

Safeguarding Adults

NORTH EAST LINCOLNSHIRE

North East Lincolnshire

Safeguarding Adults Board

Annual Report

2023/2024

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Foreword from the Chair

As Chair of the **North East Lincolnshire Safeguarding Adults Board (NELSAB)**, I am delighted to introduce our annual report for this year, highlighting our ongoing commitment to Safeguarding Adults at Risk from Neglect and Abuse and promoting the principle that *all people in North East Lincolnshire feel safe and are safe*.



The NELSAB is a statutory partnership and plays a crucial role in coordinating local safeguarding arrangements, ensuring they are effective within our community.

By fostering strong collaboration between North East Lincolnshire Council, Humberside Police, local health services and a wide range of partner organisations, we continue to deliver our collective responsibilities under the Care Act 2014, the Mental Capacity Act 2005, and the Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards.

This year, we have focused on ensuring that safeguarding remains both proactive and responsive to the risks, while also being bespoke to the needs of individuals.

Through the application of the *Making Safeguarding Personal* approach, as a partnership we are committed to ensuring that individuals are at the heart of our decision-making, and that their voice is heard.

The dedication and experience of our multi-agency partners is key to the success of any safeguarding activity. From implementing robust safeguarding procedures to championing diversity and inclusion, the NELSAB continues to adapt to emerging challenges.

I extend my sincere thanks to all those professionals and members of our community who continue to contribute to the NELSAB's work, particularly our sub-groups. Your collective efforts ensure that safeguarding remains at the forefront of our priorities.

As we look to the future, the NELSAB will continue to evolve, driving forward our key principles whilst also bringing to life a culture of learning and improvement in all we do.

Together, we remain committed to ensuring that North East Lincolnshire is a place where safeguarding truly is everyone's business.

Thank you.

Paul French

Chief Superintendent - Humberside Police

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

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.

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).

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 are currently above the national trends.

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

North East Lincolnshire Safeguarding Adults Board (NELSAB)

The Care Act 2014 (section 43) makes a safeguarding adults board (SAB) a statutory requirement. SABs are a partnership of organisations in the local area who work together to safeguard people with care and support needs from abuse and harm.

NELSAB leads work to make sure that all agencies, and individuals, do everything they can to prevent abuse from occurring in the first place, to respond quickly when abuse and neglect have happened, and to ensure that safeguarding practice continues to improve the quality of life of adults in NEL.

By law, the board must have three members which are: North East Lincolnshire Council, Humberside Police and the Humber & North Yorkshire Health and Care Partnership. Together with the Portfolio Holder for Health, Wellbeing and Adult Social Care, the three statutory members make up the SAB Executive; however, to work most effectively we also have a wider range of partners as members:

(Chair) Chief Superintendent Director of Adult Social Services Place Nurse Director Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Health, Wellbeing and Adult Social Care Chief Executive Officer Chief Operating Officer Deputy Chief Executive Delivery Manager Head of North and North East Head of Safeguarding Divisional Senior Manager	Humberside Police NELC Integrated Care Board (ICB) NELC Focus CIC NAVIGO Care Plus Group (CPG) Healthwatch National Probation Service Humber Health Partnership East Midlands Ambulance Service (EMAS) Humberside Fire and Rescue Service (HFRS) NELC ICB ICB Cloverleaf Advocacy Foresight Alzheimer's Society Nurtrio Lincolnshire Quality Care Services
Prevention & Development Manager	
Homeless Lead Named GP for Safeguarding Designated Nurse for Safeguarding Regional Manager Voluntary Sector Local Services Manager Providers	

Four work groups sit below the SAB made up of members of the SAB and their organisations. These are:

Safeguarding Adult Review,
Significant Incident Learning Process
and Good Practice Group

