



# Annual Report

## 2023-24

Our safeguarding arrangements will effectively prevent  
and respond to adult abuse

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## Introduction from Adrian Green, Independent Chair

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



Adrian Green.  
Teeswide Safeguarding Adults Board Independent Chair.

## What does the Board do?

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

## Board Member Organisations

### 6 Statutory Partners:

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

### 24 Non-Statutory Partners:

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

## Board Structure

The Board has continued to engage with key strategic partnerships across Tees including the Local Safeguarding Children Partnerships, Health & Wellbeing Boards, Community Safety Partnerships, Tees Strategic Exploitation Group (formerly known as Vulnerable Exploited Missing and Trafficked) and the Cleveland Anti-Slavery Network as well as regional and national Safeguarding Adults groups.

## Sub-Groups

The Board has a number of Sub-Groups leading on key pieces of work in order to achieve the aims and objectives set out in the Board's Strategic Business Plan 2023/24. The purpose of the Sub-Groups are summarised below.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

### **Task & Finish Groups**

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

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

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

April-June  
2023

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

July - September  
2023

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

October - December  
2023

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

January - March  
2024

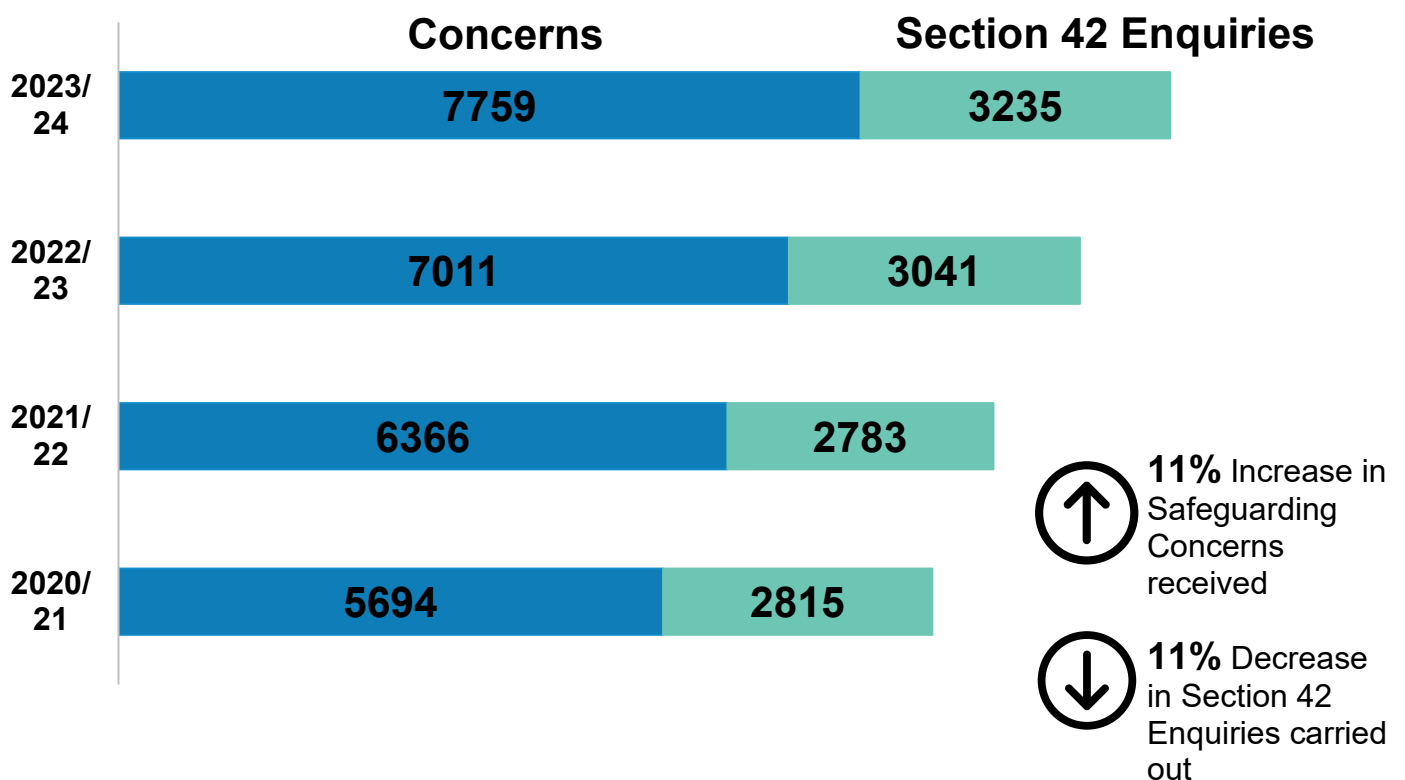
- Bernadette SAR published
- Multi-agency Audit undertaken on s117 Aftercare
- First Trauma Informed Practice training webinar
- Sexual Abuse and Sexual Violence Awareness Week
- Safeguarding Champions Event
- Launch of Adult Sexual Exploitation Briefing

