


Safeguarding Annual Report 2023-24

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NENC ICB is
committed to
safeguarding the
welfare of children,
young people and
adults across the
organisation

Our four key goals



Longer & healthier lives

Reducing the gap between how long people live in the North East and North Cumbria compared to the rest of England



Fairer outcomes for all

As not everyone has the same opportunities to be healthy because of where they live, their income, education and employment



Better health & care services

Not just high-quality services but the same quality no matter where you live and who you are



Giving children and young people the best start in life

Enabling them to thrive, have great futures and improve lives for generations

Our area

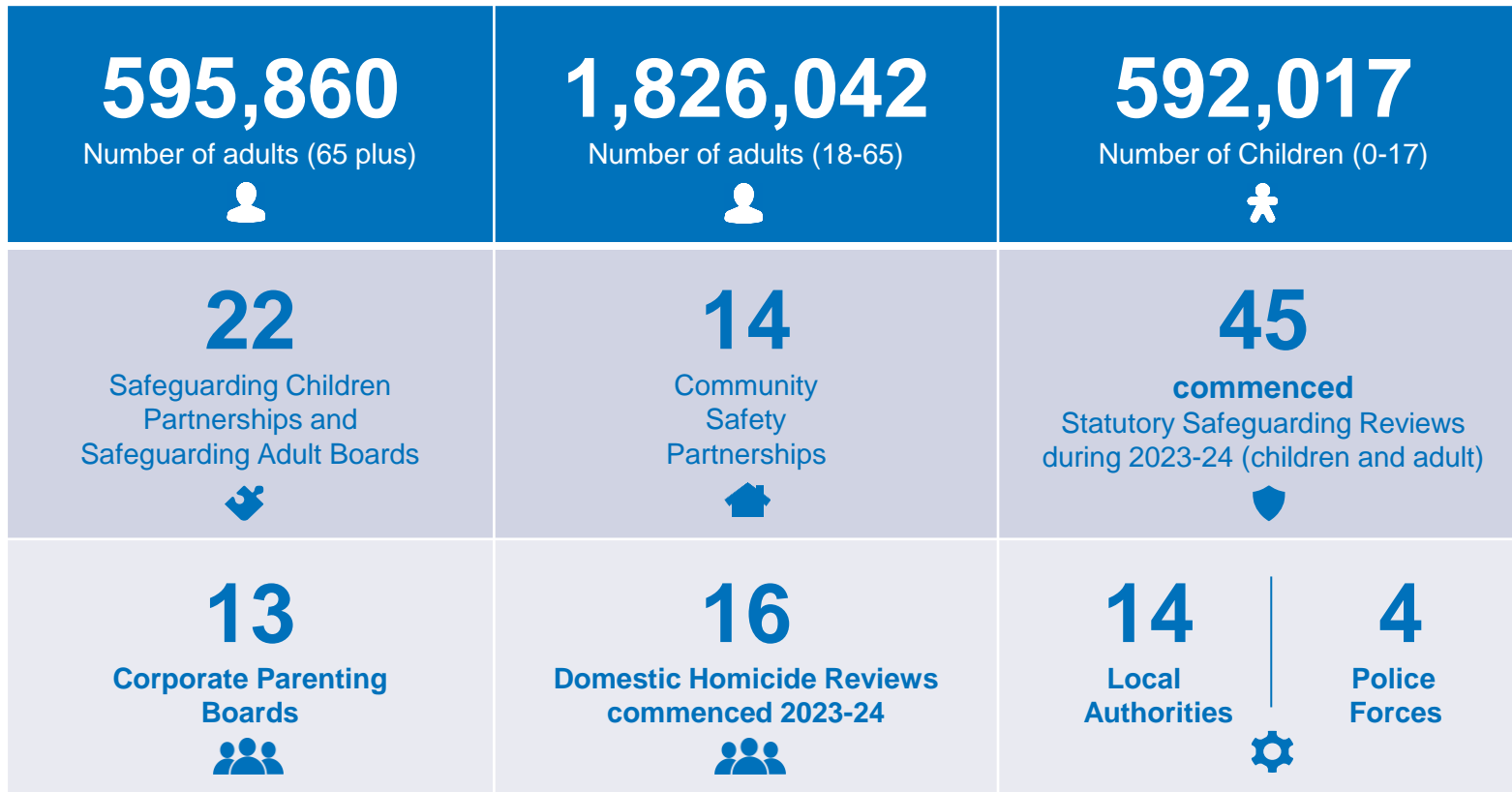
NHS North East and North Cumbria Integrated Care Board (ICB)



North East and North Cumbria



Key safeguarding demographics in the ICB area



Feedback –staff, clients, public



Feedback from exploitation safeguarding nurse training: “I just wanted to share how powerful your presentation was, in both its content and your delivery, which was both creative and insightful. I will remember your message to be ‘courageous’ as you are, in your practice, to advocate for exploited children”,
“The issues and complexities you conveyed through your approach mirrored the learning in both national and local learning and what a creative way to convey key messages for practice”



Free travel pass for care leavers:

“It has made it easier to get to work and college and also seeing my friends and family”,

“It has helped me attend my appointments as I am pregnant, and it's helped me get out of the house to see my friends and family”,

“Before getting the card I could only look for work that was in walking distance”,

“I've been able to go out and meet friends and relatives much more which has helped me with my mental health”,

“It is amazing!”



Initial pilot feedback re an agreement for Mentoring and social prescribing pilot launched Feb 24: “It would help our mental health, because I would have someone to talk to out of hours”, “I would have someone to talk to that's not my PA”

“It would help me feel less isolated and help me get through life like you would with family only I don't have family to do that with to a mentor would be great”

“I would love someone to spend some time with, I feel really lonely and it would be nice to have someone to talk to that isn't paid to be in my life, I don't have family to fall back on and limited friends, someone to go for a walk with would make such a difference, once I went so long without talking to someone I lost my voice, sometimes I just need a hug and a hot drink with someone”

“Interaction on a weekend would be nice or even through the week”



Executive summary

NENC ICB has continued to discharge its statutory safeguarding duties throughout 2023-24 in relation to safeguarding children, young people and adults at risk.

The Executive Chief Nurse holds the statutory accountability for safeguarding and delegated the statutory safeguarding responsibilities to the Directors of Nursing including a strategic lead with delivery of the statutory functions undertaken by the place Designated Teams. NENC ICB was able to demonstrate that there were appropriate safeguarding governance systems in place for discharging their statutory safeguarding duties and functions in line with the following key legislation:

- Care Act 2014
- Children Act 1989 and 2004
- Children and Social Work Act 2017
- Working together to Safeguard Children 2018*

The NHSE Safeguarding and Accountability and Assurance Framework (SAAF 2022) provides the strategic framework for ensuring system oversight of safeguarding priorities.

