

**Safeguarding  
Adults**  
NORTH EAST LINCOLNSHIRE



**North East Lincolnshire  
Safeguarding Adults Board  
Annual Report  
2022/2023**

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## Foreword

It gives me great pleasure to present the North East Lincolnshire Safeguarding Adults Board (SAB) annual report for 2022/23. The report sets out the activities and work undertaken by the SAB and its members to deliver on the aims and objectives of our strategic plan over the last year. The overarching objective of our plan is to make North East Lincolnshire (NEL) a safer place for all people, but specifically for those adults within our community who are at risk of experiencing abuse and/or neglect.

The production of an annual report is a statutory requirement of the Care Act 2014, the primary piece of legislation under which the SAB operates. Safeguarding is everyone's business and the NEL SAB is responsible for ensuring this premise is at the heart of everything we do across the partnership.

Adults at risk of abuse and neglect are found in all areas, in all walks of life and within all social classes. They may be at risk for many different reasons, and this can include things such as disability, age, and mental capacity to make decisions. They may be at risk due to being susceptible to exploitation, radicalisation, subject to domestic abuse or because of substance misuse.

The NELSAB exists to ensure services, whether regulated, commissioned, or voluntary, are safe, and as the new independent chair and scrutineer of the SAB, I am looking forward to building on this year's successes and working with partners to make sure we make safeguarding personal. In addition I will make sure we continue to work closely with the Safeguarding Children Partnership (SCP) and the Community Safety Partnership (CSP) to ensure we achieve the joint vision of a "safer NEL".

**Darren Downs**  
**Independent Chair & Scrutineer**

## 1. Background and local context

North East Lincolnshire (NEL) is a comparatively small unitary authority covering a geographic area of 192 square km situated on the south bank of the Humber estuary. It was created from the boroughs of Cleethorpes and Great Grimsby on 1<sup>st</sup> April 1996 with the abolition of Humberside. It is a unitary authority bordering the unitary authority of North Lincolnshire and the county of Lincolnshire, comprising the districts of East Lindsey and West Lindsey.

The majority of the resident population live in the towns of Grimsby and Cleethorpes with the remainder living in the smaller town of Immingham or the surrounding 22 rural villages. The town centres of Grimsby and Cleethorpes are only three miles apart with Immingham approximately eight miles from Grimsby.

In North East Lincolnshire, the population size has decreased by 1.7%, from around 159,600 in 2011 to 156,900 in 2021, whilst the total population of England grew by 6.6%, increasing by nearly 3.5 million people to 56,489,800.

### [North East Lincolnshire population change, Census 2021 – ONS](#)

Accordingly, population density fell by 1.8% to 830 residents per square kilometre. Less than 10% of local authorities' (LA) population decreased between censuses and NEL saw the 9th largest fall, falling by 15 places to 130th out of 309 in terms of the most populated LAs in England.

The Census 2021 highlighted an aging national population, and this is mirrored in NEL, as the proportion of people aged 65 or over rose to 20.9%, which is an increase from 17.7% in 2011. At the same time the percentage of the population aged 0-14 fell from 17.7% in 2011 to 17.6% in 2021, and the 15-64 age group also shrank in NEL, proportionally decreasing from 64.6% to 61.5% over the census period. . On average, NEL's median age (43) means it is ranked 127th out of 331 local authorities in England and Wales in 2021 (the national median was 40, which would have put it 212th).

In 2021, the urban population of North East Lincolnshire was approximately 143,802 or 90%, while the rural population was around 15,814 or 10%.

English is the main spoken language by 96.1% of people, and is spoken either well or very well by 3% of the population. 0.8% reported having poor English language skills.

### [North East Lincolnshire Demographics | Age, Ethnicity, Religion, Wellbeing \(varbes.com\)](#)

Deprivation in North East Lincolnshire is concentrated in pockets rather than evenly spread throughout the borough, meaning that there are considerable inequalities within the area. Five council wards (East Marsh, West Marsh, South, Sidney Sussex and Heneage) are amongst some of the most deprived wards in England, and two of these wards (East Marsh and West Marsh) are in the most deprived 1% of wards in England. Since a large proportion of North East Lincolnshire is counted among the most deprived 10% of England, health inequalities are a major issue for the area and are only likely to have been exacerbated by Covid-19. Homelessness and unemployment is currently above the national trends.

### [The English Indices of Deprivation 2019 \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](#)

## 1.1 North East Lincolnshire Safeguarding Adults Board (NELSAB)

The NEL Safeguarding Adult Board (referred to as the SAB) is a statutory requirement for all local authorities under Sections 42-46 of the Care Act 2014 with the Director of Adult Social Services (DASS) taking the lead role and overall responsibility for adult safeguarding.

*The main objective of the SAB is to assure itself that local safeguarding arrangements and partners act to help protect adults in its area who:*

- *have needs for care and support (whether or not NEL is meeting any of those needs)*
- *are experiencing, or at risk of, abuse or neglect*
- *and as a result of those care and support needs, are unable to protect themselves from either the risk of, or the experience of abuse or neglect (Sec 14.2 statutory guidance)*

People that fall into this category are referred to as 'adults at risk'.

## 2. Structure and governance

As a minimum, the SAB membership must comprise of the three main statutory partners, these being North East Lincolnshire Council (NELC), Humberside Police and the Humber & North Yorkshire Health and Care Partnership. In NEL we have established a much broader multi-agency membership to ensure representation and provision from all sectors and areas across the NEL community to enable adults' needs to be fully recognised and met. This includes the many effective voluntary sector partners who do excellent work in support of our communities.

### 2.1 NELSAB structure, framework and membership

The Director of Adult Social Services (DASS) is responsible for ensuring that all organisations providing or commissioned to provide adult services, do so to a standard that is safe and commensurate with the 2014 Care Act requirements. In line with our vision, we seek to empower and protect adults with care and support needs, and support structures to promote the highest standards possible, so that all people in NEL feel safe and are safe, wherever possible, living lives free from the risk or experience of abuse or neglect.

For the SAB to have the necessary means for effective decision-making and commitment of resources, its members have sufficient delegated authority to act on behalf of their own agencies. The SAB comprises senior officers, nominated by member agencies, operating under terms of reference that reflect the vision and guiding principles of the Care Act 2014, which are:

- Empowerment: supporting people to make their own decisions and give informed consent
- Prevention: acting before harm occurs
- Proportionality: the least intrusive responses appropriate to the risks
- Protection: support and representation for those in greatest need
- Partnership: local solutions through services working with communities
- Accountability: accountability and transparency in delivering safeguarding

*See appendix A for SAB structure and membership*

### 2.2 Chairing arrangements and interface with Safeguarding Children Partnership and NEL Community Safety Partnership

During 2022/23, the SAB was chaired by the Director of Quality and Nursing and executive lead for safeguarding of the Humber & North Yorkshire Health & Care Partnership. This post is also one of the three executive members of the Safeguarding Children Partnership (SCP) ensuring synergies between the partnerships.

Through joint ventures, the SAB has increased its capacity to communicate safeguarding information to all people across NEL and move towards a culture of shared expertise across adults, children, and the whole community. Joint working with other statutory boards such as the Local Safeguarding Children's Board and the Community Safety Partnership (CSP) allows cross-cutting themes to be tackled more effectively such as modern slavery and 'Prevent'.

The SAB has maintained its pledge commitment to safeguarding this year, directly contributing to NELC's vision that *"all people in NEL feel safe and are safe"*.

### 3. Priorities 2022/23 and resulting action

The strategic plan was refreshed following a workshop held on 21<sup>st</sup> September 2021. This provided direction and co-ordinated the efforts of the SAB to ensure service delivery is safe and improves the quality of care and support for those of our community who most need them. Priorities were identified from recent safeguarding adult reviews (SARs) and themes and trends identified from the learning extracted from audits and reviews.

The three priority areas continue, namely:

- Neglect
- Domestic Abuse
- Exploitation

The three recurring common themes that underpin elements within all three priorities continue and addressing these will be central in the SAB's approach to those themed priorities.

They are:

- Lack of professional curiosity – the failure of professionals to identify safeguarding issues or challenge others.
- Considering the presence and impact of the 'toxic trio' of domestic abuse, mental ill-health, and substance abuse.
- Professional and public awareness and communication of safeguarding issues.

The SAB increased its membership in January 2023 to provide greater scrutiny and a stronger presence within adult services. In February 2023 the SAB Board Meetings were extended to include all member partners once again; this followed a period when only the SAB Executive members met during the Covid-19 pandemic. An independent chair was appointed in April 2023, following which the membership of work groups and their priorities will be revised.

The section below sets out the key principles of what we said we would do and what we have done so far:

**Empowerment** - people being supported and encouraged to make their own decisions with informed consent

The SAB maintains a website: <https://www.safernel.co.uk/safeguarding-adults-board/> which contains information about keeping safe, explain types of abuse and neglect, and provides contact information to be used by anyone with a safeguarding concern.

*The safer NEL website is now well established and used by both professionals and members of the public; it contains policies and procedures as well as reports from safeguarding reviews, which not only informs what all three partnerships are doing but signposts where to get help and assistance.*

**Prevention** – it is better to take action before harm occurs

All SAB partners will be required to assure the SAB regularly on what they are doing to prevent abuse or neglect.

*The updated Workforce Development Strategy is now firmly embedded. The revised Mental Capacity Act and Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards training pathway offers courses/sessions which are regularly refreshed.*

### **Proportionality – the least intrusive response appropriate to the risk**

The SAB will ensure that the requirements of “making safeguarding personal” (MSP) are embedded in all safeguarding enquires. Any actions taken are informed by the express wishes and feelings of the person at the centre of the concern when possible.

Making safeguarding personal (MSP) is the government term for practising in a way that ensures that the adult at risk has the opportunity to express what they want to happen during safeguarding processes and measuring the success at achieving this. Where adults are unable to express their wishes, this requires the provision of a suitable advocate to speak on the adult’s behalf.

*Over 2022/23 we have yet again increased our recording of MSP and have improved the numbers and outcomes of service user satisfaction. We have also improved our activity on assessment for adults who appear to lack capacity, and now in 2022/23, MSP is business as usual firmly embedded in practice.*

### **Protection – support and representation for those in greatest need**

The SAB will require all partners to ensure that there is an up-to-date assessment of mental capacity where appropriate and any best interest decision on file. They will ensure that the person is supported when appropriate by an advocate or an independent mental capacity advocate (IMCA).

