

for **with** you



ST HELENS ADULT SAFEGUARDING ANNUAL REPORT 2024/25



FORWORD

I am pleased to be asked to provide a foreword for this year's Safeguarding Adults Annual Report. I would like to thank the Safeguarding Unit for producing this report along with the Independent Chair, the chairs of the subgroups, the board members and all the staff who work tirelessly to keep those eligible for support as safe as possible.

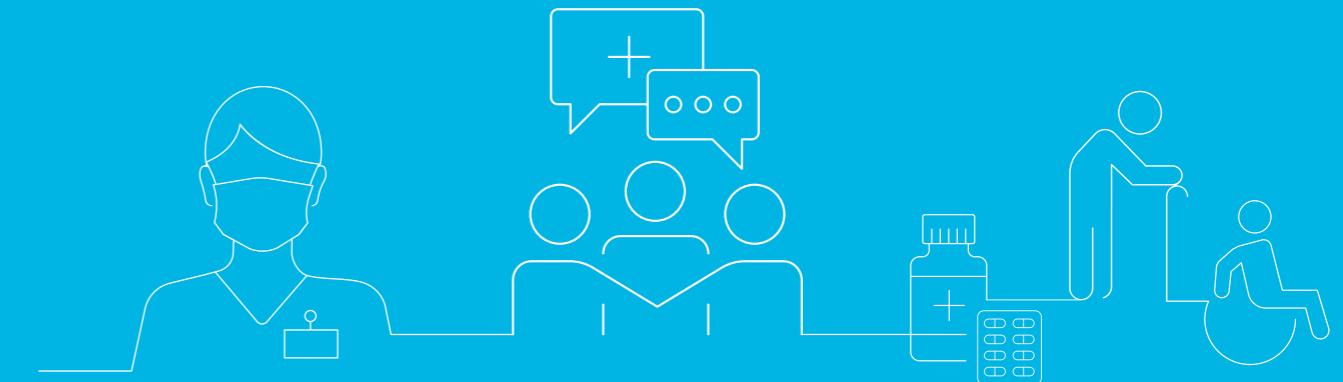
Over the past year St. Helens received a CQC assessment. A key component of this is to look at the Council's approach to safeguarding adults. I am pleased to say that the Council received an overall rating of good. This external assessment gives myself and the other board members assurance that Safeguarding is being approached in a safe and equitable way in St Helens.

We know that there are challenges in St. Helens and the selected objectives for the coming year reflect these. I have every confidence that the board and the subgroups will work tirelessly to progress this agenda. I look forward to supporting the achievement of these objectives over the coming year



A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Andy Bowden".

Councillor Andy Bowden
Cabinet Member -
Adult Social Care and Health



CHAIR'S INTRODUCTION

IT IS MY PLEASURE TO INTRODUCE THE ANNUAL REPORT FOR OUR ST HELENS SAFEGUARDING ADULTS BOARD.

It is now about 9 months since I became the Independent Chair, and I have been impressed at the way partners work together and collaborate to proactively protect our most vulnerable citizens who have care needs.

I am also impressed at all the teams I have met by their professionalism and dedication against a background of the constant challenge of juggling limited resources which are challenging whilst demand is increasing and changing. I have made some changes to the work of the board firstly by bringing some new partner organisations as board members and introducing themed boards which allows us to benefit from an in depth look at a topic which is led by a partner organisation and then to challenge ourselves as to how we can improve our services.

The economic circumstances and deprivation in our borough drive some of the challenges but I am always impressed at the wide range of voluntary and third sector organisations who step up to fill gaps in what statutory agencies are able to provide and offer some imaginative and much appreciated services. That warmth and passion is the heartbeat that makes St Helens such a special place.

I express my particular thanks to Francesca Smith, Amy Phillips and to Lindsay McAllister for their unstinting support to me and the Board.

Geoffrey Appleton
Independent Chair





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1. WHAT IS SAFEGUARDING?

Safeguarding means protecting people's health, wellbeing and human rights and enabling them to live free from harm, abuse and neglect.

The work of the Board is driven by its vision to promote partnership working by working together to help people feel safe and free from abuse and neglect.

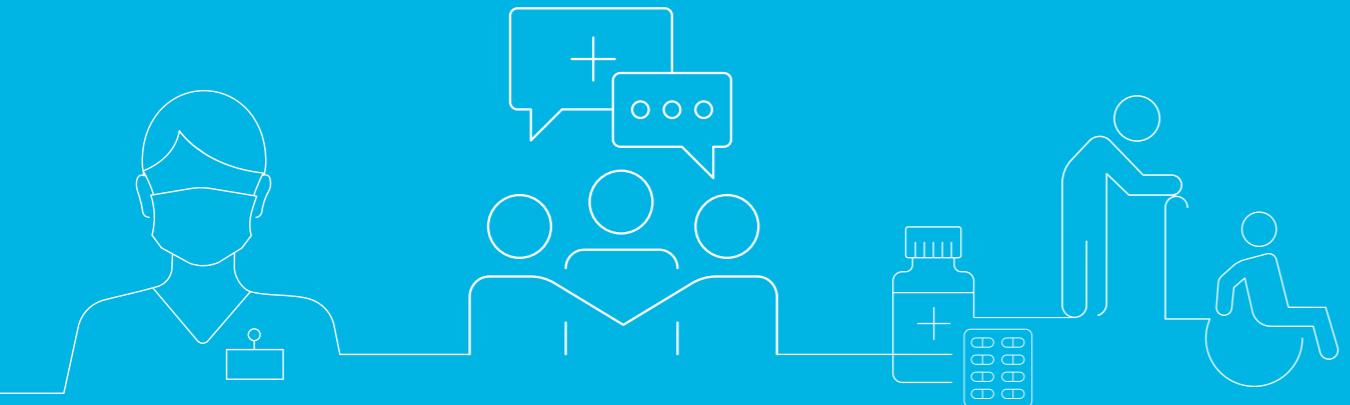
The Government's Statutory Guidance on the Care Act 2014 defines adult safeguarding as:

“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.”