Chaired by the ICB

Adults at Risk Group

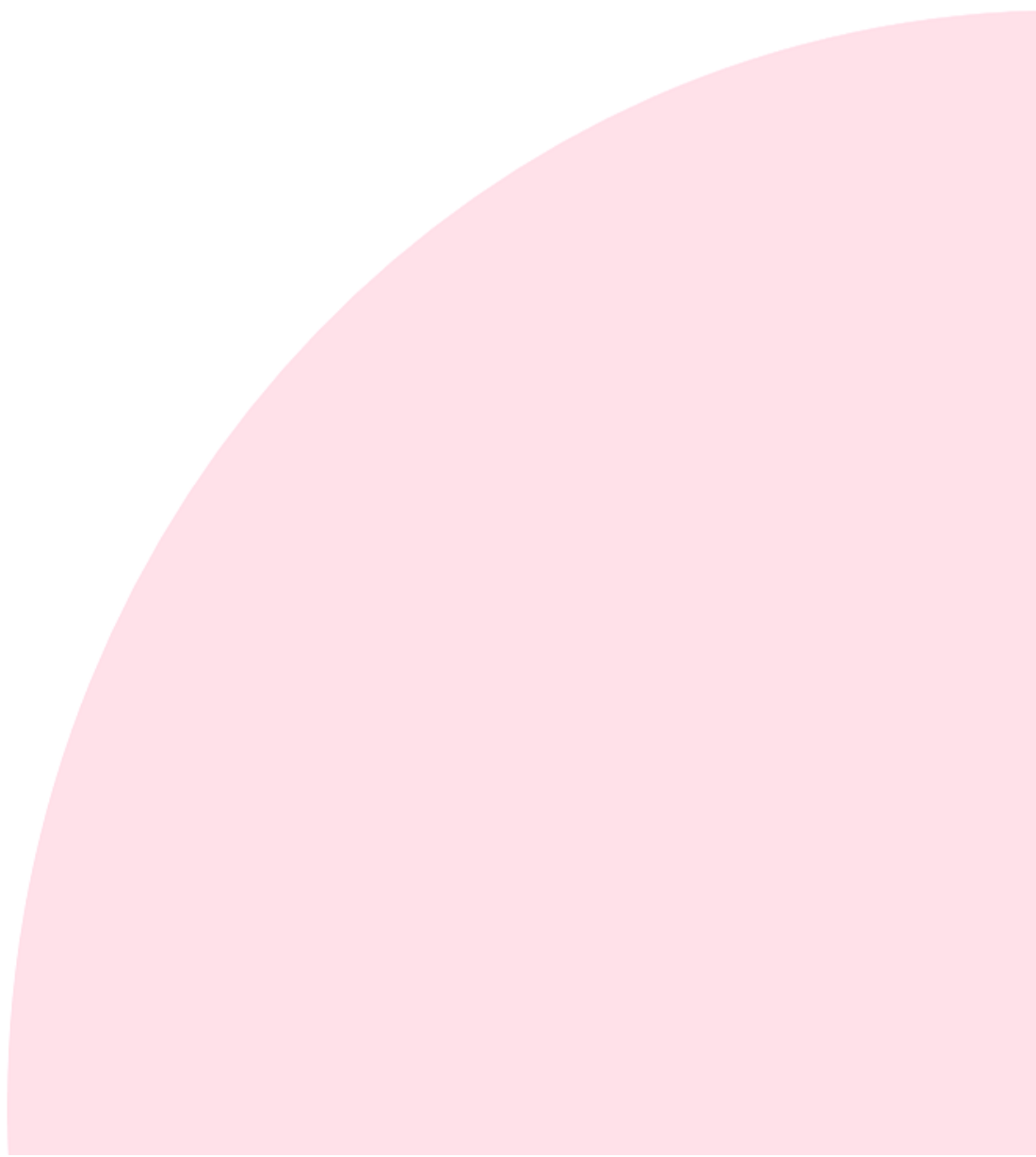
Chaired by NELC

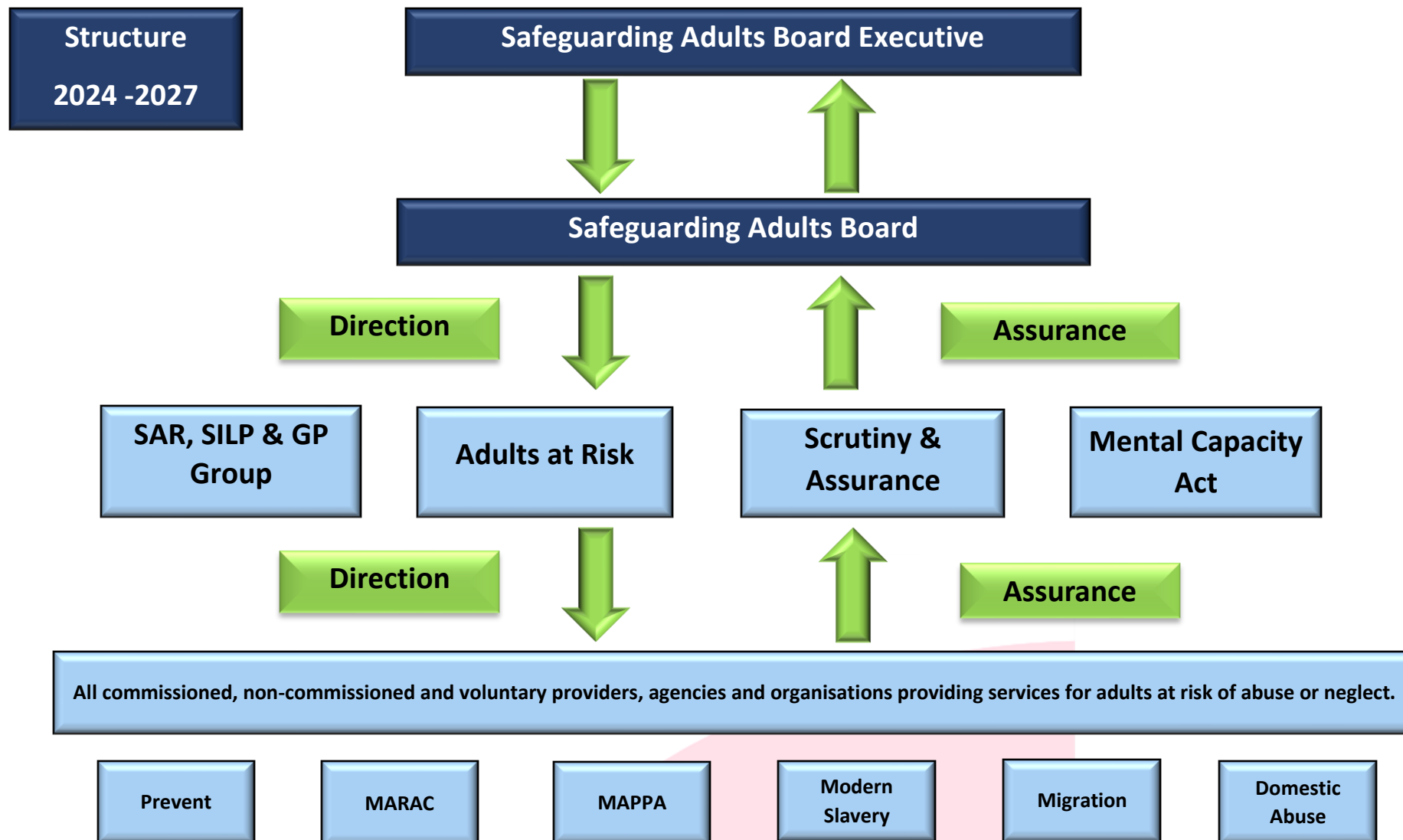
Scrutiny and Assurance Group
Police

Chaired by Humberside

Mental Capacity Act Group

Chaired by the ICB





‘The SAB has a strategic role that is greater than the sum of the operational duties of the core partners.’

Sec 14.134 Care and Support-Statutory Guidance 2024

Our board has three core duties under the Care Act:

- We must develop and publish a strategic plan setting out how we will meet our objectives and what the board members and our partner agencies will do to support this.
- We must make sure that Safeguarding Adults Reviews take place for any cases which meet the criteria under section 44 of the Care Act.
- We must publish an annual report showing that we have done and what we should be doing.

What is safeguarding?

‘Safeguarding means protecting an adult’s right to live in safety, free from abuse and neglect. It is about people and organisations working together to prevent and stop both the risks and experience of abuse or neglect, while at the same time making sure that the adult’s wellbeing is promoted including, where appropriate, having regard to their views, wishes, feelings and beliefs in deciding on any action. This must recognise that adults sometimes have complex interpersonal relationships and may be ambivalent, unclear or unrealistic about their personal circumstances.’ *Sec 14.7 Care and Support-Statutory Guidance 2024*

We are committed to the principles of Making Safeguarding Personal: listening to what the adult or their representative want to happen and ensuring the most appropriate support is available which enhances involvement, choice and control as well as improving their quality of life, wellbeing and safety. We will follow the six principles of safeguarding:

- 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

We must develop and publish a strategic plan setting out how we will meet our objectives and what the board members and our partner agencies will do to support this:

This year we created a new strategic plan which clearly shows what we expect from organisations and ourselves and how we will achieve this. See *appendix A*

We must make sure that Safeguarding Adults Reviews take place for any cases which meet the criteria under section 44 of the Care Act:

The Safeguarding Adult Review/Significant Incident Learning Process and Good Practice Group leads on the statutory duty to complete Safeguarding Adult Reviews (SARs) on behalf of the SAB when an adult has died or experienced significant harm as defined by the criteria within the Care Act 2014. The Group meets on a bi-monthly basis (panel meetings are held in addition to this for individual cases as required), and provides a bi-monthly update report to the SAB.

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 referral, and all referrals received are discussed within the subsequent Group, (urgent referrals are discussed prior to this if required). The Group reviews each referral and considers in each case whether it meets the threshold for a SAR to be completed. At times, there may be learning identified for one agency and in these cases a single agency review will be recommended. Lower-level reviews which do not meet the threshold for a SAR can also be considered if the Group feels there is potential learning to be identified and shared across the system.

Between 01.04.2023 and 31.03.2024 the SAR Group received 9 referrals:

- 5 of these did not meet the criteria for a SAR.

4 cases were deemed to meet the criteria for a review, and of these:

- 3 were agreed to be completed via single agency learning process.
- 1 was agreed to be completed via the Significant Incident Learning Process (SILP).

During this period one SAR was completed by a commissioned independent author which had been initiated outside of the reporting year.

During the reporting year a thematic review was conducted of all the SAR's completed to date which identified key themes.

These were:

- Understanding and application of the Mental Capacity Act;
- Information sharing and escalation;
- Working with people who self-neglect and refuse medical care and intervention; and
- Professional curiosity.

Key learning from SARs is shared across partner organisations via 7-minute briefings, and across the wider footprint of the Integrated Care Board (ICB) for wider learning. Learning feeds into work undertaken by the other sub-groups.