*Management of the deprivation of liberty safeguards (DoLS) remains an issue both locally and nationally. The implementation of liberty protection safeguards (LPS) continues to be delayed.*

*North East Lincolnshire’s MCA Group has worked tirelessly in its attempts to manage the risks for those individuals whose applications have not been authorised and to prepare for the forthcoming change in legislation.*

### **Partnership – local solutions through services working together with our community**

Each SAB partner will ensure their organisation upholds their collective responsibilities to safeguard adults in accordance with the requirements of the Care Act 2014.

*The SAB requires assurances from all partner agencies and providers that safeguarding remains a priority. The Safeguarding Adult Referral, Significant Incident Learning Process and Good Practice (SAR, SILP & GP) group continues to review individual cases where concern is raised, or it is believed we could benefit from learning. The group reports quarterly to the SAB on all open cases. The SAB considers any themes or trends in safeguarding that require scrutiny and direct in-depth audits to allow a clear understanding to inform practice.*

The SAB will work with the SCP, CSP and other local partners when possible to promote safeguarding for all our community.

*The SAB chair is one of the executive members of the SCP and all three partnerships work on common themes such as domestic abuse, modern day slavery, female genital mutilation and prevent. We share audit processes and learning from reviews.*

#### **Accountability – accountability and transparency in delivering safeguarding**

The SAB will agree and maintain local multi-agency safeguarding adults policies and procedures for all partners to use.

*The current multi-agency policy and procedures are shared via our website, and the Designated Adult Safeguarding Manager (DASM) role and Person in Position of Trust (PiPoT) protocol are firmly embedded in practice. The high risk panel and operational risk management meeting protocols produced by the SAB are now also firmly embedded and utilised by all agencies.*

The SAB produces an annual report explaining what it has done and how its partners have helped to keep people safe in North East Lincolnshire.

*A statutory requirement, this report highlights what the SAB has achieved and what it seeks to achieve in the current and next financial years.*

## 4. SAB members' contribution to safeguarding

### 4.1 Director of Adult Social Services

Katie Brown joined as the DASS in January 2023, this provided the opportunity to reflect on achievements whilst gaining a new perspective on opportunities for system improvement. The role continues to have oversight of all areas of adult social care within NEL which is crucial as we recover from the pandemic, a cost-of-living crisis and increasing pressure on services.

“In my first couple of months in the role it was great to have the opportunity to meet with key leads within safeguarding across North East Lincolnshire and see safeguarding in action. A key activity has been to appoint a new Independent Chair, Darren Downs, and I look forward to working with Darren and system partners as we refresh the delivery and assurance of strategic safeguarding in North East Lincolnshire.”

There has been a real focus in the latter part of the year on how we safeguard the most vulnerable people in NEL particularly those that often are at most risk from being homeless and have very complex lives. This will be a real focus of the local authority as we move into 2023/24.

There continues to be a real focus on system learning as this is something that continues to be a priority and an area of continued development for the SAB and will be a key theme at the Annual conference in 2024.

The SAB reset has been a key priority and provides a great platform for the delivery of the 2023/24 priority.

### 4.2 Humber & North Yorkshire Health & Care Partnership (Integrated Care Board)

#### The Introduction of Integrated Care Systems (ICS) and Integrated Care Boards (ICB)

On 1<sup>st</sup> July 2022 NHS England established 42 statutory ICBs in line with its duty in the Health and Care Act 2022. The ICB is a core member of the Humber and North Yorkshire Health and Care Partnership, alongside NHS providers, local councils, health and care providers and voluntary, community and social enterprise (VCSE) organisations.

NHS Humber and North Yorkshire ICB approach to adult safeguarding is underpinned by quality and contracting systems and processes that aim to reduce the risk of harm, respond quickly and ensure that lessons are learnt and shared. The ICB has a duty to take additional measures in establishing effective structures for safeguarding across health organisations. This includes robust governance and commissioning arrangements, and leadership across the local health economy.

“Our vision is extremely ambitious and will not be achieved overnight. We have identified priority areas to focus on over the next three years to deliver the vision we have set out.”

The ICB is committed as an active member of the SAB, ensuring regular representation and contributions at all meetings. The ICB Director of Quality and Nursing for NEL has chaired the SAB for the past five years until the appointment of the Independent Chair in March 2023. On behalf of the

SAB, the Designated Nurse chairs the Safeguarding Adult Review group, reviewing cases and identifying learning to improve practice standards across NEL. The ICB MCA Strategic Lead also chairs the MCA sub-group on behalf of the SAB, working with partners to ensure MCA is embedded in practice and all preparations are made for LPS across NEL.

The Designated Nurse regularly collaborates with the Focus Safeguarding Adults Team, providing advice and support with any health-related issues presenting within safeguarding cases. The ICB actively monitors the quality of nursing and residential homes and settings, including domiciliary care, to ensure any issues are addressed and remedied at the earliest possible point, utilising a multi-agency approach. The ICB has a system of robust quarterly reporting mechanisms from providers to ensure adequate scrutiny of their safeguarding arrangements.

During 2022-23, the ICB has taken an innovative approach to supporting providers - for example, a member of the ICB safeguarding team undertaking a secondment with a local health provider to actively support, review and strengthen their internal safeguarding arrangements. In addition, the ICB provides safeguarding and quality oversight of provider units that are commissioned by NHS England specialist commissioning teams, but that are within the NEL area. This includes receiving activity and performance data and undertaking site visits to review the quality of safeguarding arrangements and the quality of care. During 2022-23, the safeguarding team carried out a number of site visits as part of host-commissioner arrangements for a local learning disabilities unit.

The Designated Nurses works closely with Primary Care to support primary care staff and promote practice improvement in their contribution to safeguarding adults. In response to a national requirement to improve information sharing from Primary Care into multi-agency safeguarding arrangements, in Autumn 2022, the ICB introduced three new Primary Care Safeguarding Lead Nurse posts to lead, support and improve the interface between Primary Care and local safeguarding systems.

The ICB continues to deliver the Learning Disability Mortality Review (LeDeR) process, ensuring reviews are undertaken, quality assuring completed reviews and collating the learning across the Humber area, and then disseminating learning into various local work-streams to further enhance standards and improve service delivery. Within NEL, there have been 11 reviews undertaken during 2022-23. The main themes arising from these reviews were completion of annual health checks, the use of hospital passports, access to screening and management of chronic health conditions.

The ICB Safeguarding team are active participants and contributors to a number of local and regional safeguarding systems, including the Channel Panel, MAPPA, Prevent and Modern Slavery. The ICB supports timely information sharing across health systems and ensures any risks are flagged accordingly.

The ICB safeguarding team continues to actively support the Real Time Surveillance process for suspected suicides to ensure any themes and trends are identified and any contagions responded to appropriately. The information from this work was shared with and advocated by NHS England due to the recognised rise in suspected suicides during 2022-23.

Throughout 2022-23, safeguarding adults has continued to be a high priority for the ICB. We remain committed to ensure that we contribute and deliver robust high-quality safeguarding adults services across North East Lincolnshire during the forthcoming year.

Link to the Humber and North Yorkshire Health and Care Partnership: [Humber and North Yorkshire Health and Care Partnership](#)

### **4.3 Humberside Police**

In relation to the period of April 2022 to March 2023 the recorded data with regards to the safeguarding of adults has provided the following information:

#### **Vulnerability Hub**

Between April 2022 and March 2023 a total of 400 Pitstop meetings were undertaken as a result of information and intelligence processed within the Hub that further informed a total of 80 strategy discussions with our local authority partners for some of those identified as being most vulnerable and needing further support and safeguarding.

PiTstop is now live across the force in the four local authority areas which factors in adult safeguarding to cover Domestic Abuse and Vulnerable Adults at the lower threshold, with the intention of identifying pathways for other agency support to reduce the escalation of risk or need. The vulnerability tracker went live on Power Apps from 1<sup>st</sup> August 2023 with the development of power BI still ongoing to be able to break down the data even further which will allow the police to break down the Vulnerable Adult referrals and crimes identified against them, for the different abuse types and what ward area they live in, ethnicity, gender etc.

#### **Domestic Abuse and Safeguarding Investigation Teams (DASIT)**

Humberside Police is one of the first forces to implement a bespoke dedicated domestic abuse and safeguarding investigation team to manage all medium and high-risk incidents and safeguarding measures.

This has enhanced the service provided working closely with partners and support services resulting in:

- Providing specialist ownership of all cases
- Improving victim support and safeguarding
- Collaborative approach quickly bringing offenders to justice
- Shared learning and consultative approach enhancing and standardising practice
- Clear collective safeguarding plans to all victims
- Significantly improved conviction rates
- Close working relationships to quickly deal with emerging issues and support to victims
- Increased victim engagement

The performance surrounding DA related crime prior to the implementation of these teams stood at a positive outcome rate of 15% for all recorded crimes that resulted in the identified offender being charged. The new DASIT teams and the dedicated officers have resulted in a significant increase for these positive outcomes now recorded for last financial year as 32.5% positive for NEL.

#### **Modern Day Slavery**

A total of 33 referrals were made for the previous year via the national referral mechanism for NEL an increase from the previous financial year with identified breakdowns of:

- Positive conclusive grounds: 23
- Positive Reasonable Grounds: 7
- Negative: 2
- Awaiting decision:1

In relation to identified investigation for NEL a total of 42 were commenced which has seen an increase from the previous year with a significant proportion relating to criminal exploitation of adults. These

investigations account for 13% of all modern-day slavery and human trafficking offences across Humberside force area.

Link to Humberside Police website: [Humberside Police](#)

#### 4.4 Adult mental health services (NAViGO)

The NAViGO Safeguarding Team (NST) works closely with all NAViGO staff and local partner agencies to make 'Every Contact Count' by delivering considered, person-centered advice that clearly and consistently supports the principles and duties of safeguarding adults at risk, vulnerable adults and children across NEL. The team currently consists of a Named Professional, Lead Practitioner and a Legislation & Admin Lead.

The most significant development this last year has seen us prepare for Young Minds Matter (YMM) to become part of the NAViGO family. This will see NAViGO become an all-age mental health service from April 2023. These preparations have seen the NST work tirelessly to develop all relevant and necessary Section 11 documents, processes and policies to ensure that the transition for all young people supported by YMM and the staff is without disruption to service delivery.

