. Schools could be more generally engaged in CSPR and learning processes.

The Learning & Development subgroup ensures that learning is disseminated across the partnership and reaches into all organisations to provide a consistent approach and knowledge base when undertaking their safeguarding duties.

What have we achieved in the last 12 months?



Page 23



After reviewing performance information and a differential in the data, in May 2023 the Tees Strategic Exploitation Group (TSEG) made a recommendation for an observational audit of the arrangements across Teesside.

The TSEG agreed that the performance information warranted further investigation into systems, processes and thresholds, recommending an independent audit, to the South Tees Safeguarding Children's Partnership (STSCP) and the Hartlepool and Stockton-on-Tees Safeguarding Children's Partnership (HSSCP).

The South Tees Safeguarding Children's Partnership (STSCP) and the Hartlepool and Stockton-on-Tees Safeguarding Children's Partnership (HSSCP) subsequently agreed that an observational review of the Tees wide arrangements would be undertaken jointly, by the Independent Scrutineers for both Safeguarding Children's Partnerships.

Safeguarding impact: The observations of the processes provided the Independent Scrutineers with evidence of the knowledge, commitment and experience of those who attend the meetings.

All were extremely well chaired and well managed, with each addressing the key components required of the processes.

Live information was verbally shared, across agencies and based upon the information that was available to the meeting, the Scrutineers agreed with the assigned categories of risk.

The Independent Scrutineers report provided a number of recommendations and challenges which were accepted in full by the Executives. This included the importance of strategic agreement, as well as the capacity to achieve joined up, consistent Teesside arrangements.

The Independent Scrutineers findings supported the recommendations and learning from local Rapid Review Action Plans and LCSPRs. Recognising that exploitation continues to be a significant issue, a review of the arrangements for identifying and protecting individual children in each area will take place in April 2024. This was done jointly between HSSCP exec and STSCP exec.

What have we achieved in the last 12 months?



The Child Safeguarding Practice Review (CSPR) on the theme of **Exploitation** was signed off by the STSCP Executive, the review was commissioned to consider the multi-agency safeguarding response to child criminal exploitation (CCE) where serious youth violence featured. The review considered the systems and practice across the partnership with regards to CCE as a learning process.

Safeguarding impact: A 5-point learning brief has been developed and circulated following the thematic Local Child Safeguarding Practice Review (LCSPR) considering several young people who were subject to CCE. Its aim was to support professionals in identifying, responding, and managing situations where it is suspected or known that child criminal exploitation is happening and there are worries about extra-familial harm. There were two learning sessions which were attended by in excess of 100 professionals, the feedback from the sessions was very good.



What have we achieved in the last 12 months?



The STSCP Learning and Development group continued its work in overseeing the combined action plan for the recent reviews. Participating in learning reviews, the group continues to be well supported and attended from all agencies. There were no Rapid Reviews completed over this reporting period.

Safeguarding impact: All identified recommendations from reviews are implemented through changes to processes, focussed assurances and evidence being gathered from across the partnership and a variety of learning offers made to include the use of short '7 minute learning briefings', wider conferences (such as the Exploitation Learning events described earlier) all with the aim of aiding practitioner awareness, understanding and confidence across a variety of safeguarding topics.



What have we achieved in the last 12 months?



The Voice of the Child is crucial to the focus of the South Tees Safeguarding Children Board and as such work was started to explore how it can become more integrated into the work of the partnership over and above a representative attending.

The voice of young people was a critical part of the recent exploitation review with young person's feedback as below:

"There is a difference in what young people understand as gangs, for some it's not there but for some there is. It depends on what experiences you have had in your life".

"Say if you are stood, 1 or 2 of you and groups of older people come up to you and pressure you and that. That's what you need to be careful of. One of my mates was stood outside of his house, some man literally went up to him and just grabbed him by the neck and pinned him to the wall. That's what I mean it's just proper weird. Unexpected."

"It's a bit mad like. Say if you were little you wouldn't have expected to have seen the things that you have seen at this age in Redcar as its an off it place".

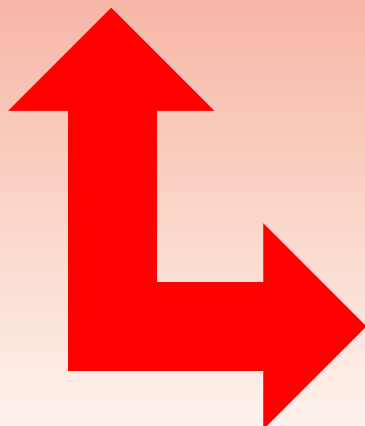
*"When I was at Boro park, some man had stabbed some man in the head in the town last year and then he came up to us and tried to sell us some cali's and get a taxi away and then we realised that we had just talked to someone who had just killed someone in town that was just weird". *Cali's is the street word for Californian weed.*

"All the stabbings going on, I only feel a bit unsafe in my community as its normal".

"You just need to be careful where you are. You might have lived somewhere your whole life, and you know everyone but now you have to keep a caution".

Safeguarding impact: Closer links between agencies and the children, young people and families they work with, embraces true partnership working to fully understand and respond to issues as they arise across the area. This creates a safeguarding culture which strives for improvement through cooperation and learning rather than enforcement. **Constantly evolving training** ensures **professionals are equipped** to respond to an ever-changing society and new risks.

What have we achieved in the last 12 months?



Page 27

Understanding Contextualised Safeguarding & The Challenge of Exclusion Event: Following on from the STSCP's Safeguarding in Education Event held in September 2022 last year, the STSCP wanted to build on the awareness raising from this, with this year's event. All Head Teachers, Principals and CEO's from all schools across the Tees were invited to event plus other partner agencies.

The event included local and national guest speakers including those with lived experiences, as well as workshops on various elements linking to the challenges posed to children through exclusion from education and how best to manage the challenges within schools.

The event was a huge success with over 125 attendees. An example of feedback from the delegates:

"Excellent event with great speakers who share experiences which will help my practice moving forward. Thank you all who arranged and made the learning possible".

"I have found this event extremely useful and interesting, and it makes you think carefully about those vulnerable children in school".

Safeguarding impact: Following on from the event, the profile of exploitation and correlation with exclusion was raised, all professionals who attended were provided with a resource pack. Additionally, the experience gained from continuing to engage direct with education professionals will be used to plan future events. This will include engagement with them in respect of the changes emanating from Working Together 2023.



What have we achieved in the last 12 months?



As the year closed the focus on Neglect and the local strategy began with a task and finish group to look at a Strategy for South Tees, which will be aligned with the Tees Neglect Framework. The strategy will be ready to publish in the summer of 2024.

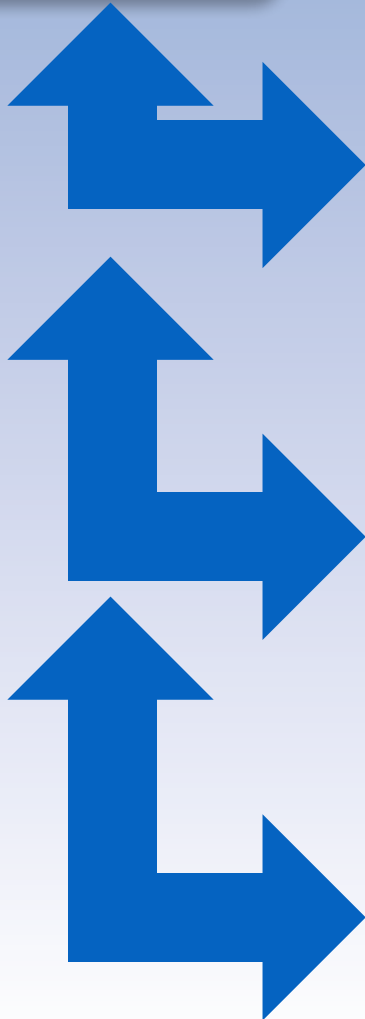
Also, the updated version of Working Together 2023 was released and the STSCP began work on implementing the revised guidance.

Safeguarding impact: The understanding of neglect and the importance of prevention and early help has been increased, as a result of the partnership work with training available to professionals working in Middlesbrough and Redcar & Cleveland. The Tees Safeguarding Procedures website is recognised by inspectorates as a reliable and useful source of information. The Tees Procedures group has reviewed and updated the Neglect section on the website as a result of the recent work undertaken.

Recently published CSPR review Kingfisher identified the “the risk and impact of drug using parents” and is covered in all relevant multi-agency training. Public Health have co-ordinated and delivered multi-agency training which includes the signs and symptoms in children of drug ingestion, and clarity about what professionals should do if they suspect this is happening.



What have we achieved in the last 12 months?



The start of the year saw Middlesbrough Council who were using a Threshold of Need document that did not mirror that of the other 3 Tees local authorities set up a working group and after deliberation agreed to implement the Tees-wide Children's Threshold of Need. Training on the Thresholds been commissioned for the multi-agency workforce.

Safeguarding impact: This alignment of Threshold document, allows multi-agency partners that have a wide geographical footprint to work to one set of guidelines for Redcar & Cleveland, Middlesbrough, Hartlepool & Stockton thereby, strengthening the knowledge and expertise of frontline professionals and providing a consistent response to families.

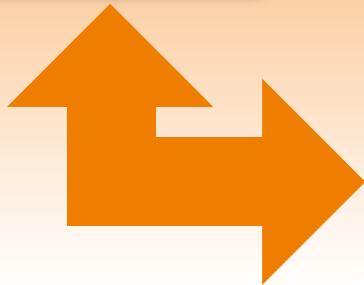
Audit on Serious Youth Violence was initiated. Work took place within the Quality & Performance sub-group to run a mock Joint Targeted Area Inspection (JTAI). This allowed partners to evaluate their services provided to vulnerable children and young people and address any areas requiring action.

Safeguarding impact: Proactive approach to undertaking our own JTAI ahead of any inspection by Ofsted, Care Quality Commission (CQC), Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC) and Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Probation (HMIP) has allowed for early learning around how the local authority, police, health, probation and youth offending services are working together to identify, support and protect vulnerable children and young people.

The CSPR Liam Challenge Event took place, this allowed partners involved in the case from 2022 to review and evaluate their action plans and changes to services provided to vulnerable children and young people and address any areas requiring further action.

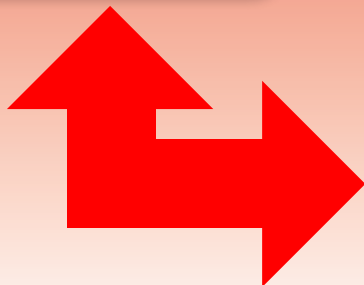
Safeguarding impact: The multi-agency discussion and the information provided for the session demonstrated that agencies were making changes to practice because of the review and the impact on front line practice will continue to be monitored by STSCP.

What have we achieved in the last 12 months?



A number of planning meetings were initiated with the Department of Education's National leads for Local Authorities and Police leads with respect to the STSCP participating in the Multi-agency Partnership Maturity Health Check process. Sessions are scheduled for May 2024 chaired by the Independent Scrutineer.

Safeguarding impact: The STSCP will be able to identify any gaps and strengths in the way it does its safeguarding business and prepare for the changes introduced in Working Together 2023.



The STSCP training programme reflects the safeguarding priorities and is now aligned with the HSSCP training program reflecting a Tees approach to training. This includes training around child sexual abuse, domestic abuse, neglect including adolescent neglect. ELearning is now accessible to professionals working in both adults and children's services as well as the voluntary and community sector. Learning from audits and reviews is impacting on planning and service delivery by changing procedure and practice. The Tees Training and Events sub group (who meet bi-monthly to consider matters relating to multi-agency learning and the communication of key information across the partnership) had their first meeting of the year.

Safeguarding impact: The work of the Tees Training and Event group ensures that learning is disseminated across the Tees partnerships and reaches into all organisations to provide a consistent approach and knowledge base when undertaking their safeguarding duties.

SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN

Fantastic training, very informative and a brilliant facilitator who kept us all on task.

SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN

This course is very valuable to my role and I personally found it very good, I found the trainer's approach refreshing.

CSE Training:

Not just like any other CSE training i.e. signs, this was far more in depth and made us think out of the box, and always looking at the wider picture.



