NHS
North East and North Cumbria

Our Reference North East and North Cumbria ICB\ FOI ICB 26–310

North East and North Cumbria ICB
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By Email

12 October 2026

Dear Applicant

Freedom of Information Act 2000 – Request for Information – NHS North East and North Cumbria Integrated Care Board (NENC ICB)

Thank you for your request received on 18 September 2026 for information held by NHS North East and North Cumbria Integrated Care Board (the ICB) under the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. The ICB covers the areas of County Durham, Newcastle Gateshead, North Cumbria, North Tyneside, Northumberland, South Tyneside, Sunderland, and Tees Valley.

Please find the information you requested on behalf of the ICB as follows.

Your Request

I am writing under the terms of the Freedom of Information Act (2000).

The following questions concern NHS North East and North Cumbria ICB's safeguarding role and responsibilities to tackle domestic abuse and violence against women and girls.

I would like to request the following information.

1. NHS England guidance stipulates that all ICBs must designate a member of their Executive Team as a Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence (DASV) Lead. Does your ICB have a named DASV lead? If yes, please provide:
   a. Whether the DASV Lead role is dedicated, part of a wider safeguarding portfolio or undertaken alongside another role.
      i. If part of a wider safeguarding portfolio, please provide details of other safeguarding roles.
      ii. If undertaken alongside another role, please provide details and job title.
   b. Full-time (FTE) or Part-time (PTE)

2. If your ICB has a named DASV lead, please provide the role description or responsibilities associated with the DASV Lead function, including their obligations under the organisation/ICB's governance and the Sexual Safety Charter.

3. If your ICB has a named DASV lead, do they attend the NHS England Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Leads Network?
   a. If not, does any member of staff represent the ICB at the NHS England Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Leads Network?
   b. Please provide any Terms of Reference or code equivalent for your organisation's involvement with NHS England's Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Leads Network.

4. How many dedicated safeguarding roles (FTE), including children and young people, did your ICB employ in the following months (if staff worked across safeguarding and other functions, please provide an estimate based on approximate staff time spent on safeguarding? Please note if your ICB has been merged in this time period, please provide information for previous organisations.
   a. 1 April 2019 (or nearest possible date)
   b. 1 April 2020 (or nearest possible date)
   c. 1 April 2021 (or nearest possible date)
   d. 1April 2022 (or nearest possible date)
   e. 1 April 2023 (or nearest possible date)
   f. 1 April 2024 (or nearest possible date)
   g. 1 April 2025 (or nearest possible date)
   h. 1 April 2026 (or nearest possible date)

5. How much did your ICB spend (allocated budget and actual spend) on safeguarding functions in the following financial years, including children and young people? Where possible, please state how much of each year's budget was allocated to Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence responsibilities. Please note if your ICB has been merged in this time period, please provide information for previous organisations.
   a. 2019/20 (1 April 2019 to 31 March 2020)
   b. 2020/21 (1 April 2020 to 31 March 2021)
   c. 2021/22 (1 April 2021 to 31 March 2022)
   d. 2022/23 (1 April 2022 to 31 March 2023)
   e. 2023/24 (1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024)
   f. 2024/5 (1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025)
   g. 2025/6 (1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026)

6. Please state, for the following financial years, how much of this budget was allocated to Adult Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence responsibilities and how much was allocated to Children and Young People Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence responsibilities. Please note if your ICB has been merged in this time period, please provide information for previous organisations.
   a. 2019/20 (1 April 2019 to 31 March 2020)
   b. 2020/21 (1 April 2020 to 31 March 2021)
   c. 2021/22 (1 April 2021 to 31 March 2022)
   d. 2022/23 (1 April 2022 to 31 March 2023)
   e. 2023/24 (1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024)
   f. 2024/5 (1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025)
   g. 2025/6 (1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026)

7. What budget has your ICB allocated to safeguarding, including children and young people, for the financial year 2026/27? Where possible, please state how much of this budget is allocated to Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence responsibilities.
8. Please state, for the financial year 2026/27 how much of the budget was allocated to Adult Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence responsibilities and how much was allocated to Children and Young People Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence responsibilities.

Please note if your ICB has been merged in this time period, please provide information for previous organisations.