As a direct result of the learning from the SAR's an event is due to be held in November to cascade this learning to agencies and providers.

In 2024-2025 the SAR Group will be reviewing its terms of reference, developing a joint master action plan for all open SARs/reviews, and strengthening links with other key sub-groups to enhance the governance process.

We must publish an annual report showing that we have done and what we should be doing

We have reviewed and published our multi-agency policies and procedures which we expect all commissioned and non-commissioned services to follow.

We completed an audit of practice across agencies jointly with children's services and followed this with a challenge event where we invited agencies to attend and be questioned on the findings of the audit. We were assured that safeguarding practice is good, and policy is being followed.

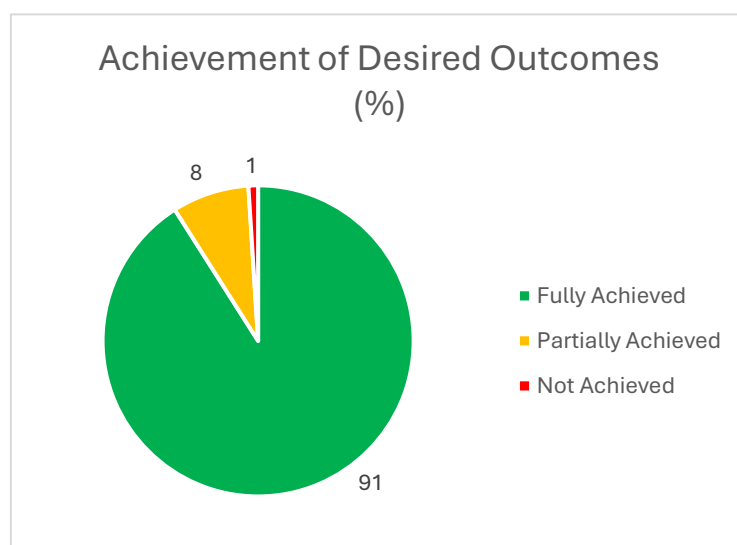
We completed an in-depth review of safeguarding reporting and enquires

The Safeguarding Adults Team at Focus comprises of a practitioner group, and a business team. The Safeguarding Adults Practitioners undertake safeguarding adults enquiries on behalf of NELC to fulfil their statutory requirements under Section 42 of the Care Act 2014.

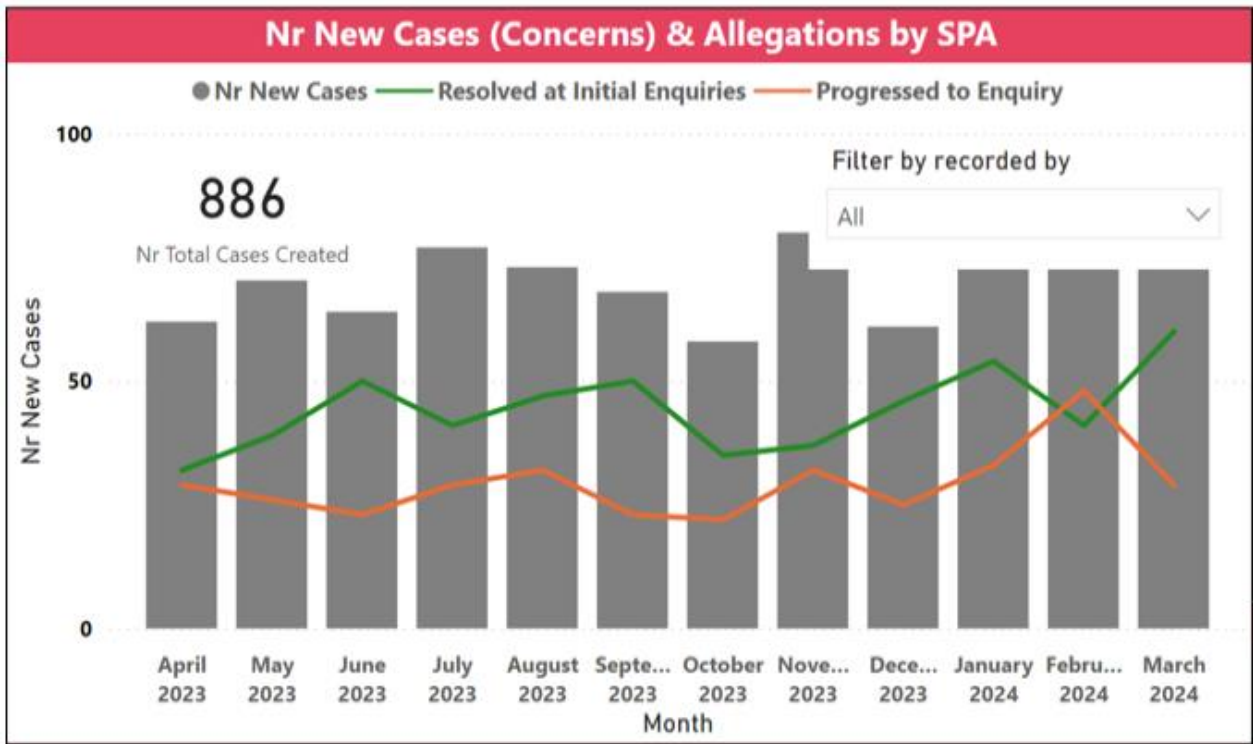
The team is made up of a number of social workers, nurses, and case co-ordinators, who work with individuals to support them to manage the risks in their lives in a way that works for them. This is known as 'Making Safeguarding Personal' and underpins all safeguarding interventions.

There are some exceptions to this approach, and these may be in circumstances where actions may need to be taken due to there being evidence that a crime has been committed, or where others may be at risk, such as children, or other individuals with care and support needs.

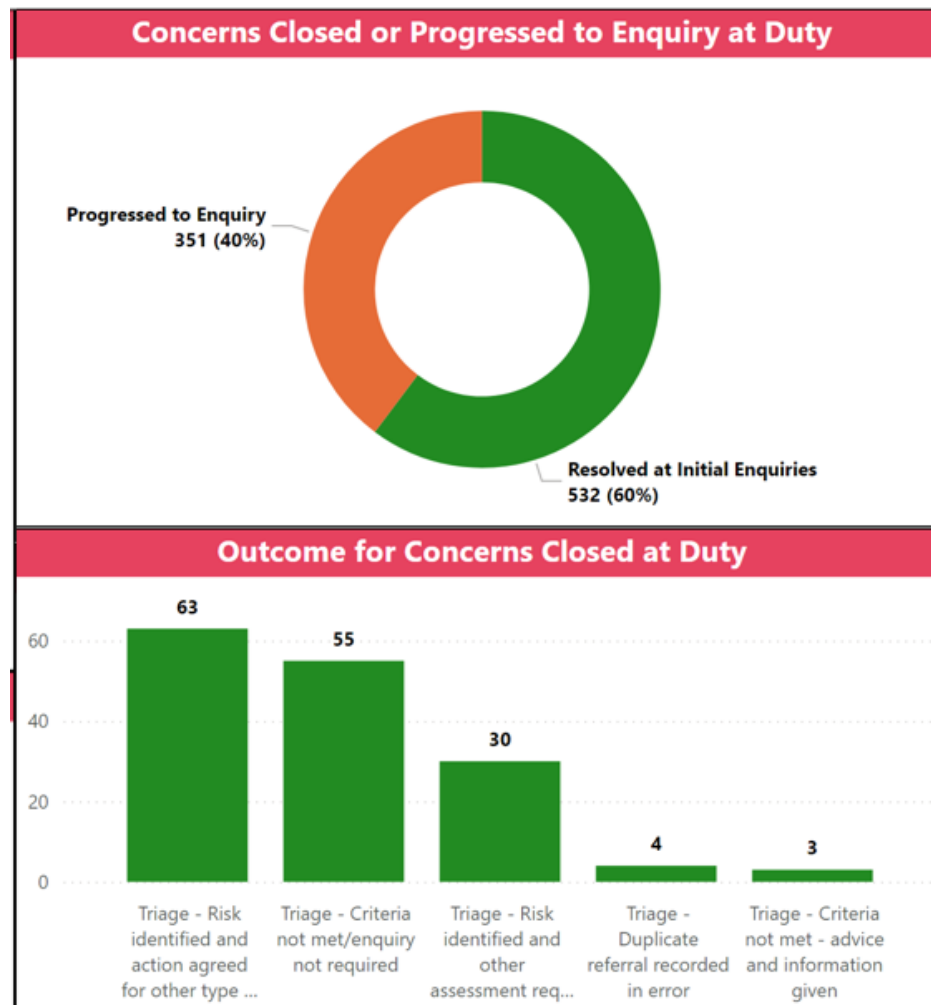
In this reporting year, where individuals were able to express their desired outcomes, these were fully achieved in 91% of the cases, and partially achieved in 88% of the remaining cases.