Partnership review - Maturity Health Check

As part of the process of ongoing review to ensure that local multi-agency safeguarding arrangements are robust and effective, a review of safeguarding arrangements was commissioned in February 2023 - this work was driven by the Department of Education and ongoing policy development by Government. The findings of the Maturity Health Check is to report in June 2024 STSCP exec meeting.

A heartfelt thank you to...

All the individuals and families who have taken the brave step to share their experiences and worked with us in pushing for change. The 100's of professionals up and down the South Tees and further who have continued to support the partnership and their colleagues.

To find out more about the South Tees Safeguarding Children Partnership and access resources please visit the STSCP website: <https://stscp.co.uk>

Independent Scrutiny Overview/Independent Scrutiny Annual Report

Purpose of the report

This report is written to provide assurance that Independent Scrutiny is being used as outlined in guidance. The relevant guidance is Working Together 2018 which covers all Multi Agency Safeguarding Arrangements, including the requirement that:

Safeguarding partners should also agree arrangements for Independent Scrutiny of the report they must publish at least once a year. (WT2018 35)

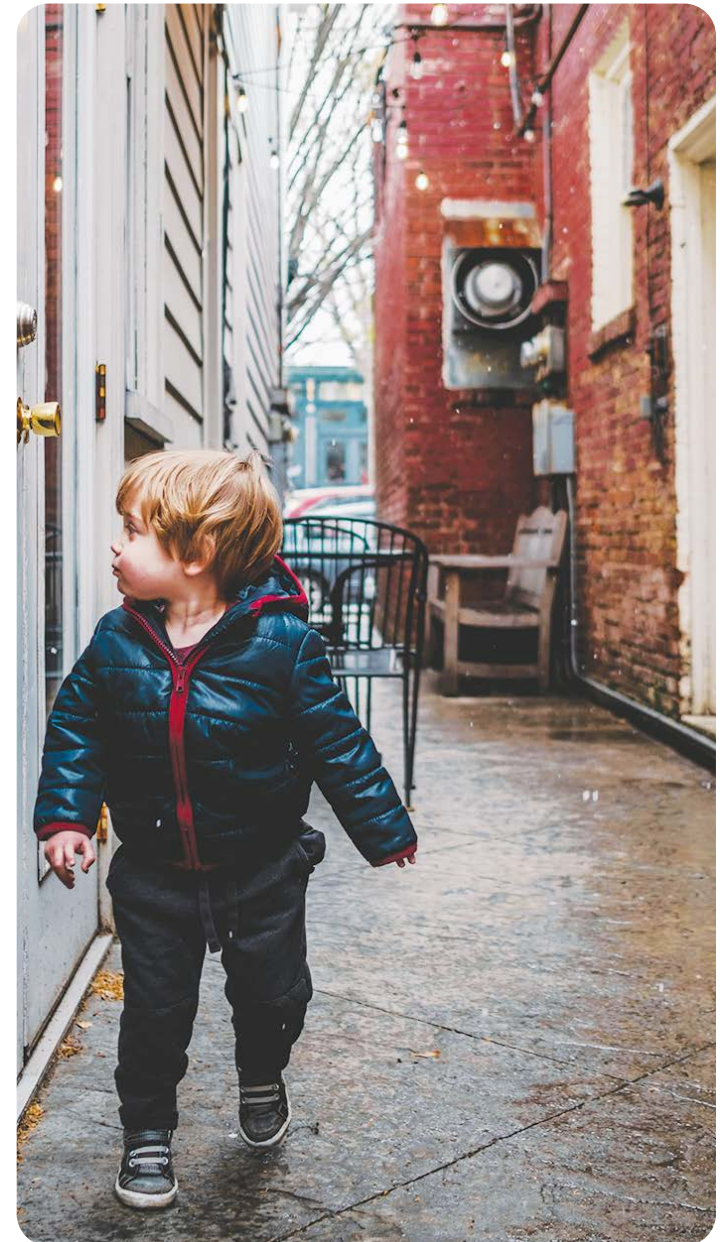
Although the guidance does not specify how this scrutiny should be undertaken, South Tees Safeguarding Children Partnership (STSCP) has agreed “Six Steps to Independent Scrutiny” as the model on which the scrutiny programme would be based.

Working Together 2018 was replaced in full in December 2023, half way through the time period for the report. Reference has been made to the changes where it is relevant.

How is Independent Scrutiny used in STSCP?

Throughout the past year, Independent Scrutiny has been used as follows:

- To comment on the Annual Report 2022-23.
- To chair challenge meetings on serious cases.
- To provide a report to the Chief Officers meeting on the safeguarding arrangements.
- Provide a report on the local arrangements for managing exploitation.
- Attend meetings with the Child Safeguarding Practice Review National Panel.
- To chair development/review of arrangements meetings of the Executive.
- Audit specific cases.
- Contribute to the development of a working protocol with Tees Safeguarding Adults Board.
- Review the 2022-23 Section 11.
- Provide reports to the STSCP Executive and attend the meetings.
- Attend joint meetings between STSCP and HSSCP.



What are the arrangements?

STSCP is relatively unusual among safeguarding arrangements in being a joint partnership which covers two local authority areas, Middlesbrough and Redcar and Cleveland. Of the 139 Local Safeguarding Children Partnerships, only 17 are across two geographical areas.

The Governance arrangements are set out in a Legal Agreement which was drawn up at the start of the revised multi agency safeguarding arrangements in 2019. It is reviewed at least annually through Chief Executive level (Chief Officer) meetings. This is in line with Working Together 2018. The Agreement is being reviewed to reflect the changes in Working Together 2023.

The levels of governance and the escalation process are set out in the document. Commitment at the most senior levels is essential to ensure ownership of the effectiveness of the arrangements. During 2023-24 the Chief Officer meeting has been chaired by the Chief Executive of Redcar and Cleveland who has also provided the Foreword for the Annual Report. The Chief Executives of Middlesbrough and Redcar and Cleveland have given their commitment to supporting these meetings in 2024-25. Political understanding of safeguarding is also important. In both areas there have been recent changes in local representation. The role of the Lead Member for Children is also important, and the Lead Members have given their commitment to the arrangements and confirmed their intention to be involved in the work of the partnership.

The responsibility for the implementation of the arrangements is delegated to the Executive and this is in line with guidance. The effectiveness of the safeguarding arrangements and the priorities for the partnership are reviewed at regular development sessions which are attended by the members of the Executive and the Chairs of the sub groups. The priorities from 2022-23 are outlined in the Annual Report and have been carried through to 2024-25, including increasing the understanding of the impact of the arrangements on children and families. The development sessions have been well attended with a good balance of challenge and support between partners.

The current arrangements for the Executive meet the requirements which are set out in Working Together 2023. Since 2022 the meeting has been chaired by the Executive Director of Children and Families for Redcar and Cleveland. It has been agreed that the role will rotate between partners, with Cleveland Police taking over in 2024. This avoids the potential for safeguarding children being seen as solely the responsibility of Children's Social Care.

There have been significant changes of membership of Executive level during the year, including a new Executive Director of Children's Services in Middlesbrough. The Integrated Care Board covers a geographical area which includes the Tees and Cumbria. There have been a number of changes since the ICB was established, and further recent changes following a headcount reduction. It will be important to understand

the impact of this reduction during the coming months. Representation from Cleveland Police has remained unchanged for a considerable period of time.

There is a well-established process for agreeing the budget and a summary financial report is provided to the Executive. The budget appears to be sufficient for the work which is planned in 2023-25. A three year plan could be useful to enable longer term planning and focus on the priorities.





Working Together 2023 emphasises the importance of representation from schools at strategic level meetings. The STSCP Executive already benefits from the presence of the Directors of Education and from their regular reports. The findings of the annual Section 175 surveys for schools have had response rates of over 90%. Attendance at some schools has not returned to the levels prior to the pandemic. The Executive has heard of the plans to encourage children back into the classroom as school is recognised as a protective factor for most children.

In the same way that distributed leadership is in evidence at the Executive level it is important that the responsibility for the arrangements at sub group level is also shared. The Quality and Performance group and the Child Death Overview Panel are chaired by Public Health, the Learning and Development group by the Integrated Care Board and the Tees Strategic Exploitation Group by Cleveland Police.

The Chairs of the sub groups report into the Executive in person. This provides the opportunity for them to make the connection with the priorities of the partnership and to escalate any issues to the Executive.

The multi-agency front line

Although the Executive members have strategic oversight of the arrangements, understanding the challenges and strengths of the work at the front line is an important part of their role. The sub groups provide a crucial link between the Executive and the front line and a route to making an impact on practice.

Throughout the year reports are received which provide insight into the front line. These include Early Help, Local Authority Designated Officer, Independent Reviewing Officer, Private Fostering and the Multi Agency Childrens Hubs (MACH) The authors of the report are invited to attend the Executive. This provides the opportunity for a good two way discussion and follow up of any issues not fully covered in the report.

The multi- agency case audit process provides the opportunity to look in detail at any concerns or to highlight good practice. The Quality and Performance group

identifies areas which may offer learning which could be shared and then works with partners to bring about change. During 2023-24 the sub groups work included the consistency of information at Accident and Emergency Units, initial health assessments and dental checks for cared for children.

One of the most influential routes to impacting on multi- agency front line practice is through the training programme. There has been good progress in aligning key aspects of the multi-agency training programme with that of Hartlepool and Stockton Safeguarding Children's Partnership. All participants are asked to complete an evaluation so that the impact on their practice can be reported to the Executive in the annual Training Report.

Feedback about the STSCP website has been positive. It is recognised that the main emphasis is on information for practitioners, and that there is a potential to include resources which could be useful for families and children.

A quarterly newsletter is circulated about the Executive meetings as well as other useful information for the multi-agency workforce. This matters because it is important that practitioners feel that their experience is understood at strategic level and that appropriate action is being taken.

Case challenges

In 2021 STSCP agreed a model at which agencies are challenged to provide evidence of what they have done to implement their actions following a Child Safeguarding Practice Review. In the past year I have chaired two of these events. Both were well attended by the appropriate agencies and the discussions were lively and well informed. The agency representatives had prepared well in advance provided relevant evidence and appeared to welcome the opportunity to share their experience and to join in constructive conversations with peers. A number of questions were circulated in advance, including:

"Have the actions had the impact that you intended and if not, what would you have done differently?"

These events provide the opportunity for front line practitioners and managers to share their experience of working in South Tees. As you will see from the STSCP Annual report, the area covered by the Partnership is among the most deprived in the country. This has an impact on families who are bringing up their children. It also has an impact on agencies which are seeking to recruit and retain experienced staff.



In the case challenge sessions in 2023-24 a number of issues were discussed and then followed up through the Learning and development group including:

- **Public Protection Notifications from Cleveland Police.**
- **Health Visitor caseloads for those on the Universal pathway.**
- **Some reluctance to escalate concerns to managers when there is a difference of opinion about the level of risk and threshold.**
- **Attendance at case conferences.**
- **Families in which the parents of the children have different GPs and particularly where the father might not tell the GP that they have children registered elsewhere.**
- **Demand for places in certain schools in certain areas means that siblings might not be placed in the same school. This led on to considering the pressure on parents, especially if there are several children and the family does not have transport.**



Voice of the child

STSCP members recognise the importance of hearing about what it is like to be a child growing up in South Tees. At an event with schools, a group of children acted out episodes from their own lives. The levels of daily violence which they described as a result of exploitation were shocking to hear about, so much more powerful coming directly from them and in their own words. It prompted a strengthening of the relationship with the Violence Reduction Partnership (the Curve) and a multi-agency self-assessment against the criteria outlined in the Joint Targeted Area Review on Serious Youth Violence.

Relationship with other partnerships

Although STSCP has primary responsibility for the safeguarding arrangements, other partnerships also have a key role to play in keeping children safe.

Reducing exploitation is a priority across the Tees and the Independent Scrutineers of HSSCP and STSCP worked together on observing the four local area multi agency meetings for managing the risk of exploitation. In the event, it was only possible to review three of the areas. Although this limited the opportunities for comparison across the meetings as originally intended, it nevertheless provided rich opportunities for learning.

The recommendations in the report were comprehensive and reflected those in recent local Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews (CSPRs) Partnership working requires patience, creativity and flexibility, particularly when four Local Authorities, a Police Force and an Integrated Care Board are involved.

It is a sign of the preparedness to accept challenge and scrutiny that the recommendations of the report were accepted by both Executives in January 2024 and are in the process of implementation.