## Safeguarding Data 2023-24

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

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

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



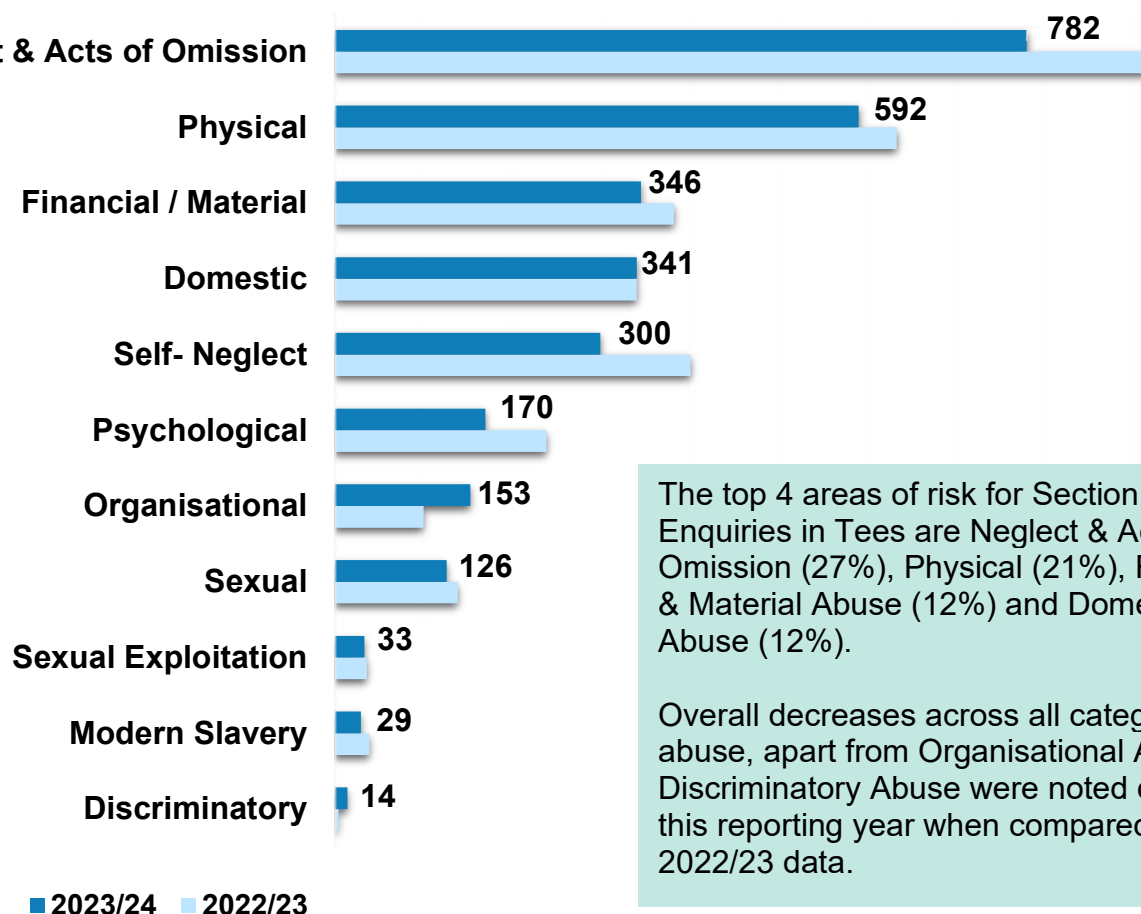
### Location of Risk: Section 42 Enquiries