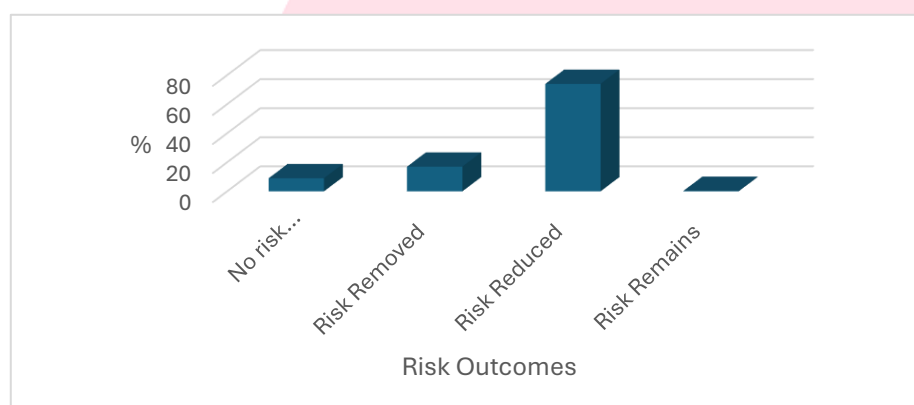
Throughout the year the Safeguarding Adults Team responded to 886 safeguarding concerns – see below:



Of these, 532 were resolved at the triage stage by the offer of advice or signposting to other services for other types of assessment or interventions e.g. an assessment of need and provision of services. The remaining 351 cases were allocated for an enquiry to take place – see below:



Of the cases closed within the reporting year, the risk was either removed or reduced in 91% of the cases. The remaining enquiries were either ceased due to no risk being identified, or in one case, the risk remained. In this instance the person moved to another area in the UK, and their case transferred to the team in that area.



Key Findings

Select a Local Authority on the right (by searching or scrolling through the local authorities) to see the comparative figures for the selected local authority and England

Please select one local authority from the dropdown menu

North East Lincolnshire Council

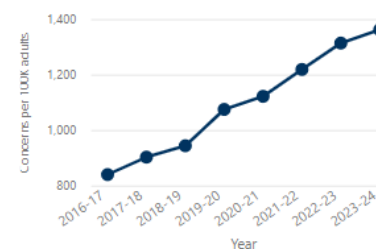


Safeguarding Concerns received during 2023-24

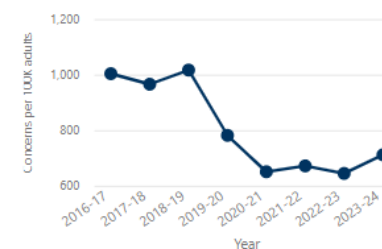
The total number of Safeguarding Concerns reported by local authorities between 1st April 2023 and 31st March 2024 was **615,530** which is an **increase of 5%** from 2022-23 (587,970).



England

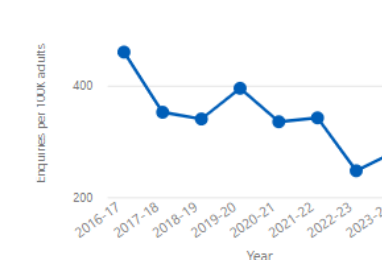
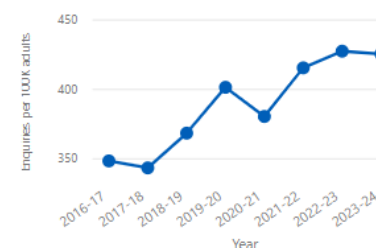


North East Lincolnshire Council



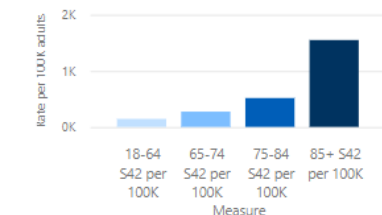
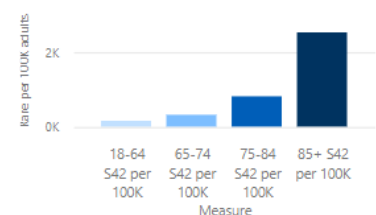
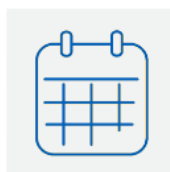
Section 42 and Other Enquiries commenced during 2023-24

The total number Section 42 and Other Enquiries reported by local authorities between 1st April 2023 and 31st March 2024 was **192,090** which is an **increase of 0.5%** from 2022-23 (191,190).



Age of individuals involved in Section 42 Enquiries

The majority of individuals involved in Section 42 Safeguarding Enquiries reported by local authorities between 1st April 2023 and 31st March 2024 were age 85 and over, approximately 1 for every 40 adults aged 85 and over in England.



Safeguarding Concerns Received

The analysis presented on this page relates to **safeguarding concerns received by local authorities**. Data relating to the local authority and chosen year selected from the menus on the left side of the screen, as well as that local authority's neighbours in respect to **peer groups** or **region** are displayed in Figure 2.