Beyond this, the NAViGO safeguarding committee has continued to meet quarterly and report to the Community Interest Company (CiC) Board and it has seen evidence to assure all board members of the NST's continued commitment to maintain our presence and input at SAB sub-groups as well as MARAC, MAPPA, MATAAC, Mace, OVM and Channel. Unfortunately, our presence has also been required at DHRs and SARs. In addition to this, the NST have remained a reliable member of the Humberside Polices daily PITSTOP which aims to protect vulnerable adults and children by exploring multiagency early intervention options.

'Safeguarding is Everyone's Business' and has been championed throughout NAViGO which has continued to see staff make significant improvements across the organisation, ensuring that we continue to adhere to national and local policies and procedures, and work collaboratively and effectively with the SAB and local partner agencies. The past year, the NST have focused on 'Think Family'. This culminated in the NST's lived experience seminar with Lads Like Us delivering a powerful presentation on the importance of trauma informed practice and professional curiosity.

The NST's lunchtime training webinars coupled with ongoing training and support for our Safeguarding Champions appears to have continued to improve staff recognition of safeguarding matters that arise in their day-to-day practice. We have seen a positive improvement in staff confidence when exploring concerns with service users and wider professionals, including an increased amount of referrals to the Safeguarding Adults Team (SAT) and to the Integrated Children's Front Door.

Link to Navigo website: [NAViGO \(navigocare.co.uk\)](https://navigocare.co.uk)

#### 4.5 Care Quality Commission (CQC)

Each year the Care Quality Commission (CQC) publishes a report looking at what has been achieved in the previous year and what areas they need to concentrate on in the next year.

Link to CQC Annual Report: [Annual report and accounts 2021/22 - Care Quality Commission \(cqc.org.uk\)](https://www.cqc.org.uk/publications/annual-reports)

## 4.6 Health (NLaG)

Northern Lincolnshire and Goole NHS Foundation Trust (NLaG) provides hospital and community services to the North East and North Lincolnshire area. The safeguarding and vulnerabilities team is based at both Scunthorpe General Hospital and Diana Princess of Wales (Grimsby), also covering Goole and District Hospital and North Lincs Community Team and is committed to ensuring that safeguarding and supporting its patients, staff and the wider community is given the highest priority in all that the Trust does. Our team supports and works across the Trust and is underpinned by NLaG's values by demonstrating our behaviours of kindness, courage, and respect.

The Executive Lead for Safeguarding Children and Adults is the Chief Nurse; this responsibility is delegated to the Deputy Chief Nurse. The Safeguarding and Vulnerabilities Team and Named and Designated Safeguarding Professionals provide both strategic support and direction to the governance and safeguarding arrangements within NLaG, and operational advice and support to all Trust staff. Our team works closely with other Designated and Named Colleagues across the Integrated Care Partnership.

Our team consists of named nurses/ professionals for adults, children, MCA and DoLS and midwifery. We have a Lead Nurse Vulnerabilities and Specialist nurses for Dementia and Learning Disability who support our most vulnerable patients accessing services.

Our Safeguarding and Vulnerabilities Operational Forum and Vulnerabilities Steering Group reports directly to our Vulnerabilities Board which has oversight of all safeguarding and vulnerabilities arrangements and operational work ongoing in the Trust.

We are committed to multi-agency working with other partner organisations and groups to ensure we fulfil our responsibilities. We attend the Safeguarding Adults Board, its sub-group meetings and wider partnership meetings. Our policies and procedures are accessible to all staff on our internal hub pages, our safeguarding policies link to all local multi-agency policies and procedures within our local areas of North and North East Lincolnshire and the East Riding of Yorkshire, and we provide regular safeguarding and vulnerabilities updates to our staff internally.

Our key achievements for safeguarding adults include:

- Improved processes for embedding section 42 Care Act referrals allowing wards to send referrals electronically to the local authority and the Hospital Team.
- Improved data collection regarding MCA / Best Interest decision tools completion.
- Delivered safeguarding training in line with the Intercollegiate document for Safeguarding Adults.
- Re-introduced post-Covid, the update of level 3 training and initiation of face-to-face training with updated training packages.
- Reviewed the support and referral for patients who fall to ensure a safeguarding perspective is an integral part of this continuing to embed our Making Safeguarding Personal culture, for example the internal electronic referral asks the patient what the patient wants as a desired outcome.
- Focused vulnerability ward rounds with specialist nurses Dementia and Learning Disability / MCA DoLS / Adult Safeguarding which focus on supporting patients, their carers and staff.
- Developed a quality assurance process for all DoLS applications.
- Developed a Carers Strategy and collaborating with carers regarding the implementation rolling out of a process of how to identify a carer to ensure they are supported.
- Audit of safeguarding referrals.
- MARAC referrals on our electronic system.
- Continued to develop our safeguarding and vulnerabilities dashboard which is analysed and shared internally with Divisions and relevant meetings.

- Utilisation of technology to inform and identify any themes, patterns and trends.
- Vulnerability rounds which focus on supporting patients and their carers and staff.
- Completed the National Audit for Dementia and Learning Disability Benchmarking Audit.

Link to NLaG website: [Northern Lincolnshire and Goole NHS Foundation Trust \(nlg.nhs.uk\)](https://nlg.nhs.uk)

## 4.7 Healthwatch

Healthwatch North East Lincolnshire (HWNEL) is the independent champion for those using Health & Social Care Services, ensuring that their views and experiences are heard by those who plan and deliver health and social care services, giving people a real say over how their local health and social care services are run. Healthwatch not only has the ability to influence how services are set up, commissioned and delivered, but it is also able to provide advice and information on health and social care services as well as signpost those wishing to make a complaint about their local NHS services. Under its statutory remit, Healthwatch enables people to monitor the standard of provision of local care services and has a number of powers to enable it to fulfil this activity, including the ability to enter and view premises where care is delivered. HWNEL has a seat on the SAB. Our purpose on the SAB is to bring an objective perspective as an independent body from that of NELC or H&NYICB and to put across the views of the public, whether that be concerns or to highlight good practice.

Safeguarding remains a priority for ourselves and ensuring that the general public and those from more seldom heard groups understand what safeguarding means. During 2022/23 our priority has been to ensure all staff and volunteers, who engage with the public in their communities, have updated their training and understand how to recognise safeguarding issues. This has been more important after two years of not working face-to-face with people as a result of Covid-19.

Link to NEL Healthwatch website: [Healthwatch \(healthwatchnortheastlincolnshire.co.uk\)](https://healthwatchnortheastlincolnshire.co.uk)

## 4.8 Independent social work practice (Focus)

### Safeguarding Adults Team

This year, like many other agencies, the Safeguarding Adults Team (SAT) have been restoring systems back to pre-pandemic ways of working. This has meant that although still able to work in an agile way, there has been much more face-to-face contact with colleagues, and people who use services out in the community.

Throughout this year, an attempt has been made to establish whether or not the pandemic lead to a significant amount of under-reporting of safeguarding concerns and how this may have impacted upon the citizens of NEL. At the moment, there is no evidence to suggest that any major issues went unreported, although this continues to be monitored.

The SAT is made up on two distinct groups/functions - the Safeguarding Practitioner Group and the Business Team.

### Safeguarding Adults Practitioner Group

The role of the Focus SAT is to respond to safeguarding adults concerns and undertake statutory safeguarding enquiries as defined by Section 42 of the Care Act 2014, and in line with Chapter 14 of the accompanying Care and Support Guidance, on behalf of NELC.

The main aim of any enquiry is to work with the person who has been affected by the alleged abuse or neglect, to achieve the outcome that they want. To do this the SAT works in conjunction with many organisations across the region who provide support to vulnerable people; this includes but is not

limited to organisations such as emergency services, primary and secondary health providers, social care providers, voluntary services and the local authority.

Throughout the enquiry, the SAT also needs to consider whether there are risks to any other people and take any steps necessary to safeguard those individuals too, this is especially important when allegations are made against people who may be employed in positions of trust. In these instances, the SAT liaises with the local Designated Safeguarding Adults Manager (DASM) – see section 4.10.

The SAT has been established since 2010 and all of the registered professionals (social workers and nurses) within the team also act as Best Interest Assessors for the Mental Capacity Act/Deprivations of Liberty Safeguards (MCA/DoLS).

In 2020/21 the SAT established a distinct safeguarding triage function to receive safeguarding concerns and undertake initial fact-finding prior to the case being allocated for an enquiry. This process has assisted the SAT in undertaking timely risk assessments of incoming concerns to ensure the immediate escalation of urgent issues and any accompanying actions. The triage function also signposts concerns to alternative services if this is appropriate; for example, for an assessment of need if it is reasonable to believe that a person, or their carer is in need of support, or to give other advice regarding accident reporting, or to make a complaint.

### **Mental Capacity Act/Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards (MCA/DoLS) Business Team**

The MCA/DoLS Team within Focus provides the business support to the MCA/DoLS process throughout NEL.

The Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards (DoLS) were created to provide an extra layer of professional oversight to individuals in hospitals and residential care settings (known as ‘standard settings’), where the care and treatment provided to that person might give rise to a deprivation of liberty, to which the person lacks the mental capacity to be able to consent. In such instances, two separate professionals (a Mental Health Assessor, and a Best Interest Assessor) are assigned to carry out a range of assessments to make sure that the safeguards apply, and that the arrangements are both necessary, and proportionate. If the assessors agree, then the case is recommended for authorisation to the local authority for a period of time that might range from days or weeks to a maximum of one year.

Individuals who might need the safeguards are people who lack the capacity to consent to care arrangements that are being made for them. This could be individuals who have become very confused following an acute episode such as a stroke, or a more chronic condition such as dementia. In either of these instances, the person might need a lot of care and supervision and may not be able to leave the care setting they are in, in their ‘best interest’ as they are unable to be cared for somewhere else, such as within their own home.

Upon receipt, each application is risk assessed by the MCA/DoLS Business Team using a process that was developed from the Association of Directors of Social Services (ADASS) risk screening tool. Once risk rated, the applications then go into a holding area to await allocation.

The holding area was created following the ‘Cheshire West’ judgement in 2014, which due to a change in interpretation of the definitions, and the creation of what is referred to as the ‘acid test’, led to many more individuals coming under the scope of the safeguards, than there were resources to allocate. This is an ongoing national issue and was the trigger for a Law Commission review of the DoLS process. Up until March 2023, it was anticipated that the DoLS would be replaced by the proposed Liberty Protection Safeguards (LPS). However, due concerns about the implementation of the new process, the current Government has now put this on hold. This has meant that most local authorities are continuing to manage a backlog of unallocated applications.