2. OUR OBJECTIVES FOR 2024/25

1. To continue to deliver safeguarding practice ensuring it is outcome focussed, person centred and in line with MSP.
2. To review the self-improvement action plan and ensure that progress is being made on the SAB relaunch.
3. To continue to work collaboratively to prevent abuse and neglect when possible.



THE PRINCIPLES OF SAFEGUARDING

The Statutory Guidance also sets out the 6 key Principles that underpin Adult Safeguarding, guiding practitioners and giving service users a clear understanding of how services should be delivered in all health and care settings. These Principles are;

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.



MAKING SAFEGUARDING PERSONAL

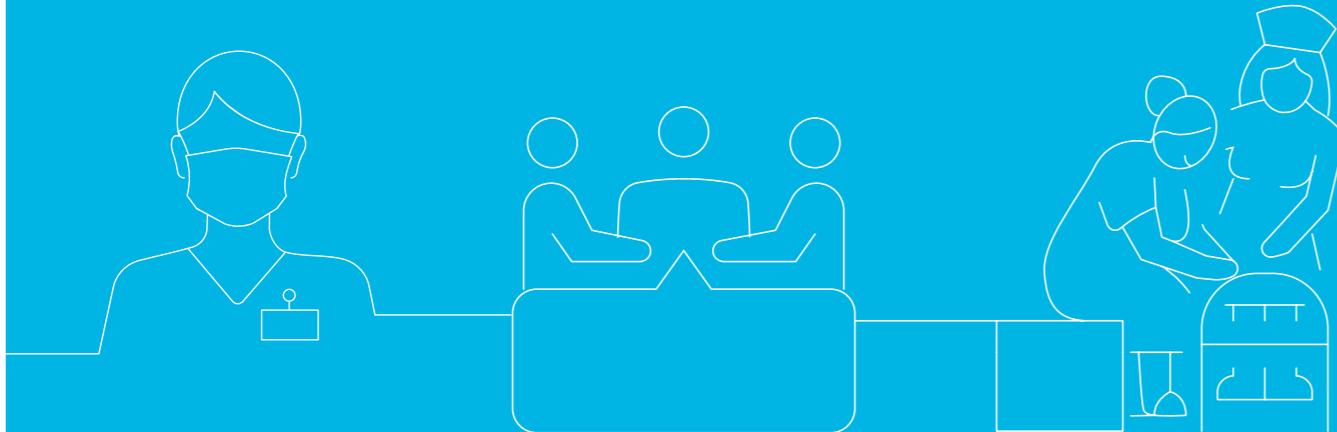
One of the biggest developments in Adult Safeguarding over recent years is the Making Safeguarding Personal approach. Making Safeguarding Personal means a person-led and outcome-focused service, which engages the person in a conversation about how best to respond to their safeguarding situation in a way that enhances involvement, choice and control as well as improving quality of life, wellbeing and safety.

3. ST HELENS SAFEGUARDING ADULTS BOARD - WHO ARE WE?

The Safeguarding Adults Board (SAB) is a multi-agency partnership which has statutory functions under the Care Act 2014. The focus of the Board is to ensure that, in the Borough of St Helens, safeguarding arrangements work effectively so that adults at risk can live their lives free from abuse or neglect.

For our purposes an 'adult at risk' is a person aged 18 or over who has needs for care and support and because of those needs is unable to protect themselves from either the risk of, or the experience of abuse or neglect.

The Board is Chaired by an Independent Chair and meets quarterly. The Board and its Sub-Groups have a wide range of responsibilities. Their main functions and responsibilities are set out below. The Board provides oversight and scrutiny of the organisations and practitioners who provide safeguarding services and seeks assurances that safeguarding services are delivered effectively and within the principles of Making Safeguarding Personal. It also raises awareness of safeguarding for practitioners, service users and the wider community.



4. PURPOSE AND FUNCTIONS OF THE BOARD

The overarching purpose of the Board is to help and safeguard adults with care and support needs. It does this by:

- assuring itself that local safeguarding arrangements are in place as defined by the Care Act 2014 and statutory guidance
- assuring itself that safeguarding practice is person-centred and outcome-focused
- working collaboratively to prevent abuse and neglect
- ensuring agencies and individuals give timely and proportionate responses when abuse or neglect have occurred
- assuring itself that safeguarding practice is continuously improving and enhancing the quality of life of adults in its area.
(Care Act 2014).

The Board also has several statutory responsibilities and functions. These are:

- to develop and publish a strategic plan setting out how they will meet their objectives and how their member and partner agencies will contribute
- commission Safeguarding Adult Reviews (SARs) for any cases which meet the criteria for these
- publish an annual report detailing how effective their work has been (Care Act 2014).

This report is to fulfil the final responsibility set out above, however, it will also refer to our strategic plans and objectives for the next 3 years period. Additionally, we will also report on any SAR's that have taken place in the period subject to this report.



5. BOARD STRUCTURE



(*Safeguarding Training and Development is incorporated within the Local Authority T&D arrangements and not a separate Sub-Group)

OUR SUB-GROUPS

THE STRATEGIC LEADS GROUP

The Strategic Leads Group brings together the Boards Statutory Partners and key stakeholders to support and provide strategic leadership to the Board, so that matters of governance and resources are in place to ensure that the Board can carry out its wider functions effectively.

PERFORMANCE AND PRACTICE GROUP

The key function of the Performance and Practice Group is to analyse and interrogate safeguarding data, activity and performance to provide insight and increase the Boards understanding of safeguarding issues, themes and trends locally. Additionally, the group also ensures that safeguarding practice is carried out to the highest standards and in accordance with our Multiagency Safeguarding Adults Policy. An effective way in which this is delivered is through audits into critical areas of performance. The group also reviews the learning from national Safeguarding Adults Reviews to improve local practice.

This year, the Group implemented a workplan for 2024/25 and key achievements include:

- 1:1 care support audit
- Implementation of 1:1 care planning and risk assessment guidance for care homes
- Creation of a front door decision making tool, to support frontline staff to refer to appropriate services including safeguarding.

In 2024/25 the Strategic Leadership group continued to meet to ensure the Safeguarding Adults Board, and the Safeguarding Adults Unit continued to function and maintain business as usual.

