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**Newcastle Safeguarding Adults Board Strategic Annual Plan 2024-2025**

**“Ensuring Newcastle is an increasingly safer city for adults at risk of abuse or neglect.”**

The Care Act (2014) requires all Safeguarding Adult Boards to produce and publish a Strategic Annual Plan.

The Newcastle Safeguarding Adults Board (NSAB) Strategic Annual Plan provides information on specific objectives, supporting actions and target timescales required to deliver the Board’s vision and priorities. It sets out how the NSAB seeks to prevent abuse and neglect and how the NSAB will protect people with care and support needs who are or may be at risk. We work with people to understand what being safe means to them as well as with our partners on the best way to achieve this. We concentrate on improving people’s lives while protecting their right to live in safety, free from bullying, harassment, abuse, discrimination, avoidable harm and neglect. We make sure we share concerns quickly and appropriately.

The Strategic Annual Plan is informed by a number of different sources including:

* Legislation, specifically the requirements of the Care Act (2014);
* Performance information and data analysis;
* Learning from case reviews;
* Priorities emerging form joint work with other multi-agency partnerships e.g. Newcastle Safeguarding Children’s Partnership (NSCP) and Safe Newcastle
* Learning from all partner agency experiences, including responses to their self-assessments
* Consultation with partners, the public and practitioners.
* CQC Quality Statement for local authority assessments

The Strategic Annual Plan attempts to address weaknesses and respond to opportunities that have been identified. Progress in relation to the plan will be reviewed at each NSAB meeting. A Red Amber Green (RAG) rating is used to assess progress in relation to each action area. The following index indicates how the rating is decided:

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| **Status Rating** |
| **Green** | **Action on track and progressing to plan, no problems that will impact on schedule. No action required from NSAB.** |
| **Amber** | **Some problems and or delays with the action but expected to recover. Highlighted to inform NSAB, to be monitored and reviewed** |
| **Red** | **Major problems and issues threatening the action, behind schedule and not expected to recover. Requires intervention from NSAB** |
| **Complete** | **Action fully completed** |

Some action areas take longer than a year to conclude, this years Strategic Annual Plan includes a number of actions carried forward from the previous year.

The NSAB works closely with other partnerships and organisations to achieve and support objectives that keep adults with care and support needs safe in Newcastle. The Strategic Annual Plan identifies which actions the Board leads on, and which it contributes to and influences.

**Glossary**

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| **ADASS** | Association of Directors of Adult Social Services |
| **CQC** | Care Quality Commission |
| **CNTW** | Cumbria, Northumberland, Tyne and Wear NHS Foundation Trust |
| **CSPR** | Child Safeguarding Practice Review |
| **DASS** | Director of Adult Social Services |
| **DHR** | Domestic Homicide Review |
| **IPC** | Improving Practice Committee |
| **LA** | Local Authority |
| **LGA** | Local Government Association |
| **MASH** | Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub |
| **MCA** | Mental Capacity Act |
| **MSET** | Missing, Sexually Exploited, Trafficked (Sub-Committee) |
| **MSP** | Making Safeguarding Personal |
| **NENC ICB** | North East and North Cumbria Integrated Care Board |
| **NPGSV** | Newcastle Partnership for Safeguarding and Vulnerability |
| **NSAB** | Newcastle Safeguarding Adults Board |
| **NSCP** | Newcastle Safeguarding Children’s Partnership |
| **NPGSV** | Newcastle Partnership Group for Safeguarding and Vulnerability |
| **NuTH** | Newcastle upon Tyne Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust |
| **RCRP** | Right Care, Right Person |
| **SAR**  | Safeguarding Adults Review  |
| **TWFRS** | Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service |
| **VCS** | Voluntary and Community Sector |
| **VRU** | Violence Reduction Unit |
| **YHN** | Your Homes Newcastle |
| **YJPB** | Youth Justice Partnership Board |