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

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

## Types of Risk: Section 42 Enquiries



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

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

## Safeguarding Concerns Received

**149** Concerns were received, on average per week across Tees

Care Homes	<b>26%</b>
NHS Secondary Care	<b>12%</b>
Social Care	<b>12%</b>
Family / Friend / Self	<b>6%</b>
Police	<b>6%</b>

\* % of Concerns received from organisations

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

**12% increase** in Concerns received from NHS Secondary Care

## Section 42 Enquiries Commenced

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

**18% decrease** in Own Home category

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

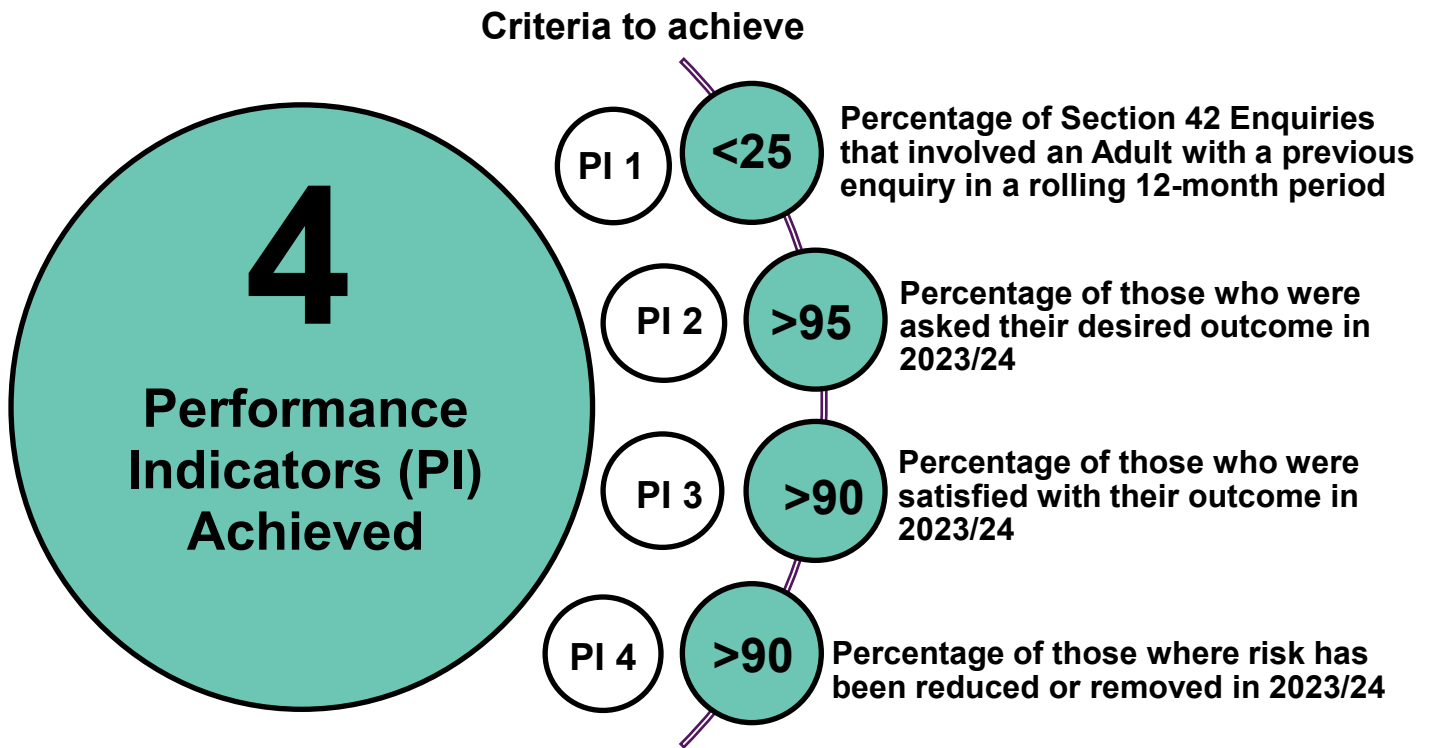
**3% decrease** in the number of Section 42 Enquiries relating to people aged over 65



