

Newcastle Safeguarding Adults Board Strategic Annual Plan 2026-27

“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 Safeguarding Adult Reviews and multi-agency audits;
- Priorities emerging from 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:

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.

NSAB Strategic Annual Plan 2026-27

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	
Core Performance Indicators (reviewed bi-annually): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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. People who have substantial difficulty in participating in the safeguarding adults process are represented. <i>Further actions may be identified dependent on data presented.</i>						July: January:		
1.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Making Safeguarding Personal Toolkit 2020 CQC guidance on LA assessments. 	Empowerment remains a core priority, ensuring that safeguarding is person-centred and outcomes-focused. Feedback from individuals involved in safeguarding processes is used to drive continuous improvement.	a) Embed safeguarding feedback reporting into the Board’s performance reporting to ensure feedback is routinely analysed and informs improvement actions.	NSAB Coordinator	July 2026	<input type="checkbox"/> Red <input type="checkbox"/> Amber <input type="checkbox"/> Green <input type="checkbox"/> Complete	May: July: September: November: January: March:	
			b) Explore whether partner agencies beyond Adult Social Care can seek and share feedback from adults at risk (e.g., fire service, primary care/GPs).	All agencies	March 2027			
			c) Refine feedback questions to ensure they elicit meaningful insights, including examples of positive experiences and areas for improvement.	NSAB Coordinator	March 2027			
			d) Continue involvement and oversight of SAFE research into older people’s experiences of the safeguarding adults process.	NSAB Coordinator	March 2027			

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NSAB data 	Neglect is prioritised as the key protection theme for the year,	a) Complete the multi-agency audit on neglect and use findings to set Board improvement actions.	IPC	May 2026	<input type="checkbox"/> Red	May:	

		with a focus on improving multi-agency responses, training, and clarity around pathways for addressing neglect and poor care.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> b) Develop and refresh training on neglect for different audiences, including professionals and family carers. c) Clarify and communicate pathways and responses to poor care versus neglect, ensuring alignment with safeguarding and other processes (e.g., disciplinary routes for persons in positions of trust). d) Strengthen neglect-related assurance and intelligence by incorporating relevant provider/quality information and other partner data into Board oversight (e.g., themes from Service Quality Assurance Framework (SQAF) visits). 	<p>L&DC</p> <p>IPC</p> <p>NSAB Chair and NSAB Coordinator</p>	<p>March 2027</p> <p>November 2026</p> <p>July 2027</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Amber</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Green</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Complete</p>	<p>July:</p> <p>September:</p> <p>November:</p> <p>January:</p> <p>March:</p>	
2.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NSAB partner survey • CQC Assessment 	The NSAB will strengthen its focus on hate crime and discriminatory abuse , ensuring that these issues are addressed effectively within safeguarding processes.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Explore data on discriminatory abuse, investigating potential causes for low number of reports and undertake a desktop review of recorded cases to better understand the issue. b) Collaborate with Safe Newcastle and other partners to improve awareness and reporting of hate crime, particularly for vulnerable groups such as adults with care and support needs. c) Ensure hate crime and discriminatory abuse are included in safeguarding training, with clear definitions and examples to help practitioners identify and respond effectively. d) Engage with community organisations and Public Health to address hate crime risks for specific groups, including LGBTQ+ individuals and ethnic minority communities. 	<p>NSAB Coordinator</p> <p>NSAB Coordinator</p> <p>L&DC</p> <p>IPC</p>	<p>September 2026</p> <p>September 2026</p> <p>November 2026</p> <p>March 2027</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Red</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Amber</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Green</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Complete</p>	<p>May:</p> <p>July:</p> <p>September:</p> <p>November:</p> <p>January:</p> <p>March:</p>	
2.3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local partnerships and intelligence. • Cross-partnership working 	The NSAB seeks to understand and address factors which may increase vulnerability or risks.	<p>a)The NSAB will receive updates where there are areas of joint working to reduce risks and vulnerability e.g.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - VRU (Serious Violence Duty) - Domestic abuse (Older People) - Refugee/asylum seeker safeguarding, links to modern slavery. 	NSAB Chair and NSAB Coordinator	As part of SAB Forward Plan	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Red</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Amber</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Green</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Complete</p>	<p>May:</p> <p>July:</p> <p>September:</p> <p>November:</p>	