**NSAB Strategic Annual Plan 2024-25**

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| **1. Empowerment: Individuals will be asked what they want as the outcomes from the safeguarding process and these outcomes will directly inform what happens wherever possible.** |
|  | **Rationale** | **Outcome** | **Action(s)** | **Lead Officer or Group** | **Timescale/****Review Date** | **Status** | **Progress** | **Evidence of Achievement** |
| 1.1 | * Care Act 2014
* [Making Safeguarding Personal Toolkit 2020](https://www.local.gov.uk/msp-toolkit)
 | People at risk of harm (or their representatives) are **asked what they want to happen as a result of a safeguarding adults concern** and these views inform the Section 42 enquiry.  | 1. NSAB to receive a twice-yearly report from the Improving Practice Committee on the Making Safeguarding Personal (MSP) Scorecard

  | Improving Practice Committee*(NSAB Lead)* | July 2024 and January 2025 | **[ ]  Red****[ ]  Amber****[ ]  Green****[ ]** Complete | **May:**  |  |
| **July:**  |
| **September:**  |
| **November:**   |
| **January:**  |
| **March:**  |
| 1.2 | * [Making Safeguarding Personal Toolkit 2020](https://www.local.gov.uk/msp-toolkit)
* CQC guidance on LA assessments.
 | People who have been involved in safeguarding adults enquiries have the opportunity to **feedback on their experience** and this informs service development | 1. Explore different methods for people to be able to provide feedback on their experience of the safeguarding adults process. The following will be used to inform this work:
* Single-agency best practice;
* National tookit (anticipated).
 | NSAB Coordinator and Service Improvement Lead, Safeguarding Adults | March 2025 | **[ ]  Red****[ ]  Amber****[ ]  Green****[ ]** Complete | **May:**  |  |
| **July:**  |
| **September:**  |
| **November:**   |
| **January:**  |
| **March:**  |
| 1.3 | * Whorlton Hall SAR
* Mid-year data 2023-24
* [NICE Guidelines on Advocacy (NG227)](https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ng227)
 | People who have **substantial difficulty in participating in the safeguarding adults process are appropriately represented**. | 1. The NSAB will monitor performance in this area via the MSP Scorecard (see 1.1).
2. The NSAB will receive assurance on:
* The quality and availability of advocacy in Newcastle.
* How the LA implement their statutory duties in relation to ensuring people are appropriately represented in the safeguarding adults process.
* How all partners raise awareness of the role of, and importance of, independent advocacy.
 | Improving Practice Committee*(NSAB Lead)*Commissioners and Advocacy ServicesNewcastle City CouncilAll NSAB members | July 2024 and January 2025November 2024 | **[ ]  Red****[ ]  Amber****[ ]  Green****[ ]** Complete | **May:**  |  |
| **July:**  |
| **September:**  |
| **November:**   |
| **January:**  |
| **March:**  |