- Revised the 7-minute briefing on Making Safeguarding Personal
- Implementation of a 7 minute briefing on the Equality Act
- Delivery of Multiagency Risk Assessment and Management (MARAM) Process training, to support frontline staff to effectively use the process.
- Additional offer of Self-neglect training to understand the complexities of self-neglect and explore the barriers in supporting individuals and how to mitigate risk.
- At the end of the financial year work has also been commenced on a Multiagency Mental Health learning review.

ENGAGEMENT & COMMUNICATION GROUP

The Communication and Engagement Sub-Group exists to promote awareness of adult safeguarding among partners, service users, and the wider St Helens community. Its core purpose is to support the St Helens Safeguarding Adults Board (SAB) by championing safeguarding messages, encouraging prevention, and reinforcing public understanding around abuse and neglect.

Over the past year, the Sub-Group has continued to strengthen its efforts by:

- Developing multi-agency engagement strategies that enhance universal understanding of safeguarding issues, while ensuring the voices of adults at risk, carers, advocates, and local residents inform policy and practice across the borough.
- Working collaboratively with partner organisations to amplify existing engagement initiatives and increase community involvement in safeguarding activities.
- Establishing feedback mechanisms to hear directly from individuals with lived experience of harm or abuse, and using this insight to shape responsive, person-centred approaches.
- Reviewing and improving safeguarding materials and resources in formats that are accessible and inclusive for adults at risk, carers, professionals and the wider public.

SAFEGUARDING AND QUALITY ASSURANCE SUB-GROUP

The Safeguarding and Quality Assurance Group (SAQAG) is a multi-agency forum that meets monthly. Its purpose is to assure the Safeguarding Adults Board (SAB) that individuals receiving care and support services - whether in care homes, their own homes, extra care, or supported living - are both safeguarded and receiving quality care.

The group collects and reviews information from various sources, including CQC referrals, safeguarding concerns, quality and clinical issues, and other forms of soft intelligence. This intelligence is carefully examined, and a plan of action or problem-solving approach is developed to address any emerging patterns or risks. The group also identifies good practice examples that may be shared with providers.

Core members include the Host Commissioner from the ICB, along with colleagues from Local Authority Commissioning and Contract Monitoring. These roles contribute to assuring that awarded contracts meet necessary standards, helping ensure the safety and quality of care for all service users.

The following agencies and organisations are represented: on the Group:

- St Helens Borough Council including representation from Adults Social Care
- St Helens Contracts representation
- St Helens Quality Monitoring Team
- St Helens Commissioning Team
- The Care Quality Commission (CQC)
- ICB - Quality and Safety
- ICB - Safeguarding
- Healthwatch St Helens
- St Helens Infection Control Team.

SAFEGUARDING HEALTH FORUM

The Safeguarding Health Forum has continued to deliver actions and key messages from the Safeguarding Adult Board (SAB) and Safeguarding Children Partnership (SCP). The group represents the health economy views in response to both national and local safeguarding practice and reports on issues affecting delivery to the relevant Board. The forums main priorities/ workstreams for 2024/25 were:

- Strengthen and improve relationships between adults and children's boards whilst supporting the SCP and SAB priorities to improving transitional safeguarding issues.
- To represent health organisation views in response to both national and local safeguarding practice and report on issues affecting delivery and provide two-way feedback to the relevant Board.
- Ensure that the health services communicate with, improve communication and receives information jointly from the SAB and the SCP Boards.
- From a health perspective strengthen the think family ethos.
- Provide health provider response's to sharing learning from adult and child safeguarding reviews, legislative and statutory guidance updates, serious incidents, good practice and any other opportunities to improve on quality.
- Share the learning from the SCP and SAB safeguarding priorities.

- Working to support children and adult social care reforms and be proactive in working alongside to develop ways of working outlined in government documents.
- Promote a one health service response to the work of the SCP and SAB.

Throughout the reporting year the health forum has been proactive in inviting partner agencies to the health forum. The intention has been to raise awareness of local children and adult services that health agencies would work together with to support a multi-agency response to children and adults locally. For instance, adult and child domestic abuse services, homeless teams, private law outline team for children and other voluntary services. This has enabled health professionals to have a wider understanding of roles within the local community that would complement any work health agencies are undertaking. This is with a view to overall improvement of outcomes for children and adults.

TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT SUB-GROUP

The Training and Development Group continue to meet monthly, although not a formal sub-group of the Safeguarding Adults Board, it continues to focus on training and development needs identified by both the SAB and the Safeguarding Adults Unit.

The Training and Development Sub-Group plays a vital role in promoting awareness and enhancing knowledge of adult safeguarding across St Helens. Its primary focus is to ensure that individuals working with adults at risk are equipped with the skills and understanding necessary to recognise, respond to, and prevent abuse and neglect. This year, the group undertook a comprehensive review of both Level 2 and Level 3 safeguarding training packages. As a result, the content was refreshed to reflect current legislation, best practice, and emerging themes - while also being redesigned to be more accessible, engaging, and user-friendly for all learners.

Bespoke face to face training has been provided to a range of services and also to service user groups. The Training and Development action plan is regularly reviewed and updated to ensure there is a real focus on improving practice.

This year training was accessed internally as follows:

- Adult Safeguarding E-Learning package - 309
- Adult Safeguarding Policy and Procedures (Level 2 for internal staff) - 21
- Multi-Agency Risk Assessment and Management (MARAM) Process - 24
- LeDeR and Self-Neglect - A Case Study - 30 attendees booked to attend.
- Adult Safeguarding Policy, Procedures and Good Practice (Level 3) -130
- St Helens MERIT & MARAC - 49
- Adult Safeguarding Decision Making - 89
- Adult Investigation Skills - 5
- The Potential Impact of Trauma (Commissioned and Delivered During World Social Work Week) - 52

The Adult Safeguarding Unit also delivered bespoke training sessions to several partner agencies, tailored to meet their specific safeguarding needs and enhance best practice, including:

- Transport Staff
- St Helens Carers Centre
- Momo's Women's Peer Support Group
- Leonard Cheshire.