In addition to the DoLS process, where the care arrangements for someone who lacks capacity to consent deprives them of their liberty, but these are not in care home or hospital, these arrangements cannot be authorised by the DoLS. The mechanism for authorisation in these instances can only be authorised by the Court of Protection (CoP) and are known as 'non-standard DoL'. The MCA/DoLS Team also monitors the number of these cases within North East Lincolnshire.

**Statistics for 2022/23:**

- Where individuals were able to express a desired outcome, this outcome was either fully, or partially achieved in 97% of concluded cases. The risk was removed, or reduced in 87% of all concluded cases. 10% of cases were ceased at the individual's request.
- The SAT at Focus dealt with 752 concerns about individuals, and 310 (41%) of these were progressed as safeguarding enquiries, the remainder were signposted to alternative services.
- 951 Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards (DoLS) applications were made throughout the year. At the end of 2022/2023, there were 370 active authorisations in place, with a further 292 applications awaiting allocation for assessment.
- At the end of 2022/2023, there were 27 active authorisations in place, with a further 19 awaiting Court of Protection (CoP) decisions, and a further 143 cases awaiting allocation for submission of applications to the CoP.

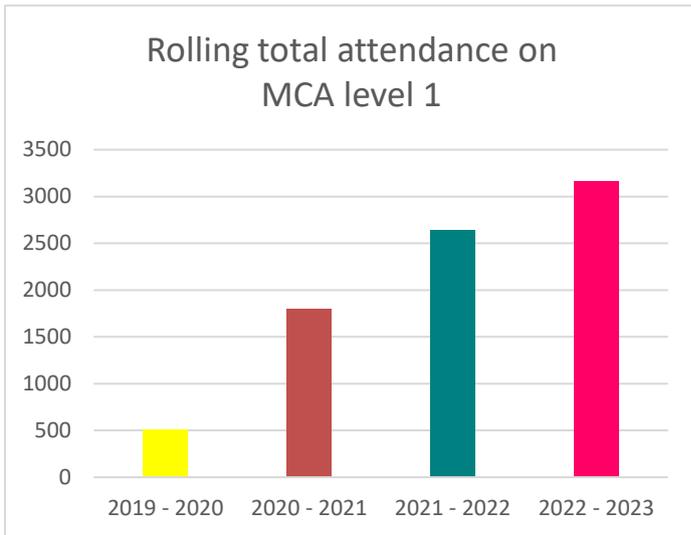
**MCA and Safeguarding Adults Training Team**

It has been another eventful year for the MCA & Safeguarding Adults Training Team, much like it has been for the whole of Focus and Quest! This past year has seen us getting back into the full swing of delivering all of our training packages face-to-face in the new training suite at Quest. We have, however, retained the additional skills learnt during the Covid pandemic with regards to the use of technology in order to support and enhance some of the training delivery, such as continuing to offer some of the sessions in a virtual format.

The end of the 2022 period (February) saw the release of a new and improved Safeguarding Adults Intermediate training session – Prevention, Responding and Making Enquiries. Although uptake of this session was initially slow, attendance has increased towards the end of March 2023 and looks set to increase moving into the next year.

The past year has also seen some changes to the Team, with us saying goodbye and good luck to Sally Gittens who has taken her knowledge and passion back into our Safeguarding Adults Team here at Focus. We look forward to welcoming a new trainer to the team in the very near future.

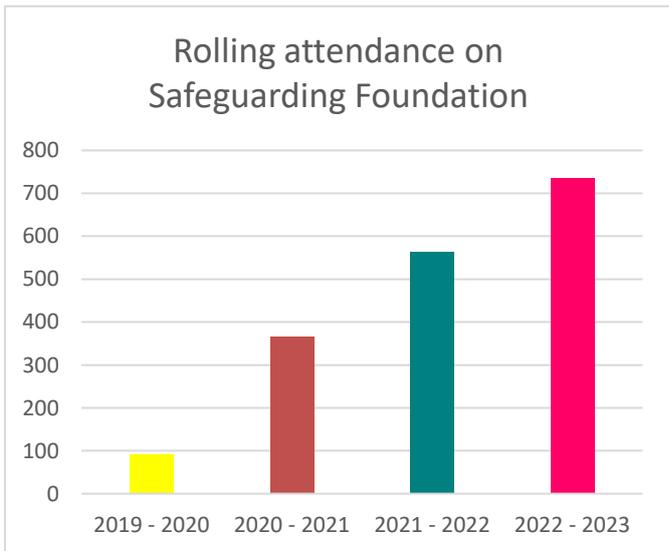
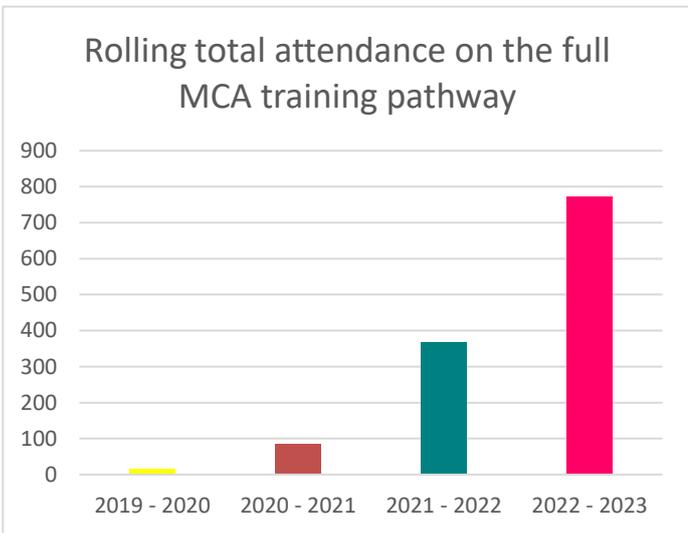
The following charts highlight just how much training has been taking place over the past year and includes attendance from a range of adult health and social care staff from within NEL:



By 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023, a total of 3161 had attended MCA level 1 since its introduction in September 2019 – that’s over 6 times the amount that attended in the first year of its creation!

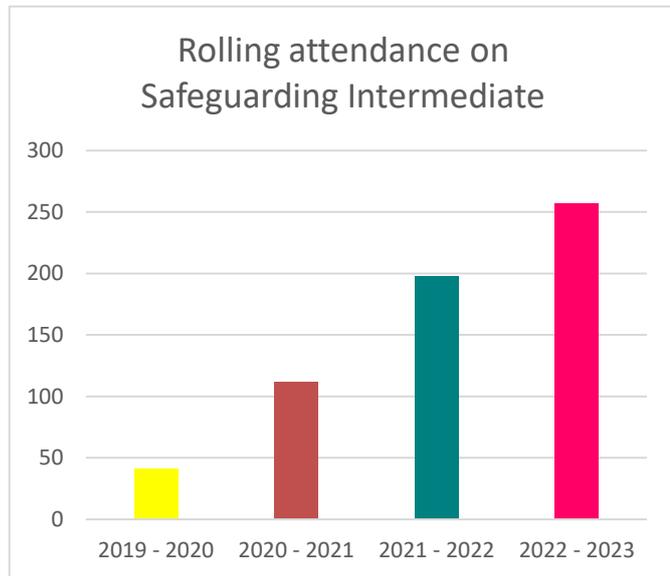
The total amount having completed the full MCA training pathway has almost doubled since last year, standing at an amazing 771. The pathway includes:

- MCA level 1
- Assessing Capacity and Best Interest Decision Making
- Deprivations of Liberty
- MCA level 2



There continues to be a steady increase to the numbers attending the Safeguarding Foundation training, with a further 172 attending in the past year.

February 2022 saw the release of a new and improved Safeguarding Intermediate session – Prevention, Responding and Making Enquiries. We hope to see numbers in attendance continue to increase in 2023 - 2024



Our trainers' creativity and passion for supporting the development of others continued throughout the year achieving the following:

- Continued creation and release of the MCA & Safeguarding Adults e-newsletter and MCA mini-series on YouTube.
- Welcomed new attendees from the local adult health and social care sector onto the MCA and Safeguarding Adults training pathways.
- Developed a new recorded webinar to compliment the MCA Training Pathway – Court of Protection non-standard DoL applications (suitable for those who are responsible for completing and submitting the applications).
- Continued to be an active part of the sub-groups attached to the Safeguarding Adults Board.
- Developed and lead on an MCA audit plan to support the frontline staff at Focus in their MCA practice development.
- Created a safeguarding audit plan in conjunction with the Head of Safeguarding for Focus as part of quality assurance.

The aim for 2023-2024 is to identify those in the adult health and social care sector in NEL who are not currently accessing the training pathways, and support them to do so where possible.

**Examples of feedback from training pathways:**

*"The training was very well presented in an informative but fun manner and promoted an interactive session. Although I have good knowledge of MCA, this training reinforced this whilst improving my knowledge in areas such as executive capacity and service decisions"*

*"Perfection cannot be improved upon. I wasn't looking forward to this training but learnt loads"*

*"I find the Recorded Webinar is better for me, as I can listen and then take notes especially if I do not have printed flyers. I can always pause and go back where I have missed some information or have not understood"*

*"I always expect high standards of training in this area based on previous experience, however, for a session which includes such a high volume of necessary information, this was in no*

*"Great training sessions, very informative and highlights areas for improvement. Both professionally and as an*

*"Very impressive courses from the beginning till the end. Appreciate every bit of it, thanks to the instructors"*

*"Great pathway great update strengthened my knowledae"*

## 4.9 National Probation Service (NPS)

Over the last year the North & North East Lincolnshire Probation Delivery Unit (PDU) has continued to embed the reforms initiated through the unification of the Probation Service in 2021.

In implementing the reforms to the probation system, it has been necessary during the last year to ensure that service delivery and the adaptations to processes and practice have been stabilised to ensure a continued focus on safeguarding, public protection, the rehabilitation agenda and to support victims through MAPPA and the Victim Contact Scheme.

The Probation Service works closely with partners to safeguard adults according to our shared safeguarding principles:

- Empowerment: People being supported and encouraged to make their own decisions and informed consent.
- Prevention: It is better to take action before harm occurs.
- Proportionality: The least intrusive response appropriate to the risk presented.
- Protection: Support and representation for those in greatest need.
- Partnership: Local solutions through services working with their communities. Communities have a part to play in preventing, detecting and reporting neglect and abuse.
- Accountability: Accountability and transparency in safeguarding practice.