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| **2. Protection: Individuals will get help and support to report abuse and neglect and get help to take part in the safeguarding process.** |
| **Rationale** | **Outcome** | **Action(s)** | **Lead Officer or Group** | **Timescale/****Review Date** | **Status** | **Progress** | **Evidence of Achievement** |
| 2.1 | * Local partnerships and intelligence.
* Cross-partnership working
 | The NSAB seeks to understand and **address factors** which may **increase vulnerability or risks**  | 1. The NSAB will receive updates where there are areas of joint working to reduce risks and vulnerability e.g.
* Active Inclusion Service (poverty/financial inclusion/homelessness)
* Public Health (Deaths of Despair)
* DWP (trauma-informed approaches)
* VRU (Serious Violence Duty)
 | NSAB Chair and NSAB Coordinator | As part of SAB Forward Plan | **[ ]  Red****[ ]  Amber****[ ]  Green****[ ]** Complete | **May:**  |  |
| **July:**  |
| **September:**  |
| **November:**  |
| **January:**  |
| **March:**  |
| 2.2 | * Adult L &N SARs
* Adult O SAR DHR
* Local DHRs
 | The NSAB seeks to understand and **address factors** which may **increase vulnerability or risks** to adults with care and support needs, in particular safeguarding adults who use **drugs and/or alcohol.**  | 1. The co-ordination of actions from local SARs and DHRs linked to drugs and/or alcohol.
2. The NSAB receive assurance on progress on actions from local SARs and DHRs linked to drugs and/or alcohol.
 | Safeguarding Adults Project Manager and SAR Committee | March 2025 (Quarterly updates via SARC) | **[ ]  Red****[ ]  Amber****[ ]  Green****[ ]** Complete | **May:**  |  |
| **July:**  |
| **September:**  |
| **November:**  |
| **January:**  |
| **March:**  |
| **July:**   |
| 2.3 | * Adult L SAR
 | The NSAB seeks to understand and **address factors** which may **increase vulnerability or risks** to adults with care and support needs, in particular the safeguarding **adults at risk of self-neglect** | 1. Review and re-launch self-neglect guidance
 | SAR and IPC Committees*(Regional collaboration to be explored)* | November 2024 | **[ ]  Red****[ ]  Amber****[ ]  Green****[ ]** Complete | **May:**  |   |
| **July:**  |
| **September:**  |
| **November:**  |
| **January:**  |
| **March:**  |
| 2.4 | * Whorlton Hall SAR
* [CQC Closed Cultures Guidance](https://www.cqc.org.uk/guidance-providers/all-services/how-cqc-identifies-responds-closed-cultures)
* VCS and private/ independent sector self-assessment feedback
 | The NSAB is assured that **organisational safeguarding** processes are robust. | 1. The NSAB is actively involved in and kept up-to-date on regional work around organisational abuse.
2. The NSAB seeks assurance on partner agency approaches to identify and address closed cultures
 | NSAB Coordinator All NSAB members | July 2024May 2024 | **[ ]  Red****[ ]  Amber****[ ]  Green****[ ]** Complete | **May:**  |  |
| **July:**  |
| **September:**  |
| **November:**  |
| **January:**  |
| **March:** |

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| **3. Proportionality:** Individuals will be confident that professionals will work for their best interests and that professionals will only get involved as much as is needed. |
| **Rationale** | **Outcome** | **Action(s)** | **Lead Officer or Group** | **Timescale/****Review Date** | **Status** | **Progress** | **Evidence of Achievement** |
| 3.1 | * Learning from SARs (local and national)
 | Practitioners are **confident in their application of the Mental Capacity Act 2005** | 1. The NSAB will receive a report from the NSAB MCA Group.
 | NSAB MCA Group | September 2024 and March 2025 | **[ ]  Red****[ ]  Amber****[ ]  Green****[ ]** Complete | **May:**  |  |
| **July:**  |
| **September:**  |
| **November:**   |
| **January:**  |
| **March:**  |
| **July:**  |