Certain requirements are placed on all agencies who have contact with children. One way to find out whether they understand and are complying with these requirements is through Section 11 (Children Act 2004). Following the in-person event in February 2023 it was agreed that the action from that event would be reviewed in 2024. The process for the next

year will include different agencies, as the previous one only covered the agencies currently represented on the Executive.

Other partnerships which are relevant to safeguarding children include the Tees Safeguarding Adults Board, which covers the whole of the Tees area. Several meetings were held to identify areas of crossover, particularly around the transition to adulthood and exploitation. A joint protocol was agreed between the two Executives, followed by an action Plan which outlines the intended impact.

The Child Death arrangements are a joint responsibility between Children's Services and the Integrated Care Board, and there are areas which are relevant to STSCP. The Business Manager attends the Child Death Overview Panel to ensure that there is good communication between the partnerships.

Decision making on serious cases

As required in the guidance there is a process in place for the identification of serious cases and for decision making by the members of the Executive. Rapid reviews have taken place within the timescales required. There have not been any new CSPRs in 2023-24 although two have been completed. There is a process in place for direct involvement of practitioners in any review of a case, whether it subsequently meets the criteria for a full review or not.

Communication with the national Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel has continued to be timely and constructive. There was a request

from the Panel regional representative for a meeting to discuss certain aspects of one review. The issues which were discussed were reflected in others throughout the year, such as the turnover of staff and the availability of school places in certain schools. The Panel representative felt that the issues had been addressed. There was useful learning for the Executive about the sign off process following a review.



DfE Healthcheck

Although individual agencies are subject to their own inspections, there is currently no national framework for safeguarding partnerships. Members of the STSCP Executive welcomed the opportunity to use a self-assessment model which has been developed by the DfE using the criteria set out in Working Together 2023. The DfE Advisor for Children's Social Care introduced a meeting of the Executive to assist with the process. This was followed up by a multi-agency workshop early in May 2024. The aim was to reach out to agencies who may not be as aware about STSCP, and to give them the opportunity to say what more could be done to keep children safe across South Tees.

The feedback from the event was very positive and this will inform the focus of work for 2024-25. Another workshop will be held later in the year to reach out to other agencies. Although these events are very time consuming they do have a positive impact on the shared understanding of safeguarding, which is one of the key aims of the partnership.

Conclusion

As required I have read the STSCP Annual Report 2023-24. It recognises where there is further progress to be made and the need to respond to Working Together 2023 by reviewing the arrangements. The focus on the impact of the arrangements is welcome and is stronger than in previous years. Areas of greater focus include a better understanding of diverse communities and of the experience of children growing up in South Tees.

Independent Scrutiny is being used as outlined in Six Steps to Independent Scrutiny as evidenced by the list at the start of the report. The findings are used to bring about change and there is a forward plan about how it will be used in 2024-25. Additional scrutineers have been recruited with specific expertise and this will strengthen the focus on impact.

The Annual Report 2023-24 is an accurate reflection of the work of STSCP and the impact of the work.

Edwina Harrison

Independent Scrutineer, South Tees Safeguarding Children Board.
June 2024





Annual Report

2023-24

Our safeguarding arrangements will effectively prevent
and respond to adult abuse

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Introduction from Adrian Green, Independent Chair

Welcome to the Teeswide Safeguarding Adults Board's Annual Report for the period 2023-2024. The Care Act 2014 requires the Board to have a three-year strategic plan and report upon it annually. In this report you will find the agreed priorities of the Board and the updates on what the partnership has achieved together with our continuing efforts to improve the safety of our vulnerable people whilst preventing emerging issues.

The report includes updates on independent Safeguarding Adults Reviews commissioned by the Board where it felt there were learning opportunities to prevent future reoccurrence of abuse or neglect. The report also updates you on the progress made against the recommendations of already published reviews.

The Board continues to make great efforts to engage with the public, carers and practitioners to raise awareness and ensure people can recognise abuse and know how to prevent and report it. Our training offer and the raising of awareness during 'National Safeguarding Adults Week' are some of the great examples of engagement and awareness raising for our professionals and communities that we can be proud of. With an increasingly diverse and aging population enduring more complex social and health needs, involving people, their families and carers in the decisions being made about their care, continues to be a golden thread running through our practice and I am pleased with the progress made to date on making safeguarding personal.

This year saw the previous chair, Darren Best leave for new challenges and on behalf of myself and the Board I would like to put on record our appreciation for all Darren has achieved whilst chair and we wish him well for the future. This report is a testament to his efforts and commitment together with everyone else who looks after and protects the vulnerable within our communities.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone involved in safeguarding within the Teeswide area, especially the people who work in our business unit who provide great support to the Board together with our partners and the members of our sub-groups, who undertake vital work in addition to their full-time roles and are the drivers of the Board's business.

Looking ahead, there are many safeguarding challenges and developing issues that the Board and our many partners will look to address, to improve practice, raise awareness and keep the vulnerable people in our communities safe from abuse and neglect.

Thank you for taking the time to read this annual report. I hope you find it easy to read, informative and above all reassuring.



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
- Hartlepower
- 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
- 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, Health & Wellbeing Boards, Community Safety Partnerships, Tees Strategic Exploitation Group (formerly known as Vulnerable Exploited Missing and Trafficked) and the Cleveland Anti-Slavery Network as well as regional and national Safeguarding Adults groups.

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 2023/24. 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 adults 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 adults 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 2023/24 there were a number of Task & Finish Groups to look at specific work streams:

- Adult Exploitation Strategy
- Adult Sexual Exploitation (ASE) Toolkit
- National Safeguarding Adults Week
- Policy, Procedures and Practice
- Team Around the Family (TATI) Review

Some of our key achievements over the past year...

April-June
2023

- Multi-Agency Audits completed on Sexual Abuse & Modern Slavery
- Awareness raising at Teesside University's Transition Event
- Adult K SAR published
- PowerBi License granted
- Adult Sexual Exploitation SAR Thematic Analysis Report published
- Three SAR Learning & Reflection workshops
- Stephen and Adult C action plans signed off by the Board

July - September
2023

- Housing Round Table Discussion
- Awareness raising at the Tees Valley Infrastructure meeting
- Session with Independent Voices on safeguarding and wellbeing
- High Risk Adults Panel agreed at TSAB
- Modern Slavery themed discussion at OLSG
- Multi-Agency Audits undertaken on Incidents Between Residents
- Molly SAR and Thematic ASE Analysis presented at STAGE Webinar
- Joint Adults and Children's Working Protocol agreed

October - December
2023

- A Spotlight on Modern Slavery and Sexual Exploitation Campaign
- First Adult Safeguarding Complex Cases Training Course
- National Safeguarding Adults Week & Carers Rights Day
- Adult Sexual Exploitation Practitioners Toolkit published
- Awareness raising at Stockton Wellbeing Festival for Over 50s
- James and SK SARs published

January - March
2024

- Bernadette SAR published
- Multi-agency Audit undertaken on s117 Aftercare
- First Trauma Informed Practice training webinar
- Sexual Abuse and Sexual Violence Awareness Week
- Safeguarding Champions Event
- Launch of Adult Sexual Exploitation Briefing

Safeguarding Data 2023-24

Concerns and Section 42 Enquiries¹

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.



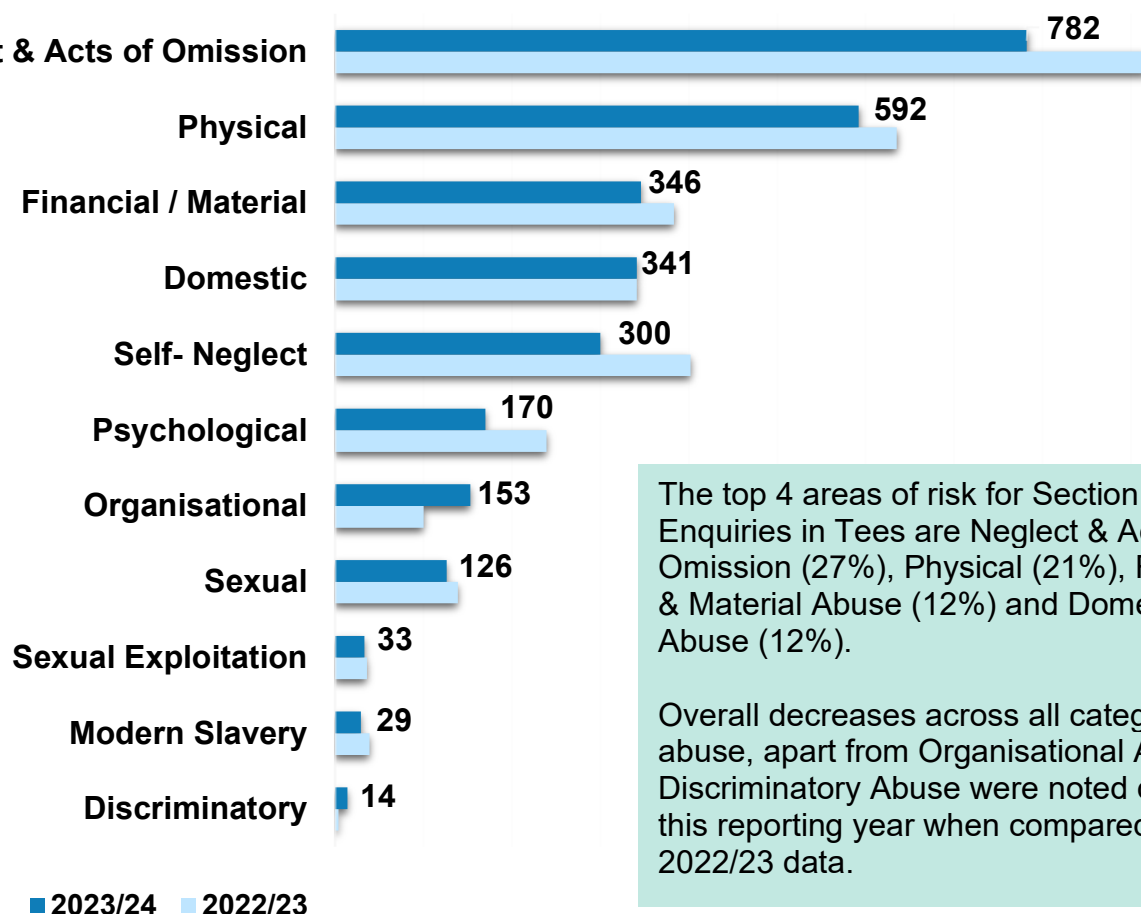
Location of Risk: Section 42 Enquiries



A person's Own Home continues to be the most prevalent location of risk in Tees, with a similar figure being reported in the National data.

¹ Data on this page relates to Section 42 Enquiries commenced

Types of Risk: Section 42 Enquiries



The top 4 areas of risk for Section 42 Enquiries in Tees are Neglect & Acts of Omission (27%), Physical (21%), Financial & Material Abuse (12%) and Domestic Abuse (12%).

Overall decreases across all categories of abuse, apart from Organisational Abuse & Discriminatory Abuse were noted during this reporting year when compared to 2022/23 data.