Assurance and oversight of these duties is maintained by NENC ICB through its formal quality governance arrangements

Additional key statutory safeguarding areas of focus within the report include:

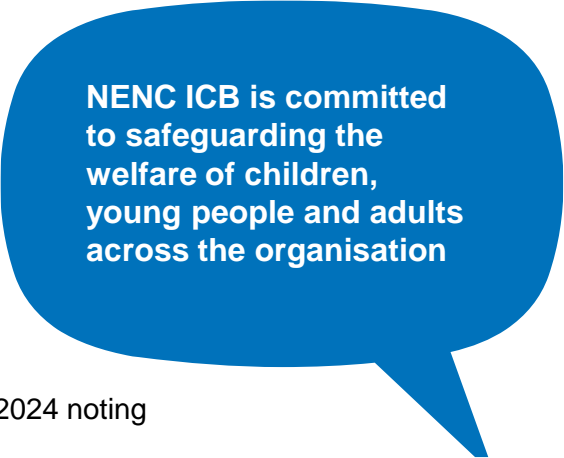
- Child Deaths - The Child Death Review Statutory Guidance (2018)
- Looked After Children - Promoting the health and wellbeing of Looked After Children (DfE 2015)
- Prevent - Counter Terrorism and Security Act, 2015 (Prevent Duty)
- Mental Capacity – Mental Capacity Act (MCA, 2005)

Joint Forward Plan Priorities:

- Cared for and Care Experienced
- Transitional Safeguarding
- Self Neglect
- Domestic and Sexual Violence

Foreword and introduction

- This is the first standalone Safeguarding Annual Review Report of North East and North Cumbria Integrated Care Board (NENC ICB)
- This report provides assurance to the board regarding our ICB safeguarding functions and outlines the continued fulfilment of our statutory safeguarding duties. Our transformational approach to safeguarding has been evolving since the ICB formation and latterly as part of our response as a result of the ICB 2.0 requirements
- Our governance arrangements continue to support a more integrated approach to safeguarding across the ICS through the Health Safeguarding Executive
- This annual report therefore contains information from 1st April 2023 until 31st March 2024 noting the 2.0 organisational change commenced in September 2023
- This report provides the Board with an overview of how we have fulfilled our safeguarding statutory requirements, our contributions across NENC ICS with our Safeguarding Children Partnerships and Adult Board arrangements and our collaboration with providers and system colleagues
- NENC ICB has a strong commitment to prevention and early intervention which is seen as vital to safeguard our children, families and adults
- NENC ICB has continued to implement national guidance, work in our convening role and driven our engagement within our multi agency partnerships, with a commitment to learning from safeguarding reviews and incidents to improve outcomes for our population across NENC whilst holding the voice of our population central to our focus and delivery

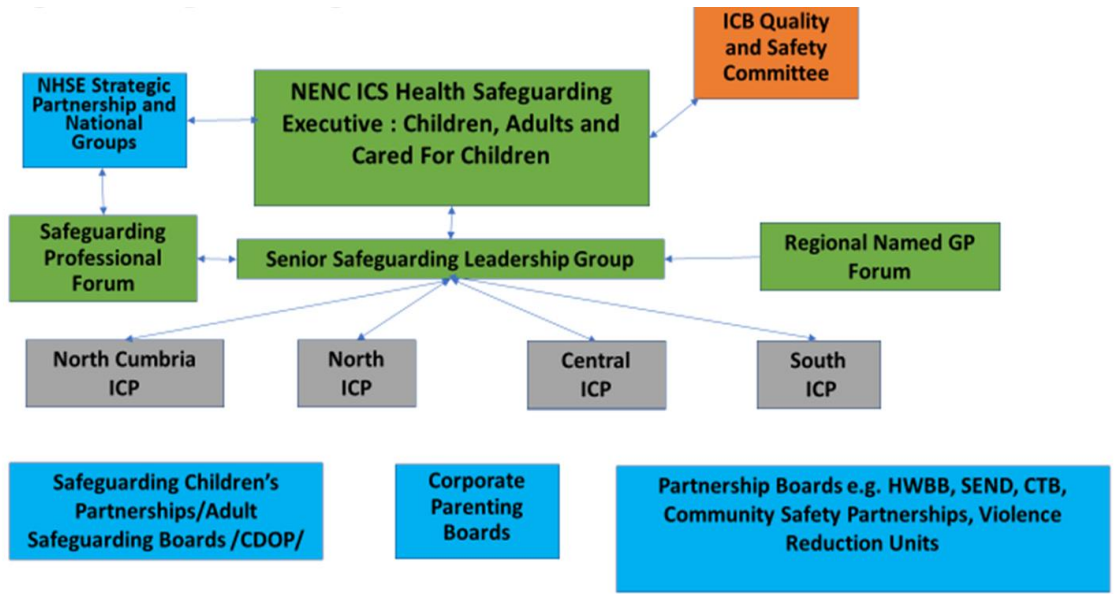


NENC ICB is committed to safeguarding the welfare of children, young people and adults across the organisation

Safeguarding Governance Arrangements 2023/24

Safeguarding arrangements are within the overarching NENC ICB quality governance structure. The ICB hosts a strategic Health Safeguarding Executive Group for senior NHS leaders in providers. The structure supports an integrated model for the delivery of the safeguarding functions with the opportunity for continuing development during 2024/25.

There is a clear line of accountability with the Executive Chief Nurse taking overall responsibilities for the organisations safeguarding arrangements. The recent organisational change has provided the opportunity to review and develop safeguarding governance to support a model of integrated safeguarding systems, oversight and aims to reduce duplication, promote effectiveness, and demonstrating improved outcomes at scale.