The Probation Service protects the public by working with offenders to reduce reoffending and harm. It works jointly with other public and voluntary services to identify, assess and manage the risk in the community of offenders who have the potential to do harm. We also have a remit to be involved with victims of serious sexual and other violent crimes. We share information and work with safeguarding adults boards, partners from other agencies including local authorities and health services and contribute to local MAPPA procedures to help reduce the reoffending behaviour of sexual and violent offenders, so as to protect the public and previous victims from serious harm. Although the focus of the Probation Service is on those who cause harm, it is also in a position to identify offenders who are themselves at risk from abuse and to take steps to reduce this risk in line with the principles of this policy and procedure.

In March 2023 His Majesty's Inspectorate of Probation published their findings for the North & North East Lincolnshire PDU. Whilst our overall rating of 'Requires Improvement' is of course disappointing the Chief Inspector has recognised the foundations we have put in place and the trajectory of the delivery of Probation Services in North & North East Lincolnshire. The team is focused on delivering the required improvements to our service and remain committed to continuing to work in strong partnership across North & North East Lincolnshire and Humberside.

*“Although we found numerous positive aspects to this PDU, including an impressive and dynamic leadership team, the overall quality of work to assess and manage people on probation against all five of our standards for casework was insufficient. This has result in an overall rating of ‘Requires improvement’.*

*There were strong strategic relationships in place in this PDU, where leaders were ensuring the voice and influence of probation was heard, contributing to innovative projects including an accommodation project for the Integrated Offender Management (IOM) cohort. Change management has been well delivered following the unification of local Community Rehabilitation Company (CRC) and National Probation Service (NPS) services in the summer of 2021 resulting in a unified culture across the PDU.*

*Despite high workloads, we found a committed and engaged staff group across all grades, who were all working towards the delivery of quality probation work. Unlike other recent PDU inspections, we found very experienced staff at all grades, which allowed newer recruits and staff in training ample opportunities to gain knowledge and skills from more experienced members of the team. Even under the challenging circumstances that the PDU is facing, we found a positive morale in many areas of the service.*

*However, despite impressive leadership, staffing and innovation in the PDU, this has not yet translated into the quality of practice. The ratings across the cases we inspected were disappointing, with court work scoring very low. Improvement is needed in the quality of work to assess and manage the risks that people on probation may present to the wider community. This was particularly poor in relation to assessment, where only 34 per cent of cases inspected had an assessment which effectively supported the safety of other people.*

*Although there were a number of positives with staffing, there were resourcing issues similar to other recent PDU inspections. These included gaps at administrative grade and at probation officer (PO) grade where the vacancy rate was 22 per cent. The PDU and the region have been proactive in attempting to remedy this, but it remains a critical issue and a national approach is needed to assist with the appropriate recruitment of staff.*

*North and North East Lincolnshire will be disappointed with the overall findings of this inspection, given their strong leadership and engaged staffing group. However, the PDU has much to be proud of, has strong foundations in place and, with a focus on the quality of casework, the PDU can continue on an upward trajectory”.*

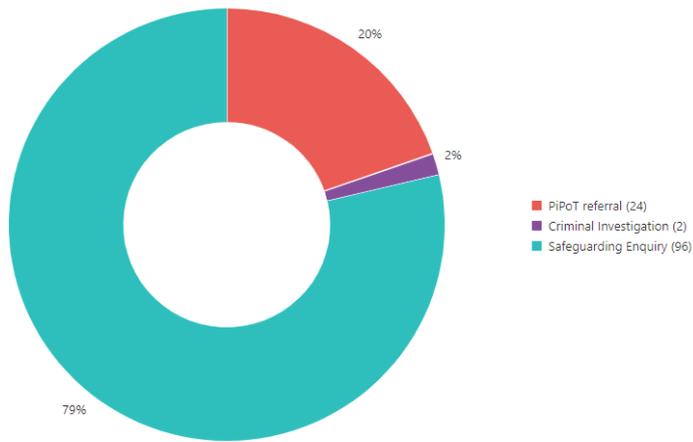
**Justin Russell**

**Chief Inspector of Probation**

Link to NPS: [Probation Service - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk)

#### 4.10 Designated Adult Safeguarding Manager

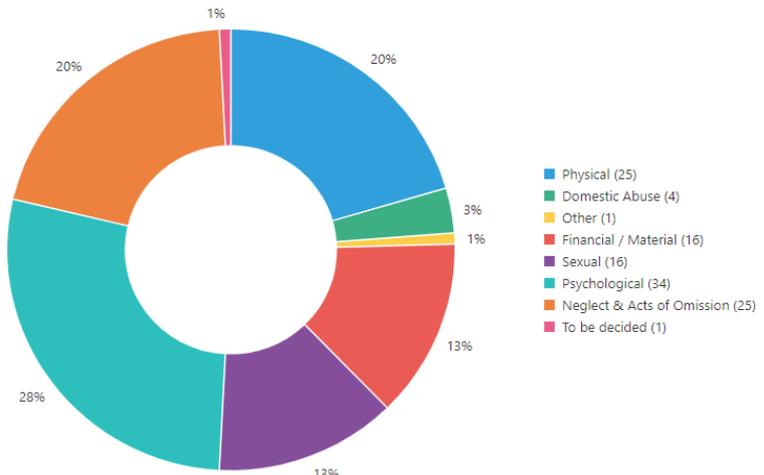
The Persons in a Position of Trust Protocol produced by the SAB oversees allegations against those working with adults at risk, ensuring they are effectively conducted and managed. During the reporting period April 2022 to March 2023 144 concerns were raised and 122 were closed.



**Of the 122 closed allegations:**  
 Safeguarding enquiries 96 (79%)  
 PiPoT referrals 24 (20%)  
 Criminal investigations 2 (1%)

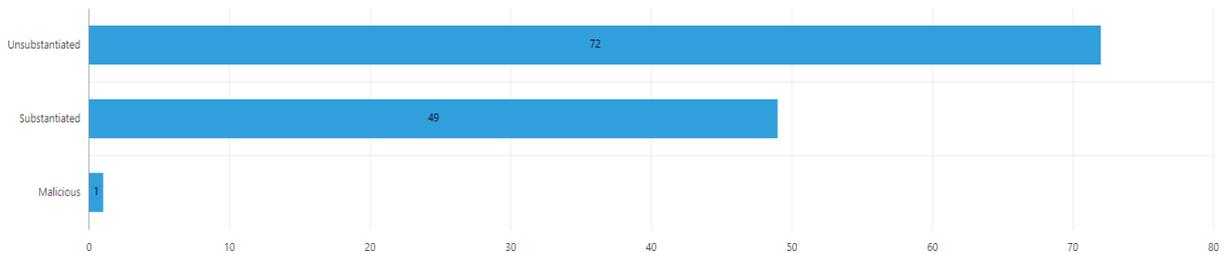
**Breakdown of type:**

Psychological	34	(28%)
Physical	25	(20%)
Neglect	25	(20%)
Sexual	18	(13%)
Financial/material	16	(13%)
Domestic Abuse	4	(3%)
Other	1	(1%)
To be decided	1	(1%)



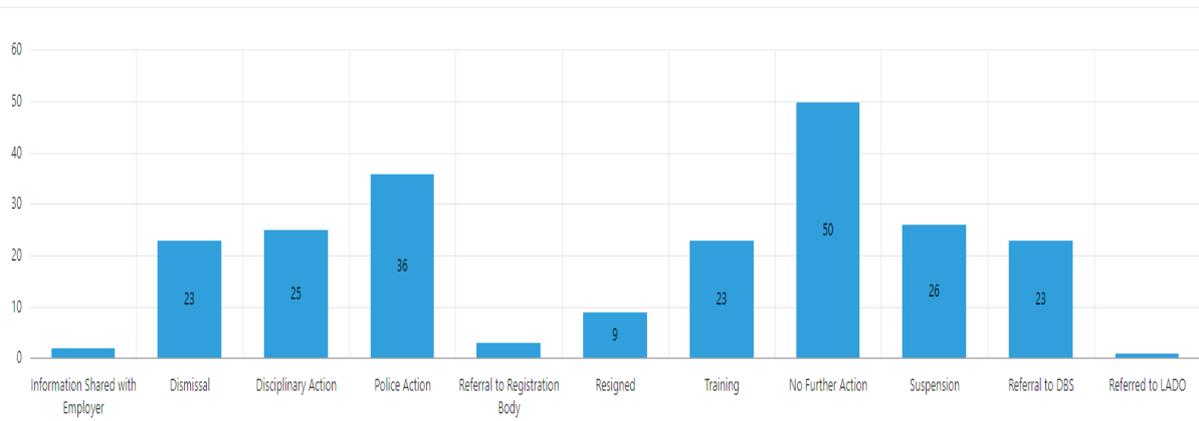
### Closure Codes

Closure Code



## Closure Actions

Closure Actions



## 5. Work group activity

Data from across the safeguarding partnership continues to be gathered and analysed on a quarterly basis for reporting to the SAB by Focus.

*See appendix B for details of performance data*

### 5.1 Domestic abuse

Reducing rates of domestic abuse remains a high priority in NEL across the partnership.

Work to tackle the prevalence of domestic abuse across the borough is underpinned by the Domestic Abuse Strategy 2021-24, focussed on the themes of Prevent, Protect & Provide and Pursue. Partnership activity is coordinated through the Domestic Abuse Operational Group (DAOG) and Delivery Plan, while the Domestic Abuse Strategic Board (DASB) provides strategic oversight. Partnership accountability is shared across the Tri-Board arrangements.

The local approach incorporates the requirements of the Domestic Abuse Act 2021 and associated new duties under Section 4 of the Act, requiring local authorities to provide support to victims of domestic abuse and their families in refuge and other safe accommodation.

A Local Area Needs Assessment has been completed, which identifies DA commissioning priorities based on its key findings. This was used to inform the Safer Accommodation Strategy 2022, designed to complement the wider DA Strategy.

#### **Achievements in 2022/23:**

- Funding for the Domestic Abuse Analyst and Communications, Marketing and Engagement Officer posts extended for 3 years, to contribute to the delivery of essential support to the DA programme.
- Agreement to a joint commissioning approach for domestic abuse service provision with commencement of commissioning activities and an anticipated contract award date of October 2023. The new arrangements aim to deliver new and enhanced services which will address many of the gaps identified through the Needs Assessment. It will also provide individuals seeking support for domestic abuse with more choice and control over the type of service they receive.
- Continued delivery of all existing domestic abuse support provision to ensure service delivery remains in place while commissioning activities are underway, including:
  - Refuge support for female victims (and their children) fleeing domestic abuse and outreach/floating support for all victims of domestic abuse
  - IDVA provision for high-risk victims of domestic abuse
  - A Complex Case Worker providing more intensive support for victims with multiple disadvantages.
- Target Hardening provision, available for domestic abuse victims needing improved/enhanced security carried out at their home address, remained in place. There are plans to expand this to full Sanctuary Scheme provision as part of current commissioning activities, which will enhance the current service offer.
- A 12-month pilot programme to support Children and Young People up to the age of 18 (25 if they have additional needs) experiencing domestic abuse within their own intimate relationships.
- Training for practitioners in Early Help to work safely with non-convicted perpetrators of domestic abuse and the wider family. This voluntary intervention is aimed at lower risk cases of domestic abuse, with a focus around early identification to prevent the risk escalating.

