

Safeguarding Annual Report 2024-25

Report prepared by:

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**We are committed to safeguarding the welfare of children,
young people and adults across the organisation**

Our four key goals



Longer & healthier lives

Reducing the gap between how long people live in the North East and North Cumbria compared to the rest of England



Fairer outcomes for all

As not everyone has the same opportunities to be healthy because of where they live, their income, education and employment



Better health & care services

Not just high-quality services but the same quality no matter where you live and who you are



Giving children and young people the best start in life

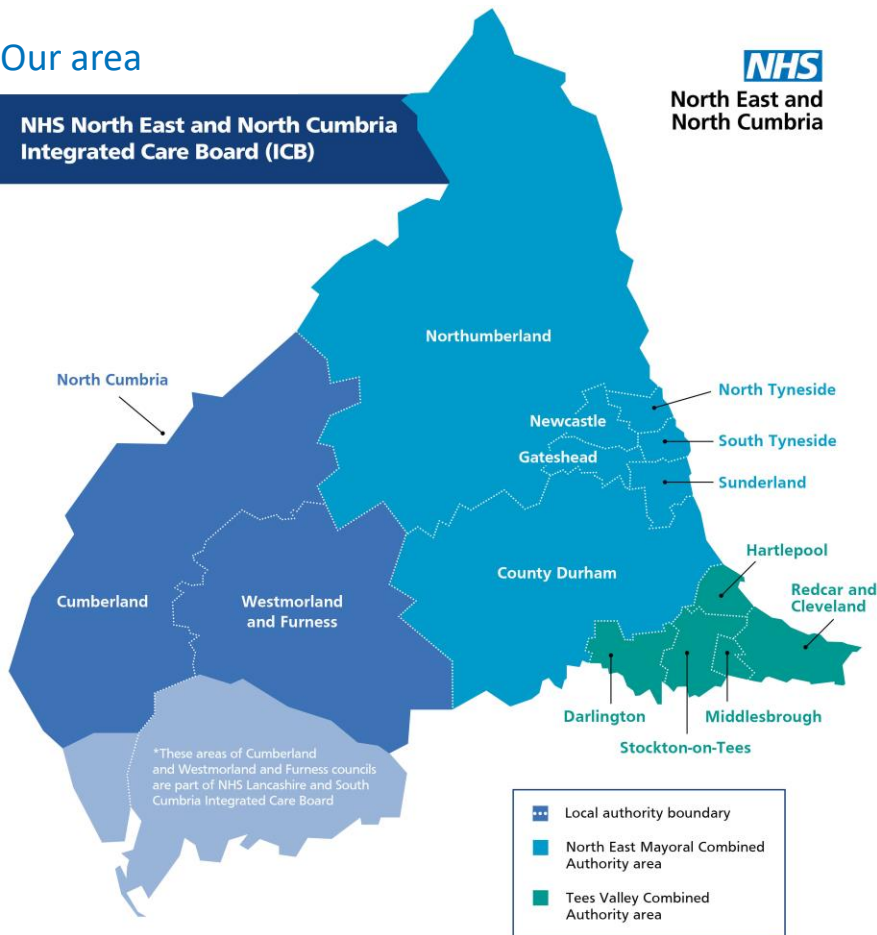
Enabling them to thrive, have great futures and improve lives for generations

Our area










NHS North East and North Cumbria Integrated Care Board (ICB)



North East and North Cumbria



Key safeguarding demographics in the ICB area

605,179 Number of adults (65 plus) 	1,842,298 Number of adults (18-65) 	596,252 Number of Children (0-17) 
19 Safeguarding Children Partnerships and Safeguarding Adult Boards 	14 Community Safety Partnerships 	12 statutory 22 other commenced Statutory Safeguarding Reviews during 2024-25 (children and adult) 
14 Corporate Parenting Boards 	19 Domestic Homicide Reviews commenced 2024-25 	14 Local Authorities 4 Police Forces 

Executive summary

NENC ICB has continued to discharge its statutory safeguarding duties throughout 2024-25 in relation to safeguarding children, young people and adults at risk.

The Executive Chief Nurse held the statutory accountability for safeguarding and delegated the statutory safeguarding responsibilities to the Directors of Nursing leading the delivery of the statutory functions undertaken by the Local Delivery Designated Teams.

NENC ICB was able to demonstrate that there were appropriate safeguarding governance systems in place for discharging their statutory safeguarding duties and functions in line with the following key legislation:

- Care Act 2014
- Children Act 1989 and 2004
- Children and Social Work Act 2017
- Working together to Safeguard Children 2023

The NHSE Safeguarding and Accountability and Assurance Framework (SAAF 2022) provided the strategic framework for ensuring system oversight of safeguarding priorities.