NENC ICB Statutory Duties

Responsibilities of NENC ICB delivered across the ICB and in our local arrangements as set out in legislation and national guidance

Strategic System Functions:

- Establish Safeguarding ICB governance and statutory safeguarding system accountability
- Develop a plan for the ICB to deliver on statutory safeguarding functions
- Strategic safeguarding clinical arrangements
- Safeguarding system assurance
- System Oversight – identification of system risk, expectations, challenge and escalation
- Statutory safeguarding system learning
- System reform – service development and transformation
- Safeguarding effectiveness and quality improvement
- Regulatory and inspection frameworks for safeguarding – CQC, Ofsted, Coronial
- Reduce unwarranted variation and inequalities
- Improve outcomes

Statutory Functions:

- Statutory partner for safeguarding partnerships and boards
- Delivery of national, regional and ICB safeguarding priorities
- Cared for children and Care Leavers
- Mental Capacity Act/ Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards
- PREVENT
- Child deaths and child death reviews
- Domestic abuse, Female Genital Mutilation (FGM), Forced Marriage (FM) and Honour Based Violence (HBV)
- Serious Violence and Modern Day Slavery
- Safeguarding assurance of commissioned services
- Managing Allegations against staff
- Safeguarding supervision
- Information Sharing / Child Protection Information Sharing (CP-IS)

Safeguarding Children Partnerships, Adult Safeguarding Boards and System Partnership Boards

- NENC ICB has maintained the ICB statutory duties across the ICS Safeguarding Children Partnerships as one of the equal and joint statutory partners along with the Local Authorities and Police Forces and as a statutory partner for the ICS Adult Safeguarding Boards
- The ICB continues to work together with our statutory partners and other agencies to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and adults across NENC
- There are 22 safeguarding partnerships and boards across the NENC ICS footprint, seven of which are joint
- The Executive Chief Nurse has ensured the ICB statutory function for the boards and partnerships during 2023-24 has been delivered via the following arrangements:
 - ✓ Area Director of Nurses have attended the Safeguarding Board/Partnership meetings with delegated executive responsibility from the ICB Executive Chief Nurse
 - ✓ Our Designated Safeguarding teams in each place have attended the Board/Partnership meetings as expert advisors. They have also either chaired or provided representation to facilitate and influence the subgroups of the partnerships/boards and associated workstreams to fulfil our statutory responsibilities and contribute to our safeguarding partnership work

- ✓ Community Safety Partnerships are attended by our Designated teams in each place to represent our ICB organisation and fulfil our statutory responsibilities regarding domestic abuse, serious violence and Prevent
- ✓ As a statutory partner we contribute to each of our safeguarding partnership/boards annual reports which outline our key achievements and priorities for each of the partnership areas
- ✓ Our ICB safeguarding and quality governance routes from within each place and within our wider ICB governance ensure our continued oversight and contribution to the work of our partnerships and boards is maintained

Safeguarding Assurance – Overview

NENC ICB has a statutory responsibility for ensuring safe systems of care are delivered and to ensure that all health providers with whom they commission, discharge their functions regarding safeguarding and the promotion of welfare of children, young people and adults at risk. The statutory safeguarding assurance processes set out in the SAAF (2022) have been adhered to.

NENC ICB Contractual Standards provide the safeguarding audit framework used to monitor all NHS and Non-NHS providers of health care and ensure annual safeguarding arrangements are in place to provide oversight of provider safeguarding assurance.

NENC ICB Safeguarding Teams oversee the coordination of system safeguarding assurance in coordination with contracting, commissioning and quality teams.

Our Safeguarding assurance model for NHS commissioned services includes actively engaging and seeking assurance from our large acute trusts, Private Hospital Trusts, GP Practices and Nursing Care Homes as well as numerous smaller commissioned or independent services. Assurance of ICB's is overseen by NHS England who have a statutory role to oversee assurance.

Formal NHSE ICB assurance reviews are carried out quarterly via the Safeguarding Commissioning Assurance Toolkit (SCAT). The organisation is fully compliant across all standards.

Achievements 2023-2024

- Standard suite of safeguarding policies
- Level one mandatory training for ICB staff on ESR
- Integrated safeguarding within quality governance and reporting
- Quality and safeguarding provider assurance visits
- Attendance at provider safeguarding performance and operational committees

Priorities for 2024-25:

- Standardisation of assurance via an ICB wide model to align and strengthen system oversight, support early identification of safeguarding system risks and improved standards across commissioned services
- Oversight of statutory Safeguarding Partnership Section 11 audits
- ICB wide Training Needs Analysis
- Annual review and update ICB Safeguarding contractual standards
- Development of area health Forums to strengthen relationships, share learning and good practice

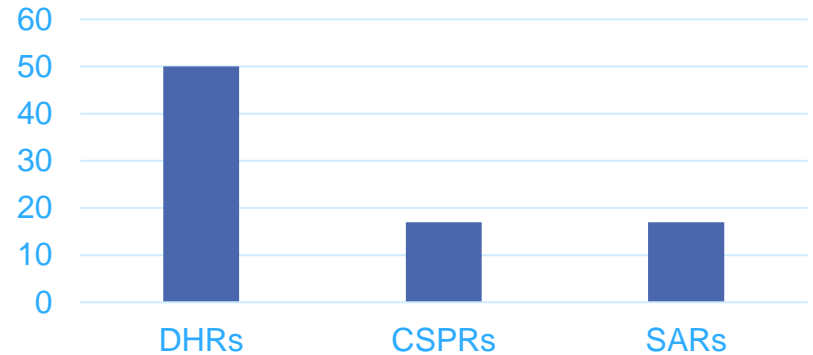
Safeguarding Statutory Reviews: 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024

ICB's are required to participate in all statutory safeguarding reviews, Safeguarding Adult Reviews (SARs), Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews (CSPR's) and Domestic Homicide Reviews (DHR) as outlined within legislation including the Care Act (2014), The Children and Social Work Act (2017) and Domestic Violence, Crime and Victims Act (2004).

The ICB contributes to all reviews via our Designated Safeguarding Teams across NENC ICB as part of the Safeguarding Adult Boards, Children Partnerships and Community Safety Partnerships review panel processes.

