



NSAB Statement in response to Adult P Safeguarding Adult Review

Newcastle Safeguarding Adults Board chair Vida Morris said: “We would like to express our sincerest condolences to the family and friends of ‘Adult P’ and thank particularly their family for their cooperation with the review process.

“Even were the criteria for a mandatory Safeguarding Adults Review (SAR) is not met, when an individual has had extensive contact with health, care and other public services, it is only right that we seek to better understand what happened and what we can learn from that.

“This is a sad case of someone who died in a house fire who’d had, over a number of years, concerns raised about self-neglect and the risks of fire related to their smoking.

“In hindsight, while professionals from all the agencies tried hard to support Adult P in the best way that they could, they recognise that aspects of good practice were not in place.

“Despite extensive liaison between teams there wasn’t a complete understanding of Adult P’s circumstances, and why they were reluctant to accept support.

“The review highlights the need for greater multi-agency oversight of complex cases; a clearer idea of what to do around fire service referrals – particularly when an individual does not consent to being referred; and better understanding of the support being provided or available from unpaid carers and landlords.

“Changes have been made due to the lessons learned, with fire risk questions now included in safeguarding forms, more training for health and care professionals, and the council’s reablement team stepping in to provide support when alternative care is unavailable.”

15 July 2026