Figure 2: Number of safeguarding concerns received per local authority in England

Please select a year:

2016-17 2019-20 2022-23

2017-18 2020-21 **2023-24**

2018-19 2021-22

Please select a grouping:

Peers Region

Please select one local authority:

Search

☒ North East Lincolnshire Council

☐ North Lincolnshire Council

☐ North Northamptonshire Council

☐ North Somerset District Council

☐ North Tyneside Council

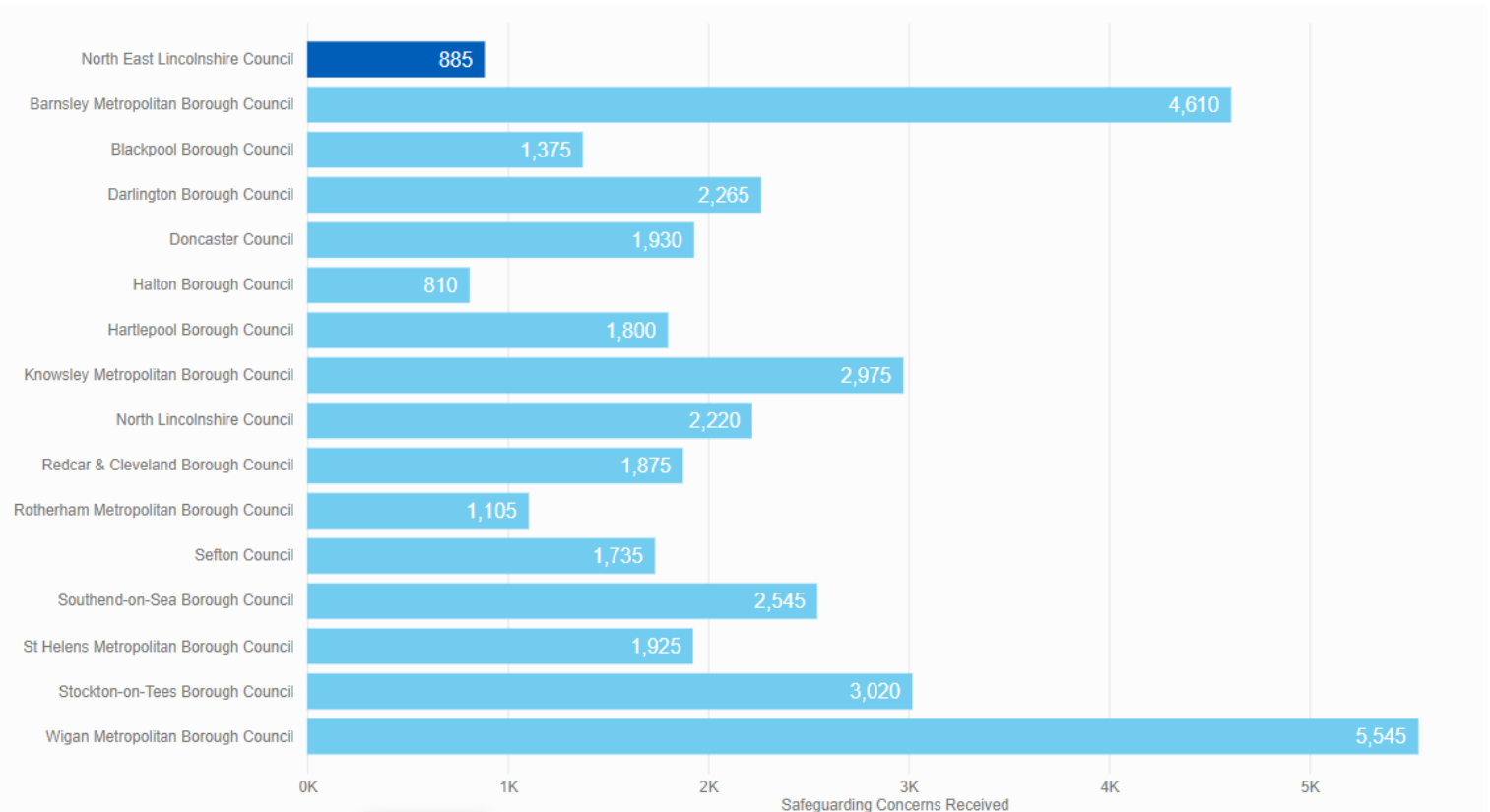
☐ North Yorkshire County Council

☐ Northumberland County Council

☐ Nottingham City Council

Total Number of Safeguarding Concerns in current year

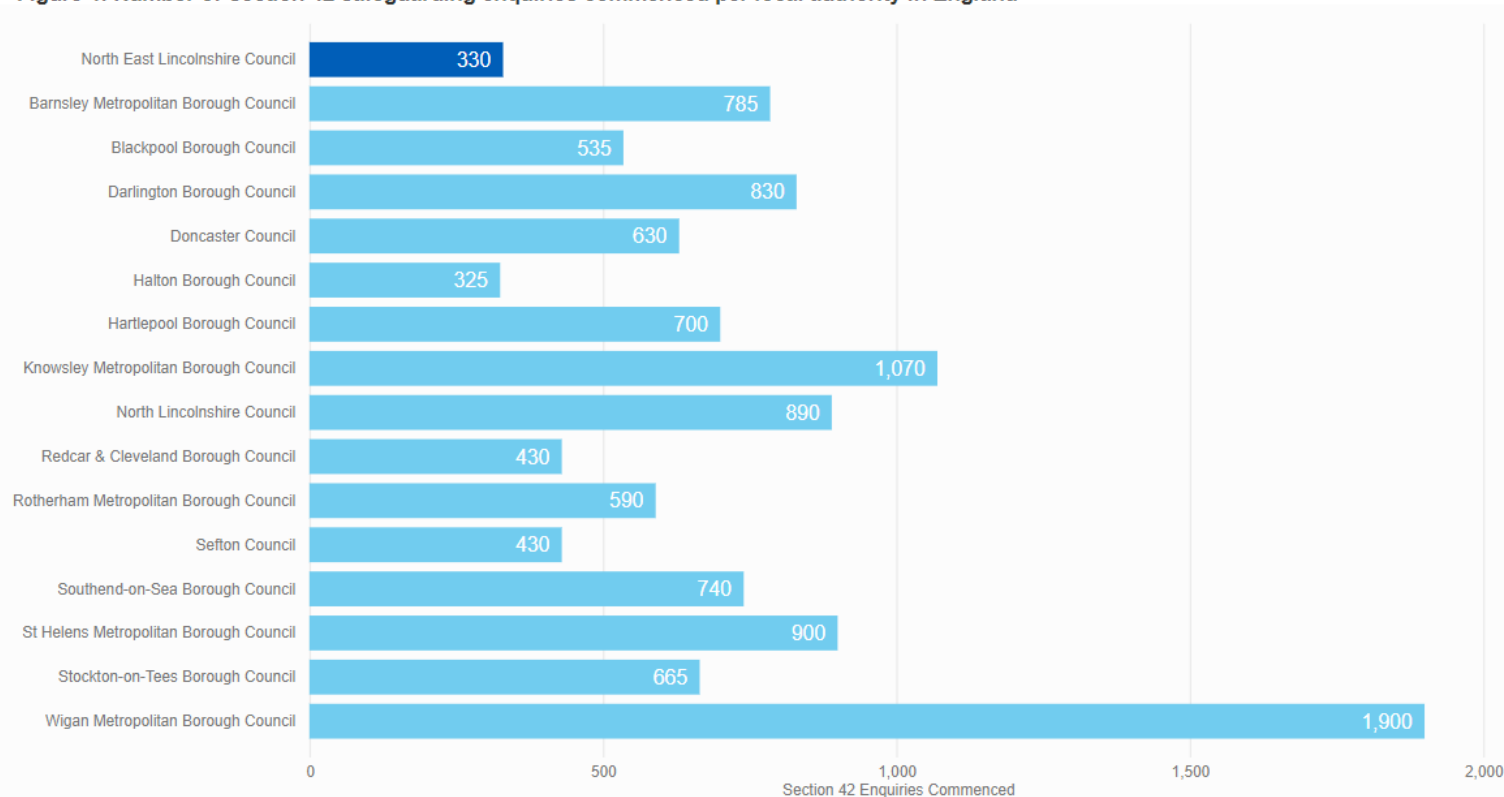
615,530



Section 42 Enquiries

The analysis presented on this page relates to **Section 42 enquiries commenced by local authorities**. Data relating to the local authority and chosen year selected from the menus on the left side of the screen, as well as that local authority's neighbours in respect to **peer groups** or **region** are displayed in Figure 4.