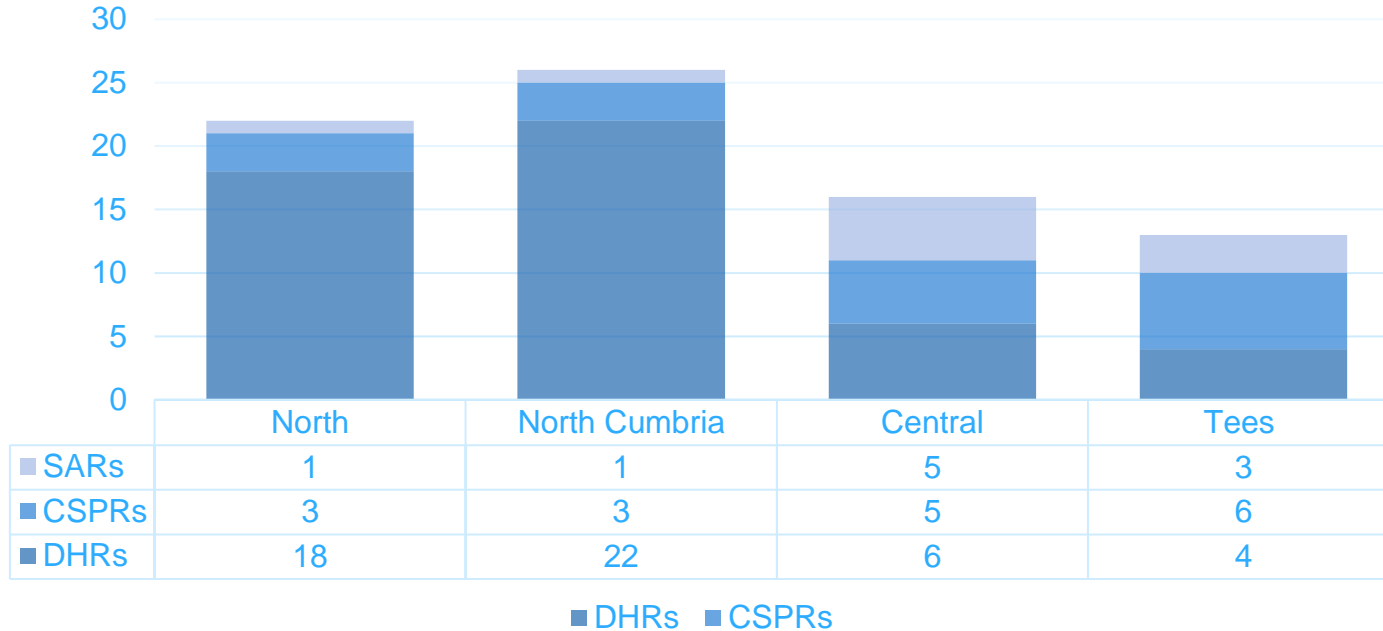
Learning from these reviews informs local partnerships and system level development and improved outcomes for our population – the aim is to identify thematic areas of learning to influence our ICS system, regional and national priority areas of work. During 2023-24 NENC ICB 45 statutory reviews were commenced with a total of 77 underway.

Total DHR/CSPR/SAR activity



Safeguarding Statutory Reviews: 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024

STATUTORY REVIEWS BY ICB AREA



Safeguarding Statutory Reviews

Themes evident through NENC ICB statutory safeguarding Reviews in 2023-24 mirror the national picture including:

- Self-neglect
- Domestic abuse, coercive control, DHR theme: older victims
- Adult Mental health
- Injuries to babies under one
- Child neglect
- Risk outside the home
- Child mental health/complex needs
- Lack of evidence of lived experience

Learning and Improvement Enabler

- During 2023/24 the group led and/or coordinated with Designated teams
 - ✓ ICB Board level training
 - ✓ Public facing awareness in support of prevention and risk reduction for sudden infant deaths, ICON (helping people who care for babies to cope with crying)
 - ✓ Led with Durham University the Eyes on the Baby projects (multi agency SUDI prevention training)
- For 2024/25 an ambition to support greater system wide understanding of health related issues impacting on safeguarding in all our commissioned services
- For 2024/25 to provide a single point of contact for shared learning across the ICB LDTs and commissioned services to improve system outcomes in our key priority areas

Domestic and Sexual Violence

Domestic Abuse Requirements	Assurance and Key Areas of Development (see also Serious Violence Duty which now incorporates domestic and sexual abuse)
ICB Statutory Functions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Executive Chief Nurse is accountable for the statutory commissioning assurance functions of the safeguarding elements of domestic and sexual abuse Statutory responsibility to participate in Domestic Homicide Reviews (DHR's) which is maintained via safeguarding designated teams Strategic oversight via Community Safety Partnerships, Safeguarding Boards and Safeguarding Partnerships NENC ICB signatory to the sexual safety charter
NENC ICB Domestic abuse policy, procedures and systems to monitor the domestic abuse agenda	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Domestic and sexual abuse is incorporated within all Safeguarding Policies for ICB staff Domestic and sexual abuse is one of 4 key ICB Joint Forward Plan safeguarding priorities in line with the positive duty under Domestic Abuse Act 2021 and Health and Care Act 2022 Designated professionals have maintained oversight of the system response to the introduction of the Domestic Abuse Bill 2021 and its inclusion in the provider safeguarding contractual standards in 2023-24.
Health attendance at Domestic Abuse Partnership Boards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ICB representation on the Community Safety Partnerships and Domestic Abuse (DA) local partnership board and partners in each area's DA Strategies
Domestic Homicide Reviews	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Safeguarding case review tracker. Multi agency partnership work undertaken to address themes such as older victims of DHRs
System developments for 2024- 25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New Single Point Of Contact for quality assurance of DHRs Oversight of learning and themes from DHR's Review of Multi Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA) and Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conferences (MARAC) representation for primary care, DA training and DA support in primary care Continuing to participate in national DHR consultation

Serious Violence Duty

The Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Act received Royal Assent in April 2022. The Serious Violence Duty (SVD) requirements came into effect in January 2023, they introduced a new statutory duty for specified authorities in a locality to collaborate to prevent and reduce serious violence. NENC ICB is the specified authority for health in each ICB area and needs to ensure services work together to share data and knowledge and to target interventions to prevent serious violence.

Serious Violence Duty Requirements	Assurance and Key Areas of Development
ICB Statutory Functions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Executive Chief Nurse holds the serious violence duty responsibilities • NENC ICB contributes and engages with other duty holders via relevant partnerships including the Violence Reduction Unit, place Community Safety Partnerships, Safeguarding Boards and Safeguarding Partnerships.
Embedding SVD within NENC ICB policy, procedures and ensure systems in place to progress the agenda	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The ICP Joint Forward Plan 2023/4-28/29 outlines our priorities In response to our statutory safeguarding duties and legal duties. • NENC ICB as members of the Community Safety Partnerships (CSP) have contributed to and agreed a Strategic Needs Assessment (SNA) as per its duty (Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Act 2022) and the resulting strategies • Safeguarding and workplace policies ensure staff who are victims of violence and abuse are supported in the workplace using evidence-based practice
System developments for 2024- 25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ongoing preparations for upcoming Ofsted Joint Targeted Area Inspections on multi agency responses to serious youth violence • Scope in collaboration with partners the commissioned services to support victims of domestic abuse, sexual or serious violence • Increase awareness of healthcare services that can provide specialist treatment and support for victims of sexual violence and FGM (e.g. Sexual Assault Referral Centres) • Ongoing and specialist advice as required in the ICBs prioritisation of the prevention and reduction of violence against women and girls (VAWG) and for the needs of victims of abuse

Prevent

The Prevent Duty Guidance 2023 denotes the health sector specified authorities as NHS Trust and Foundation Trusts in England and Wales. Prevent is part of the UK's Counter Terrorism Strategy known as CONTEST. Prevent works to stop individuals from getting involved or supporting terrorism or extremist activity.