6. SAFEGUARDING ADULTS REVIEWS

A Safeguarding Adult Review (SAR) is a multiagency process focused on organisational learning and development. A SAR is considered if an Adult, dies or comes to significant harm where it is believed that agencies could have worked more closely or failed to work together to protect an adult who has care and support needs (Care Act 2014).

St Helens are continuing to be members of the Merseyside Safeguarding Adults Review Group (MSARG). As an active member of the MSARG, there are opportunities to have a consistent SAR process across the Region and share any learning from SARs in other areas.

PILOT (PERSON IN A POSITION OF TRUST)

There is an expectation that all Safeguarding Adults Boards would produce and agree a framework for responding to allegations against people working in a position of trust with adults with care and support needs (CARE AND SUPPORT Section 3 STATUTORY GUIDANCE).

The PILOT Process does not replace Safeguarding Adult Investigations and if a Safeguarding Referral is made, that process will continue. The SAB has an agreed process when allegations about people in a position of trust are made.

During this reporting period, St Helens have had 2 SAR referrals: 1 case continues to have cross boundary discussions as the individual's main residence was not in the St Helens area although he died in the area. The second SAR that was referred was accepted and is progressing, the methodology for this SAR was to have a Multi-Agency Learning Review. 1 case was considered for SAR and did not meet the criteria.

The Head of Safeguarding Adults has been part of a Task and Finish Group to review the PILOT process, the aim is to develop a set of principles that can be used across the North West, this work is being facilitated by North West ADASS Safeguarding Network.

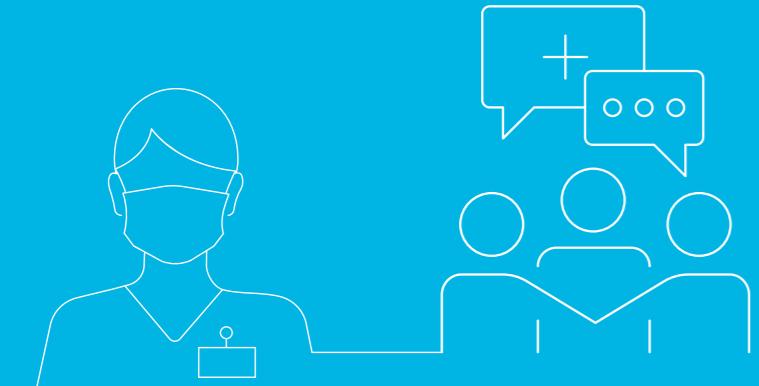


7. OUR PERFORMANCE: WHAT HAVE WE ACHIEVED IN 2024/25?

INTRODUCTION

The Care Act of 2014 sets out statutory requirements to collect, analyse and report specific information in relation to Safeguarding Adults. To do this, our performance information section will look at:

- Present a case study and several updated showing how our work makes a difference to service users
- Key data information with supporting commentary.



ANNUAL OBJECTIVES FOR 2024/25

BELOW WE SET OUT OUR KEY OBJECTIVES AND THE ACTIVITIES WE CARRIED OUT OVER THE YEAR

1. To continue to deliver safeguarding practice ensuring it is outcome focussed, person centred and in line with MSP.
2. To review the self-improvement action plan and ensure that progress is being made on the SAB relaunch.
3. To continue to work collaboratively to prevent abuse and neglect when possible.



CASE STUDIES:

SAFEGUARDING ADULTS IN ACTION

This section reviews some the work of Safeguarding partners have delivered over the last 12 months, demonstrating the wider diversity of activity involved in delivering services to safeguard adults:

ST HELENS BOROUGH COUNCIL ADULT SAFEGUARDING UNIT

Adult W is an 83-year-old woman who was referred to Adult Safeguarding by the Police.

Neighbours report that her partner has been aggressive towards her for at least 14 years, and this has become 'unbearable.'

Adult W has a number of health conditions, poor mobility and a visual impairment. Extended family had taken her to a place of safety.

This case was allocated to an Enquiry Practitioner who established a good rapport with Adult W. Adult W declined respite and was supported to move into a transitional flat.

Adult W was also supported to apply for extra-care.

The case demonstrated good multi-agency working including Adult Social Care, Occupational Therapy, IDVA and the Visual Impairment Team.

Despite her ex-partner trying to locate Adult W, she did not wish for this to be disclosed and has been supported with her decision. Adult W has a package of care in place and continues to have control and choice in making her own decisions.

Adult W has an improved relationship with family members who had previously become estranged.

A review took place, and it was observed that there had been improvements in Adult W's confidence, she appeared more relaxed and was positive about her future.



CHESHIRE & MERSEYSIDE INTEGRATED CARE BOARD (ICB)

St Helens is part of the NHS Cheshire and Merseyside Integrated Care Board (ICB), along with the 8 other boroughs across the Cheshire and Merseyside region. The ICB is a statutory organisation bringing the NHS together locally to improve population health and establish shared strategic priorities within the NHS. The ICB, also has a statutory duty to ensure that NHS commissioned services discharge their safeguarding adults' responsibilities effectively.

For 2024/25 the ICB ensured that provider organisations delivered a comprehensive service to safeguard adults at risk, including advice, training, and supervision. It also ensured that providers had up to date, comprehensive policies, and procedures in place, to raise awareness of abuse and neglect and to share knowledge of how to respond to safeguarding concerns.

The ICB also monitored training compliance and safeguarding activity against a range of key performance indicators to ensure that commissioned services were actively engaged in safeguarding adults work across the Borough. This work was underpinned by a wide-ranging governance framework, which ensured that safeguarding was at the heart of all provider organisations, from executive level through to the operational practice of staff.

As a key statutory partner, the ICB continued to be an active member of the Board, holding provider organisations to account, and chairing the critical Practice and Performance sub-group as well as the Safeguarding Health Forum, so that the Board was prepared to respond to national and local safeguarding issues. The ICB also sits on all other subgroups of the Board supporting partnership working and various task and finish groups and audit workstreams. The ICB continued to work in partnership with statutory agencies and the third sector to support the safe and effective delivery of services against the safeguarding agenda. The Designated Nurse for Safeguarding Adults also worked collaboratively with the Local Authority Safeguarding Unit by providing clinical advice and support when required.