Safeguarding Concerns Received

149 Concerns were received, on average per week across Tees

- Care Homes **26%**
- NHS Secondary Care **12%**
- Social Care **12%**
- Family / Friend / Self **6%**
- Police **6%**

* % of Concerns received from organisations

23% increase in Concerns received from a family member, friend or from the individual at risk

12% increase in Concerns received from NHS Secondary Care

Section 42 Enquiries Commenced

56 Section 42 Enquiries were carried out, on average, per week across Tees

18% decrease in Own Home category

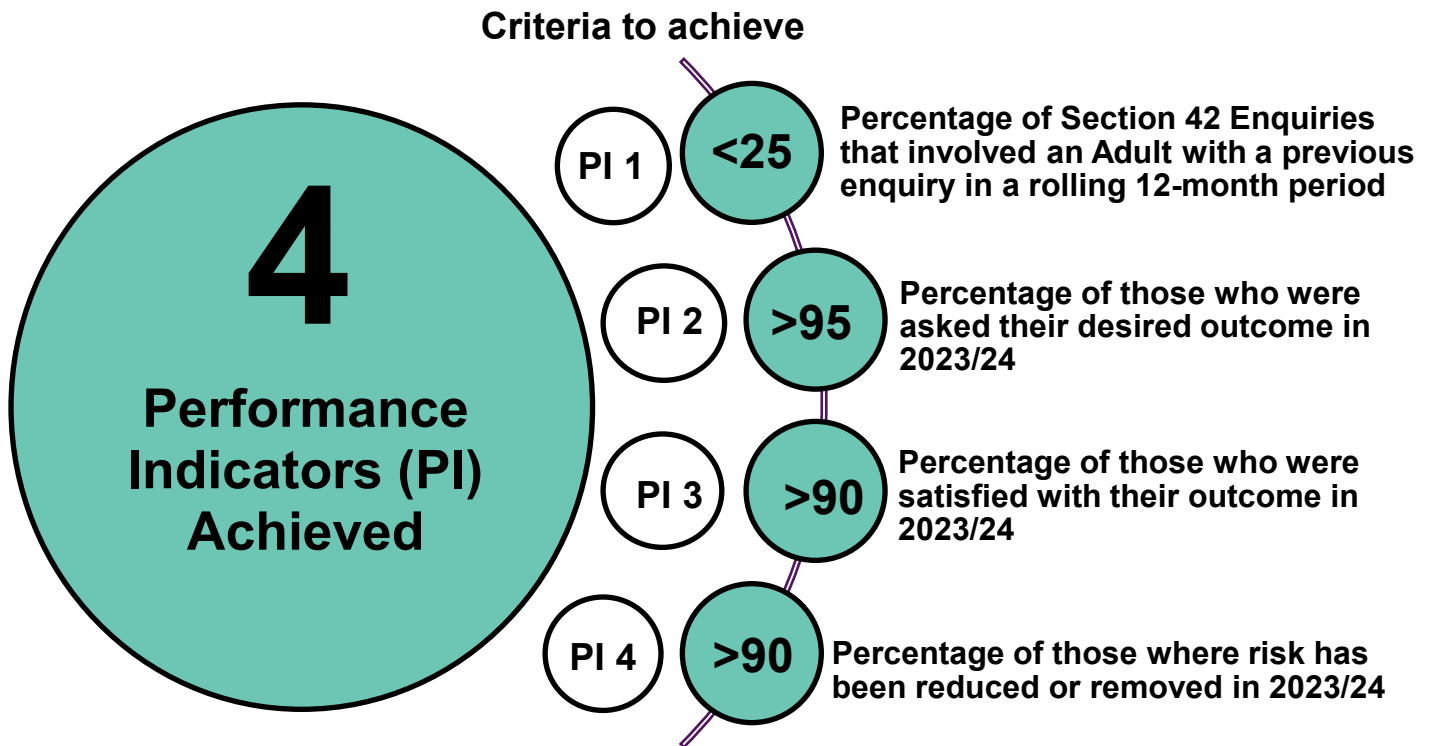
53% of ALL Section 42 Enquiries relate to an adult aged over 65

3% decrease in the number of Section 42 Enquiries relating to people aged over 65



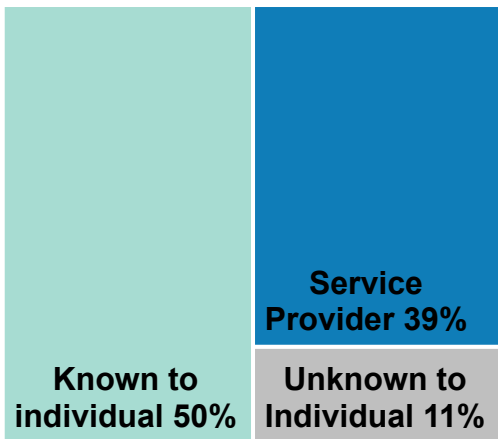
61% of ALL Section 42 Enquiries related to females; similar figure reported to last year

Performance Indicators (PI)

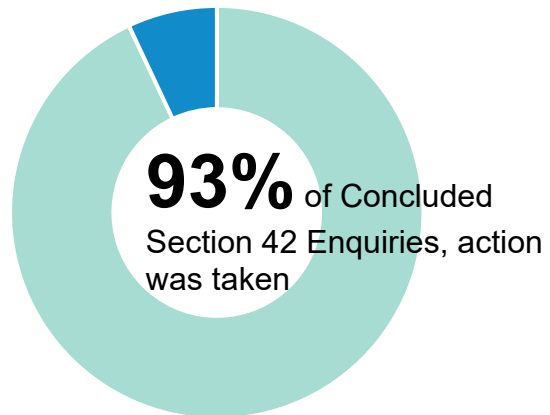


Outcomes of Concluded Sections 42 Enquiries

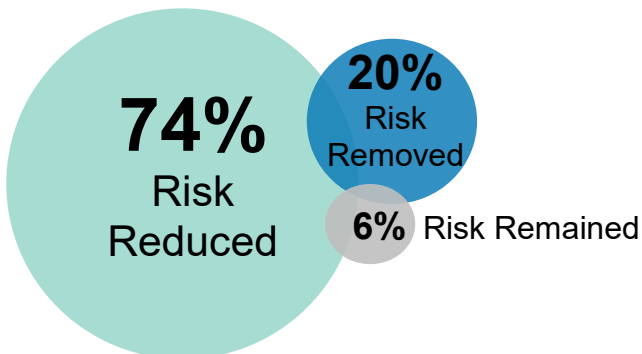
Source of risk to the adult



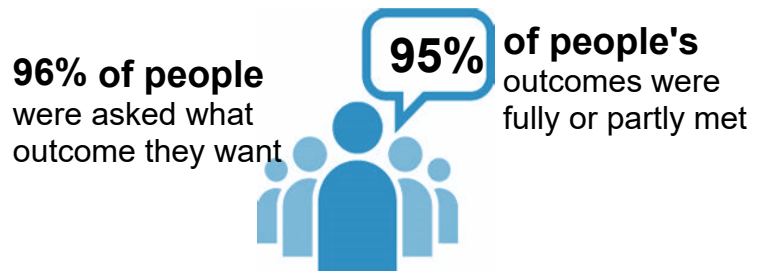
Safeguarding Action



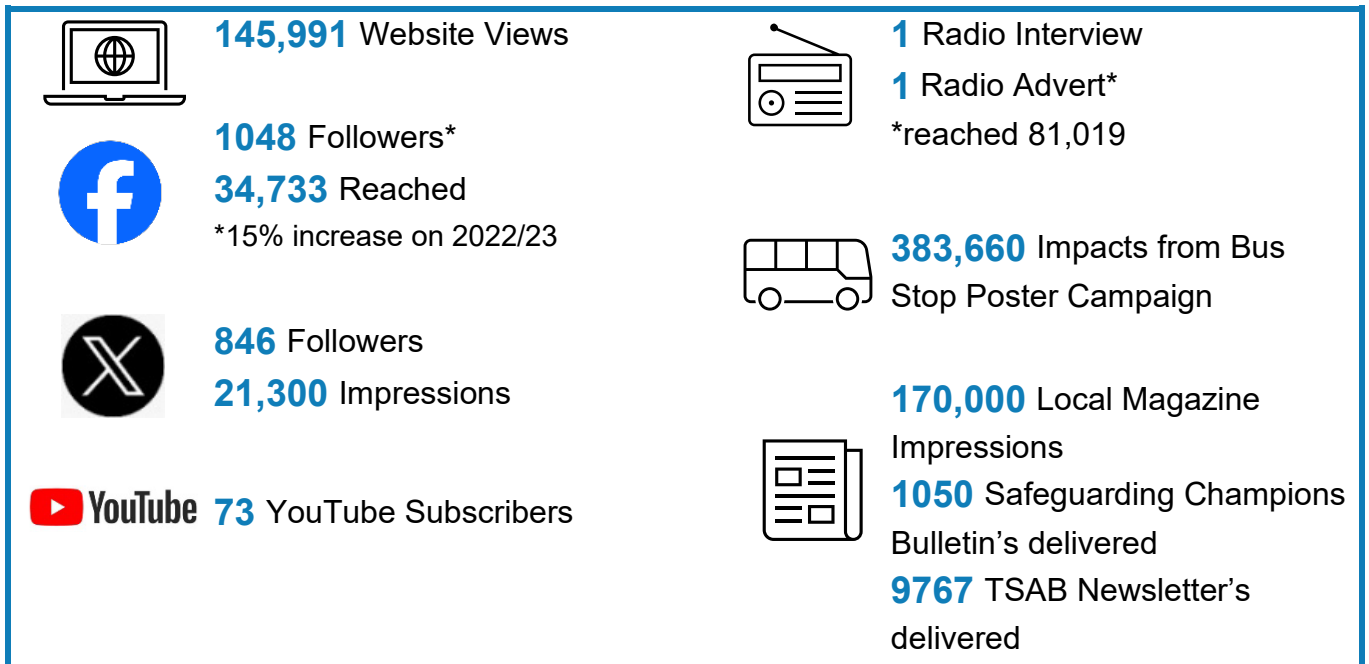
Safeguarding Outcome



Adults Voice



Communication and Engagement



Awareness Raising Campaigns

Throughout the year, the Board engaged collaboratively with partners in 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 two local “spotlight” 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 and a bus stop campaign as well as a radio advert on TFM, and a radio interview with the Board’s Independent Chair. There was attendance across a number of in-person events, articles featured in local resident magazines, information displayed on digital screens and partners displaying TSAB literature across venues in Tees (including an easy read poster developed with the support of independent advocacy group, Independent Voices).

The Board’s spotlight campaigns included “A Spotlight on Modern Slavery and Sexual Exploitation” featuring a half day online conference attended by **380** professionals and a “Spotlight on Sexual Abuse and Sexual Violence” as part of Sexual Violence Awareness Week.

Safeguarding Champions

Successful campaigns throughout the year have increased the profile of TSAB, including an increase in the number of Safeguarding Champions by 66%. The Board currently has **363** Safeguarding Champions who receive quarterly e-bulletins to support them with communicating important safeguarding messages throughout their networks and communities. The Board hosted a Safeguarding Champions event attended by **76** existing and prospective Safeguarding Champions, featuring a number of informative presentations.

Safe Place Scheme

There are currently **89** [Safe Place](#) locations Teeswide. The Steering Group operating under the governance of the Board continue to oversee the scheme, meeting twice per year.



Involving individuals with lived experience

The Board seeks 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 2023/24 the Board:

- Published the Annual Survey to provide members of the public, including those who have accessed adult social care services, the opportunity to directly influence the future direction of the Board's Priorities.
- Hosted a Modern Slavery and Sexual Exploitation Conference for 380 professionals, featuring a presentation from an individual with lived experience. Fantastic feedback was received, highlighting the impact of including the voice of adults with lived experience.
- Engaged with independent advocacy group, Independent Voices, to produce a new Easy Read Resource for National Safeguarding Adults Week. The group supported with delivering the posters in their local communities as well as recording videos for social media about what they do to feel good and to stay safe from abuse.
- Developed two new webpages, "[Carers](#)" and "[Working with Autistic Adults](#)" and provided opportunities for local specialist services to provide feedback.
- Hosted a Safeguarding Champions Event, featuring a presentation delivered by Independent Voices. The group shared examples of safeguarding awareness activities they had completed with the Board over a number of years as well as explaining the Safe Place Scheme.



"Thoroughly enjoyed the conference all information received was excellent. Amy's story was very emotional and also empowering."

Modern Slavery and Sexual Exploitation Conference attendee



"Great event thank you! Also really useful to hear from the Self Advocacy Group with info on how to help others understand what safeguarding is."

Safeguarding Champion Event attendee



You said, we did...

In 2022/23 236 professionals and 178 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 2023/24:

You said...

Professionals and members of the public felt less informed about Sexual Exploitation and Modern Slavery.

We did...

In October 2023 the board hosted a week-long campaign "A Spotlight on Modern Slavery and Sexual Exploitation" featuring an online conference for professionals.

You said...

Professionals felt less informed (when compared to the general public) about Sexual Abuse.

We did...

In February 2024, as part of Sexual Abuse and Sexual Violence Awareness Week, the board held a weeklong campaign raising awareness of Sexual Abuse, including an online event for Safeguarding Champions.

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...

Developed a Tees Safeguarding Adults and Children Joint Working Protocol and began work on an Adult Exploitation Strategy.

You said...

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

We did...