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

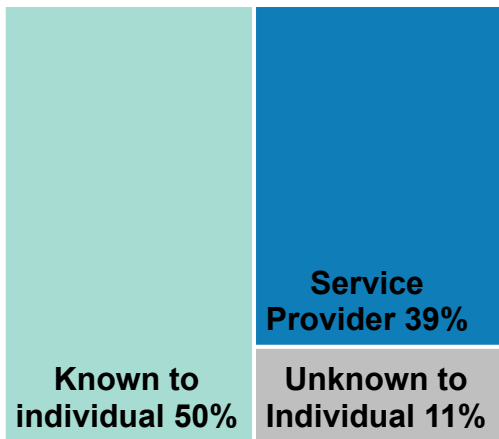


## Performance Indicators (PI)

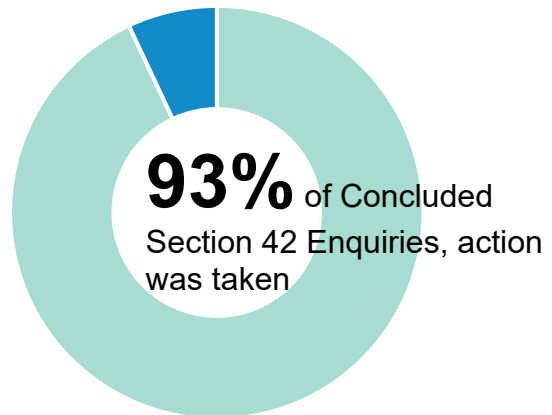


## Outcomes of Concluded Sections 42 Enquiries

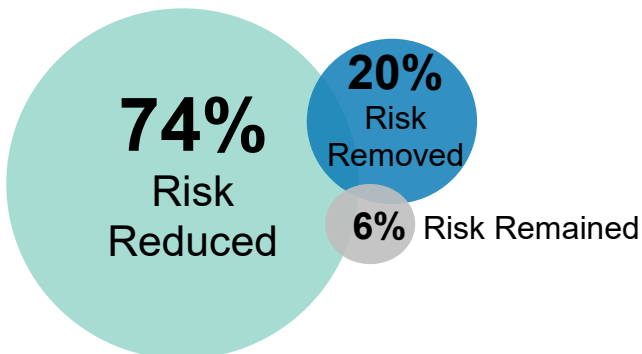
### Source of risk to the adult



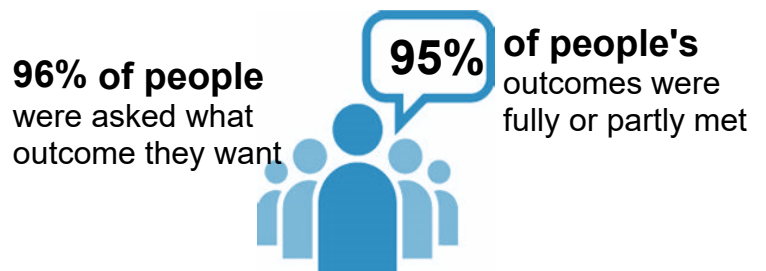
### Safeguarding Action



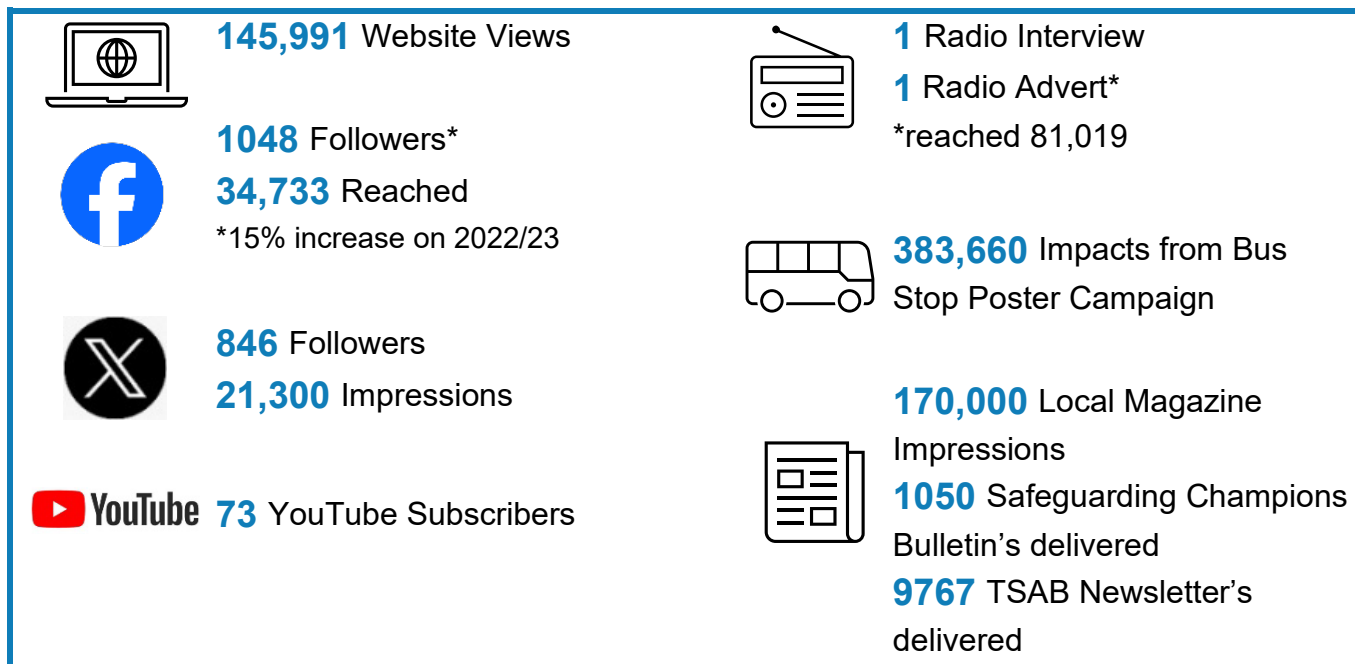
### Safeguarding Outcome



### Adults Voice



## Communication and Engagement



### Awareness Raising Campaigns

Throughout the year, the Board engaged collaboratively with partners in a wide range of awareness raising activities, utilising multiple communication and engagement methods with the aim of engaging professionals, members of the general public, harder to reach groups and digitally excluded individuals.

The Board participated in a number of national campaigns including National Safeguarding Adults Week, as well as facilitating two local “spotlight” campaigns. National Safeguarding Adults Week (NSAW) continues to be a key event for the Board, featuring a comprehensive communication and engagement plan of activity. This included a social media campaign and a bus stop campaign as well as a radio advert on TFM, and a radio interview with the Board’s Independent Chair. There was attendance across a number of in-person events, articles featured in local resident magazines, information displayed on digital screens and partners displaying TSAB literature across venues in Tees (including an easy read poster developed with the support of independent advocacy group, Independent Voices).

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

### Safeguarding Champions

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

## Safe Place Scheme

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



## Involving individuals with lived experience

The Board seeks to provide opportunities for members of the general public and those with lived experience to directly influence the work and priorities of the Board.

In 2023/24 the Board:

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



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

**Modern Slavery and Sexual Exploitation Conference attendee**



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

**Safeguarding Champion Event attendee**



## You said, we did...

In 2022/23 236 professionals and 178 members of the public completed our annual survey. You can see below some examples of how these responses have helped to inform the work of the Board in 2023/24:

### You said...

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

### We did...

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

### You said...

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

### We did...

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

### You said...

Strengthen links with organisations, Children's Partnerships and Community Safety Partnerships at a strategic and local level to embed a 'think family' approach to safeguarding.