							January:	
							March:	
2.4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Draft Crime and Policing Bill SAB Manager and Chairs Network Task and Finish Group 2025-26 Strategic Annual Plan 	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 home takeover	a) The NSAB contributes to national work on home takeover	Joint Strategic Exploitation Group	September 2026	<input type="checkbox"/> Red <input type="checkbox"/> Amber <input type="checkbox"/> Green <input type="checkbox"/> Complete	May: July: September: November: January: March:	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Scheduled review of Risk Threshold Tool 2025-26 Strategic Annual Plan 	Safeguarding responses are proportionate to the level of risk, ensuring that individuals receive the right support at the right time.	a) Progress the task and finish group work to review and update the NSAB Risk Threshold Tool	IPC	November 2026	<input type="checkbox"/> Red <input type="checkbox"/> Amber <input type="checkbox"/> Green <input type="checkbox"/> Complete	May: July: September: November: January: March:	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Care Act 2014 Core NSAB objective Ethnic Minority Needs Assessment (EMNA) National SAR Analysis 	Safeguarding prevention activities are embedded across the partnership, with a focus on outreach to harder-to-reach communities and raising awareness of safeguarding risks	a) Continue and build on outreach from Safeguarding Adults Week, with a focus on engaging harder-to-reach communities. b) Progress work mapping and understanding ethnic minority safeguarding experiences, linking this to the Ethnic Minority Needs Assessment and working with community organisations/public health/Safe Newcastle.	IPC IPC	November 2026 January 2027	<input type="checkbox"/> Red <input type="checkbox"/> Amber <input type="checkbox"/> Green <input type="checkbox"/> Complete	May: July: September: November: January: March:	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) 		c) Update and co-produce improved plain English, easy read, and brief guides to safeguarding.	IPC	March 2027			
4.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Care Act 2014. Adult P SAR NSAB discussions 2025-26 	The workforce in Newcastle is accessing high quality learning and development opportunities appropriate to their role.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) All partner agencies of the NSAB to provide assurance around their safeguarding adults training (uptake, content, training policy, including any protected time for training). b) Incorporate fire risk awareness into safeguarding training materials, highlighting fire risk as a potential indicator of vulnerability. c) Work with adult education providers to strengthen safeguarding awareness and engagement. This includes collaborating with education providers to identify safeguarding risks and opportunities for prevention, as well as embedding safeguarding principles into their practices 	L&DC	<p>March 2027</p> <p>May 2026</p> <p>March 2027</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Red <input type="checkbox"/> Amber <input type="checkbox"/> Green <input type="checkbox"/> Complete	<p>May:</p> <p>July:</p> <p>September:</p> <p>November:</p> <p>January:</p> <p>March:</p>	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NSAB Data 2025-26 Strategic Annual Plan 	Strong multi-agency partnerships ensure effective safeguarding responses, with clear pathways, high-quality referrals, and robust feedback mechanisms.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NCC NSAB Coordinator NSAB Coordinator NCC 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> September 2026 March 2027 September 2026 January 2027 	<input type="checkbox"/> Red <input type="checkbox"/> Amber <input type="checkbox"/> Green <input type="checkbox"/> Complete	<p>May:</p> <p>July:</p> <p>September:</p> <p>November:</p> <p>January:</p> <p>March:</p>	

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	The NSAB and it's members respond to	a) The NSAB will receive a report on the findings of the LA's CQC assessment on	NCC	Once report received	<input type="checkbox"/> Red	<p>May:</p> <p>July:</p>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CQC guidance on LA assessments. 	CQC's Local Authority Assessment.	issues which have relevance to the NSAB and undertake any action necessary to learn from their findings to improve and strengthen the NSAB.			<input type="checkbox"/> Amber <input type="checkbox"/> Green <input type="checkbox"/> Complete	September: November: January: March:	
6.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Learning from SARs/DHRs/CSP Rs/Other reviews 	The NSAB is assured that learning from SARs and other reviews is embedded in practice.	a) The NSAB reviews implementation of previous SAR recommendations to ensure they are embedded in practice. b) Multi-agency audits are regularly undertaken, and key lines of enquiry take account of learning from SARs. c) Good practice cases are shared via the IPC where learning from SARs has been used.	NSAB Coordinator SARC IPC IPC	March 2027 March 2027 March 2027	<input type="checkbox"/> Red <input type="checkbox"/> Amber <input type="checkbox"/> Green <input type="checkbox"/> Complete	May: July: September: November: January: March:	
6.3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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.	a) 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	<input type="checkbox"/> Red <input type="checkbox"/> Amber <input type="checkbox"/> Green <input type="checkbox"/> Complete	May: July: September: November: January: March:	