Our Response

1. Executive accountability for the ICB statutory commissioning and assurance functions relating to domestic abuse, sexual abuse and serious violence sits with the Executive Chief Nurse.

   The current governance record identifies Chief Nurse as the approving Executive Director for safeguarding assurance. Operational leadership for the domestic abuse portfolio is delivered through the wider safeguarding structure rather than as a standalone dedicated post. This is covered collectively across clinical roles in safeguarding.

   The executive DASV function forms part of the wider Chief Nursing Officer safeguarding and quality portfolio and is undertaken alongside the full responsibilities of that executive role. It is not evidenced as a separately funded, dedicated DASV post. Operational DASV responsibilities are distributed within existing Adult, Children and All age safeguarding roles of medical and nursing staff who are currently permanently employed within the Nursing Directorate.

2. The evidenced responsibilities include executive accountability for statutory commissioning assurance relating to domestic abuse, sexual abuse and serious violence; strategic oversight through Community Safety Partnerships, Safeguarding Adults Boards, Safeguarding Children Partnerships and Domestic Abuse Local Partnership Boards; oversight of participation in Domestic Abuse Related Death Reviews; assurance that domestic and sexual abuse is incorporated into safeguarding policies and provider contractual standards; governance of the ICB response to the Sexual Safety Charter; and oversight of the duty to collaborate in commissioning community-based support for victims of domestic abuse, sexual violence and serious violence. The function is supported by designated safeguarding professionals, place-based partnership representation, provider assurance, workstreams and formal ICB quality governance.

3. The Executive DASV Lead does not personally attend the NHS England Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Leads Network; the ICB Chief Nurse is represented by Named and Designated Professionals who attend on behalf of the ICB/Nursing Directorate.

   The ICB does not hold the requested Terms of Reference, however, we have determined that this may be held by NHS England.

   In accordance with our duty under s.16 of the FOIA to provide reasonable advice and assistance to an individual requesting information, we have provided the FOI contact for NHS England – england.contactus@nhs.net – should you wish to redirect this question to them. Please write “Freedom of Information” in the subject line.

4. On this occasion it is not possible to provide the requested information. In line with your rights under section 1(1)(a) of the Act to be informed whether information is held, we confirm the ICB does not hold the information to the level requested. We can confirm an all-age safeguarding structure and identify role categories and current vacancies, but the structure does not provide a verified historical WTE snapshot for each requested date.

5. The attached spreadsheet details budget allocated to Adult Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence responsibilities and Children and Young People Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence responsibilities. NENC ICB does not hold the level of data necessary to provide DASV elements.
6. On this occasion it is not possible to provide the requested information. In line with your rights under section 1(1)(a) of the Act to be informed whether information is held, we confirm the ICB does not hold any of the information requested. NENC ICB does not hold the level of data necessary to provide DASV elements.
7. Please refer to the response to question 6.
8. Please refer to the response to question 6.

In accordance with the Information Commissioner's directive on the disclosure of information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 your request will form part of our disclosure log. Therefore, a version of our response which will protect your anonymity will be posted on the NHS ICB website https://northeastnorthcumbria.nhs.uk/.

If you have any queries or wish to discuss the information supplied, please do not hesitate to contact me on the above telephone number or at the above address.

If you are unhappy with the service you have received in relation to your request and wish to request a review of our decision, you should write to the Information Governance Manager using the contact details at the top of this letter quoting the appropriate reference number.

If you are not content with the outcome your review, you do have the right of complaint to the Information Commissioner as established by section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. Generally, the Information Commissioner cannot make a decision unless you have exhausted the ICB's complaints procedure.

The Information Commissioner can be contacted at Information Commissioner's Office, 4th Floor, No. 3 Circle Square, 5 Hawkshaw Street, Manchester, M1 7BL or www.ico.org.uk.

Any information we provide following your request under the Freedom of Information Act will not confer an automatic right for you to re-use that information, for example to publish it. If you wish to re-use the information that we provide and you do not specify this in your initial application for information then you must make a further request for its re-use as per the Re-Use of Public Sector Information Regulations 2015 www.legislation.gov.uk. This will not affect your initial information request.

Yours faithfully

Information Governance Support Officer

Information Governance Support Officer
North East and North Cumbria Integrated Care Board