Increased our Safeguarding Champions cohort by 66% and attended a number of in-person events to raise awareness of Safeguarding.

You said...

Continue to improve general awareness of safeguarding and how people can protect themselves.

We did...

Held a number of awareness campaigns throughout the year, shared information on social media, attended in-person events and strengthened relationships with local services.

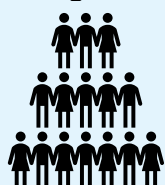
Training

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.



5570 learners

of which **3112** were new learners

From **1444** organisations



Registered for **21,743** e-learning courses*

*91% completion rate

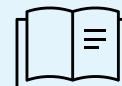


1206 learners completed Safeguarding Adults Level 1

956 delegates attended virtual and face to face training courses



113 workbooks completed



The suite of Legal Literacy training sessions was refreshed for 2023/24 to incorporate a dedicated session on Complex Cases.

The new session was attended by **38** delegates from **19** different organisations.

New Webinars In 2023/24

- Digitally Assisted Stalking Webinar**
Held in conjunction with the Children's Partnerships. **5** sessions took place and **88** delegates who work with adults attended.
- Trauma Informed Practice Webinar**
Introduced in January 2024. **2** sessions were held **56** delegates attended from **26** organisations
A further 4 sessions are scheduled as part of the 2024/25 training plan.

"I have been able to apply a trauma informed approach with a young person I am currently supporting. This has enabled me to ask appropriate questions and not questions which may trigger the young person. This has had a positive impact on the person and has encouraged her to take actions she previously felt unable to.

Trauma Informed Practice Delegate

New Workbook in 2023/24

- Trauma Informed Practice**
Introduced in March 2024, the new [Trauma Informed Practice Workbook](#) features information to support practitioners and organisations to be more Trauma Informed. The workbook also features practical tools that can be utilised in everyday practice to help support the physical and emotional safety of an individual accessing a service.

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, for example, Liberty Protection Safeguards, Domestic Abuse Act 2021.
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-centered 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:

- The Team Around the Individual process was fully reviewed in consultation with partners. The new and re-branded High Risk Adults Panel (HRAP) was launched.
- A new Policy, Procedure and Practice (PPP) Sub-Group was reinstated to review the necessary TSAB policies and procedures. This included a thorough review of the Decision Support Guidance.
- A Joint Working Protocol outlining the relationship and working arrangements between the TSAB, Hartlepool and Stockton Safeguarding Children Partnership (HSSCP) and South Tees Safeguarding Children Partnership (STSCP) was developed to support effective joint working, to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and adults.
- Following the Molly Safeguarding Adult Review publication in June 2022 which highlighted that further work was required in the region to address adult sexual exploitation, a Task and Finish Group was convened to develop an Adult Sexual Exploitation Toolkit, Risk Screening Tool and Referral Pathway which was published in November 2023. A Task & Finish Group continues into 2024/25 to produce a Teeswide Exploitation Strategy.
- An "Introduction to Trauma Informed Practice" was delivered by South Tees Trauma Informed Practice Project Lead to 36 professionals, as part of NSAW.
- A Trauma Informed Practice Workbook with practical resources including safety plans, reflective practice sheets, and grounding techniques was launched.
- Cleveland Police provided a comprehensive update to Board on their response to Missing From Home.

*“With Operation Aidant, Cleveland Police have combined with regional and national partners in a multi-agency response to adult sex workers... to identify criminal offences, signs of Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking and address safeguarding concerns.
Cleveland Police”*

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), Learning Lessons Reviews (LLR), applicable Domestic Homicide Reviews (DHR), and Safeguarding Children Practice Reviews (SCPR) 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:

- The Board's spotlight campaign on Modern Slavery and Sexual Exploitation featured a presenter with lived experience, sharing her story of exploitation. The feedback on the event evidenced the impact of this session in driving change in professional practice for those who attended.
- The Multi-Agency Training programme continues to evolve and incorporate learning from SARs and wherever possible uses local SARs as case studies.
- A new [Adult Sexual Exploitation Toolkit](#) was launched, featuring an infographic produced by A Way Out that included the voices of adults who have experienced sexual exploitation.
- The Quality Assurance Framework Self-Audit Tool was reviewed to ensure the necessary assurance was sought as part of the commencing audits with Non-Statutory partners.
- Members of the Board attended an exploitation thematic analysis event that involved 4 young people.
- TSAB carried out some national research and published the Thematic Analysis of SARs involving ASE report in April 2023. This report was shared widely on a local, regional and national level, resulting in the delivering of presentations at various events.
- Good news stories, including Hartlepool Borough Council's work with Hartlepool Deaf Centre and Thirteen Housing Group winning a National SAB Excellence Award for their excellent Self-Neglect and Domestic Abuse training, were shared in the Board's Newsletter.

“ We put a strong emphasis on staff training across Adult Social Care, but also what is important, the offer is extended to other employees, such as Personal Assistants: *‘Teeswide Safeguarding has been an incredible resource for me starting out in healthcare. I am grateful to have had this available to me through my previous employer’*
Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council

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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 create 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:

- The Annual Consultation Survey² was reviewed and launched, providing opportunities for professionals and members of the public to inform the future direction and priorities of the Board. Responses were received from 530 people; 367 of which were professionals and 163 from members of the public (inclusive of 87 surveys submitted via the easy read survey). The total number of people completing the survey continues to grow year on year, with a 28% increase this year when compared to 2022/23.
- A new [easy read poster](#) promoting safeguarding and wellbeing was designed following engagement with independent advocates from Independent Voices.
- The PAQ Sub-Group members reviewed the Performance Indicators with a new monitoring format in place as part of the TSAB Performance Reports.
- Two 'Spotlight on' awareness campaigns took place across the year and were successful in raising awareness of Modern Slavey, Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse.
- The Board hosted a Safeguarding Champions Event featuring a range of guest speaker presentations.
- The Board continues to use engagement opportunities with professionals to recruit Safeguarding Champions. A Learning from SARs session was held with 40 GPs resulting in the recruitment of 14 Safeguarding Champions.

We know that ensuring safeguarding is seen as everyone's business across the directorate helps us to share this information with our local communities and to respond effectively to abuse and neglect.
Middlesbrough Council

² Results from the Annual Consultation Survey can be found in the [Annual Communication and Engagement Report](#).

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 Board continues to have oversight of the governance arrangements for the Teeswide Safe Place Scheme. During National Safeguarding Adults Week the scheme was promoted widely by partners, resulting in the most hits on this webpage since the page was first published.
- The “Find Support in your Area” continued to be reviewed, updated and promoted during campaigns, with a slight increase in hits on this webpage when compared to 2022/23.
- Multi-agency audits took place across the year. Themes included: TATI, Sexual Abuse, Modern Slavery, Incidents Between Residents, Hospital Discharge and s.117 Aftercare.
- A new system (Power Bi) was implemented to produce high quality performance reports which will support the analysis and further development of multi-agency safeguarding practice.
- A representative from the Board’s Business Unit held a stall at the Annual Catalyst Conference & Awards Event and Stockton’s Interfaith Forum to promote safeguarding materials and resources.
- A ‘spotlight on services’ was included in the TSAB Newsletter and Safeguarding Champions Bulletin to strengthen links with voluntary sector and to promote the fantastic service offer in Tees.
- The Board worked alongside Hartlepower who went on to hold a Co-Production session which was attended by 3 representatives from the Board.

Working in collaboration with Healthwatch South Tees and our service users we have developed our Patient Experience and Involvement Strategy in 2023. We have continued to work with Public Health looking at the health inequalities dashboard. Part of this work resulted in the development of a six-month pilot which involved calling service users from our most deprived areas two weeks before their appointment and offering support to attend where required.

South Tees Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust

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 to consider what can be changed so that harm is less likely to happen in the same way to other people in the future.

The Care Act 2014 says that Safeguarding Adult Boards must arrange a 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 2023/24 a total of 4 SARs were published: Adult K, James, SK and Bernadette.

SAR Sub-Group Activity

The role of the Sub-Group is to consider new SAR notifications, 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 the 28-day timescale for the consideration of a new SAR Notifications could be met.

SAR Data 2023/24

3 SAR Notifications Considered	2 progressed to a SAR	1 deferred pending LeDeR³
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SAR Sub-Group Achievements

- Monitored 11 open cases (as of 31st March 2024)
- Signed off 2 action plans as complete.
- Considered the learning from 8 reports on Regional and National SARs.
- Considered the findings from the Safe Care at Home Review.
- 10 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

- Following a recommendation from TSAB's ASE Report, the categorisation process for the National SAR Library was changed to improve search functionality on the website.
- A regional webinar on Diabetes and the Links to SARs was held as part of National Safeguarding Adults Week.
- Work began to produce Cross-Boundary Guidance to effectively coordinate SARs that involve multiple SABs. Work continues into 2024/25.
- Effectiveness of the SAR Escalation Protocol was raised nationally.
- Provided group feedback on the Social Care Institute of Excellence (SCIE) SAR Quality Markers Checklist.
- TSAB reviewed the North East SAR Champions Self-Neglect Guides incorporating learning from Adult K, James, SK, JJ and Bernadette SARs.

³ Learning from Life and Death Reviews of people with a learning disability and autistic people

Published Safeguarding Adult Reviews 2023-24 (full reports are available [online](#))

Adult K SAR

Adult K was under the care of Mental Health and the Local Authority when a non-fatal fire occurred. The agencies had observed clutter in the home, including dirty dishes, soiled carpets, and discarded cigarette ends on the floor. Following the non-fatal fire, a safeguarding adult concern was raised.

The key themes highlighted in this review included self-neglect and fire risks, impact of Covid-19 and declining support, understanding and applying legal frameworks, safeguarding and making safeguarding personal.

James SAR

James was a 34-year-old white British male who died at home from alcoholic ketoacidosis. James had several long-term conditions that affected his life with communication being a particular issue. He had dyslexia, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder, Borderline Learning Disability and was deaf, wearing a single hearing aid. James also suffered with type two diabetes as well as anxiety. James was alcohol dependent and used cannabis.

The key themes identified in this review included trauma, self-neglect, substance misuse, mental and physical health, safeguarding, multi-agency working, mental capacity and family/carer support.

SK SAR

SK was a 53-year-old man with a diagnosis of autism with features of pathological demand avoidance (PDA). Following a significant bereavement, SK became very depressed leading to being detained under the Mental Health Act when he was 44. SK moved to a residential care home to support him within the parameters of his needs based around his mental health. Three months before SK died, there was a significant change in his presentation, leading to a hospital admission. Initially deemed fit for discharge, SK deteriorated 12 days after admission whilst awaiting an alternative placement, SK became seriously unwell and was admitted to the Intensive Care Unit where he died four days later. The cause of death was recorded as Cerebrovascular accident (stroke), Severe Left Ventricular Dysfunction and associated Asperger's Syndrome and Chronic Kidney Disease.

The key themes identified in this review included multi-agency working, safeguarding, self-neglect in a care setting, mental capacity and supporting autistic people.

Bernadette SAR

Bernadette was a 32 year old white female and lived in rented accommodation with a male partner and at times, an unidentified female friend. Bernadette had a history of drug and alcohol abuse, she also suffered from depression. She had a number of physical health issues including diabetes, pains in her leg, falls and seizures. Bernadette was known to a number of services prior to her death, this included being an open case to adult social care. Bernadette had been identified as a victim of domestic abuse and had previously been subject of the MARAC, (Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference) process.

The key themes identified in this review included domestic abuse, substance misuse, self-neglect, professional curiosity, mental capacity and considering executive functioning, lack of consent and when to share information.

Partner Activity

Hartlepool Borough Council (HBC) chair two of the Board's Sub-Groups (Communication & Engagement and Safeguarding Adult Reviews) and through these groups, and participation in other Sub-Groups and the wider work of the Board, they aspire to improve their adult safeguarding response through effective engagement in line with the core safeguarding principles. HBC invited Partners in Care & Health (an independent organisation working across the Local Government Association and the Association of Directors of Adult Social Services) to review their safeguarding provision. The learning from the review was shared with the Board and informed the review of the TSAB Decision Support Guidance as well as operational changes within the Council. Learning from multi agency peer audits has resulted in improvements being made to forms and processes and the continued development of Power BI reporting has improved how data is used to give us a better understanding of the nature, type and location of abuse. This supports trend analysis and a more proactive approach to prevention. Having observed a sharp rise in self-neglect in the community HBC worked with VCSE partners to create a new deep clean, declutter and post-intervention psychological support service 'Clean Sweep'. This is delivered in collaboration between a local Community Interest Company and a mental health charity and has already supported 18 people.