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| **4. 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. |
| **Rationale** | **Outcome** | **Action(s)** | **Lead Officer or Group** | **Timescale/****Review Date** | **Status** | **Progress** | **Evidence of Achievement** |
| 4.1 | * Care Act 2014
* VCS and private/ independent sector self-assessment feedback
 | **Ensure key safeguarding messages are promoted** using a wide variety of tools and methods. | 1. Review the NSAB’s Communications Strategy
2. Increased face-to-face contact with public and adults at risk.
3. Activities to coincide with Safeguarding Adults Week 2024.
4. Work collaboratively with the Newcastle Partnerships Group for Safeguarding and Vulnerability on co-ordinated campaigns.
5. Work with Commissioners and VCS reps to ensure there key messages about safeguarding are shared and understood.
 | NSAB Coordinator | July 2024March 2025November 2024March 2025September 2024 | **[ ]  Red****[ ]  Amber****[ ]  Green****[ ]** Complete | **May:**  |  |
| **July:**   |
| **September:**  |
| **November:**   |
| **January:**   |
| **March:**  |
| **July:**  |
| 4.2 | * Care Act 2014.
* VCS and private/ independent sector self-assessment feedback
 | The **workforce** in Newcastle is **accessing high quality learning and development** opportunities appropriate to their role. | 1. All partner agencies of the NSAB to provide assurance around their safeguarding adults training (uptake, content, training policy, including any protected time for training).
2. Seek assurance from commissioners on how training provision within provider services is assessed and monitored.
3. Explore opportunities for new and creative delivery methods, including working on a regional basis where possible.
4. Training programme for 2024-2025 to offer multi-agency training around:
* Training for smaller community groups
* How to access resources/guidance related to safeguarding (link to 4.1e).
 | NSAB Learning and Development Committee | March 2025November 2024March 2025March 2025 | **[ ]  Red****[ ]  Amber****[ ]  Green****[ ]** Complete | **May:**  |   |
| **July:**   |
| **September:**  |
| **November:**  |
| **January:**  |
| **March:**  |
| **July:**  |
| 4.3 | * Learning from SARs/DHRs/CSPRs/Other reviews
 | The NSAB **learns from reviews** and as a result policy, procedures and practice are developed further. | 1. The NSAB reviews implementation of previous SAR recommendations to ensure they are embedded in practice.
2. The multi-agency audit group’s schedule is informed by the recurring themes identified in local SARs.
3. Good practice cases are shared via the IPC where learning from SARs has been used.
4. The NSAB will receive updates and learning from from fire-related incidents.

  | NSAB CoordinatorSAR CommitteeImproving Practice Committee Improving Practice CommitteeTWFRS | March 2025April 2024March 2025November 2024 | **[ ]  Red****[ ]  Amber****[ ]  Green****[ ]** Complete | **May:**  |  |
| **July:**  |
| **September:**  |
| **November:**  |
| **January:**  |
| **March:**  |

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| **5. Partnership**: Individuals will be confident that professionals will work together to get the best outcomes for them. |
| **Rationale** | **Outcome** | **Action(s)** | **Lead Officer or Group** | **Timescale/****Review Date** | **Status** | **Progress** | **Evidence of Achievement** |
| 5.1 | * Changes in the way partners work (RCPC, NENC ICB)
* Mid-year performance data.
 | The Adult MASH can effectively respond to the sustained volume of safeguarding adults referrals being made.  | 1. The NSAB will continue to implement MASH report recommendations and strengthen direct partner involvement in the MASH.
2. If partner involvement cannot be strengthened, risks will be evaluated and options proposed for a way forward.
 | NSAB ChairAll NSAB membersMASH Steering GroupDASS, Newcastle City Council | July 2024 | **[ ]  Red****[ ]  Amber****[ ]  Green****[ ]** Complete | **May:**  |  |
| **July:**  |
| **September:**  |
| **November:**   |
| **January:**  |
| **March:**   |
| 5.2 | * Learning from SARs/DHRs
* Mid-year performance data

