Newcastle Safeguarding Adults Board

Vision and Priorities
2016-2018

“Our vision is to ensure that Newcastle is an increasingly safer city for adults at risk of abuse and neglect.”
1. What is Safeguarding?

“Safeguarding means protecting an adult’s right to live in safety, free from abuse and neglect. It is about people and organisations working together to prevent and stop both the risks and experience of abuse or neglect, while at the 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” Care Act (2014).

The Care Act (2014) places statutory requirements on a number of organisations in relation to safeguarding adults.

2. What is the Newcastle Safeguarding Adults Board?

Newcastle Safeguarding Adults Board (NSAB) has been established since 23 December 2008. The Board has membership from a wide-range of partners including: the Local Authority, Health Services, Police, Probation, Fire Service, Higher Education, and local community and voluntary sector organisations.

In line with the Care Act, the Newcastle Safeguarding Adults Board’s main objective is to:

- Assure itself that local safeguarding arrangements and partners act to help and protect adults in its area who:
  - have needs for care and support (whether or not the local authority is meeting any of those needs); and
  - are experiencing, or at risk of, abuse or neglect; and
  - as a result of those care and support needs are unable to protect themselves from either the risk of, or the experience of abuse or neglect.

The core duties of the Newcastle Safeguarding Adults Board are to:

- Publish a strategic annual plan for each financial year that sets out how it will meet its main objective and what members will do to achieve this;
- Publish an annual report detailing what the Board has done during the year to achieve its main objective and implement its strategic annual plan;
- Conduct any Safeguarding Adults Reviews in accordance with Section 44 of the Care Act.

The functions of the Newcastle Safeguarding Adults Board are to:

- identify the role, responsibility, authority and accountability with regard to the action each agency and professional group should take to ensure the protection of adults;
- establish ways of analysing and interrogating data on safeguarding notifications that increase the NSAB’s understanding of prevalence of abuse and neglect locally that builds up a picture over time;
• hold partners to account and gain assurance of the effectiveness of its arrangements;
• determine and implement arrangements for peer review and self-audit;
• communicate the need to safeguard adults at risk, raising awareness of how this can be done and encouraging people to do so;
• develop policies and strategies for protecting adults;
• develop preventative strategies that aim to reduce instances of abuse and neglect;
• identify types of circumstances giving grounds for concern and when they should be considered as a referral to the local authority as an enquiry;
• formulate guidance about the arrangements for managing adult safeguarding, and dealing with complaints, grievances and professional and administrative malpractice in relation to safeguarding adults;
• develop strategies to deal with the impact of issues of race, ethnicity, religion, gender and gender orientation, sexual orientation, age, disadvantage and disability on abuse and neglect;
• provide advice on guidance on balancing the requirements of confidentiality with the consideration that, to protect adults, it may be necessary to share information on a 'need-to-know basis';
• identify mechanisms for monitoring and reviewing the implementation and impact of policy and training;
• carry out Safeguarding Adult Reviews;
• produce a Strategic Plan and an Annual Report;
• evidence how SAB members have challenged one another and held other Boards (in the City) to account. For example: Newcastle Safeguarding Children Board, Wellbeing for Life Board, Safe Newcastle Board; and
• promote multi-agency training and consider any specialist training that may be required. Work collaboratively to identify opportunities to jointly commission training with other partnerships, such as the Community Safety Partnership.

The well-established Safeguarding Adults Board gives Newcastle a strong foundation to deliver its vision.

Many partner organisations in Newcastle have dedicated capacity/roles for safeguarding adults and many staff and volunteers have undertaken multi-agency and single-agency safeguarding adults training. This all helps to ensure that people know how to respond appropriately to concerns of abuse and neglect.

The Newcastle Safeguarding Adults Board is subject to external scrutiny on the work it undertakes from the:
• Full Council (of Newcastle City Council);
• Health Scrutiny Committee; and
• Wellbeing for Life Board.

Board members also report through governance systems within their own agencies about the performance of the NSAB.
3. Why a local vision?

There continues to be an increasing focus on the profile of safeguarding adults work. It is clear from national developments that partnerships are a critical aspect in sustaining the impetus for improvement and hence the importance of pressing ahead with a local vision for Newcastle.