Middlesbrough Council (MBC) have been firmly committed to multi-agency working to develop their safeguarding practice. Their Head of Access and Safeguarding co-chaired the review of the Team Around The Individual Panel which resulted in the panel being re-launched as the High Risk Adults Panel in November 2023. They have also been committed to working to develop the Adult Exploitation Strategy. In 2023/2024 they re-commissioned their trauma informed practice course led by Dr Wendy Shepherd. Feedback from practitioners has been excellent and they can see that this is supporting their Social Workers and Social Care Workers to manage some of their most challenging work whilst also supporting them to manage the vicarious trauma that they can experience as a result of their work. They also developed a provider engagement event as part of National Safeguarding Adults Week. This provided an opportunity for providers to meet their safeguarding team and to hear presentations in relation to the adult LADO process, Safe Places, Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards, My Sister's Place domestic abuse service, Victim Support and their Medicines Optimisation Team. Providers have asked for this to be an annual event and due to the excellent attendance, this year in Safeguarding Adults Week they will be building on their success and moving to a bigger venue.



Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council (RCBC) continued to support the Board to achieve the aims and objectives of the Strategic Plan. They chaired the Learning & Development Sub-Group, the Adult Exploitation Strategy Working Group and actively contributed to the Board's other Sub-Groups. During the year, they initiated a Peer Challenge organised by the Local Government Association focusing on how well they deliver their duties under the Care Act 2014, including how they keep adults safe. Many positive observations were made, but following the feedback they have developed a new process to evidence and assure themselves that they have embedded the learning from Safeguarding Adult Reviews. They have also implemented the High Risk Adults Panel and contributed to the initial review and evaluation of the process.

Their safeguarding procedures have been redesigned so that they now capture Making Safeguarding Personal information at the end of the safeguarding enquiry as well as at the beginning. They promote the training opportunities available through the Board with their internal and provider staff and their voluntary sector partners.



Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council (SBC) was actively involved in the partnership working in order to support a message of 'safeguarding is everyone's business'. The safeguarding team has well established morning huddles with the Police, TEWV, Change Grow Live, Thirteen Housing and Accent Housing. In addition, a Peer Advocacy Project was created and is led by Recovery Connections, where some of the most vulnerable adults referred via the Safeguarding Team and the High Risk Adult Panel are provided with support through outreach work. The RASC procedure is very well embedded into practice with the aim of service improvement across their commissioned services leading to increased safety for service users and better trained staff. They use technology to their advantage to raise the awareness of adult safeguarding on their platforms, such as X or Facebook to ensure communities are able to recognise what constitutes abuse and how to report it. SBC also supported the Board with one of the Safeguarding Adult Reviews (SAR), which was undertaken by their Adult Safeguarding Lead and brought together agencies from across the system, which has resulted in some valuable learning. During Safeguarding Adults Week, they held a series of events, both face to face and in the form of webinars where SBC staff, partners and service users, carers and their families came together.



Integrated Care Board (ICB) has continued to work collaboratively with their partners to deliver the strategic aims and priorities of TSAB. The ICB has contributed to the Adult Sexual Exploitation and Adult Exploitation Task and Finish groups supporting TSAB to develop Teeswide strategies around exploitation. The ICB submitted the TSAB Quality Assurance Framework (QAF) in November 2023 which provided assurance to the Board that the ICB has effective safeguarding processes in place which help to support and protect the people they serve. Working to the NHS Accountability and Assurance Framework the ICB continues to support and work with services they commission to ensure that statutory safeguarding functions are achieved. In the final quarter of 2023/24 the ICB and NHS Trusts across Tees started to utilise the Patient Safety Incident Response Framework (PSIRF) which sets out the NHS's approach to developing and maintaining effective systems and processes for responding to patient safety incidents for the purpose of learning and improving patient safety. The ICB has continued to support Primary Care (GPs) relating to both Adult and Children's Safeguarding and has provided a number of GP engagement sessions, some attended by over 100 GP practice staff, where various Adult and Children Safeguarding topics have been delivered. The ICB has identified 4 priority areas of safeguarding work- neglect, transitions, domestic abuse and children in care, which support some of the TSAB's priorities.

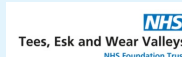


Cleveland Police have worked closely with the Teeswide Safeguarding Adults Board (TSAB) to support and implement the priorities identified in the strategic plan. This has been evident both in daily collaboration but also in subject matter expertise support in review work. The Local Policing Command work closely with relevant Local Authorities to build upon the TSAB priorities with collaborative morning meetings where information is shared, risks highlighted and problems solved in real time. There is ongoing collaborative work in Middlesbrough and Stockton as part of Clear, Hold, Build to ensure safeguarding of those within the relevant areas. Cleveland Police have continued the good work of TSAB around stalking, embedding two

Independent Stalking Advocacy Caseworker's from Suzy Lamplugh Trust within their organisation to offer victims in the area additional support. They have also arranged for over one thousand of their officers to receive training in stalking and harassment from the Suzy Lamplugh Trust enhancing knowledge and understanding in this area. Cleveland Police have established Modern Day Slavery safety centres in each geographical area within Cleveland to provide a safe place for victims. Cleveland Police have worked collaboratively with partners across the region to support in the creation of a dedicated Cleveland-wide victim care pathway to enable partnerships to identify victims of modern slavery and refer them for appropriate support. Cleveland Police have also applied for and been successful in their first Slavery and Trafficking Risk Order this year.



Tees, Esk and Wear Valleys NHS Foundation Trust (TEWV) continue to support the work of TSAB to effectively prevent and respond to adult abuse. They delivered bespoke training/support to Trust staff to further embed safeguarding within their services. TEWV hosted an internal Safeguarding Adults week dedicated to Self-Neglect after recognising this was a particular area that featured in recent Safeguarding Adults Reviews. They further embedded Safeguarding into internal governance structures across the Trust to ensure it is integral to everything they do and commenced work to ensure that safeguarding referrals are of a good quality to enable sound decision making whilst thinking whole family. TEWV contributed to the work of TSAB through multi-agency audits, promotion of new guidance, training and learning from reviews.



North Tees & Hartlepool NHS Foundation Trust (NTHFT) completed the Quality Assurance Framework (QAF) and were rated as 'Good'. Areas identified for improvement are all underway and the action plan is almost complete. Learning from SARs was distributed widely throughout the organisation via governance routes and weekly reports. The Vulnerability Unit at North Tees have adopted a theme of 'Trauma Informed Practice' for the year ahead to share this approach as widely as possible. University Hospitals Tees group (NTHFT and STHFT) held a safeguarding conference to further build on the work of the Board on the theme of exploitation. This was open to the staff from both trusts and multiagency partners from TSAB, including the Local Authorities and the ICB.



South Tees Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust (STHFT) have worked together with partner agencies to identify and support individuals experiencing, or at high risk of abuse. Within their Emergency Department (ED) there are two Navigators as part of the Serious Violence Duty. These roles provide non-judgemental advice and support to individuals who have presented in the department with a violence related injury. The new Alcohol Care Team (ACT) offers a 7-day service to identify, assess and engage with patients who attend with alcohol related primary or secondary issues. The Transitions Safeguarding Nurse post provides supervision and support to the ED Navigators and ACT staff members. University Hospitals Tees group held their first Safeguarding conference in March 2024 which was well attended and received very positive feedback. The mandatory Safeguarding programme has continued to be updated to reflect learning from local and national SARs. The trust is represented at the High Risk Adults Panel (HRAP) by a member of the Safeguarding Team who have additionally attended the TSAB's subgroups and participated in partner agency Task and Finish groups developing and revising TSAB policy and procedures.



Healthwatch Stockton continue to support the Board in promoting awareness campaigns, the annual survey and the TSAB Newsletter on social media. Healthwatch Stockton also promote TSAB material, including courses, surveys and campaigns in their own Newsletter which is sent to over 440 members. As part of National Safeguarding Adults Week, Healthwatch Stockton held a coffee morning at Change Grow Live (CGL).



Healthwatch Hartlepool completed the TSAB Quality Assurance Framework. They found the process to be useful and beneficial and were reassured by the general content of their feedback which recognised the importance they place on safeguarding in their day-to-day activity. They are also actioning recommendations received. Healthwatch Hartlepool continues to use the TSAB Safeguarding e-learning offer, and both staff and volunteers have accessed and completed a wide range of modules. Healthwatch Hartlepool regularly promotes the work of the Board and shares information via their website, social media platforms and newsletter. They also share the TSAB newsletter across community and voluntary sector networks in Hartlepool.



Hartlepower Community Trust organised a workshop on “Co-production”, to which TSAB contributed towards the workshop design. The workshop featured co-production academic, Professor Brett Smith of Durham University, who clarified the concept of co-production and gave examples from his own work. TSAB representatives attended and will return to a follow-up co-production workshop early in 2025 – in which attendees will contribute feedback on each organisation’s engagement with co-production.



Thirteen Group continue to support the Board in promoting awareness campaigns, the annual survey and the TSAB Newsletter on social media. As part of ensuring support to colleagues they relaunched their Safeguarding Champion group. The aim of the group is to give colleagues advice, guidance and support when dealing with a safeguarding concern. They called for volunteers and 45 colleagues from across the business have signed up as Safeguarding Champions, undertaking additional e-learning training via the Me-Learning modules. Some also agreed to become Safeguarding Champions under the TSAB banner and receive bulletins and newsletters from TSAB. Twenty-one members of Thirteen staff also secured places on TSAB one/two-day training courses on a variety of topics. As a TSAB partner agency Thirteen is required on a bi-annual basis to complete a self-audit to provide assurance to TSAB about their approach to adult safeguarding. They have recently just completed their third submission and have again achieved a Green Rating: this is fully achieved, and they do this consistently well within their agency with evidence of good practice.



Our Priorities 2024-25

Joint Working

We will develop a whole system approach to safeguarding adults which is responsive to the individual's needs, views and wishes.

People

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

Communication

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.

Services

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

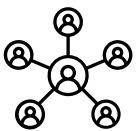
The **six safeguarding principles** set out in the Care Act 2014 will underpin the Board's strategic aims and objectives and all aspects of safeguarding adults work across Tees:

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

The Board's Strategic Business Plan 2022-25 has been updated following feedback from the Annual Consultation Survey 2023/24 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. 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.