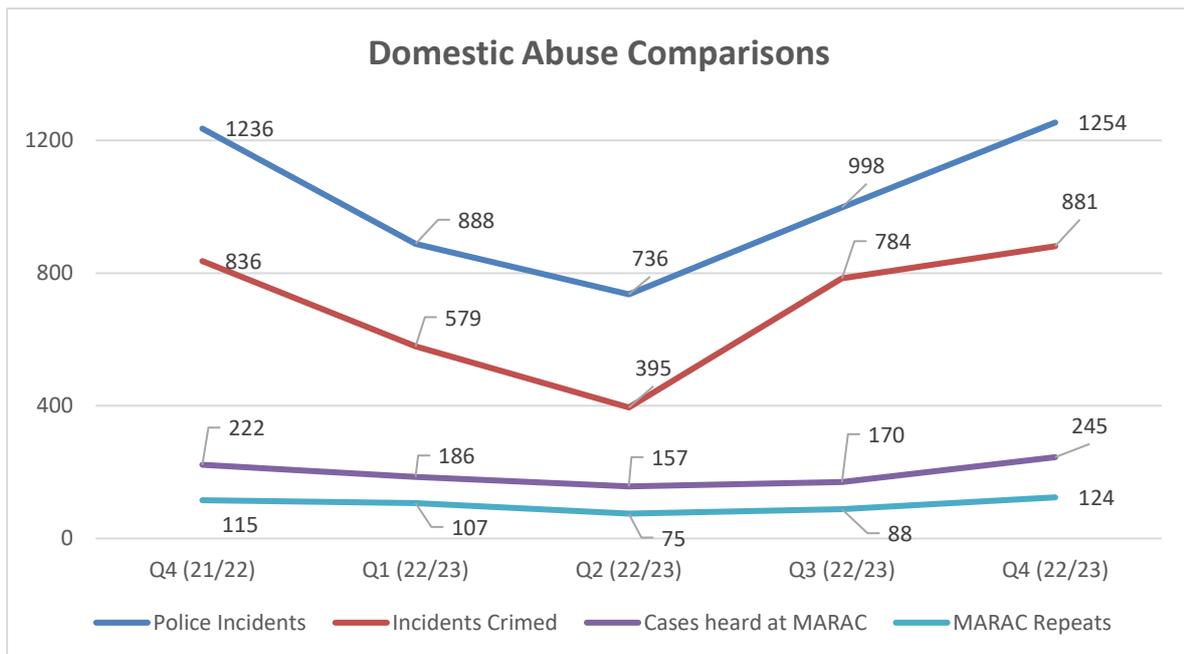
- Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) arrangements continued to ensure all necessary safety measures around high-risk victims and their families were in place. A total of 758 cases were heard at MARAC, a 5.6% (-45) decrease from the previous year.
- The multi-agency tasking and co-ordinating (MATAC) system continued to address the offending behaviour of convicted repeat/serial perpetrators of domestic abuse.
- Continued delivery of the Who's In Charge? Programme, supporting parents with a child/young person displaying abusive behaviour within the family home.

### **Performance Data**

Humberside recorded 3,876 incidents of domestic abuse in NEL during 2022/23, which is a significant decrease from the 5,056 incidents reported during the 2021/22. Of those incidents, 2,639 were designated as crimes (this represents 68% of all incidents, which is consistent with the 68.08% reported in 2021/22). However, it should be noted that Humberside Police moved to a new reporting system at the start of 2022/23 which may have impacted on the accuracy and reliability of data, particularly during the first two quarters. The Q4 22/23 data indicates that the full-year figures would have been similar, or potentially higher to previous years (1,254 incidents were reported in Q4 2022/23, slightly higher than the 1,236 recorded for Q4 2021/22). Therefore, these figures are not indicative of a dramatic decline in domestic abuse incidents being reported and the data will continue to be closely monitored.

The recording of the prevalence of domestic abuse is not straightforward. Not all victims will report to or be identified by the police, and it is generally accepted that the number of DA incidents is underreported as not all victims will report or be identified by the police.

It remains essential that effective strategies are in place and that service provision is enhanced to increase the impact and improve outcomes for victims of domestic abuse.



#### Blue Door Case Studies

IDVA undertook 1:1 (Freedom sessions) around Dominator and Persuader tactics and early warning signs. This enabled individual to reflect on abusers' behaviour. A further incident resulted in the abuser being arrested and a DVPO being granted. IDVA advocated for the client with the police in relation to moving the DVPO checks to the perpetrators address to reduce impact on children and this has now been done.

An Individual accessing the service was identified as having multiple needs. Individual had previously declined/disengaged with IDVA support. The IDVA felt that the individual was vulnerable and isolated, and the initial contact was therefore empathic based on "with" and not "to" which resulted in them opening up, being able to build her confidence/skills which was more sustainable moving forward. Positive outcomes achieved through supporting this individual include:

- Individual moved to a more affordable and secure location (unknown by the perpetrator).
- There has been no contact with the perpetrator.
- Mental health and confidence have improved.
- The individual has successfully gained employment.
- Individual can now spot signs of abuse and is assisting a friend to access support.

## 5.2 Exploitation Sub-Group

Humberside Police continued to chair the Exploitation Sub-Group throughout 2022/23, initially by DS Chris Calvert and latterly by DS Rhodri Troake. The Sub-Group met five times during 2022/23.

### **Achievements during 2022/23:**

- Consideration of the Transition Protocol for 17/18 year olds into adulthood.
- CSE/CCE training was provided to all police patrols and custody staff.
- Training on the Police Intelligence Form (PIF) was made available to any/all agencies.
- Level 2 Exploitation training was made available to any agency involved in safeguarding.
- 'Cuckooing' training was given to the VCSE Forum.
- A joint mapping exercise on training was undertaken to provide clear pathways.
- The Police Economic Crime Unit gave a presentation on 'Take A Stand Against Scams'.
- A presentation was given by the Police on the work of its newly established Vulnerability Hub.
- The Police NEL MDSHT Dashboard was shared with the Sub-Group and statistics explained.
- A presentation was given by the Police on Operation Wilberforce which focussed on modern slavery and exploitation across the Humber region.
- The Sub-Group's action plan was updated at all its meetings and revised priorities were considered following the refresh of the Safeguarding Adults Board's priorities.

### 5.3 Neglect Sub-Group

The Home Options Manager at North East Lincolnshire Council continued to chair the Neglect Sub-Group throughout 2022/23 which met three times during 2022/23.

#### **Achievements during 2022/23:**

- The S11 Audit Tool (self-assessment questionnaire) was considered and questions to consider hoarding and neglect were suggested.
- Humberside Fire & Rescue Service's database of 'hoarding properties' was shared with Navigo for cross-referencing.
- Hoarding Taskforce – "hoarding champions" were identified from agencies to hold MDTs for a quick response.
- NELC's Hoarding Protocol was shared across all agencies.
- Funding streams for hoarding were identified and shared across all agencies.
- NELC's Housing Assistance Policy was shared across all agencies.
- A Hospital Discharge Process for the Homeless has been established.
- A successful homeless funding bid of £1.8M has been used to establish two new housing/health champions to provide a rapid response and wrap-around service for homeless persons.
- A 'homeless hub' is being established at Harbour Place.
- An Assessment Protocol was drawn up for referrals to the Single Point of Access (SPA).
- A 7-minute briefing which focussed on self-neglect was shared across all agencies.
- The MCA Practice Guidance 'Adult Refusals of Care & Treatment' was shared across all agencies.
- Details of MCA training provided by Focus was shared across all agencies.
- The ORMM/HRP Protocols were shared across all agencies as quick reference guides.
- The 'Simply Connect' and 'Connect NEL' websites were shared across all agencies.
- The Sub-Group's action plan was updated at all its meetings and revised priorities were considered following the refresh of the Safeguarding Adults Board's priorities.

### 5.4 SAR, SILP and Good Practice Group

The Safeguarding Adult Referral/Significant Incident Learning Process and Good Practice (SAR/SILP & GP) group undertakes the statutory obligation of the SAB in reviewing cases which meet the threshold of a Safeguarding Adult Review (SAR).

The Care Act 2014 states that SABs must arrange a SAR when an adult in its area dies as a result of abuse or neglect, whether known or suspected, and there is concern that partner agencies could have worked together more effectively to protect the adult.

Any agency can make a SAR referral and the SAR/SILP & GP group is convened to consider if the criteria is met. Should a case not meet the criteria to undertake a SAR but it is felt that the case warrants

further scrutiny and there is potential learning to be sought, the group may choose to undertake a lower-level review. This allows a panel of multi-agency professionals to unpick a particular case and identify any particular areas of practice improvement and learning. This learning is then shared with partners and disseminated to frontline practitioners across NEL.

As with a number of reviews undertaken by the SAR/SILP & GP group, the key areas of learning remain:

- Understanding and application of the MCA
- Documentation
- Legal literacy
- Professional curiosity
- Information sharing and communication
- Escalation

The learning from these reviews is shared across the SAB sub-groups including the Neglect Sub-group and the MCA Sub-group to influence and inform their workstreams. The learning is also shared across partner organisations to ensure it is captured within any in-house training, supervision and practice development processes. The 7-minute briefing which is developed following any review is also shared across all partner agencies for further dissemination. The Chair of the SAR/SILP & GP group also shares any completed cases with colleagues across the 6 ICS places for wider dissemination.

As some key learning points mirror those highlighted through Safeguarding Children Practice Reviews, Line of Sight reviews and Domestic Homicide Reviews, these have been highlighted to the Safeguarding Boards and Partnerships to try and address these practice challenges together.

From April 2022 to March 2023, the SAR/SiLP & GP Group received seven referrals:

- Two of these did not meet the criteria for a SAR.
- Three are awaiting the outcome of a review by a different agency.
- Two are ongoing SARs by independent authors.