The ICB additionally leads on the Learning from Life and Deaths (LeDeR) programme for Cheshire and Merseyside. Which is a national programme established by NHS England in 2015 to support local areas to review the deaths of people with learning disabilities and autism, identify learning from those deaths, and take forward the learning into service improvement initiatives. The LeDeR programme sits centrally within the ICB, this model enables partnership working across a larger footprint and allows for larger data collection for enhanced learning across the whole of Cheshire and Merseyside.



Good News Stories

- MCFT has further strengthened the Safeguarding Links Network, and each team now have a dedicated safeguarding adults (and children) link and during 2024/25 we have held two away days for the links; one day focused on exploitation and the second day focused on neglect. The speakers during the days were external partners and covered both adults and children subjects to support our Trust Think Family Strategy.
- For World Suicide Prevention Day, MCFT Safeguarding Team delivered a session on Domestic Abuse and Suicide which was attended by over 90 practitioners.
- During Safeguarding Adults Week, MCFT both supported the local Safeguarding Adults Boards by delivering sessions on their behalf but also had an internal offer to MCFT workforce:
- Safeguarding Duty Hub continues to be a well-used resource by frontline practitioners with St Helens practitioners contacting the Safeguarding Duty Hub approx. 300 times in 2024/25.

Highlights of Key Achievements or initiatives.

- During 2024/25 MCFT launched Domestic Abuse Toolkit Sessions, focussing on the practical response to Domestic Abuse. The toolkit sessions comprised 3 types of sessions: How to ask the question/Routine Enquiry, Domestic Abuse Risk Assessments and MARAC referrals and Responding to Domestic Abuse.
- MCFT Safeguarding Team have also created a Domestic Abuse Aide Memoire to support the frontline workforce.
- During 2024/25 MCFT Safeguarding Team have provided an extensive non-mandatory training offer for the workforce:
 - Exploitation - Child focused
 - Exploitation - Adult focused
 - Voice of the Child including non-verbal child
 - Self-neglect/Hoarding
 - Domestic Abuse
 - Adult Safeguarding Specialist
 - Child Neglect
 - Trauma Informed Practice
 - Safeguarding Children for Mental Health Services
 - Quarterly Round Ups, led by named nurses/ professionals
 - All teams in St Helens have quarterly Safeguarding Adults Supervision.



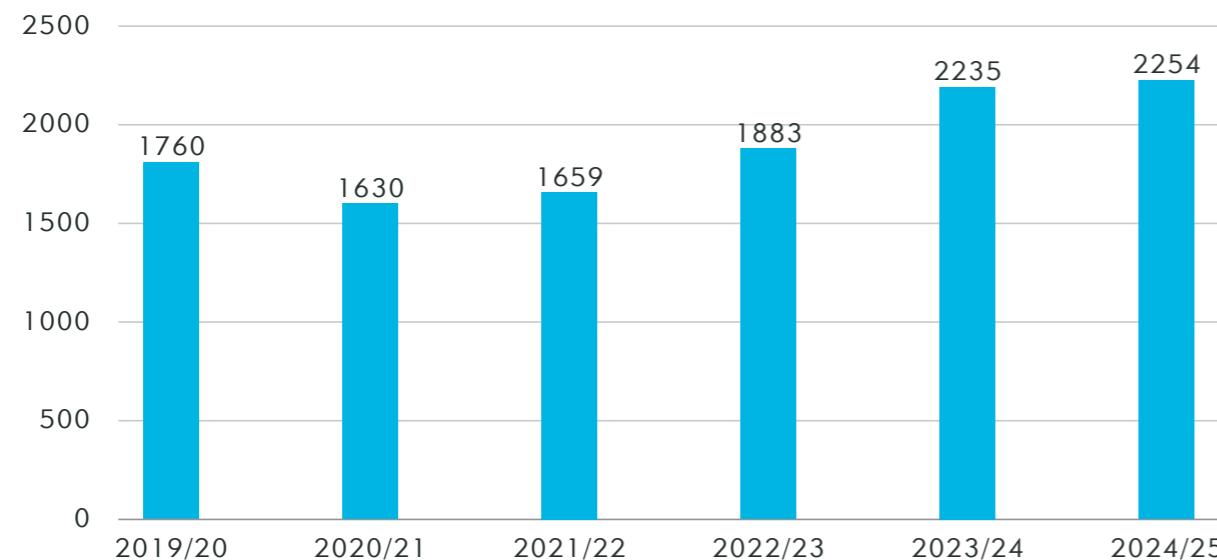
PERFORMANCE AND ACTIVITY INFORMATION 2024/25

This Section of the Report sets out key data in relation to Safeguarding Adults in St Helens, together with explanatory commentary.

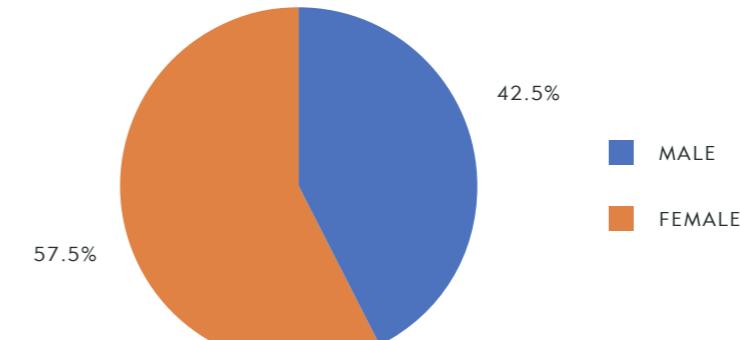
NUMBER OF CONCERNs PER YEAR

In 2024/25 2254 safeguarding referrals were received, there has been a minimal increase of 19 concerns compared to last year.

A weekly spreadsheet is completed which details all concerns which are received into the safeguarding unit, including any out of borough concerns. The spreadsheet reflects the work undertaken by Adult Safeguarding Coordinators. Out of borough concerns are not included in St Helens figures in the annual return to NHS digital as they are investigated by the host authority and are included in those figures.