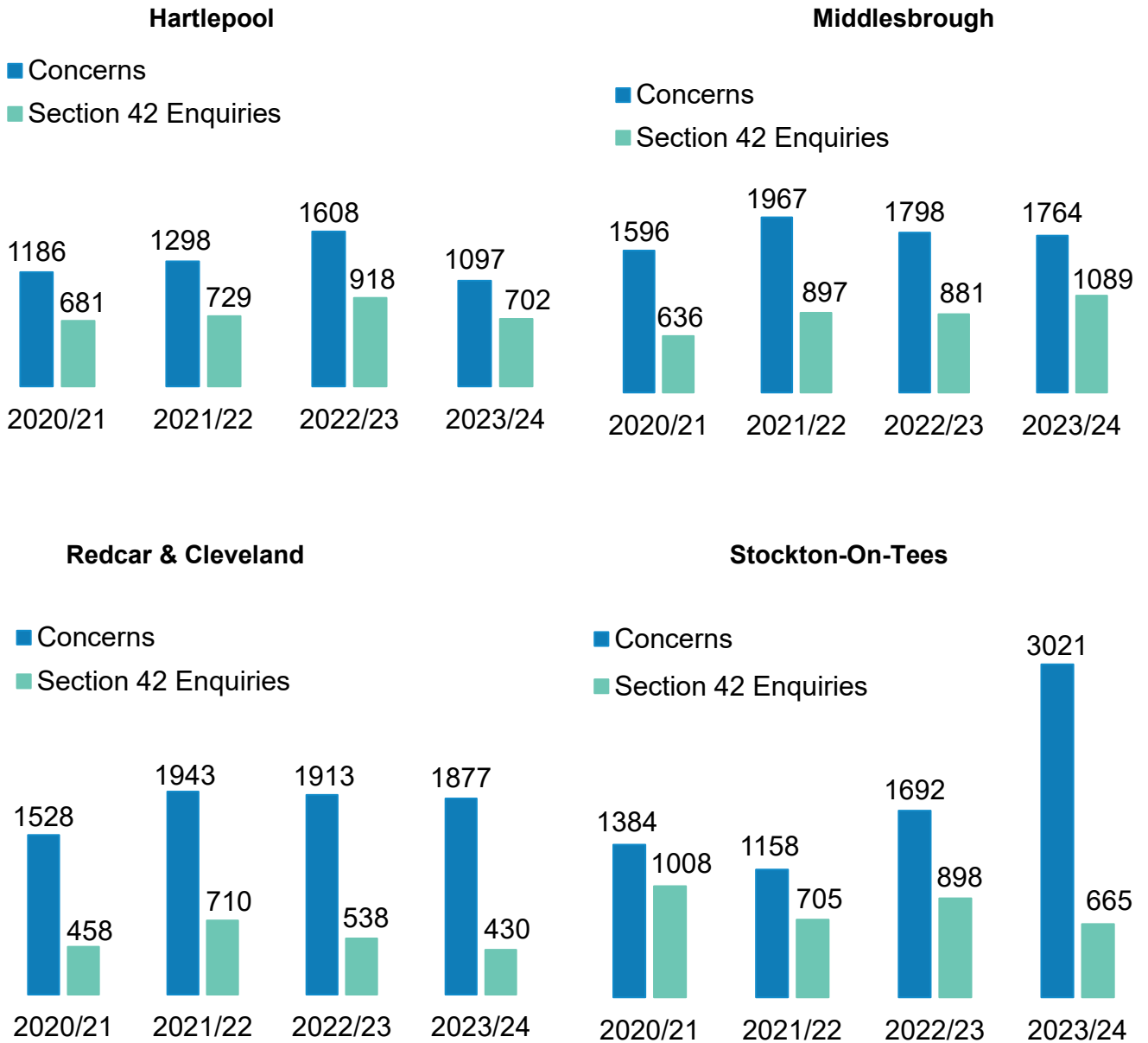
2. Strengthen links with organisations, children's partnerships and community safety partnerships at a strategic and local level to embed a 'think family' approach to safeguarding.



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

Appendix 1

Concerns and Section 42 Enquiries by Local Authority in Tees:

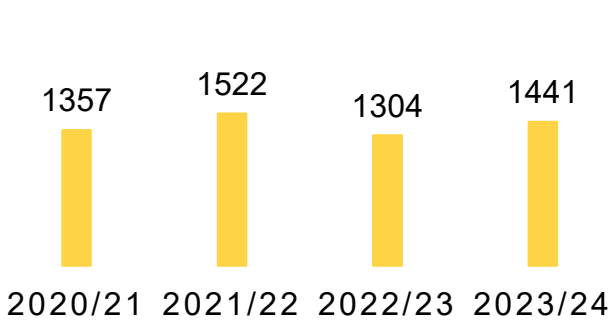


Appendix 2

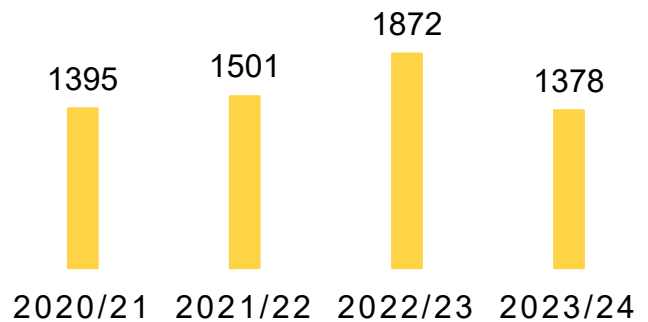
The Deprivations of Liberty Safeguards, under The Mental Capacity Act 2005, provide legal protection for those individuals who are 18 years old and above and who are, or may become deprived of their liberty in a hospital or care home.

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

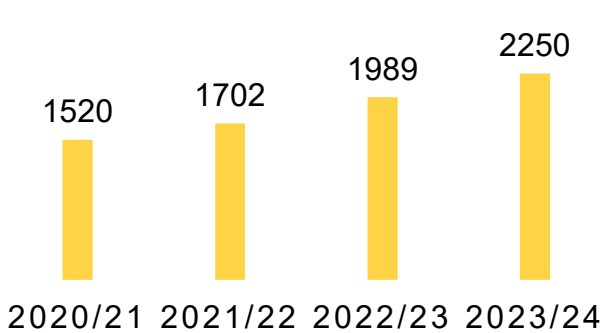
Hartlepool



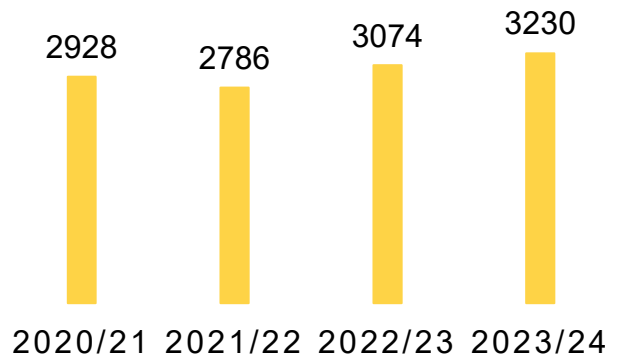
Middlesbrough



Redcar & Cleveland



Stockton-On-Tees



Glossary

Ask ANI - The Ask for ANI (Action Needed Immediately) codeword scheme has been developed by the Home Office to allow victims of domestic abuse to access support from the safety of their local pharmacy. Participating pharmacies will display the Ask ANI logo. If a person asks for ANI or a Safe Space, staff will give the person access to their consultation room, where they can make a phone call to police, domestic abuse helpline or local support service for example.

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 Homicide Review (DHR) - a review held under Section 9 of the Domestic Violence, Crime and Adults Act 2004 and is coordinated by the local Community Safety Partnership. DHRs review the circumstances in which the death of a person aged 16 or over has, or appears to have, resulted from violence, abuse or neglect by:

- *a person to whom they were related, or had been in an intimate personal relationship with or a member of the same household*

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.

Learning Disability Mortality Review (LeDeR) – In May 2015 a LeDeR Programme was established to learn from deaths of people with a learning disability to address the health inequalities people with learning disabilities often face.

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.

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.

TATI (Team Around the Individual) - a multi-agency approach to supporting work on complex and/or high-risk cases, including but not limited to chaotic lifestyles, self-neglect, hoarding, fire risk, alcohol & substance misuse.

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.

X Impressions – the number of times a Tweet has been seen.



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:

Hartlepool:	01429 523 390	iSPA@hartlepool.gov.uk
Middlesbrough:	01642 065 070	adultaccessteam@middlesbrough.gov.uk
Redcar & Cleveland:	01642 771 500	AccessAdultsTeam@redcar-cleveland.gov.uk
Stockton-on-Tees:	01642 527 764	FirstContactAdults@stockton.gov.uk
Evenings and Weekends:	01642 524 552	

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TSAB Strategic Business Plan 2022-25

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April 24 / V3

Our safeguarding arrangements will effectively prevent and respond to adult abuse

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What we do 3

Vision..... 3

Safeguarding Principles 3

Board Priorities 4

What we do

We seek assurance that organisations work in partnership to deliver joined-up services that safeguard adults from abuse and neglect. The work of the SAB is underpinned by the Care Act 2014. The core purpose of the Board is to:

- 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 and
- Ensure that safeguarding practice is continuously improving and enhancing the quality of life of adults in the area.

Vision

Our safeguarding arrangements will effectively prevent and respond to adult abuse.

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

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 in the safeguarding process to the extent to which I want.	I know that staff treat any personal and sensitive information in confidence, only sharing what is helpful and necessary. I am confident that professionals will work together and with me to get the best result for me.	I understand the role of everyone involved in my life and so do they.

Board Priorities

Priority 1: Joint Working	Aim: We will develop a whole system approach to safeguarding adults which is responsive to individual’s needs, views and wishes	
Objectives: We will <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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-centered approaches to all safeguarding adults’ work. 6. Explore different safeguarding operating models and joint protocols to enhance partnership working and information sharing (new objective 2023/24). 		
2024-25 Actions: We will do this by <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Delivering a multi-agency audit schedule, which includes seeking assurance on the effectiveness of high risk and complex cases through the recently reviewed High Risk Adults Panel (HRAP) arrangements. 2. In conjunction with people with lived experience and carers review existing and, where appropriate and necessary, develop new policy, procedure, and guidance to incorporate updated or new legislation and statutory guidance, including Mental Capacity. 3. Working with relevant partners, partnerships, and user groups to develop joint protocols which will contribute towards the development of a ‘Missing Adults’ protocol, Transitions procedures, Contextual Safeguarding work, and an Adult Sexual Exploitation Strategy. 4. Further build upon the Joint Working Protocol and associated workplan with the local Childrens Partnerships to seek further collaboration with other Partnerships. 5. Continue to develop and embed the suite of tools, resources, and training to truly embed trauma informed practice in adult safeguarding. 6. Identifying opportunities to test out new ways of working with partners. 7. Seeking assurance from our partners in respect of wider processes to safeguard adults with care and support needs at risk of abuse and neglect, linked to the Unseen Care Sector Report. 	Lead OL CE, OL Relevant Partnerships, with support from OL and TSAB Business Unit/SAR Relevant Partnerships and Business Managers LTD Statutory Partners Relevant Partnerships, OL	
Assurance Methods Quality Assurance Framework (QAF) / self-audit tool, performance reports, multi-agency audits, surveys, other partnership	Impact/ outcomes Adults at risk of or experiencing abuse and / or neglect will be confident that professionals will work together and with them to achieve the best possible outcomes for them.	

plans, training plan, impact assessments,
feedback from adults

Evidence that TSAB is and has worked effectively with partnerships operating within and across the Tees area to provide the best and most efficient services possible for individuals in need and across our communities.

Priority 2: People		Aim: We will ensure the workforce is well trained, supported and equipped to safeguard the most vulnerable people within our communities	
Objectives: We will			
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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, 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 (new objective 2023/24). 			
P 2024-25 74	2024-25 Actions: We will do this by		Lead
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Developing and delivering the TSAB Training Plan to align with TSAB priorities, ensuring that the voice of people with lived experience of abuse or neglect is included in resources and events. 		LTD
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Continuing to seek assurance from partners via the Quality Assurance Framework/self-audit tool on the training and support provided to their staff. 		PAQ
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Developing and implementing action plans for all SARs and applicable Domestic Abuse Related Death Reviews and SCPRs. 		SAR
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. Sharing the learning from the above reviews at the earliest opportunity, across partner agencies and seeking assurance that the learning has been embedded into practice. 		SAR/LTD/OL
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. Further developing methods to review learning from SARs and other learning reviews to ensure it remains embedded in practice 		SAR/LTD
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 6. Identifying and celebrating good news stories, innovative work, and exceptional people. 		CE	
Assurance Methods QAF / self-audit tool, surveys, website hits, training evaluations, multi-agency audits, impact assessments, awards.		Impact/ outcomes Adults at risk of or experiencing abuse and/or neglect will have confidence that professionals will be involved only as far as is reasonable, proportionate, justifiable and necessary and always work in their best interest.	