Figure 4: Number of Section 42 safeguarding enquiries commenced per local authority in England



Please select a year:

Please select a grouping:

Please select one local authority:

☐ Barnsley Metropolitan Borough...
 ☐ Bath and North East Somerset...
 ☐ Bedford Borough Council
 ☐ Birmingham City Council
 ☐ Blackburn with Darwen Boroug...
 ☐ Blackpool Borough Council
 ☐ Bolton Metropolitan Borough C...
 ☐ Bournemouth, Christchurch an...

Total Number of Section 42 enquiries commenced in current year, England

176,560

Section 42 Enquiries per 100,000 Adults

The analysis presented on this page relates to **Section 42 enquiries per 100,000 adults commenced per local authority**. Data relating to the local authority and chosen year selected from the menus on the left side of the screen, as well as that local authority's neighbours in respect to **peer groups** or **region** are displayed in Figure 5.

Please select a year:

Please select a grouping:

Please select one local authority:

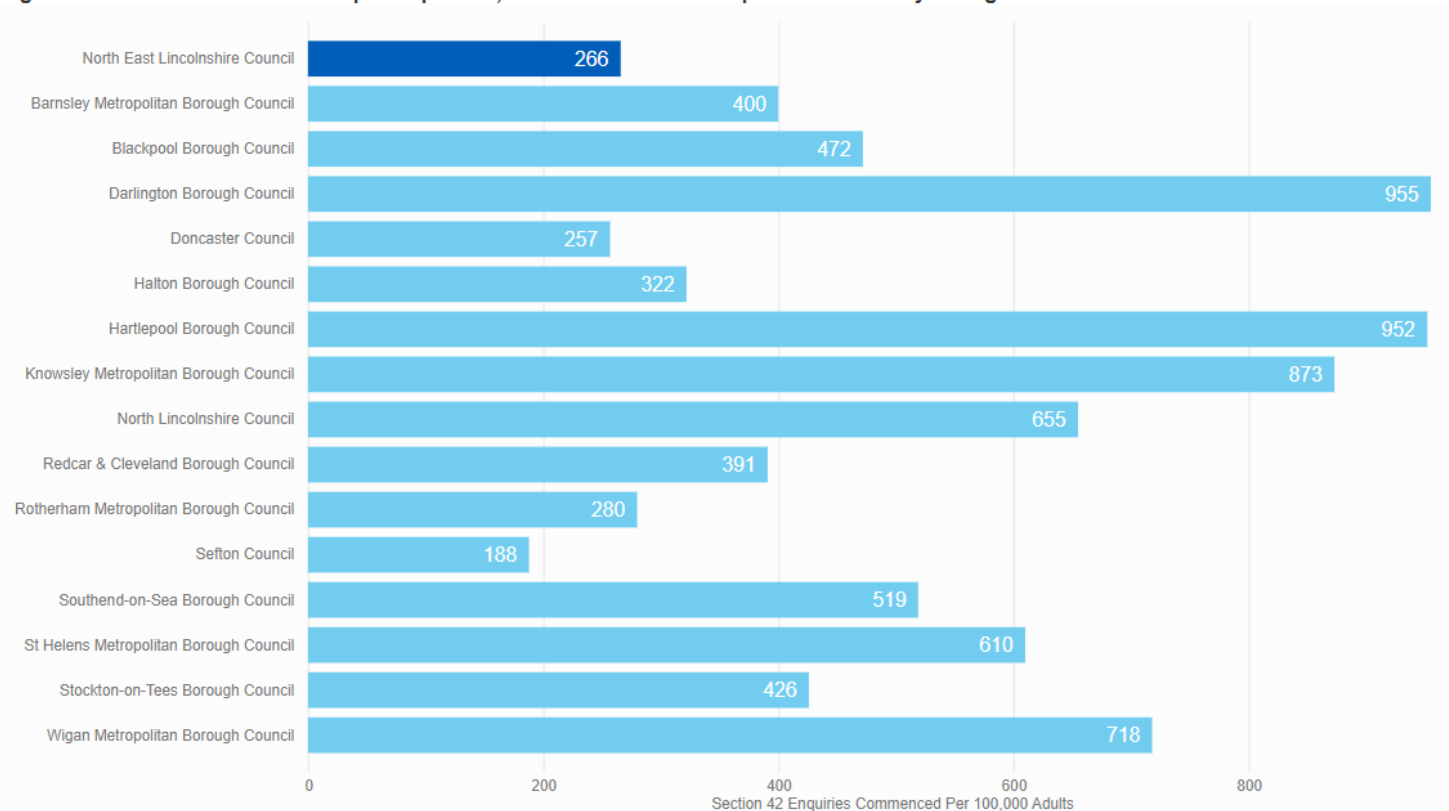
- ☒ North East Lincolnshire Council
- ☐ North Lincolnshire Council
- ☐ North Northamptonshire Council
- ☐ North Somerset District Council
- ☐ North Tyneside Council
- ☐ North Yorkshire County Council

Total Number of Section 42 enquiries per 100,00 adults in commenced in current year, England

390

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Figure 5: Number of Section 42 enquiries per 100,000 adults commenced per local authority in England



SAB High Risk Panel and Operational Risk Management Meetings

On 6th December 2018, the Safeguarding Adults Board produced the High-Risk Panel (HRP) Protocol aimed at managing the risk individuals with capacity posed to themselves and others through their unwise decision-making or risk-taking.

The protocol applied to those individuals whose lives were at risk and was an attempt to ensure all avenues of support or intervention were exhausted to avoid loss of life.

Shortly after its introduction, partners recognised the value that this high level, multi-agency approach to risk management provided and began making referrals. However, some cases referred did not reach the threshold of a threat to life and could have been managed using existing MDT forums and pathways to avoid the case escalating to the point where an HRP was required. The Operational Risk Management Meeting (ORMM) Protocol was developed to address this.

Throughout the reporting year the SAB continued to support, facilitate and oversee these meetings to ensure that agencies were continuing to utilise these protocols to improve practice.

This year we audited the cases to assist identifying themes and trends that will inform what areas of need are scrutinised by the SAB next year.

Year	Requests	HRPs	ORMMs	Total
2019	2	2	0	2
2020	15	6	5	11
2021	16	0	13	13
2022	11	1	7	8
2023	22	1	15	16
2024 (to date of audit)	11	1	10	11

There have been 42 requests for an HRP/ORMM since the last audit of cases (2022).

43% of cases the subject was homeless or at risk of homelessness.

38% of cases the subject had mental health issues.

31% of cases the subject was alcohol dependant or substance misuser.

28% of cases the subject had health issues.

26% of cases there was evidence of hoarding.

24% of cases there was evidence of self-neglect.

12% of cases the subject had a learning disability or learning difficulty.