SERVICE USER GENDER

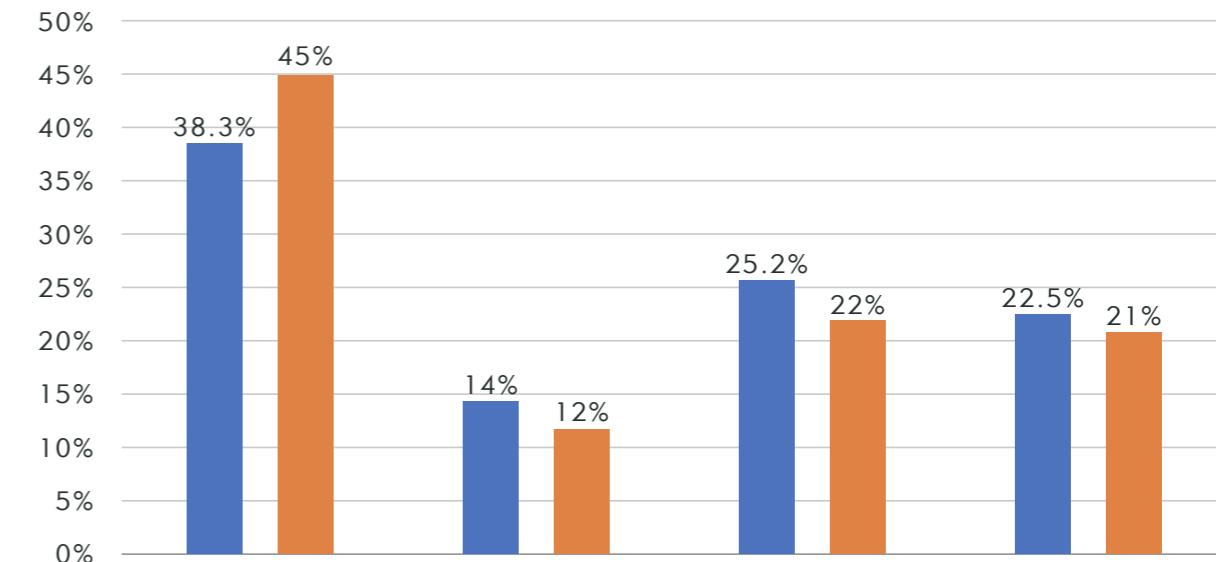


Male - 42.5% - Lower than census 2021

Female - 57.5% - higher than census 2021

This figure has remained fairly consistent with previous years

ONS population estimates that women represent 51% - census 2021 Women 50.9%, men 49.1%.



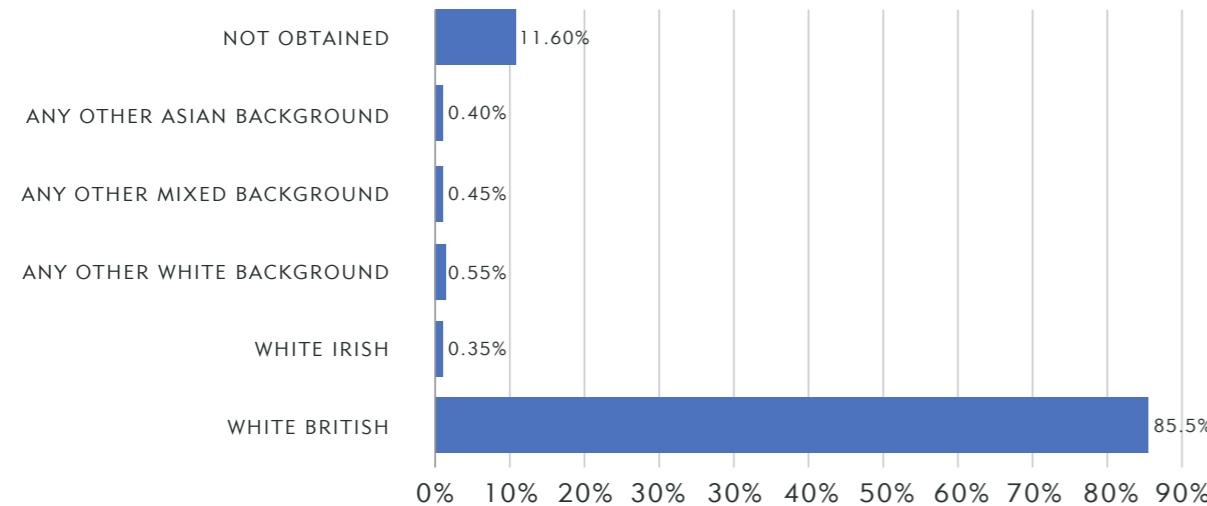
ONS population estimated in 2019 that people over 65 would make up 23% of the population by 2025. The census 21 figure was 20.5%. The percentage of our service users over 65 is higher 61.7%

SERVICE USER ETHNICITY

Numbers of other ethnicities are too small to record as percentages so are shown in numbers of service users accessing safeguarding service:

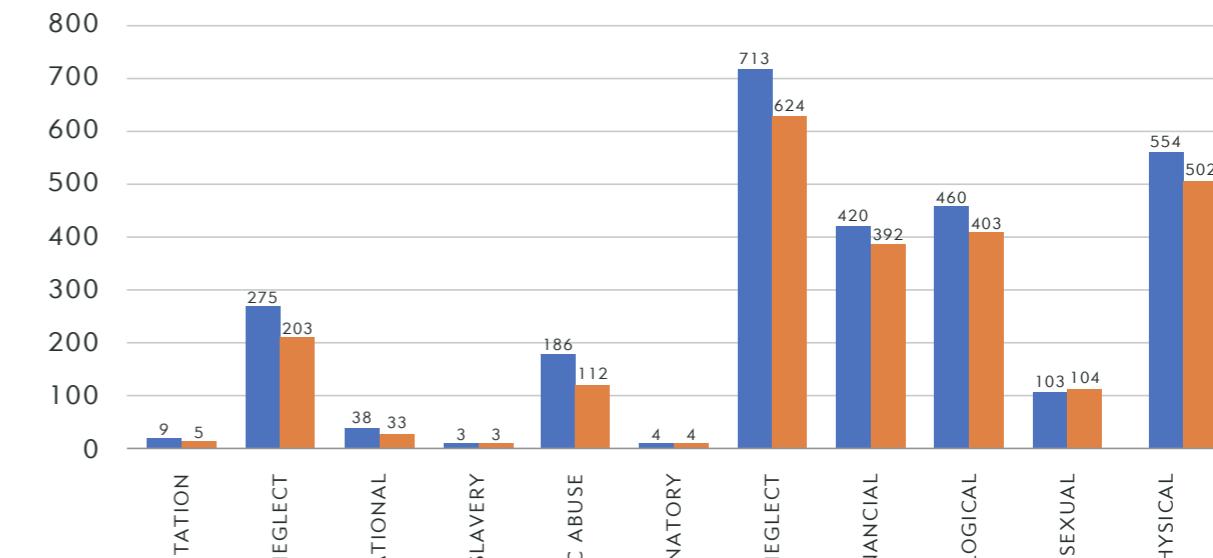
White & Black Caribbean	2
White & Asian	3
Asian/Asian British	1
Asian/Asian British Pakistani	1
Black/Black British Caribbean	1
Black/Black British African	3
Other Black Background	1
Chinese	1
Other Ethnic Background	4

Census 2021 recorded that 93.6% of people living in St Helens identified as white British, compared with 74.35% of people living in England & Wales.



NATURE OF ABUSE

2024/25 FIGURES 2023/24 FIGURES



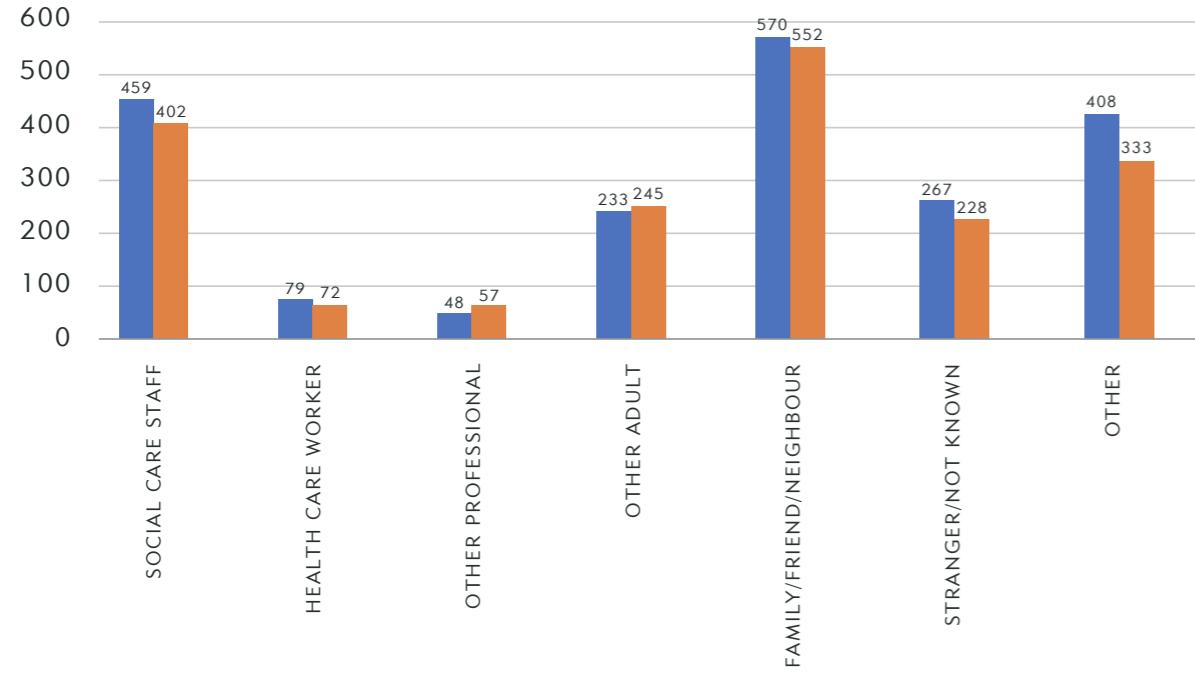
Neglect and physical abuse which includes falls, both witnessed and unwitnessed, unexplained bruising and medication errors in care homes, continue to be the most prevalent types of abuse. Cases of neglect have increased by 14% since last year.

Concerns regarding self-neglect have seen a 36% increase. Some examples of self-neglect include hoarding, refusal to engage in medical treatment and non-compliance with care support.

Concerns regarding domestic abuse have increased by 66%. This could be due to several factors including financial pressure and increased awareness and support.