The 7 minute briefings and completed reviews can be found at [SaferNEL | Adult Safeguarding review and audits - SaferNEL](#)

## 5.5 Provider Forum

Quarterly newsletters were circulated to providers and posted on the SaferNEL website throughout 2022-23:

[SaferNEL | Safeguarding adults](#)

The forum continues to contribute to the development and implementation of the work of the SAB, and facilitates the dissemination of SAB protocols and guidance such as the Person in a Position of

Trust (PiPoT) process, and provides updates on legislation such as the Mental Capacity Act (MCA), the Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards (DoLS) and the new Liberty Protection Safeguards (LPS). 7-minute briefings produced as an outcome from safeguarding adults reviews are also circulated to providers via the newsletters, as are training opportunities provided by Focus adult social care.

## **5.6 Mental Capacity Act (MCA) / Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards (DoLS) group**

The MCA Group, as a subgroup of the SAB, continues to oversee, co-ordinate, monitor and drive forward the awareness, understanding, compliance and implementation of the Mental Capacity Act 2005 (MCA).

The core of the Group's activity is to enhance MCA practice, and in turn to improve the way in which individuals are supported. Such improvements are also intended to decrease the number of safeguarding concerns, reviews and other serious incidents with a flawed MCA element.

Last year, the Group was focused on preparation for the Liberty Protection Safeguards (LPS), scheduled to replace the Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards (DoLS) and parallel court processes. The Group held a range of events to secure input from colleagues across health and care into the consultation on a revised MCA Code of Practice, which included the introduction of LPS. A submission was made to the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) consultation on behalf of North East Lincolnshire Place.

No response to any submissions was received, excepting that in April 2023, the DHSC announced its intention to "delay the implementation of the Liberty Protection Safeguards beyond the life of this Parliament".

In respect of MCA practice, the Group's activities over the last year included:

- Delivery of a programme of MCA related events, including a new MCA Philosophy and Practice series, comprising one hour 'lunch and learn' style sessions delivered by a leading national MCA practitioner. These sessions are designed to support access to learning for staff who may struggle to find time to attend lengthier events. The MCA annual update event was delivered by a leading Barrister, Ian Brownhill of 39 Essex Chambers. It focused on working with those whose vulnerability is compounded by mental incapacity. All sessions/ events were well received by staff.
- Revision of the Best Interest Assessors (BIA) Competencies Framework. BIAs are highly trained professionals specialising in matters relating to deprivation of liberty. The Framework governing local expectations of BIAs has been refreshed, and in tandem with that, an Operational Handbook is in development which offers guidance specific to deprivation of liberty.
- Completion of a majority of the actions arising from the recommendations which resulted from the MCA training review across health and care. Some recommendations such as mechanisms to support staff to embed their learning after training, and the resourcing of a communications plan, are still in development.

Taken together, these activities are intended to raise MCA proficiency and make best use of resources. Enhanced proficiency and resource maximisation are intended to ensure provision of the best care for those for whom NEL is responsible, within the available budget.

## 5.7 Prevent/Channel

Prevent and Channel form part of the Government's CONTEST Strategy. It aims to safeguard and support those vulnerable to radicalisation in order to prevent them being drawn into terrorism. Prevent exists in the pre-criminal space and uses early intervention to support vulnerable individuals susceptible to radicalisation. The North East Lincolnshire Prevent, Protect & Prepare Strategy builds on previous work of engaging with communities and local stakeholders, acknowledging that cohesive and empowered communities are better equipped to reject extremist ideologies.

A multi-agency Prevent Partnership Board co-ordinated by the local authority continues to oversee the delivery of the Prevent element of the Strategy. Wider oversight and support continue to be provided by Humberside Police and Regional Counter Terrorism Advisors. An annual Counter Terrorism Local Profile (CTLP) provides an assessment of national, regional and local risk with any recommendations incorporated into the local delivery plan. A Protect & Prepare Group has also been established to consider other strands of the Government's CONTEST strategy.

### **The local strategy focuses on the following objectives:**

1. Governance and leadership
2. Raising awareness
3. Challenging the ideology
4. Supporting and protecting vulnerable individuals
5. Ensuring effective partnerships
6. To provide a joined-up approach
7. To enhance and support protective security

### **What we achieved from April 2022-March 2023:**

- Undertaken an assurance exercise against the 10 national benchmarks as part of the Annual Home Office assessment review.
- Reviewed our Channel arrangements as part of the Home Office Annual Assurance process.
- Hosted our Second Prevent Conference which included presentations from regional Prevent and Counter Terrorism representatives, Educate Against Hate and two Intervention Providers.
- Continued a programme of online communication campaigns including awareness raising around the dangers of on-line radicalisation and part two of our "Tom" campaign which focused on a young man who was being drawn into radicalisation and the impact this was having on those close to him.
- Successfully applied and received Home Office funding to roll out several training events to raise awareness of the dangers of young people being drawn into online radicalisation. This was delivered to both practitioners and parents/carers.
- Further increased the number of Prevent Champions who act as a point of contact and a conduit to share information within their organisation.
- Established A Protect & Prepare Group to consider wider duties contained within the Government's CONTEST strategy.

### **What difference we made:**

- The Home Office assessment feedback identified that overall NEL is exceeding the requirements of the Prevent Duty in most areas. Areas for improvement have been incorporated into the 2023/24 delivery plan.
- The Home Office Channel review provided assurance that NEL was compliant in all areas. Channel continues to be scheduled on a monthly basis to support vulnerable individuals.
- The Local Prevent Conference was attended by over 200 delegates and received positive feedback. The conference enabled wider awareness raising of the Prevent agenda and

information around our local response. A third annual conference is planned for September 2023.

- The online communications programme had a significant reach of 190,000 with 10,500 engagements.
- In total over 300 practitioners, parents/carers attended the online radicalisation training.
- There is now a total of 74 Prevent Champions across a range of agencies.
- The Protect & Prepare Group has assessed five geographical zones across NEL and undertaken *Days of Action* in each area to raise awareness of the Government's *Run Hide Tell* message, the *Protect UK* website and the *ACT e-learning* platform. In total 350 businesses were visited and provided with information. Wider face-to-face training was also attended by 95 people.

## 5.8 Modern Slavery

The North East Lincolnshire Modern Slavery Partnership has been established to prevent and disrupt modern slavery and human trafficking, and engage with communities, other agencies and local businesses to raise awareness. Someone is in slavery if they are forced to work through mental or physical threat; owned or controlled by an 'employer' usually through mental or physical abuse or the threat of abuse; dehumanised, treated as a commodity or bought and sold as 'property'; or are physically constrained or have restrictions placed on their freedom.

The Strategy centres around Pursue, Prevent, Protect & Prepare and has the following focus:

- Governance and leadership
- Community awareness raising and engagement
- Effective communications
- Training and development of our combined workforce
- Greater intelligence gathering to enable disruption and enforcement activity
- Strengthening safeguards and support.

### **What we achieved from April 2022-March 2023:**

- The multi-agency Modern Slavery Operational group took part in Operation Aidant which is co-ordinated by the National Crime Agency and undertakes activity over the year to tackle and raise awareness around Modern Slavery.
- Online communication campaigns were undertaken to raise awareness of exploitation taking place at nail bars and car washes. Wider awareness raising was undertaken around sexual exploitation.
- Two events were held for our Modern Slavery Champions.
- Children Services continued to develop the local National Referral Mechanism (NRM) process for young people.

### **What difference this made:**

- As part of Operation Aidant, the Operational group visited local car washes providing advice around employment rights which helped to raise awareness that local agencies will act upon intelligence and undertake enforcement activity where necessary. In addition, there was also a focus on sexual exploitation, with visits to properties of concern in partnership with local sexual health outreach workers. The visits enabled safeguarding and trust building to take place and details were given regarding sexual health services locally and where to go for additional support.

- The online communications campaigns continued to be received positively. It had an online reach of over 220,000 with over 13,500 engagements.
- The Modern Slavery Champions events were received positively with a focus around the Modern Slavery Helpline, mental health support, victim support, and the Gangmasters and Labour Abuse Authority. There are currently around 40 modern slavery champions across a range of agencies.
- The local Child NRM Panel continued to receive referrals and made a number of conclusive grounds decisions enabling swifter support for children.

**Statistics**

- From April 2022 – March 2023 there were 22 intelligence submissions for North East Lincolnshire.
- From April 2022- March 2023 there were 41 offences/investigations recorded in North East Lincolnshire.
- There was a total of 33 National Referral Mechanism (NRM) referrals between April 2022 and March 2023.

## 6. The year ahead

During the next year we will continue to work closely with the NEL SCP and the CSP to embed the principle that “safeguarding is everyone’s business”, and ensure we have a collaborative and joined up approach to managing the safeguarding network and the partnership response .

We will embed the new priorities and executive members that have joined the partnership and apply appropriate challenge and scrutiny to each other to ensure we are all delivering what is expected by our communities and through legislation. We will work to increase the visibility of the partnership and our contact with our communities make safeguarding personal.

Finally, and perhaps most importantly, we will continue to endeavour to reach out to all adults at risk of abuse or neglect and in doing so, take steps to ensure that their voices are heard, and they not only feel safe but are safe and able to access the right services at the right time to protect them and minimise and prevent harm

We will do this by:

- Demonstrating and sharing our commitment to ensuring that ‘*safeguarding is everybody’s business*’ - with our internal and external partners and the wider community.
- Establishing a culture that recognises and does not tolerate abuse of any form.
- Educating professionals and the public on how to spot the signs of abuse and how to do something about it.
- Work in ways that enable adults at risk of abuse and neglect to make their own decisions and choices, and encourage others to do the same.
- Ensure the voices of adults at risk of abuse or neglect, and their carers, are heard and acted upon.
- Strive to provide the victims of abuse or neglect with the outcomes they want, and those that are right for them as individuals.
- When abuse happens, provide support to those affected to:
  - stop the abuse occurring or continuing;
  - ensure that perpetrators are dealt with appropriately and swiftly;
  - ensure services are accessible for those most vulnerable at the time they are needed; and
  - share learning and solutions from all resolved issues across the whole of NEL so people can feel safe and be safe..