NSAB Core Business Plan 2025-26

Business Action(s)		Timescale/ Board Meeting	Status	Evidence of Achievement
1.	Review and update NSAB Partnership Agreement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> March 2027 	<input type="checkbox"/> Outstanding <input type="checkbox"/> On course <input type="checkbox"/> Complete	
2.	Review and update NSAB Information Sharing Agreement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> September 2027 	<input type="checkbox"/> Outstanding <input type="checkbox"/> On course <input type="checkbox"/> Complete	<i>Not required within this year.</i>
3.	The NSAB receives performance reports on a bi-annual basis with more frequent exception reporting if concerning patterns or trends are identified.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> July 2026 January 2027 	<input type="checkbox"/> Outstanding <input type="checkbox"/> On course <input type="checkbox"/> Complete	
4.	Hold an annual self-assessment / challenge event	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> January 2027 	<input type="checkbox"/> Outstanding <input type="checkbox"/> On course <input type="checkbox"/> Complete	
5.	Production of Newcastle Safeguarding Adult Board Annual Report 2025-26	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> May 2026 (agency submissions) July 2026 (Draft version for NSAB) September 2026 (sign-off by NSAB) 	<input type="checkbox"/> Outstanding <input type="checkbox"/> On course <input type="checkbox"/> Complete	
6.	Production of Newcastle Safeguarding Adults Board Strategic Annual Plan 2027-28	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> December 2026(consultation begins) January 2027 (draft version at NSAB) March 2027 (sign-off at NSAB) 	<input type="checkbox"/> Outstanding <input type="checkbox"/> On course <input type="checkbox"/> 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.)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> March 2027 	<input type="checkbox"/> Outstanding <input type="checkbox"/> On course <input type="checkbox"/> Complete	

8.	NSAB Risk Register to be updated and agreed by Board members	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bi-annually 	<input type="checkbox"/> Outstanding <input type="checkbox"/> On course <input type="checkbox"/> 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.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As required and opportunities arise. 	<input type="checkbox"/> Outstanding <input type="checkbox"/> On course <input type="checkbox"/> Complete	
10.	The NSAB holds Board Member Development Session, this may be in conjunction with other strategic partnerships (via the NPGSV)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • March 2026 	<input type="checkbox"/> Outstanding <input type="checkbox"/> On course <input type="checkbox"/> Complete	

Glossary

ADASS	Association of Directors of Adult Social Services
CQC	Care Quality Commission
CNTW	Cumbria, Northumberland, Tyne and Wear NHS Foundation Trust
CPD	Continuing Professional Development
CSPR	Child Safeguarding Practice Review
DASS	Director of Adult Social Services
DHR	Domestic Homicide Review (sometimes referred to as a DARDR – Domestic Abuse Related Death Review)
EMNA	Ethnic Minority Needs Assessment
HAREF	Network to improve health equality for ethnically marginalised communities (delivered by Connected Voice)
IPC	Improving Practice Committee
JSNA	Joint Strategic Needs Assessment
LA	Local Authority
LGA	Local Government Association
MARM	Multi-Agency Risk Management
MASH	Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub
MCA	Mental Capacity Act
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
NuTH	Newcastle upon Tyne Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust
RCRP	Right Care, Right Person
SAR	Safeguarding Adults Review
JSEG	Joint Strategic Exploitation Group
TWFRS	Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service
VARM	Vulnerable Adult Risk Management
VCS	Voluntary and Community Sector
VRU	Violence Reduction Unit
YJPB	Youth Justice Partnership Board