### We did...

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

### You said...

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

### We did...

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

### You said...

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

### We did...

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

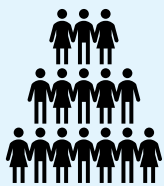
## Training

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

### Me-Learning

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

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



**5570** learners

of which **3112** were new learners

From **1444** organisations



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

\*91% completion rate



**1206** learners completed  
Safeguarding Adults  
Level 1

**956** delegates attended virtual  
and face to face training courses



**113** workbooks completed



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

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

### New Webinars In 2023/24

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



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

**Trauma Informed Practice Delegate**

### New Workbook in 2023/24

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

## Priority 1: Joint Working

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

### What we said we would do:

1. Ensure Board partners work together in an effective manner to protect adults from all forms of abuse and neglect.
2. Consider and act upon the impact of new legislation and statutory guidance on safeguarding practice, for example, Liberty Protection Safeguards, Domestic Abuse Act 2021.
3. Engage and Collaborate with the Local Safeguarding Children Partnerships, Community Safety Partnerships, Domestic Abuse Steering Groups, Health and Well-being Boards, Tees Exploitation Group (TEG) and partners to deliver joint priorities and objectives.
4. Engage and collaborate with the multi-partnership and multi-agency development work regarding Missing Adults, Transitions, Contextual Safeguarding and Adult Sexual Exploitation.
5. Further embed trauma informed practice, strengths based and person-centered approaches to all safeguarding adults' work.
6. Explore different safeguarding operating models and joint protocols to enhance partnership working and information sharing.

### What we did:

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

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

## Priority 2: People

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

### What we said we would do:

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

### What we did:

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

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

## Priority 3: Communication

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

### What we said we would do:

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

### What we did:

- The Annual Consultation Survey<sup>2</sup> was reviewed and launched, providing opportunities for professionals and members of the public to inform the future direction and priorities of the Board. Responses were received from 530 people; 367 of which were professionals and 163 from members of the public (inclusive of 87 surveys submitted via the easy read survey). The total number of people completing the survey continues to grow year on year, with a 28% increase this year when compared to 2022/23.
- A new [easy read poster](#) promoting safeguarding and wellbeing was designed following engagement with independent advocates from Independent Voices.
- The PAQ Sub-Group members reviewed the Performance Indicators with a new monitoring format in place as part of the TSAB Performance Reports.
- Two 'Spotlight on' awareness campaigns took place across the year and were successful in raising awareness of Modern Slavey, Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse.
- The Board hosted a Safeguarding Champions Event featuring a range of guest speaker presentations.
- The Board continues to use engagement opportunities with professionals to recruit Safeguarding Champions. A Learning from SARs session was held with 40 GPs resulting in the recruitment of 14 Safeguarding Champions.

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

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



## Priority 4: Services

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

### What we said we would do:

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

### What we did:

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

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

**South Tees Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust**

## Safeguarding Adult Reviews (SAR)

A SAR is undertaken when agencies who worked with an adult who has been subject to abuse or neglect, come together to find out if they could have done things differently and prevented serious harm or death from happening. A SAR does not blame an individual or organisation for their actions, its purpose is to learn from what happened and to consider what can be changed so that harm is less likely to happen in the same way to other people in the future.

The Care Act 2014 says that Safeguarding Adult Boards must arrange a SAR when an adult dies or is seriously harmed as a result of suspected or known abuse or neglect and there is reasonable cause for concern about how, or if partners worked together to safeguard the adult.

**In 2023/24 a total of 4 SARs were published: Adult K, James, SK and Bernadette.**

### SAR Sub-Group Activity

The role of the Sub-Group is to consider new SAR notifications, oversee any ongoing SARs or other reviews, ensure any learning from reviews (locally, regionally or nationally) is considered by TSAB partners and taken forward in their own organisations, and to oversee the implementation of action plans arising from review activity across Tees. Membership of the Sub-Group comprises of senior managers from our key partner organisations. The SAR Sub-Group met on a bi-monthly basis, with bi-monthly notification meetings in between to ensure the 28-day timescale for the consideration of a new SAR Notifications could be met.

### SAR Data 2023/24

<b>3 SAR Notifications Considered</b>	<b>2 progressed to a SAR</b>	<b>1 deferred pending LeDeR<sup>3</sup></b>
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### SAR Sub-Group Achievements

- Monitored 11 open cases (as of 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024)
- Signed off 2 action plans as complete.
- Considered the learning from 8 reports on Regional and National SARs.
- Considered the findings from the Safe Care at Home Review.
- 10 learning reports regarding Care Providers who have been subject to the Responding to and Addressing Serious Concerns (RASC) Protocol were considered.