Assurance and oversight of these duties is maintained by NENC ICB through its formal quality governance arrangements. NENC ICB was compliant with all the NHSE monitoring requirements.

Additional key statutory safeguarding areas of focus within the report include:


- Child Deaths - The Child Death Review Statutory Guidance (2018)
- Prevent - Counter Terrorism and Security Act, 2015 (Prevent Duty)
- Mental Capacity – Mental Capacity Act (MCA, 2005)

Joint Forward Plan Priorities:

- Cared for and Care Experienced
- Transitional Safeguarding
- Self Neglect
- Domestic and Sexual Violence

Foreword and introduction

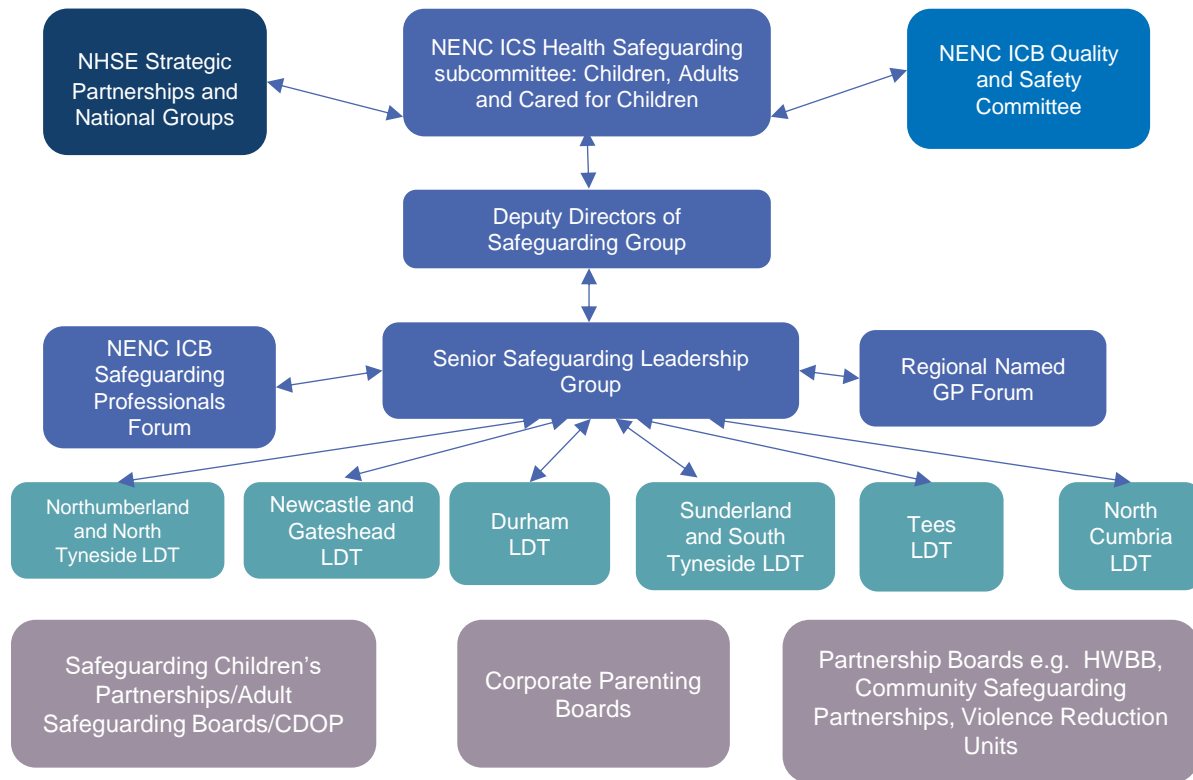
- This is 2024/25 Safeguarding Annual Review Report of North East North Cumbria Integrated Care Board (NENC ICB)
- This annual report contains information from 1st April 2024 until 31st March 2025
- This report provides assurance to the board regarding our ICB safeguarding functions and outlines the continued fulfilment of our statutory safeguarding duties
- Our governance arrangements continue to support a more integrated approach to safeguarding across the ICS through the Health Safeguarding Executive sub committee
- This report provides the Board with an overview of how we have fulfilled our safeguarding statutory requirements, our contributions across NENC ICS with our Safeguarding Children Partnerships and Adult Board arrangements and our collaboration with providers and system colleagues
- NENC ICB has a strong commitment to prevention and early intervention which is seen as vital to safeguard our children, families and adults
- NENC ICB has continued to implement national guidance, work in our convening role and driven our engagement within our multi agency partnerships, with a commitment to learning from safeguarding reviews and incidents to improve outcomes for our population across NENC whilst holding the voice of our population central to our focus and delivery
- Designated Leads attended each NHS provider internal safeguarding committees to provide expertise in monitoring provider performance including their safeguarding practice to ensure compliance with contractual obligations and safeguarding standards and the safety and effectiveness of their safeguarding arrangements