Prevent Requirements	Assurance and Key Areas of Development
ICB Prevent statutory functions	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Executive Chief Nurse as a Board level executive director fulfils the function of a Prevent Lead
Prevent within NENC ICB Policy, Procedures to ensure systems in place to monitor the Prevent agenda	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Prevent is incorporated within NENC ICB Safeguarding Policy including a Prevent concern flowchart and locality referral details. It sits alongside long-established safeguarding duties on professionals to protect people from a range of harms• Prevent is included within NENC ICB safeguarding reporting and Safeguarding provider safeguarding contractual standards including training compliance to ensure that people who are susceptible to radicalisation are supported• NHSE national data reporting from NHS Acute provider trusts included in quarterly ICB assurance
System developments for 2024-25	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ensure Prevent training is embedded within NENC ICB on ESR in line with Home Office guidance• Assurance that health providers are cooperating with Local Authority led Channel Panels• Oversight of compliance with Prevent Duty and ensuring effective delivery• Prevent training to be incorporated into the NHSE Safeguarding Integrated Data Dashboard.• Ensure Prevent training is embedded within commissioned services

Care Experienced and Care Leavers

NENC ICB responsibilities for Cared for Children are set out in Promoting the Health and Wellbeing of Looked After Children (DfE, 2015) and Working Together To Safeguard Children (2023). ICBs in collaboration with other NHS commissioners and local authority partners have a responsibility to ensure the timely and effective delivery of health services to Looked After Children and Care Leavers. ICB is the responsible commissioner for health services to NENC cared for children whether they are resident within or outside the ICB

Care Experienced and Care Leavers	Assurance and Key Areas of Development
ICB Statutory Functions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Executive Chief Nurse is the organisational lead with responsibility for cared for children and young people and care leavers to ensure the organisational statutory responsibilities are fulfilled.
Policy, procedures and systems to monitor the Cared for and Care leaver agenda	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cared for and Care Experienced Children is a key workstream in the Safeguarding Framework and one of the Joint Forward Plan priorities Designated professionals have maintained oversight of the commissioned services compliance with Looked after Children requirements via the NENC ICB provider safeguarding contractual standards to ensure system oversight and assurance Designated Nurses represent and contribute to place Corporate Parent Boards to ensure statutory requirements are fulfilled Support for the delivery of the NHS Universal Family Programme for Care Leavers
System developments for 2024-25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduce unwarranted variation in commissioning arrangements for Cared for Children across the ICB Share and embed ICB wide learning from safeguarding reviews that will improve outcomes for looked after children and care leavers Strengthen governance and reporting mechanisms to the 14 Corporate Parenting Boards Develop a consistent and standardised data and performance dashboard for NENC ICB Support the completion of the new NHSE national data set for Assurance of Statutory Health Assessments that aims to improve the timeliness and quality of health assessments within the statutory timescales, to improve the notification of placements and to provide continuity of healthcare. Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children (UASC) – system development to identify and meet their health needs plan

Mental Capacity Act (MCA)

NENC ICB as a commissioner needs to be able demonstrate understanding and compliance with the Mental Capacity Act 2005 (MCA) and Deprivation of Liberty Safeguarding 2009 (DoLs) within the organisation and seek assurance that any services it commissions are also compliant

Mental Capacity Act (MCA)	Assurance and Key Areas of Development
ICB Statutory Functions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Executive Chief Nurse is the organisational MCA lead and ensures that the organisational statutory responsibilities are fulfilled
MCA Policy, procedures and systems	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> MCA policy for ICB staff Designated professionals have maintained oversight of the commissioned services compliance with MCA requirements via the ICB safeguarding contractual standards to ensure oversight and compliance ICB safeguarding teams provide MCA support on complex safeguarding cases MCA training for the ICB is required to meet its safeguarding responsibilities and in progress ICB professional lead and forum to oversee the MCA/DoLs priorities in the ICB including challenges, issues, risks and mitigations Primary care involvement through ICB processes
System developments for 2024/25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Thematic learning from statutory safeguarding reviews to inform improved outcomes and system development Continue to strengthen response to MCA for 16/17-year-olds across the ICB Develop a clear assurance and governance framework for MCA, DoLs and Court of Protection (CoP) across the ICB and identify risks for MCA applications e.g. DoLs and CoP waiting lists Further development of the forum where MCA, DoLs and CoP issues are reviewed and discussed with key stakeholders Share and support best practice and collaborative working across relevant groups Continual improvement of MCA assessments, quality of recording, improvements in the best interest framework and application of primary and secondary care Support to improve staff awareness and involvement in MCA processes as part of their standards clinical practices, and agreed assurance processes for MCA governance including training, policy as assessed through improved patient experience

Additional Responsibilities

ICB Statutory Function	Assurance and Key Areas of Development	System Developments for 2024/25
<p>Modern Slavery</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Publication of its annual Modern Slavery Statement in full support of the Governments objective to eradicate modern slavery and human trafficking • Dedicated ICB exploitation safeguarding nurse instrumental in Modern Slavery operations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annual review of contracts where employment on low and insecure contracts may be in place where exploitation is more likely • Develop ICB Modern Slavery operating procedures
<p>Exploitation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with multi-agency colleagues to raise awareness and manage criminal and sexual exploitation across the age span. Numerous briefing sessions delivered by exploitation safeguarding nurse across the ICB and to some partnerships 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explore wider coverage of exploitation subject matter across the ICB footprint
<p>Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Undertook NHSE FGM assurance audit with acute Trusts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comply with reporting via newly developed NHSE data reporting using Safeguarding integrated data dashboard
<p>Working together (WT) 2023</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ICB safeguarding teams working with statutory partners to implement new requirement of WT 2023 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure with statutory partners that our Multi Agency Safeguarding Arrangements (MASA) are progressing in line with publication requirements by December 2024 . Review of ICB model to ensure implementation of the Lead Safeguarding Partners (LSP) and Delegated Safeguarding Partners (DSP) arrangements across our six Local Delivery Teams and the partnership boards it serves