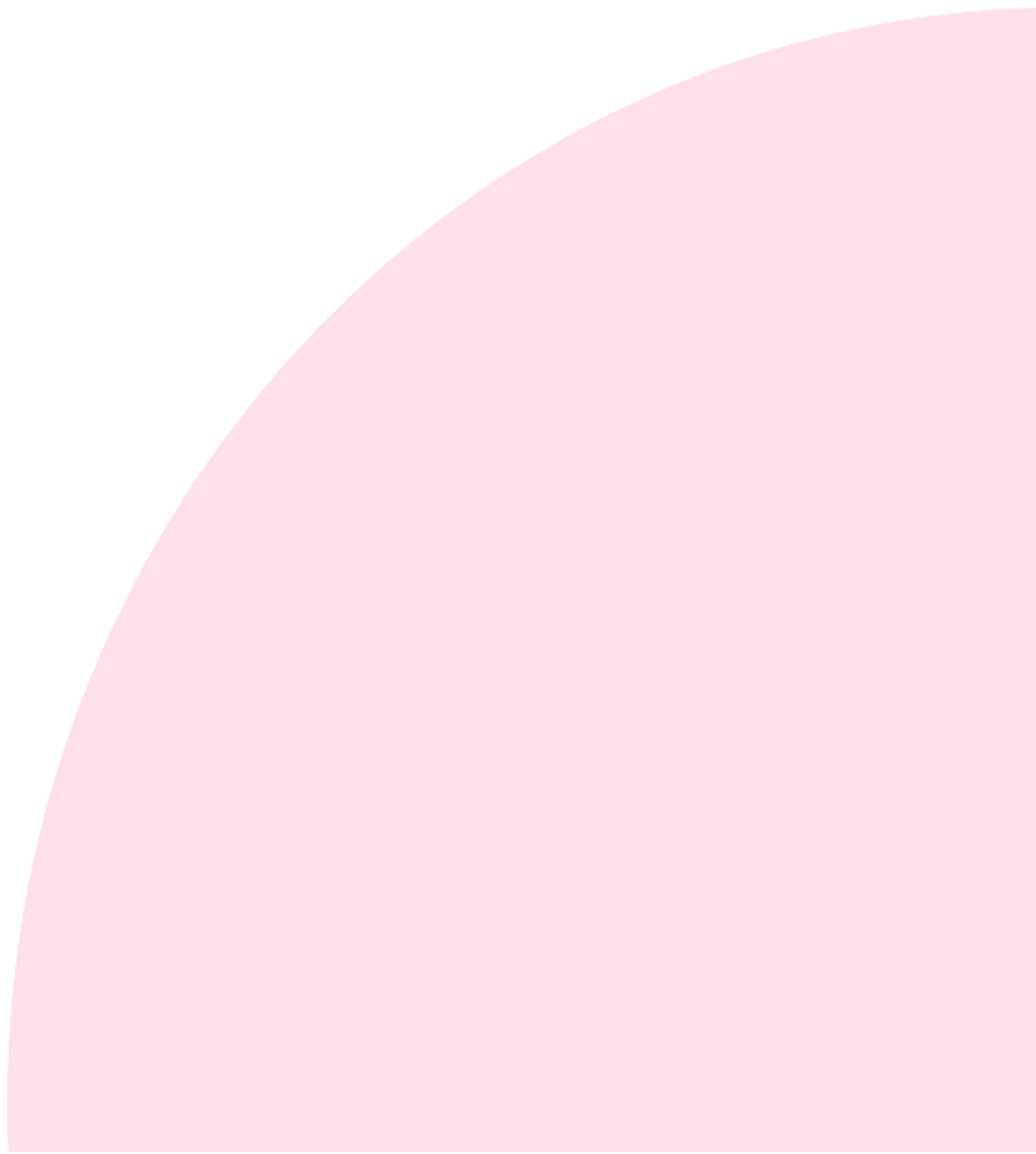
0.7% of cases there was domestic abuse.

SAB People in a Position of Trust (PiPoT) Protocol

‘Safeguarding adults boards need to establish and agree a framework and process for how allegations against people working with adults with care and support needs (for example, those in positions of trust) should be notified and responded to. Whilst the focus of safeguarding adults work is to safeguard one or more identified adults with care and support needs, there are occasions when incidents are reported that do not involve an adult at risk, but indicate, nevertheless, that a risk may be posed to adults at risk by a person in a position of trust.’ *Sec 14.121 Care and Support- Statutory Guidance 2024*

In 2018 the SAB produced a protocol to ensure compliance with this requirement. It required all agencies to have a PiPoT lead and created the role of Designated Adult Safeguarding Manager (DASM) to oversee the protocol.

The SAB requires the DASM to report each year directly for scrutiny and to present the findings of that years concerns:



Date From 01-04-2023

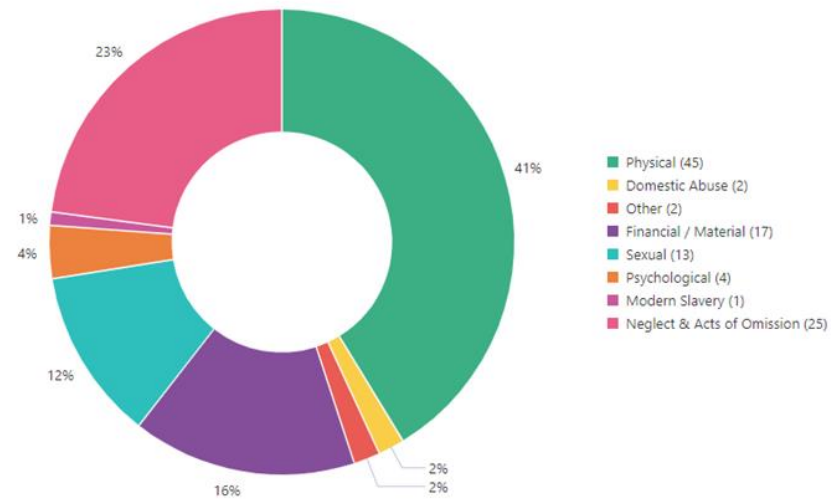
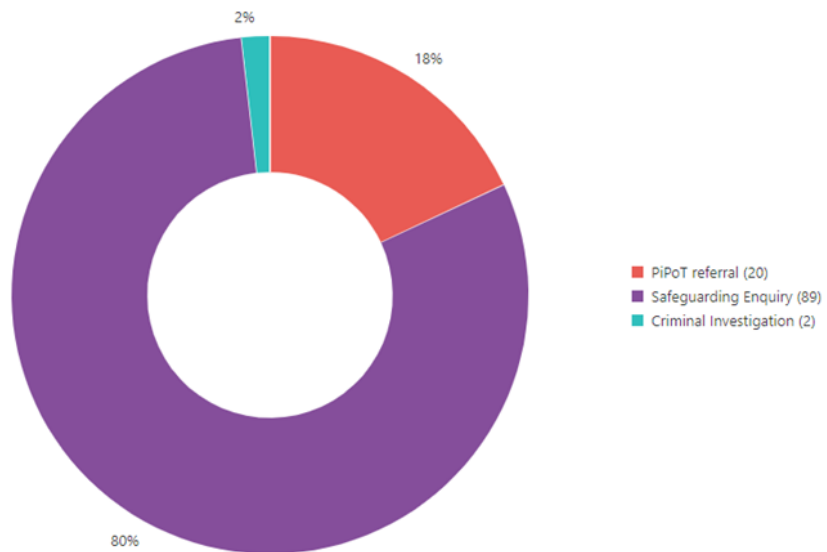
Date To 31-03-2024