### North East SAR Champions Network

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

<sup>3</sup> Learning from Life and Death Reviews of people with a learning disability and autistic people

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

### **Adult K SAR**

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

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

### **James SAR**

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

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

### **SK SAR**

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

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

### **Bernadette SAR**

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

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

## Partner Activity

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



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



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

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



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



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

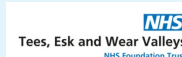


**Cleveland Police** have worked closely with the Teeswide Safeguarding Adults Board (TSAB) to support and implement the priorities identified in the strategic plan. This has been evident both in daily collaboration but also in subject matter expertise support in review work. The Local Policing Command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

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



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



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



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



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



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



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



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



## Our Priorities 2024-25

### Joint Working

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

### People

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

### Communication

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

### Services

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

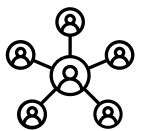
The **six safeguarding principles** set out in the Care Act 2014 will underpin the Board's strategic aims and objectives and all aspects of safeguarding adults work across Tees:

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

The Board's Strategic Business Plan 2022-25 has been updated following feedback from the Annual Consultation Survey 2023/24 and feedback from the Board's Development Day. The top 3 priorities identified by professionals, service users and the general public included within the Strategic Plan are as follows:



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



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



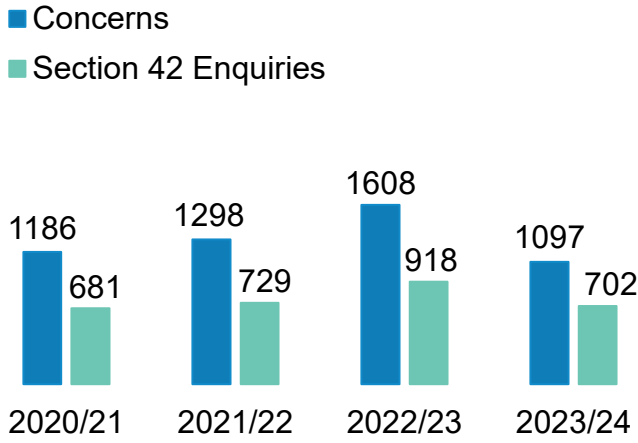
3. Work more closely in engaging with local communities to report abuse and neglect.