Child Death Overview Panels

- Child Death Review [CDR] partners have a legal responsibility to ensure that the deaths of children normally resident in their area are reviewed. This function is carried out by the Child Death Overview Panel (CDOP) to ensure that a review is undertaken for all infant/child deaths age 0-17 years, excluding babies who are stillborn, late foetal loss and planned terminations of pregnancy carried out within the law
- The four CDOPs across NENC ICB use an eCDOP system that supports the 14 local authorities. It allows sharing of information in order to build a picture of emerging themes and patterns
- Paediatrician for Child Deaths and Designated Doctors fulfil the ICB responsibilities as members of the four CDOPs
- CDOP has a statutory requirement to produce local annual reports which provides a summary of the key learning and emerging trends arising with the aim of preventing future child deaths which will be reviewed through the NENC ICS Health Safeguarding Committee and ongoing governance

Key achievements from ICB areas in 2023-24

NENC ICB area	Key areas of achievement 2023-24
<p>North</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two Designated Nurses Safeguarding Children in North authored a CSPR in Tees which received positive feedback from the national panel • Introduced Integrated training post in safeguarding for GP doctors in training • Delivered Forensic training for suspected abuse of adults • Successfully funded mental health practitioner into MASH • Introduced pathway into primary care for those aged 17 who will be leaving the CiC nursing service so that their needs can be addressed within primary care services • Ongoing pilot for offer of health assessment aged 18 plus for those identified as care leavers • Developed dental pathway for cared for children
<p>Central</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supported the commissioned Domestic Abuse Health Advocate (DAHA) in improving domestic abuse awareness and management in primary care in Sunderland and DAHA embedded across all practices. • Embedded and developed a joint safeguarding newsletter to provide regular update to Sunderland and South Tyneside safeguarding leads in practices. This is also shared with the primary care networks (PCNs). • Supported an independent internal review of the Complex Adult Risk Management (CARM) process in Sunderland to be lunched June 24 • Completed scoping for a health navigator post within the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub in South Tyneside. • Development with partners of the Whorlton Hall Action plan and ongoing multi agency review of actions and recommendations. • Support and improvement of three practices with inadequate CQC reports resulting in improvements in safeguarding and other areas • Serious Event Analysis (SEA) conducted in a practice following a safeguarding concern which resulted in significant improvements
<p>Tees</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The safeguarding team have played an active role in developing an Adult Exploitation and Adult Sexual Exploitation Teesside strategy working with TSAB and other partner agencies. • Supporting primary care through engagement sessions, attendance has been high, at times over 100, with multiple Adult and Childrens safeguarding topics covered. • Supporting a number of independent providers who had significant quality and safeguarding concerns to improve service delivery and maintain patient safety • The ICB hosted two PREVENT workshops relating to ACT awareness and an ACT operational mock scenario which was attended by multiple partner agencies
<p>North Cumbria</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safeguarding health professionals network went from strength to strength • Successful bid to the Home office to pilot the DHR oversight Panel • Domestic Abuse Conference held to develop the DA strategy

Key achievements led by Named GPs in each ICB area in 2023-24

NENC ICB area	Key areas of achievement 2023-24
North	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improving the quality of multi-disciplinary practice team meetings by piloting the signs of safety model and in-depth case review Training rollout of Information Governance awareness to practices for MARAC and use of domestic abuse template (North Tyneside) Development and supervision of first integrated training post in safeguarding and primary care for GP doctors in training (Newcastle/Gateshead) Development and delivery of Forensic Awareness Training in safeguarding to general practice and local trusts and a virtual training pack to support a train the trainer model
Central	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support for the launch of initial health assessments embedded within primary care systems (Durham) Every practice signed up to the routine enquiry in domestic abuse programme (Sunderland) Induction pack developed for new starters (South Tyneside)
Tees	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Design and delivery of a general practice training programme informed by local safeguarding practice reviews and serious incidents. Implementation and facilitation of information sharing protocol between police and general practice to improve victim/survivor support during criminal investigations. Development of an enhanced “Child Not Brought” Policy for adoption by practices, updated to capture issues around adolescent neglect and exploitation. Liaison with LMC around GP participation in non-contractual safeguarding work. Contribution to national approach to incorporation of safeguarding work into core contracts.
North Cumbria	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Development of child neglect assessment guide for general practice Family support network survey to gather more information about the support networks around pregnant women
ICB wide	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Led regional conference (NEY) to discuss safeguarding training models Developed level 4 training programme to support Named GPs and being rolled out nationally

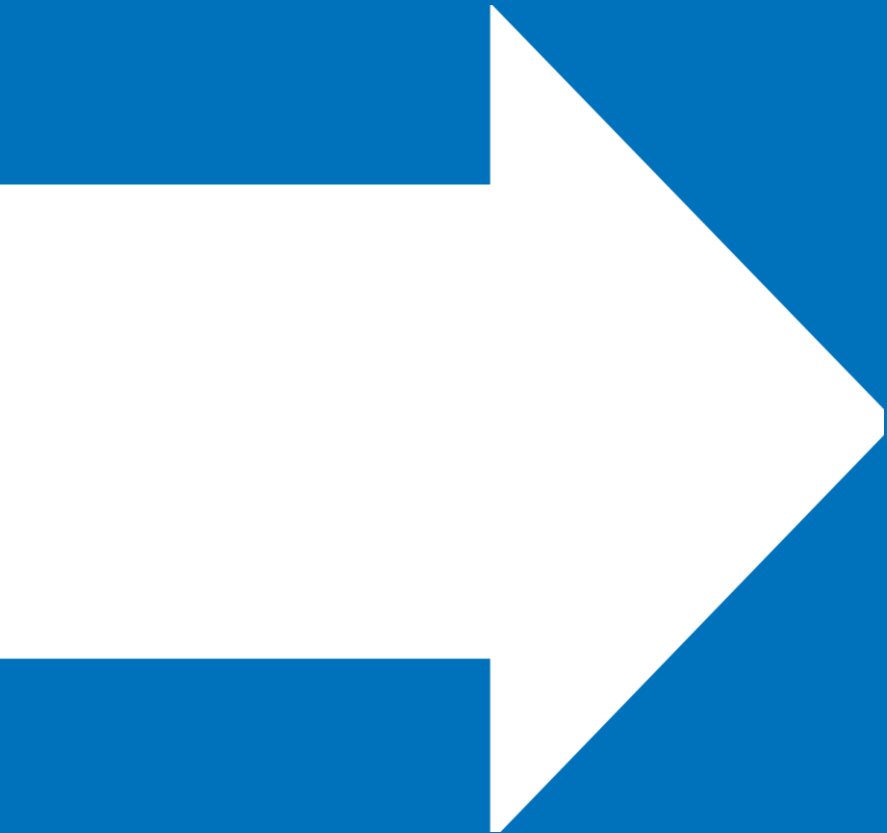
Role and key achievements led by Designated Doctors in 2023-24

Designated Doctors lead the ICB clinical arrangements for Safeguarding Children, Care Experienced and Paediatricians for Child Death

All the roles are statutory and work within each of the safeguarding teams – they ensure that the health economy is working effectively to safeguard children and working effectively with partner agencies. They provide support and advice to health care professionals, advocacy and the provision of strategic advice and guidance for the commissioning of cared for services and clinical leadership for the review of child deaths.