ALLEGED PERPETRATOR

2024/25 FIGURES 2023/24 FIGURES

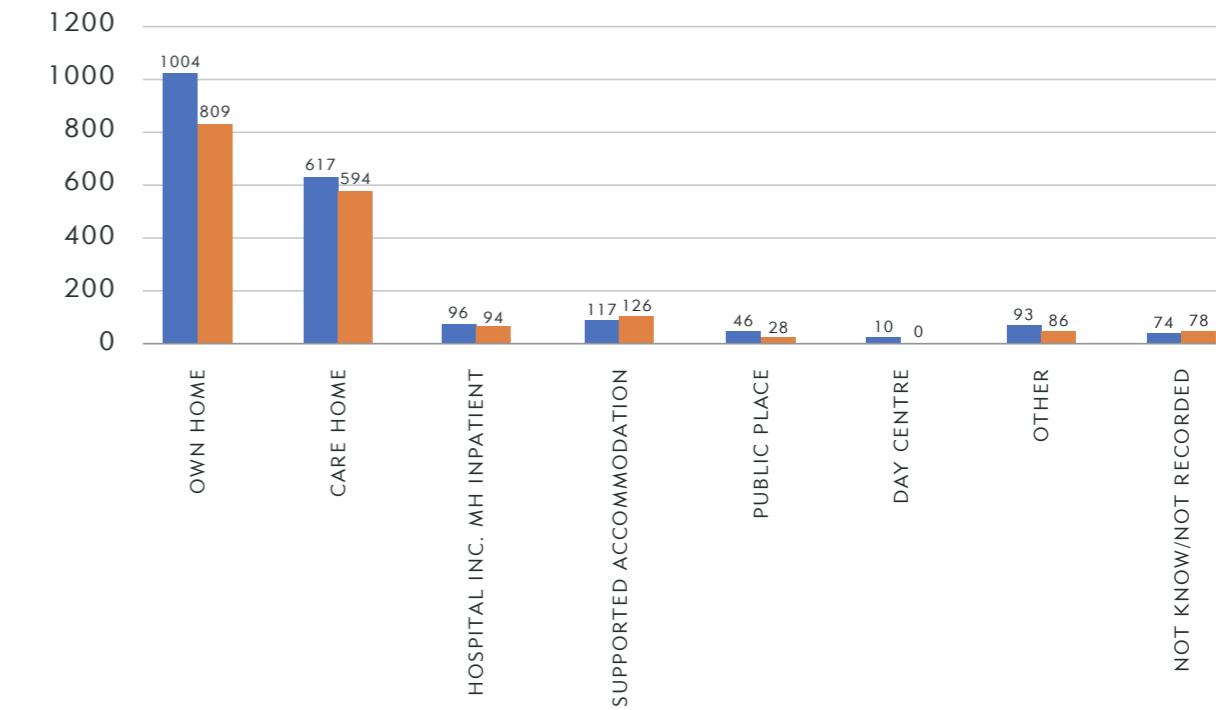


Referrals identifying social care staff as perpetrators are often cases of unwitnessed falls and unexplained bruising, usually in care homes.

When multiple professionals, individuals and family members etc have access to the service user it is often not possible to identify an alleged perpetrator. Whilst abuse by a stranger does sometimes occur this is not the norm.

LOCATION OF ABUSE

2024/25 FIGURES 2023/24 FIGURES



Own home continues to be the most common place for abuse to occur. This is consistent with previous years.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

St Helens Borough Council has continued to provide substantial finance for the management of the Board and associated administrative costs of the Board and Sub-Groups. The total contribution of the Council is £468,221. There are additional financial contributions from St Helens ICB and Merseyside Police. Wider Partners contribute by actively engaging with and supporting the Board to achieve its Priorities and Objectives.

The table below shows the contributions for the Adult Safeguarding Unit.

Agency	Contribution
Cheshire and Merseyside ICB	£25,000
Merseyside Police	£21,000
St Helens Council	£468,221
Total Costs	£514,221

The majority of the spend £481,106 is on staffing costs, there are currently 8 members of staff within the Safeguarding Team. Other costs include equipment and supplies and costs of promoting the service.





8. LOOKING AHEAD – 3-YEAR STRATEGIC PRIORITIES 2023/26 & ANNUAL OBJECTIVES 2025/26

The Care Act 2014 requires that, in addition to providing an Annual Report, the Board also reviews its 3-year Strategic Priorities and sets out the Annual Objectives that it will undertake to achieve those priorities. This Section sets out those Priorities and Objectives.

3-YEAR STRATEGIC PRIORITIES 2023/26

The St Helens Adult Safeguarding Board 3-year Strategic Plan (2023/26) highlights the following key areas of focus:

1. Customer Experience and Outcomes - Making Safeguarding Personal and supporting adults at risk to achieve the outcome they wish.
2. Processes, Procedures and Evaluation - To adapt our approach to safeguarding adults to respond to emerging societal trends, priorities, reports and guidance and developing innovative ideas to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of operational services.
3. Organisations, Professionals and Communities - To provide consistent leadership focussing on positive outcomes for those using our services.
4. Working Collaboratively with others to make the best use of resources - To be recognised as the leaders in the field of safeguarding adults in St Helens by providing excellent standards of partnership working and engaging with our community, building awareness and confidence in our safeguarding service.

ANNUAL OBJECTIVES 2025/26

These annual objectives are developed and delivered alongside the three-year strategic priorities. While the strategic priorities provide a long-term direction for the Board, the annual objectives allow us to respond to emerging issues and deliver focused work within each year. Progress is made on both sets of priorities concurrently, ensuring that short-term actions complement and strengthen our longer-term goals.

Objective	Elaboration	What difference do we want to make?
To enhance the approach to Domestic Abuse in St Helens.	The Safeguarding Adult Board has recognised the need to strengthen our approach to addressing Domestic Abuse in St Helens. Our partners are dedicated to implementing meaningful changes through enhanced training, long-term improvements, and an assessment of available resources and areas requiring further development.	We are committed to ensuring that individuals experiencing domestic abuse have access to the support that they need. Our approach focusses on reducing the risk of abuse, strengthening preventative efforts, and equipping professionals with the knowledge to recognise the indicators of domestic abuse and take appropriate action.
To strengthen our safeguards against suicide in St Helens.	Our goal is to reduce the risk of suicide in St Helens through a data-driven, informed approach. This includes training, fostering professional curiosity and follow-up capacity, eliminating stigma, ensuring that professionals know what to do when individuals disengage, and strengthening multi-agency collaboration.	Our aim is to reduce the risk of suicide for individuals in our borough by ensuring that they are aware of the support available to them. We also seek to equip professionals with the knowledge and resources to respond to concerns effectively and provide appropriate guidance.

Objective	Elaboration	What difference do we want to make?
To implement the Ministerial recommendations for Safeguarding Adult Boards in regard to individuals Rough Sleeping.	We will implement the Ministerial recommendations for Safeguarding Adult Boards regarding individuals Rough Sleeping by establishing a task and finish group. This group will consist of key attendees who can drive meaningful change in this area.	We are committed to safeguarding individuals experiencing rough sleeping from the risks of abuse and neglect, including self-neglect.



SAFEGUARDING IS EVERYONE'S BUSINESS

IF SOMEONE KNOWS THAT ABUSE
OR NEGLECT IS HAPPENING
THEY MUST ACT UPON THAT KNOWLEDGE,
NOT WAIT TO BE ASKED FOR INFORMATION.

CARE ACT GUIDANCE SECTION 14.185 (UPDATED OCTOBER 2018)

ST HELENS
BOROUGH COUNCIL