<p>Priority 3: Communication</p>	<p>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</p>	
<p>Objectives: We will</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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. 		
<p>2024-25 Actions: We will do this by</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Further developing tools and processes to assist with seeking feedback from adults and their carers. 2. Developing the TSAB website to comply with accessibility guidelines. 3. Continuing to monitor the TSAB Performance Indicator relating to outcomes. 4. Delivering a Communication and Engagement plan, including awareness raising and ‘Spotlight On’ campaigns which focus on prevention and engages with the public, hard to reach groups, the seldom heard, adults who find services challenging to access or work with and services and professionals. 5. Provide Safeguarding Champions with the tools and resources they need to ensure they can carry out the role within their own organisations and ensure that there is representation from all relevant agencies including the Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise sector. 6. Developing robust guidance for professionals on sharing information without consent. 	<p>Lead</p> <p>CE CE PAQ CE/LTD</p> <p>CE</p> <p>OLSG</p>	
<p>Assurance Methods</p> <p>Performance Indicators, annual CE report, performance reports, QAF/Self-audit tool, multi-agency audits, feedback from focus groups, feedback from individuals, families and carers, evaluation reports, campaign analytics, website views, social media views, newsletter and bulletin subscribers, Safeguarding Champions</p>	<p>Impact/ outcomes</p> <p>People will receive clear and simple information about what abuse is, how to recognise the signs and how to seek help.</p>	

<p>Priority 4: Services</p>	<p>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</p>	
<p>Objectives: We will</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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. 		
<p>2024-25 Actions: We will do this by</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Reviewing the 'Find Support in your Area' page on the TSAB website to ensure all information is up to date and accurate. 2. Delivering the annual Quality Assurance programme, which includes the Quality Assurance Framework/ self-audit tool and multi-agency case audits. 3. Strengthening the Quality Assurance Framework tool to seek assurance on the safe commissioning of out-of-area care and support service contract arrangements. 4. Correlating accurate records of services that are subject to the Responding to and Addressing Serious Concerns protocol, including data within the TSAB quarterly Performance Reports. 5. Further developing and embedding the Power Bi system to produce high quality performance reports which will support the analysis and further development of multi-agency safeguarding practice. 6. Continue to build upon existing links with the Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise sector within the Board's structure. 		<p>CE</p> <p>PAQ/OL</p> <p>PAQ</p> <p>PAQ/ SAR</p> <p>PAQ</p> <p>CE, OL</p>
<p>Assurance Methods</p> <p>QAF/Self-audit tool, TSAB reports, performance reports, multi-agency audits, assurance reports to TSAB, feedback from adults, their families and carers, Responding to and Addressing Serious Concerns (RASC) reports</p>	<p>Impact/ outcomes</p> <p>Adults at risk of or experiencing abuse and/or neglect will have access to a range of high quality services and support that meet their individual needs.</p>	

Sub-Groups' key: Communication and Engagement (CE), Learning, Training and Development (LTD), Operational Leads (OL), Performance, Audit and Quality (PAQ), Safeguarding Adults Review (SAR), Policy, Procedure & Practice (PPP).
 LA = Local Authority SBC = Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council BU = Business Unit

Briefing Report to People Scrutiny Panel

Ethnic Minority Children Missing Education (CME)

11th November

Karen Smith – Head of Achievement

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Agenda Item 7

Definition

Children missing education (CME) is a term used by DfE to identify a particular subset of children who are at increased risk and are not attending school.

To be CME, children must satisfy all three of the following criteria:

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- * be of compulsory school age
- * not be registered at a school
- * not be receiving suitable education otherwise than at a school

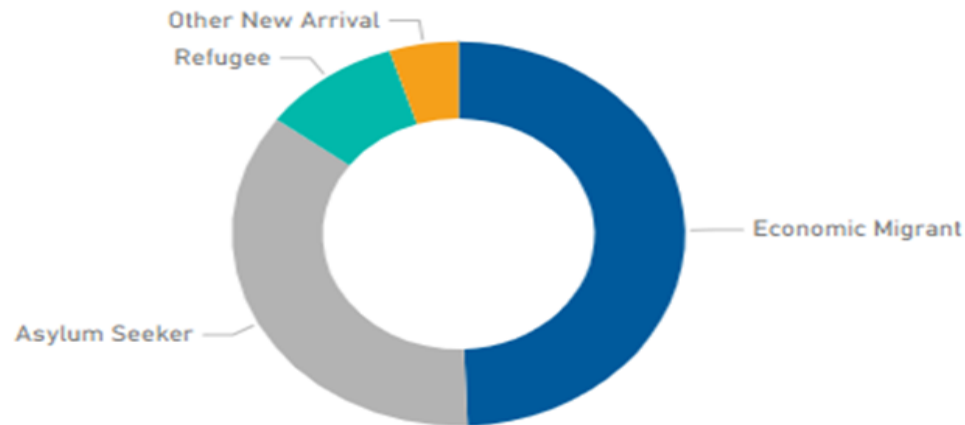
LA Responsibility

Challenges of transient communities and how the Ethnic Minority Achievement Team (EMAT) track and work with newly arrived families.

81

Total EMAT Students

Total EMAT Students by Reason Description



Children identified as CME and or persistent absent from school (Since 2 September 2024)

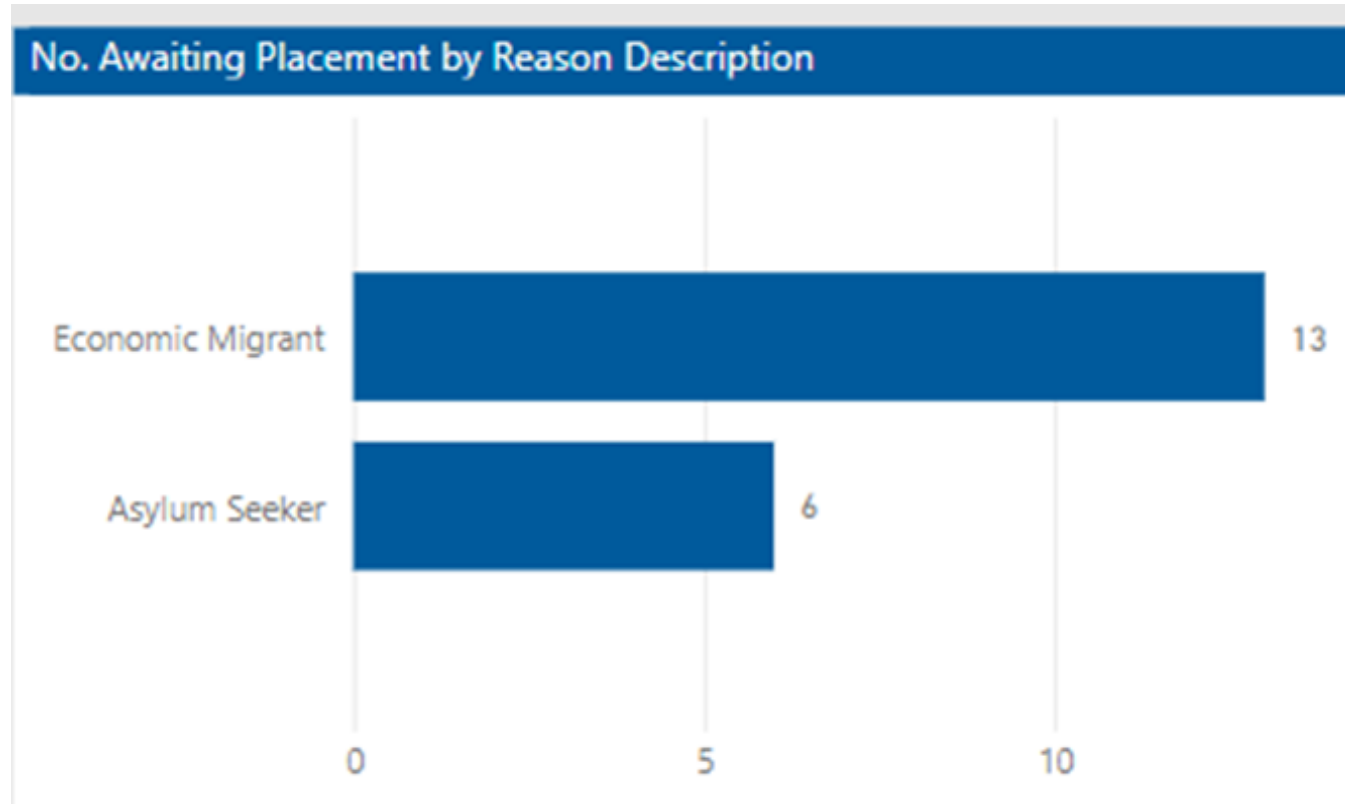
Regular home visits, Attendance Case Conference meetings (ACC), phone calls are conducted/held/made in collaboration with the Admissions and CME teams and partner schools. EMAT staff have a duty to capture evidence of these in a shared tracker which is continuously updated.

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- Home visits – 38
- ACC meetings – 4
- Phone calls (attendance issues) – 50+

Children Awaiting School Places (CASP)

Data source: EMAT Dashboard (21/10/2024)



Reasons for delay

- Delayed responses from families
- Delays relating to the school process
- Appeals made by parents
- Delays in accessing school uniforms

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Number of appeals (September to date) = 13 INA

3. Children who have recently arrived in the town and are awaiting a school place.

There is a shortage of primary school places in the town centre which can result in newly arrived children waiting for a suitable place to become available. There are sufficient places available for all of the children in Middlesbrough but sometimes families find it difficult to travel longer distances to attend school in other parts of the town.

In July we had 11 primary aged children who had been waiting for a place more than a month, but none who had been waiting more than 3 months.

There was around 45 secondary aged children waiting for places in July. The majority of these children had received offers of school places before the end of term.

Support for INA children attending partner schools (from September 2024)

EMAT is a buyback service, so in-school support is limited to partner schools and or Local Authorities. The partners are schools or LAs who would have signed up for EMAT services and agreed to our SLA. So far:

22 schools on EMAT SLA

1 LA on EMAT SLA (for Traveller Education Services)

5 Specialist or Bilingual Teaching Assistants deployed in schools – EAL support and TES support.

4 Family support workers (daily liaison between EMAT and schools – behaviour issues, PEX meetings, ACC, attendances, support FSM, school transport applications).

All 22 schools invited to sign up for LILAC and EAL Support training this academic year.

2 EAL Network meetings scheduled for this academic year (frequency agreed by EMAT and all partner Schools).

24 strategic school visits (SLA/EMAT support meetings, ACC meetings, Initial school start date meetings, Pupil Progress Review meetings, EHCP meetings).

40 Traveller family children supported in Redcar and Cleveland through the TES Local Authority SLA.

30 Traveller family children supported in Middlesbrough Council through the TES Local Authority SLA.

EMAT International New Arrival SEND Protocol

Family attend appointment with Ethnic Minority Achievement Team

- Complete admission form (or check if pre-completed)
- Complete Parental Interview Form
- Check/copy ID
- Request relevant paperwork (baptism certificate/SEN information/medical letters/school reports)
- Transition Class day assigned.
- If evidence of significant, complex health needs:
 - Signpost to GP Practice to request immediate Paediatric Assessment
 - Signpost to Children with Disabilities Team (579182). EMAT to support with Referral.



Within 1 week from above actions, EMAT to: Complete initial paperwork and safeguarding assessment. Documents scanned to Admissions (other departments where necessary).



If necessary, EMAT to liaise with Admissions team to arrange for translation (**estimated timescale for translation – 2 weeks depending upon volume and content**) certain educational/medical reports/documents believed to be critical to understanding the child's needs, into English (**via cost code** identified by Judi Libbey – Head of Resources) and Admissions/Inclusion & Assessment Team will liaise to discuss overview of needs as identified in existing reports and/or the translated reports. **Within 1 week or one week from receiving any translated documents** Admissions Team/Inclusion & Assessment Team, as agreed between the two teams for each individual case, to send letter sent to parents detailing local SEND advice/support/drop in and to notify parents of process being followed by Admissions/Inclusion & Assessment Team to consider parental preferences identify an appropriate educational provision to meet needs. Throughout this time, EMAT to provide weekly parental support including translation, cultural awareness regarding SEND, UK expectations regarding SEND support and introductions to VCS organisations to provide family support.



If necessary, Inclusion & Assessment Team Lead will discuss and agree with SEND International New Arrivals Teacher any request of joint visit by an EP/Rep from specialist setting or Hi/Vi specialist to the family in order to help provide more information on needs as part of process to identify an appropriate educational provision to meet needs. (**Professionals to be requested to report back on findings within 8 school weeks from the professional receiving a request. In the case of Ed Psychologist, a “request for involvement form”**)



Inclusion & Assessment Team to be requested to consider findings within one week to determine and to notify EMAT/family: whether it is necessary to ask Multi Agency Education Health and Care Panel to consider possible statutory assessment of education, health and social care needs as part of process to identify an appropriate educational provision to meet needs. As EHC assessment takes a max 20 weeks, consideration must be given to possible admission to mainstream during the assessment period. Placement on assessment in a specialist setting could be considered but due to ongoing high demand for places, this may not be possible as an option.



EMAT to engage with family as per Safeguarding review timescale. Management oversight every four weeks.

EMAT International New Arrival SEND Protocol

Appendix 1 - Protocol for International New Arrivals with SEND