Key areas of achievement 2023-24

- Developing safer sleep training programme based on Eyes on the baby pilot in County Durham
- Working with local partnership on guidance for managing Fabricated and Induced Illness
- Working with local partnership on managing sexualised behaviour
- Developing local guidance on Injuries in non-mobile children
- Supported bid and development of role for Emergency Department navigators for violence reduction at South Tees aged 14-25
- Developing and delivering training sessions for multiagency partners
- A proforma has been developed for Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children in Durham to help ensure the specific health needs of our unaccompanied young people are identified and met.
- Work underway in Newcastle to develop a page on the NENC ICB Healthier Together website, initially to provide information on the Initial Health Assessment process for those children coming into care with the aim of expanding the content linked to the health offer
- Coordinated the ICB response to the Gender Identity Development Service from a safeguarding perspective



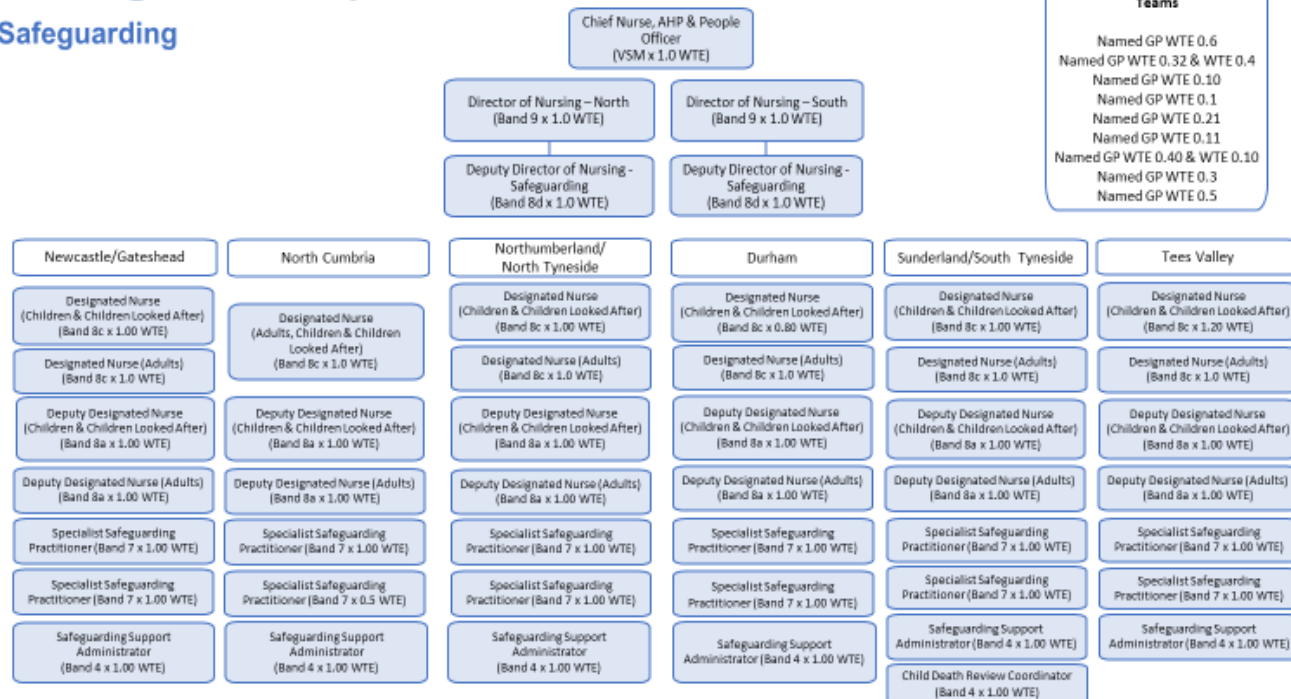
2024/2025

Safeguarding and Cared for Teams in NENC ICB

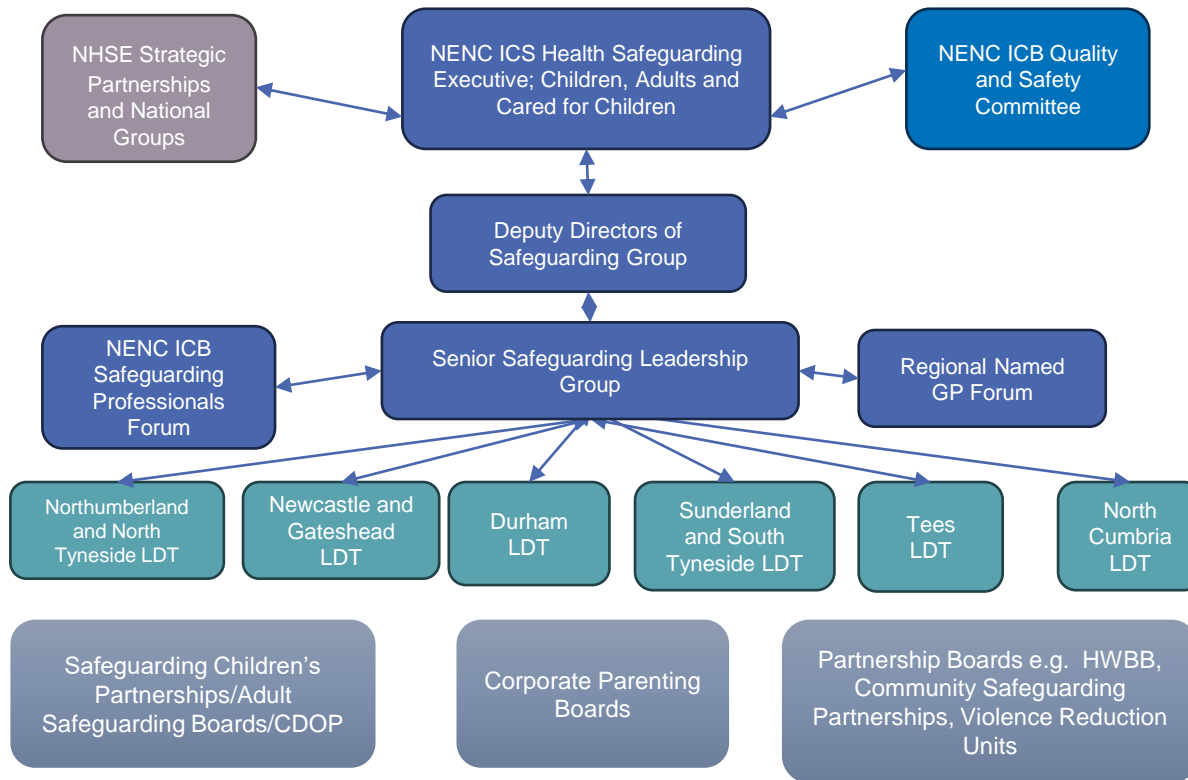
Confidential

Nursing, AHP, People Directorate

Safeguarding



NENC ICB Safeguarding Governance 2024/25



Priorities and Ways of Working 2024/2025

- Provide strategic leadership, influence and support for our ICB safeguarding arrangements and strengthen and improve the quality of safeguarding across the ICS system within partnerships and local delivery teams
- Continue to deliver our statutory responsibilities and those outlined within the SAAF (2022) for Safeguarding (Children, Cared for Children and Adults) on behalf of the ICB. (New SAAF expected)
- Ensure the voices of people remain central to safeguarding across the ICB and the wider safeguarding system
- Continue to progress improvements in the four workstreams focussing on our Joint Forward Plan priorities
- Strengthen governance and reporting mechanisms to our Boards and partners with underpinning dashboard
- Develop and embed a model of restorative supervision for ICB safeguarding practitioners
- Create a more interactive space on the ICB website to publicise our training and supervision offer, best practice and engagement opportunities
- Develop systems to embed learning from statutory reviews particularly where ICB wide themes have been identified
- Develop an ICB wide assurance and audit plan to support the NHSE Safeguarding Commissioning Toolkit (S-CAT) and Looked After Children data set returns
- Continue to review workforce skills and capacity in line with the Intercollegiate Guidance and undertake a detailed workforce survey to inform our workforce plans
- Continue to review all our safeguarding and cared for commissioned services and arrangements to maximise the more strategic opportunities afforded by the ICB ways of working

Conclusion

During the period covering the scope of this report - 2023/2024 – it has been a time of significant change within the ICB including the increased delegated responsibilities for specialised commissioning, primary care, dental and pharmaceutical, general ophthalmic and dentistry services and the reorganisational requirements in relation to running cost reductions.

The legislative and national safeguarding requirements including the Serious Violence and Domestic Abuse Acts and the revised Working Together (2023) guidance amongst others have continued the requirements for the ICB to respond to effectively and provide assurance that it continues to meet its statutory requirements.