This document sets out Newcastle Safeguarding Adults Board’s vision for 2016-2018. The vision sits alongside a number of other key documents, enabling the Board to strategically review and plan and implement actions.

Each provides direction and continuity to the strategic annual plan, ensuring that the achievements of the Board are built upon each year and actions are focussed on the Board’s overall priorities and objectives. The diagram below demonstrates how these all interrelate.

**Wellbeing for Life Strategy** – this is the overarching strategy to improve the wellbeing and health of people in Newcastle. Newcastle’s ambition is that: “People who live, work or learn in Newcastle equally enjoy positive wellbeing and good health”. Within this Strategy, a key area of action is “Safeguarding across the life course; reducing the potential harm from the action (or inaction)
of others”. The Wellbeing for Life Strategy provides the NSAB with a local framework to shape our vision, priorities and strategic annual plan.

**NSAB Vision 2016-2018** – sets out the overall vision of the NSAB and the outcomes it wants to achieve for adults at risk in Newcastle.

**NSAB Priorities 2016 – 2018** – establishes the strategic themes that need to be delivered to achieve the Board’s vision; providing the overarching direction to inform subsequent year’s strategic plans.

**NSAB Strategic Annual Plan** – provides a detailed plan of specific key actions, supporting actions and target timescales required to deliver the Board’s vision and priorities.

**NSAB Annual Report** – reviews progress in relation to the actions laid out in the strategic annual plan.

The Newcastle Safeguarding Adults Board has worked to promote an understanding and taken action to demonstrate that “safeguarding is everybody’s business”. The development of this vision marks the commitment from partners for a shared commitment to keeping adults safe and protected from abuse and neglect.

4. **Newcastle Safeguarding Adults Board Vision**

   “*Our vision is to ensure that Newcastle is an increasingly safer city for adults at risk of abuse and neglect.*”

   To achieve this vision the Board will need to work through it’s partnerships and with local communities to:-

   - Prevent abuse and neglect from happening;
   - Identify and report abuse and neglect;
   - Respond to any abuse and neglect that is occurring;
   - Support people who have suffered abuse or neglect to recover and to regain trust in those around them; and
   - Raise awareness of safeguarding adults and the role everyone can play in responding to, and preventing, abuse and neglect.

5. **National Drivers for Improvement in Safeguarding Adults**

   The Newcastle Safeguarding Adults Board priorities reflect the direction set out in current national drivers for change. For this reason the NSAB priorities are
designed around the six key principles that underpin all adult safeguarding work (Care Act, 2014), as follows:-

- Empowerment;
- Protection;
- Proportionality;
- Prevention;
- Partnership;
- Accountability.
6. Priorities

The Board’s priorities reflect the Board’s vision and provide direction to the further development and improvement of safeguarding practice in Newcastle.

**Priority – Empowerment**

**Individuals will be asked what they want the outcomes from the safeguarding process to be and these outcomes will directly inform what happens wherever possible.**

The Board will continue working towards supporting people to manage risk in their own lives, with professionals supporting their decision making at each stage of Newcastle’s safeguarding adult’s procedures. The Board will work together to embed the Making Safeguarding Personal approach and ensure that the voice of the person (or their representative) is at the centre of the safeguarding enquiry.

This will be achieved by delivering good outcomes for individuals subject to safeguarding adults procedures. There will be an emphasis on reducing focus on process and increasing the focus on the individual. The Board will also ensure that there is a greater public awareness of safeguarding adults, whilst also managing expectations.

**Priority – Protection**

**Individuals will get help and support to report abuse and neglect and get help to take part in the safeguarding process.**

The Board will continue working towards ensuring safeguarding adults procedures serve to respond to abuse or neglect and that decisions are made in line with the Mental Capacity Act.

This will be achieved by ensuring that there is a full range of policies, procedures and guidance in place that provide a framework within which partner organisations can work together effectively to respond to abuse and neglect. These policies, procedures and guidance will reflect emerging developments in national guidance and legislation as well as national, regional and local learning, and new approaches to safeguarding practice. In particular, guidance will be available to professionals on current themes including, self-neglect, hate crime and sexual exploitation.
Priority – Proportionality

Individuals will be confident that professionals will work for their best interests and that professionals will only get involved as much as needed.