The partnership will continue to work and deliver the best it can for our communities and build on the success of the last year

## 7. Appendices

### Appendix A – SAB structure and membership

NELSAB



Strategic Plan 2022-2025

**North East Lincolnshire Safeguarding Adults Board**  
*"All people in NEL feel safe and are safe"*

November 2021



The SAB will co-ordinate and ensure effectiveness of safeguarding arrangements, providing direction and support

The SAB will seek assurance of safeguarding arrangements through scrutiny and professional challenge

The SAB will champion the ethos that *'safeguarding is everyone's business'* ensuring the person is always at the centre of what we do, *'Making Safeguarding Personal'*

The SAB has agreed three thematic priorities for the next three years; however, they have found common themes that underpin elements within all three priorities and addressing these will be central in our approach:

- Lack of Professional Curiosity – the failure of professionals to identify safeguarding issues or challenge others
- Considering the presence and impact of the *'toxic trio'* of domestic abuse, mental ill-health and substance abuse
- Professional and public awareness and communication of safeguarding issues

#### Neglect

We will:

- Embed the self-neglect protocol in practice, reviewing and developing it as required
- Raise awareness of the high-risk protocol and support the use of high-risk panels by agencies to ensure a multi-agency approach to this area of safeguarding
- Ensure effective collaboration between adult and children safeguarding services to ensure a whole family approach is taken
- Raise awareness of capacity in cases of self-neglect ensuring professionals are legally literate and fully conversant with the Mental Capacity Act

#### Domestic Abuse

We will:

- Provide support and critical challenge to ensure the implementation and delivery of the 'One System Approach' to domestic abuse
- Scrutinise the data to oversee the effectiveness of agencies response to domestic abuse and provide direction and guidance
- Collaborate with the conduct of Domestic Homicide Reviews within the Safeguarding Adult Review process
- Ensure effective collaboration between adult and children safeguarding services to ensure a whole family approach is taken

#### Exploitation

We will:

- Provide support and critical challenge to ensure the implementation and delivery of the Modern Slavery and Children Criminal Exploitation Strategies
- Scrutinise the data to oversee the effectiveness of agencies' response to property deprivation and homelessness, and provide direction and guidance to those agencies as required
- Develop or produce protocols and guidance to ensure practice improvement when dealing with victims of exploitation
- Support campaigns to raise awareness of exploitation

## NEL Safeguarding Adults Board



### 2022-23 Executive membership:

**Jan HAXBY:** Board Chair and Director of Quality, North East Lincolnshire Clinical Commissioning Group (NELCCG)

**Simon GALCZYNSKI (Interim) / Katie BROWN:** Director of Adult Social Services, North East Lincolnshire Council (NELC)

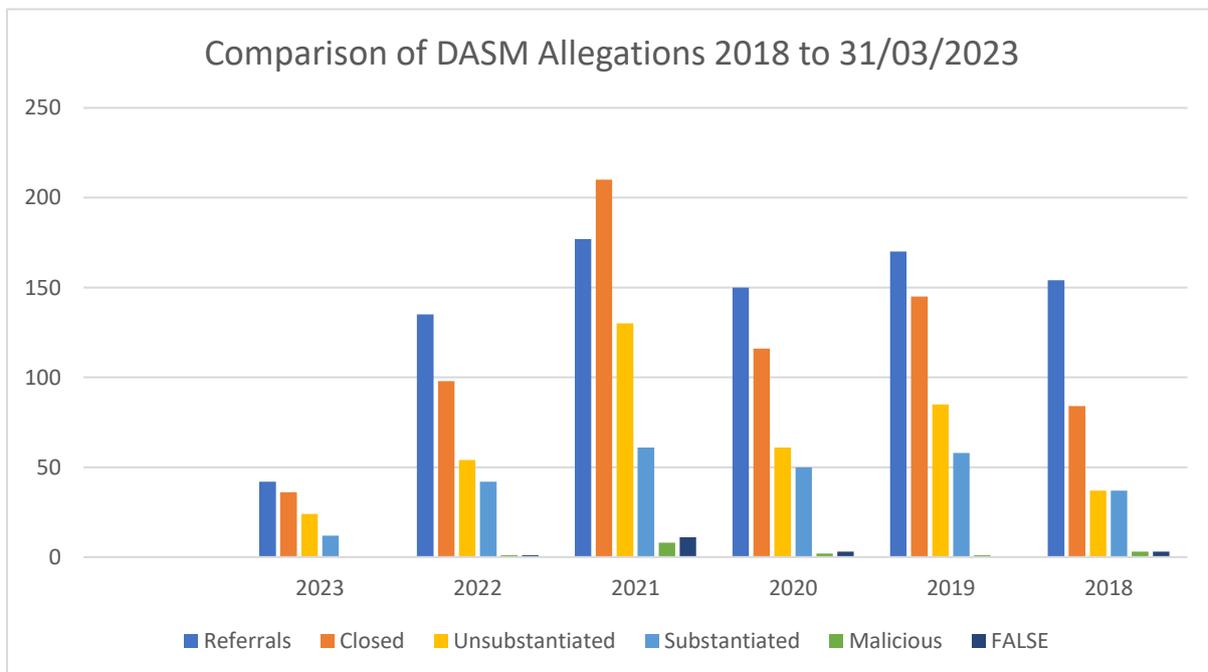
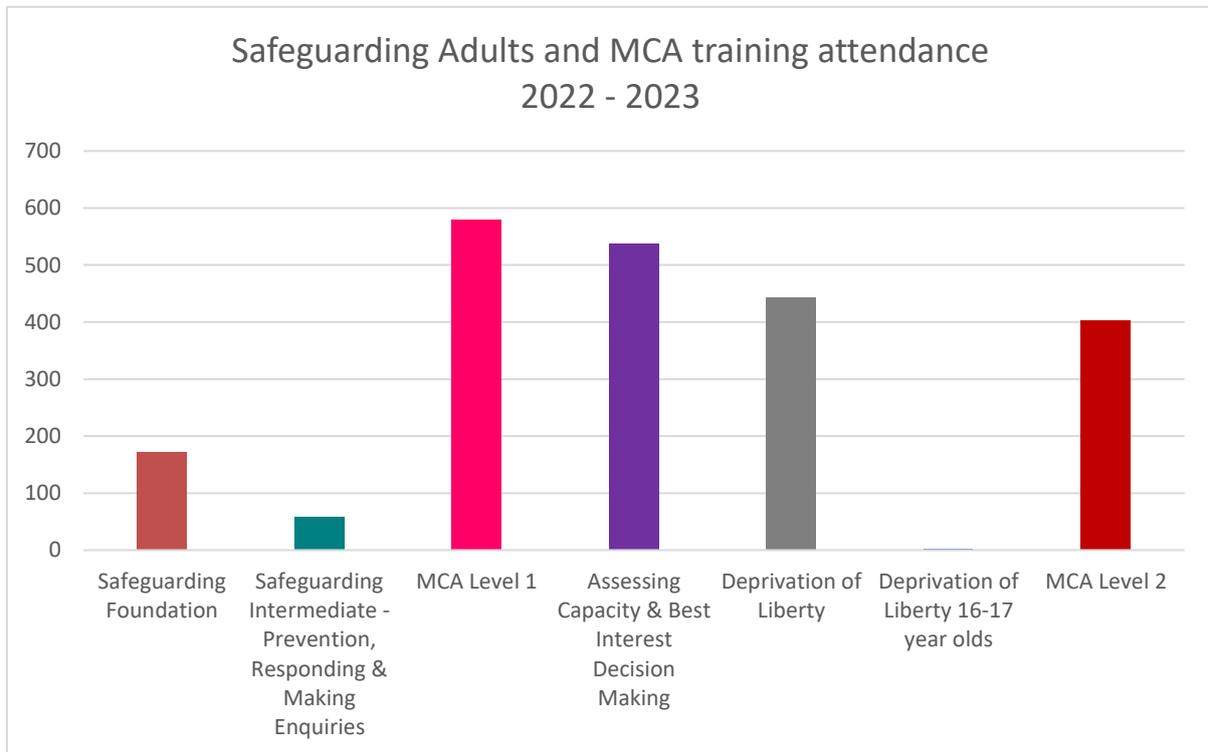
**Chief Superintendent Matthew PEACH:** Divisional Commander, Humberside Police

**Cllr Stanley SHREEVE:** Portfolio Holder for Health, Wellbeing and Adult Social Care, NELC

**Joe WARNER:** Chief Executive, Focus Independent Social Work Practice

**Stewart WATSON:** NELSAB Business Manager, NELC

## Appendix B – performance data



## 8. Glossary of abbreviations

ADASS = Association of Directors of Adult Social Services  
BIA = best interest assessors  
CIC = Community Interest Company  
CCE = child criminal exploitation  
CoP = Court of Protection  
CQC = Care Quality Commission  
CSE = child sexual exploitation  
CSP = Community Safety Partnership  
CTLP = counter-terrorism local profile  
DA = domestic abuse  
DAOG = Domestic Abuse Operational Group  
DASB = Domestic Abuse Strategic Board  
DASM = Designated Adult Safeguarding Manager  
DASS = Director of Adult Social Services  
DASIT – Domestic Abuse & Safeguarding Investigation Teams  
DHR = domestic homicide review  
DoL = deprivation of liberty  
DoLS = deprivation of liberty safeguards  
HWNEL = Health Watch North East Lincolnshire  
H&NYICB = Humber & North Yorkshire Integrated Care Board  
ICB = Integrated Care Board  
ICS = Integrated Care System  
IDVA = independent domestic violence advocate  
IMCA = independent mental capacity advocate  
LA = local authority  
LeDeR = learning disability mortality review  
LPS = liberty protection safeguards  
MACE = multi-agency child exploitation  
MAPPAs = multi-agency public protection arrangements  
MARAC = multi-agency risk assessment conference  
MATAC = multi-agency tasking and co-ordination  
MCA = Mental Capacity Act  
MSP = making safeguarding personal  
NEL = North East Lincolnshire  
NELC = North East Lincolnshire Council  
NELSAB = North East Lincolnshire Safeguarding Adults Board  
NLaG = Northern Lincolnshire and Goole NHS Foundation Trust  
NPS = National Probation Service  
NRM = national referral mechanism  
NST = Navigo Safeguarding Team  
PDU = Probation Delivery Unit  
PiPoT = person in position of trust  
PVP = protecting vulnerable people  
SAB = Safeguarding Adults Board  
SAR = safeguarding adult review

SAR, SLIP and GP group = Safeguarding Adult Referral, Significant Incident Learning Process and Good Practice Group

SAT = Safeguarding Adults Team

SCP = Safeguarding Children Partnership

SGU – Safeguarding Governance Unit

SPA = Single Point of Access

SPOC = Single Point of Contact

VCSE = voluntary and community sector

VOB = Vulnerabilites Oversight Board

YMM = Young Minds Matter