This first standalone Safeguarding Annual Report provides assurance that despite all these changes that the ICB has continued to discharge its statutory safeguarding duties throughout 2023-24 in relation to safeguarding children, young people and adults at risk.

The report builds on the ICBs commitment to provide system leadership across the Integrated Care System, to work closely in partnership at all levels and to embrace the opportunities of a more integrated approach to our ways of working as demand for safeguarding services continues to increase

Our aim is to continue to embed safeguarding in all elements of our strategic planning and provision of services and continue our transformational work to improve outcomes for our population.

Safeguarding Partnerships and Boards Annual Reports

	Safeguarding Children's Partnership Board	Safeguarding Adults Partnership Board	Corporate Parenting	Child Death Overview Panels
North	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cumbria CSCP Annual Report 22-23 • Northumberland NCASP Annual Report 22-23 • North Tyneside NTSCP Annual Report 21-22 • Newcastle NSCP Annual Report 22-23 • Gateshead GSCP Annual Report 2021/22-23 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cumbria SAB Annual Report 22-23 • Northumberland NCASP Annual Report 22-23 • North Tyneside NTSAB Annual Report 22-23 • Newcastle NSAB Annual Report 22-23 • Gateshead GSAP Annual Report 22-23 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Northumberland Corporate Parenting • North Tyneside Corporate Parenting Forum Annual Report 23-24 • Gateshead Corporate Parenting Board Report 22-23 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • North & South of Tyne CDOP Annual Report-22-23 • Cumbria CSCP Child Death Overview Panel Annual Report 22-23
South	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Durham DSCP Annual Report 22-23 • South Tyneside STCAP annual report 21-22 • Sunderland SSCP Annual Report 21-22 • Darlington DSP Annual Report 22-23 • South Tees STSCP Annual Report 22-23 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tees Wide TSAB Annual Report 22-23 • Darlington DSP Annual Report 22-23 • Durham DSAP Annual Report 22-23 • South Tyneside STCAP annual report 21-22 • Sunderland SSAB Annual Report 22-23 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • County Durham Corporate Parenting Panel Annual Report 23 • Middlesbrough Children Matter - Corporate Parenting Board Annual Report 23-24 • Stockton-on-Tees Corporate Parenting Board Annual Report 22-23 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • County Durham and Darlington CDOP Annual Report 20-21 • Tees CDOP Annual Report 22-23

Glossary

- **SAB** – Safeguarding Adult Board
- **SCP** – Safeguarding Children's Partnership
- **CDOP** – Child Death Overview Panel
- **MARAC** – Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference (Domestic Abuse meeting for professionals to safeguard victims)
- **Child Protection Conferences** – statutory meeting to share information to safeguard children/young people and promote their welfare, development and health
- **CSPR** – Child Safeguarding Practice Review
- **SAR** – Safeguarding Adult Review
- **DHR** - Domestic Homicide Review
- **Cared for Children** – Children in Care of Local Authority
- **Trauma informed care/practice** – an approach which considers how an individual's behaviour or thinking may be impacted by past trauma
- **MCA** – Mental Capacity Act • **DoLs** – Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards
- **NHSE** – NHS England
- **ESR** – Electronic Staff Records

Safeguarding Annual Report 2023-24

**NHS North East and North Cumbria
Integrated Care Board**

July 2024

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