The Board will continue working towards ensuring that safeguarding adults policies, procedures and guidance are used in appropriate circumstances to inform a proportional response to the concerns being raised.

This will be achieved by ensuring safeguarding adults policies, procedures and guidance are clear and explicit about the definitions and thresholds for intervention and what the potential alternatives are if these thresholds are not met. The Board will also ensure that thresholds are consistently applied by all partner agencies.

Priority - Prevention

Individuals will receive clear information about what abuse and neglect is, how to recognise the signs and what they can do to seek help and support.

The Board will continue working towards gaining assurance from all partner agencies that prevention is a core element in the delivery, commissioning and development of services. This includes providing appropriate information and training to their respective workforces on how to recognise and respond to abuse and neglect.

This will be achieved by ensuring the right people are recruited through safe recruitment mechanisms, that all staff receive appropriate training and that there are specialist safeguarding adults staff from whom they can obtain advice and support. Maintenance of levels of safeguarding awareness and understanding delivered through training and communication strategies is essential in the current changing environment.
Priority - Partnership

Individuals will be confident that professionals will work together to get the best outcomes for them. They will also be confident that staff treat any personal and sensitive information in confidence, only sharing what is helpful and necessary.

The Board will continue to develop joint working practices between and across organisations that promote coordinated, timely and effective responses for the individual at risk. The partnership aims to foster a “one team” approach that places the welfare of individuals before the “needs” of the system. The Board recognises the role the wider community play in safeguarding adults at risk and will involve the local community when shaping the development of the strategic annual plan.

This will be achieved by ensuring the working relationships between partner agencies are sustained and developed at a strategic and operational level and links to wider networks or Boards are embedded. The Board will consult with community stakeholder groups and promote awareness of safeguarding across the life course.

Priority - Accountability

Individuals will receive timely help they need from the person or agency best placed to provide it.

The Board will continue to work to ensure that the roles of all agencies and staff (and their lines of accountability) are clear and explicit. Agencies across the partnership will recognise their responsibilities to each other, act upon them and accept collective responsibility for safeguarding arrangements.

This will be achieved by using a framework to self-assess the work of the Board and partner agencies. The Board will improve the performance management information available on safeguarding adults and this will include feedback from individuals who have been subject to safeguarding adults procedures. Board assurance activity will also include assessing whether risk management is proportionate and coordinated. The Board will ensure clear and robust interface with the ‘Prevent’ framework. Prevent is one of the four elements of CONTEST, the governments counter terrorism strategy. It aims to stop people becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism.
7. What Newcastle Safeguarding Adults Board will do next?

- Formulate a strategic annual plan for 2016-2017 with measurable outcomes;
- Review progress in relation to implementation of the strategic annual plan at each Board meeting;
- The Board plans will continue to be flexible to accommodate any new emerging national guidance;
- Raise awareness of the vision, priorities and strategic annual plan by publishing them and holding relevant awareness events.

8. Reference Sources

Specific national and local developments used to reference this document include:-

- Care Act (2014);
- Mental Capacity Act (2005);
- Revised Prevent Duty Guidance: England and Wales (2015);
- Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act (2006);
- Dignity in Care: campaign launched in November 2006;
- Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards: implemented April 2009;
- Transforming Care: A National Response to Winterbourne View Hospital: Department of Health Review: Final Report December 2012;
- Report of the Mid Staffordshire NHS Foundation Trust Public Inquiry, February 2013 (The Francis Report);
- Newcastle Wellbeing for Life Strategy 2013-2016;
- Newcastle Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Reports 2012-2013 and 2013-2014;
• Transforming Care for People with Learning Disabilities – Next Steps (2015)

• Relevant national and local legislation, policy, procedures, strategies and reports in relation to children (e.g. Working Together (2013), NSCB Annual Report 2013-14).

• Making Safeguarding Personal Guide (2014)

• Duty to notify the Home Office of potential victim of modern slavery (2015)