

Summary Minutes

Meeting held on **Wednesday 13th November 2024**, 1-3.30pm, via Teams

Please note these are not full minutes. They are intended to provide an overview of discussions and decisions. Due to the confidential nature of some of the items discussed, it is not possible to publically share full minutes.

The Newcastle Safeguarding Adults Board (NSAB) is the multi-agency partnership responsible for ensuring that adults at risk in Newcastle are safeguarded and protected.

Advocacy

A significant amount of the agenda was focussed on receiving assurance on the access to, availability of, and quality of advocacy in Newcastle. There were presentations from Your [Voice Counts](#) and [Connected Voice Advocacy](#), as well as Newcastle City Council who covered the commissioning of advocacy and how statutory duties are integrated into safeguarding systems. Providers talked about the different types of advocacy and their important role in empowering people and keeping people safe. A number of processes are in place to ensure the quality of advocacy e.g. the Advocacy Charter and the Quality Performance Mark. Questions and prompts are embedding into the safeguarding adults referral form and the local authority recording system to ensure advocacy is being considered in the safeguarding adults process. Recent data has highlighted an improvement in the number of people being supported through the safeguarding adults process when they lack mental capacity. Board members were asked to consider how they were meeting [NICE Guidelines](#) in relation to training about advocacy.

Ethnic Minority Needs Assessment

A presentation was received from Public Health on the Ethnic Minority Needs Assessment (EMNA) for Newcastle, this forms part of the [Joint Strategic Needs Assessment \(JSNA\)](#). The presentation highlighted that Newcastle is becoming increasingly diverse. The main languages outside of English used in Newcastle are: Arabic, Bengali, Chinese, Polish and Romanian. Board members were asked to consider any barriers / gaps that ethnic minority communities face when accessing safeguarding services. Are there a lack of referrals to safeguarding services from ethnic minority communities, as well as issues relating to language barriers, stigma, data collection. The full ENMA will be published on this [webpage](#) in the near future.

Self-Neglect Policy

The NSAB agreed the updated [North of Tyne Self-Neglect Policy](#). This had been reviewed in line with recommendations from local Safeguarding Adult Reviews. It was highlighted that 19% of all Section 42 enquiries in Newcastle included an aspect of self-neglect and the recent 2nd National SAR analysis had highlighted 60% of SARs were about self-neglect. The new policy would be launched during Safeguarding Adults Week.

Progress on Safeguarding Adults Review (SAR) actions

The Board received an update on progress on actions from the SAR Project Manager. This included the agreement to new [Engagement Guidance](#). The new guidance built on the existing Principles of Engagement but included feedback from people with lived experience and a much greater focus on seeing engagement through a trauma lens. Other updates included: the reconfiguration of the residential rehabilitation pathway for treatment services; a review of training for professionals about drugs and alcohol; and seeking assurance on the availability on outreach capacity within treatment services. A [new animation](#) has been launched to increase awareness of the drug and alcohol treatment offer in Newcastle.

Date of next meeting: Wednesday 15th January 2025, 1-3.30pm

For more information about Safeguarding Adults, and the work of the Newcastle Safeguarding Adults Board, please visit: <https://www.newcastlesafeguarding.org.uk/>