  | Safeguarding adults referrals received are of a high quality.  | 1. The NSAB will understand and assess impact of the move to accepting only online referrals for professionals and training in this area.
2. The NSAB will work with partners who currently do not use the multi-agency referral form to request adoption or alignment of single-agency referral forms.
 | Improving Practice CommitteeNSAB Coordinator | November 2024January 2025 | **[ ]  Red****[ ]  Amber****[ ]  Green****[ ]** Complete | **May:**  |  |
| **July:**  |
| **September:**  |
| **November:**   |
| **January:**  |
| **March:**  |
| **6. Accountability: Individuals will receive timely help they need from the person or agency best placed to provide it.**  |  |
| **Rationale** | **Outcome** | **Action(s)** | **Lead Officer or Group** | **Timescale/****Review Date** | **Status** | **Progress** | **Evidence of Achievement** |
| 6.1 | * Changes within key partner organisations
 | NSAB members have **confidence in their role** and are able to contribute to the **effective functioning of the Board**. | 1. Provide Board member training on their roles and responsibilities.
 | NSAB Coordinator (*Explore collaboration with NPGSV)* | September 2024 | **[ ]  Red****[ ]  Amber****[ ]  Green****[ ]** Complete | **May:**  |  |
| **July:**  |
| **September:**  |
| **November:**   |
| **January:**  |
| **March:**  |
| 6.2 | * CQC guidance on LA assessments.
 | The NSAB and it’s members are prepared for **CQC’s Local Authority Assessment**.  | 1. The NSAB will receive an update on the CQC assessment of local authorities and any learning from completed assessments.
 | Newcastle City Council | July 2024 | **[ ]  Red****[ ]  Amber****[ ]  Green****[ ]** Complete | **May:**  |  |
| **July:**  |
| **September:**  |
| **November:**  |
| **January:**  |
| **March:**  |
| 6.3 | * Sharing of Information/Intelligence to enable early intervention and preventative work and also enable escalation where this is required
 | The NSAB is aware of and can **influence relevant regional and national networks or bodies**. | 1. The NSAB will have a standing agenda item on it’s agenda to ensure information and intelligence is shared from relevant regional and national networks.
 | NSAB Chair and NSAB Coordinator | At each NSAB meeting | **[ ]  Red****[ ]  Amber****[ ]  Green****[ ]** Complete | **May:**  |  |
| **July:**  |
| **September:**  |
| **November:**   |
| **January:**  |
| **March:**  |

**NSAB Core Business Plan 2024-25**

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| **Business Action(s)** | **Timescale/****Board Meeting** | **Status** | **Evidence of Achievement** |
| **1.** | Review and update NSAB Partnership Agreement  | * March 2027
 | ***[ ]  Outstanding******[ ]  On course******[ ]*** *Complete* | Not required within this year’s strategic annual plan.  |
| **2.** | Review and update NSAB Information Sharing Agreement  | * July 2024
 | ***[ ]  Outstanding******[ ]  On course******[ ]*** *Complete* | .  |
| **3.** | The NSAB receives performance reports on a bi-annual basis with more frequent exception reporting if concerning patterns or trends are identified. | * July 2024
* January 2025
 | ***[ ]  Outstanding******[ ]  On course******[ ]*** *Complete* |   |
| **4.** | Hold an annual self-assessment / challenge event | * January 2025
 | ***[ ]  Outstanding******[ ]  On course******[ ]*** *Complete* |  |
| **5.** | Production of Newcastle Safeguarding Adult Board Annual Report 2023-24 | * May 2024

(agency submissions)* July 2024

(Draft version for NSAB)* September 2024

(sign-off by NSAB) | ***[ ]  Outstanding******[ ]  On course******[ ]*** *Complete* |  |
| **6.** | Production of Newcastle Safeguarding Adults Board Strategic Annual Plan 2025-26 | * December 2024 (consultation begins)
* January 2025 (draft version at NSAB)
* March 2025 (sign-off at NSAB)
 | ***[ ]  Outstanding******[ ]  On course******[ ]*** *Complete* |  |
| **7.** | Review the membership and terms of reference of the sub-committees. (In addition to any gaps in membership/attendance to be highlighted to NSAB as required via sub-committee reports.)  | * March 2025
 | **[ ]  Outstanding****[ ]  On course****[ ]** Complete |   |
| **8.** | NSAB Risk Register to be updated and agreed by Board members | * Bi-annually
 | **[ ]  Outstanding****[ ]  On course****[ ]** Complete |   |
| **9.** | The NSAB influences national policy and practice based on learning from cases, including use of the National SAR Escalation process and submissions to the National SAR Library.  | * As required and opportunities arise.
 | **[ ]  Outstanding****[ ]  On course****[ ]** Complete |  |
| **10.** | The NSAB holds at least one Board Member Development Session, this may be inconjunction with other strategic partnerships (via the NPGSV) | * March 2025
 | **[ ]  Outstanding****[ ]  On course****[ ]** Complete |  |