140

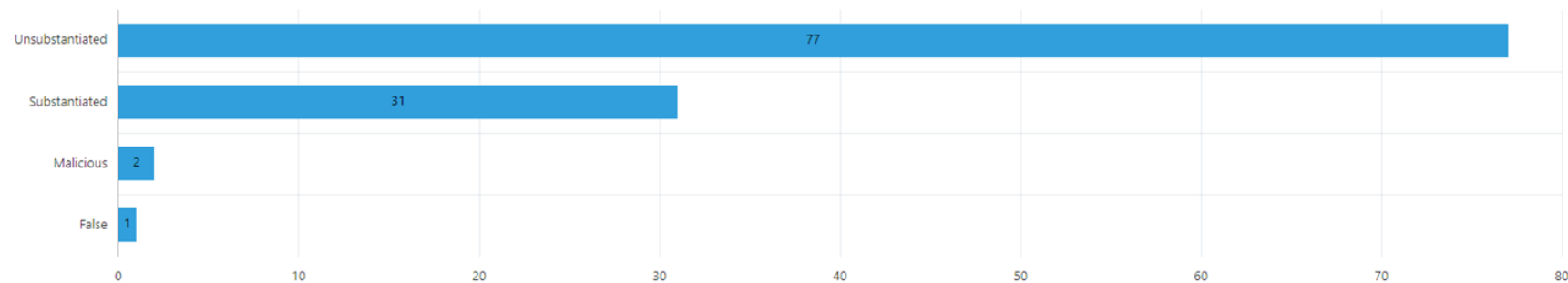
Calls Opened 01-04-2023 between 31-03-2024

111

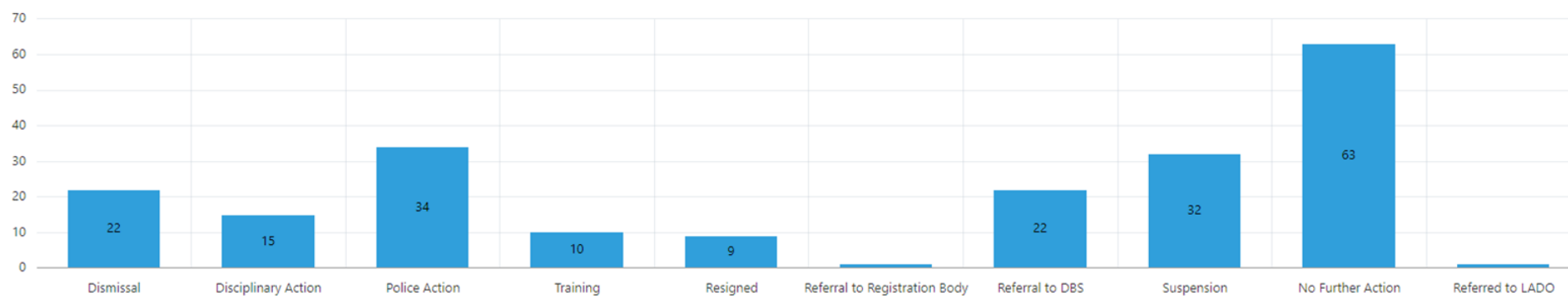
Calls Closed 01-04-2023 between 31-03-2024

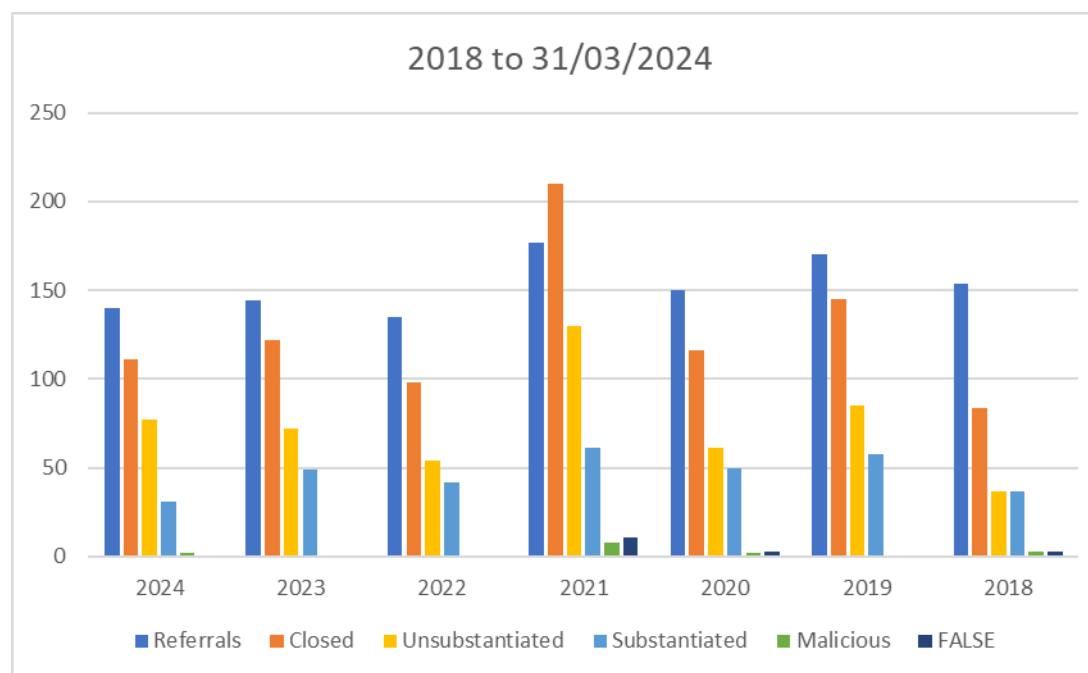


Closure Code



Closure Actions





	Referrals	Closed		Unsubstantiated	Substantiated	Malicious	FALSE
2024	140	111		77	31	2	1
2023	144	122		72	49	1	0
2022	135	98		54	42	1	1
2021	177	210		130	61	8	11
2020	150	116		61	50	2	3
2019	170	145		85	58	1	0
2018	154	84		37	37	3	3

The Year Ahead

The SAB has gone through extensive change this year. The chairing arrangements were changed in order that the executive group could provide more direction to ensure the SAB is effective and relevant. The work groups were changed, and new chairs appointed to ensure that their areas of work are directly related to the vision of the SAB and in line with its newly created strategy.

These changes are necessary to build on the work already in place. Recent ministerial recommendations have highlighted nationally that the issues we see here in NEL are also being seen elsewhere. They have directed consideration of homelessness as a priority with regard to safeguarding and the appointment of a homelessness lead on the SAB which we have done. A large proportion of individuals being brought to our risk management process are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless. It is necessary, as the year progresses, that the SAB not only endorses but actively encourages and directs the use of their protocols to safeguard some of our most vulnerable.

However homelessness and those requiring risk management are not the SAB's only priority, and this is reflected in our new strategy. Over the next few months the action plan will be developed informed by the strategic plan. The SAB's priorities for the next three years are:

- **Provide assurance to our community that services are safe, by having evidenced based guidance and being clear about our expectations.**
- **Scrutinising and seeking assurances from services.**
- **Ensuring the voice of adults at risk is central to everything we do.**
- **Developing close working relationships between agencies to ensure that the needs of adults at risk are the priority.**
- **Ensuring the whole partnership has a culture of continual learning, that is embedded within practice and is evidenced based.**
- **Seek continual service improvement in order that the NELSAB maintains the trust of our community and the support of services who serve it.**