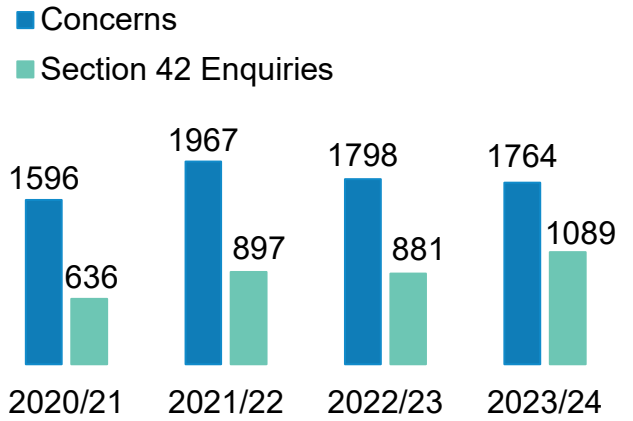
# Appendix 1

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

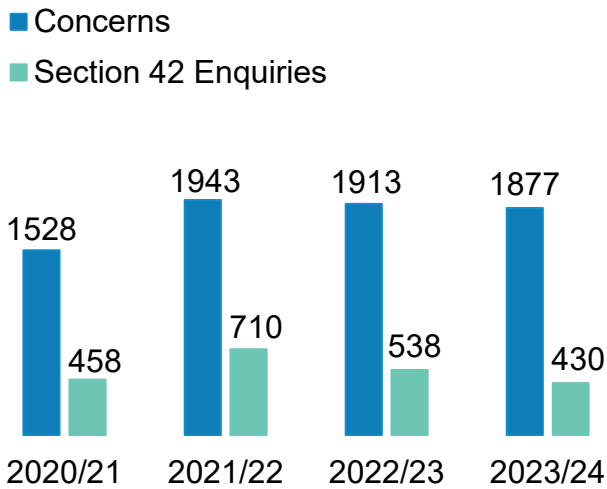
### Hartlepool



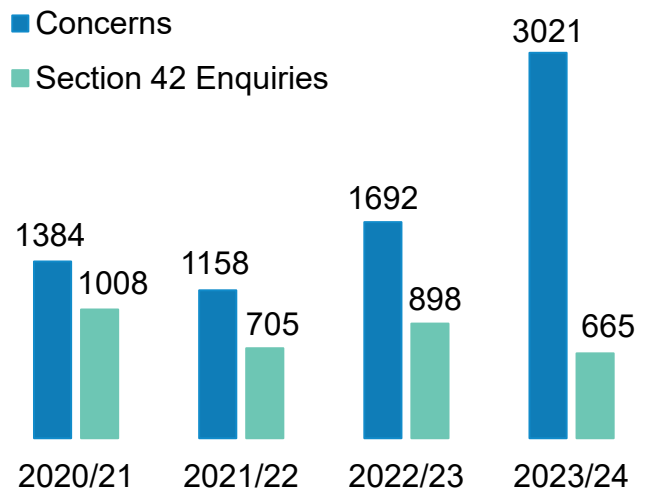
### Middlesbrough



### Redcar & Cleveland



### Stockton-On-Tees

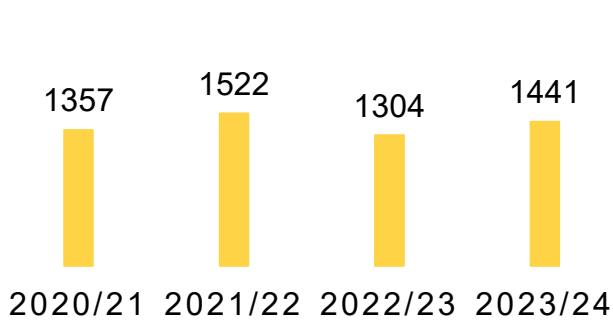


## Appendix 2

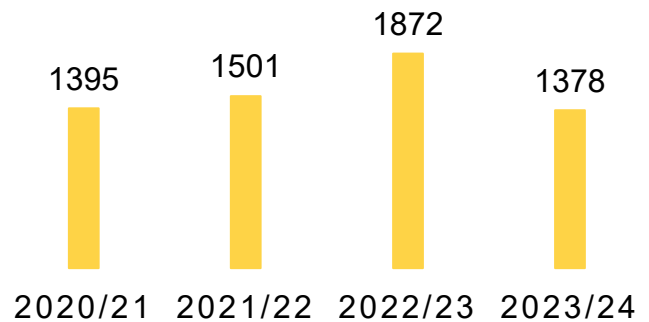
The Deprivations of Liberty Safeguards, under The Mental Capacity Act 2005, provide legal protection for those individuals who are 18 years old and above and who are, or may become deprived of their liberty in a hospital or care home.

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

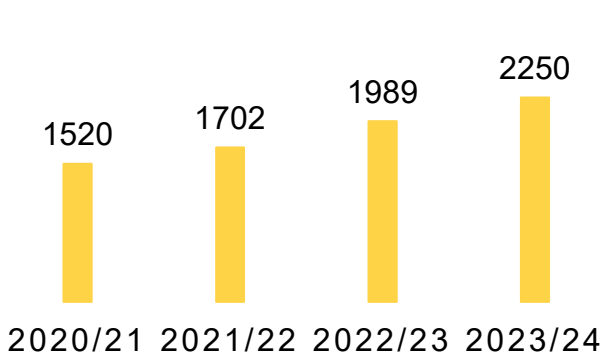
#### Hartlepool



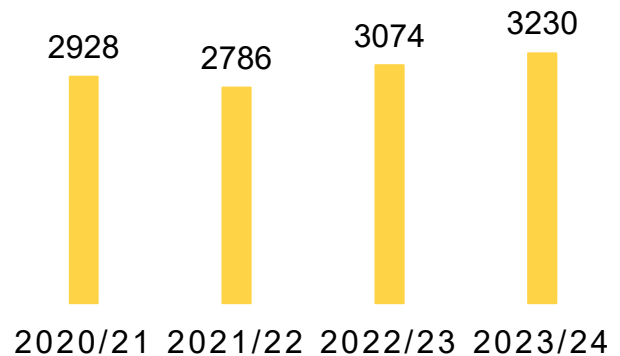
#### Middlesbrough



#### Redcar & Cleveland



#### Stockton-On-Tees



## Glossary

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



www.tsab.org.uk



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



01642 527263



@TeeswideSAB



@TeeswideSAB



Teeswide Safeguarding Adults Board

## See it, report it!

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

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

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