We are committed to safeguarding the welfare of children, young people and adults across the organisation

NENC ICB Safeguarding Governance 2024/25

Safeguarding arrangements are within the overarching NENC ICB quality governance structure. The ICB has a strategic Health Safeguarding Executive subcommittee which includes senior NHS leaders in providers. The structure supports an integrated model for the delivery of the safeguarding functions. There is a clear line of accountability with the Executive Chief Nurse taking overall responsibilities for the organisations safeguarding arrangements.



NENC ICB Statutory Duties

Responsibilities of NENC ICB delivered across the ICB and in our local arrangements as set out in legislation and national guidance

Statutory Priorities

- Assurance, effectiveness and scrutiny of services commissioned or delivered in our area
- Neglect
- PREVENT
- Digital and Data including health care records, CP-IS, (Child Protection Information Systems)
- Mental Capacity Act /Deprivation of Liberty
- Health Partnerships and collaboration, training and workforce development
- System improvement and learning from death/near miss reviews
- Risks outside the home including children and adult exploitation , Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) and Modern Slavery
- Delivery of national, regional and ICB safeguarding priorities
- Compliance with NHSE safeguarding priorities

Partnership Duty

- Equal statutory partner for Children Safeguarding Partnerships
- Equal partner with Local Authority in the Child Death Review process
- Care Act and Adult Safeguarding Boards
- Responsibility for ensuring compliance with the Mental Capacity Act

Duty to Cooperate

- Serious Violence Duty as responsible authority
- Domestic Abuse Act as specified authority
- Provision and delivery of local youth justice services
- Section 11 of the Children Act 2004

Safeguarding Children Partnerships, Adult Safeguarding Boards and System Partnership Boards

- NENC ICB has maintained the ICB statutory duties across the ICS Safeguarding Children Partnerships as one of the equal and joint statutory partners along with the Local Authorities and Police Forces and as a statutory partner for the ICS Adult Safeguarding Boards
- The ICB continues to work together with our statutory partners and other agencies to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and adults across NENC
- There are 22 safeguarding partnerships and boards across the NENC ICS footprint, seven of which are joint
- The Executive Chief Nurse has ensured the ICB statutory function for the boards and partnerships during 2024-25 has been delivered via the following arrangements:
 - ✓ The ICB Executive Chief Nurse has attended the Safeguarding Board/Partnership meetings or the Directors of Nurses with delegated executive responsibility.
 - ✓ Our Designated Safeguarding teams in each place have attended the Board/Partnership meetings as expert advisors. They have also either chaired or provided representation to facilitate and influence the subgroups of the partnerships/boards and associated workstreams to fulfil our statutory responsibilities and contribute to our safeguarding partnership work

- ✓ Designated teams attended Community Safety Partnerships in each local delivery area to represent our ICB organisation and fulfil our statutory responsibilities regarding domestic abuse, serious violence and Prevent
- ✓ As a statutory partner we have contributed to each of our safeguarding partnership/boards annual reports which outline our key achievements and priorities for each of the partnership areas
- ✓ Our ICB safeguarding and quality governance routes from within each local delivery team and within our wider ICB governance ensure our continued oversight and contribution to the work of our partnerships and boards is maintained

Working Together to Safeguarding Children 2023: Statutory Guidance

- This updated Guidance included some substantive changes which strengthened the multiagency safeguarding arrangements between local authorities, police forces and integrated care boards
- These key changes clarified the safeguarding responsibilities of senior leaders (now Lead Safeguarding Partners LSPs) and required local areas to reflect on how to strengthen multi agency working across the whole system of help, support and protection for children and their families and social care. Each local area was required to publish updated arrangements in December 2024
- Work was undertaken with the relevant LSPs, Executives and Child Safeguarding Partnerships (CSPs) across the ICB footprint to reinforce the ICBs full commitment to meeting the required guidance, navigating the complex geography, and keeping a focus on the opportunities available that such engagement and collaboration can bring.
- As a result, the ICB was able to agree and endorse each partnerships multiagency safeguarding arrangement which were all published by the December 2024 deadline. These agreements confirmed Sam Allen as the ICB Lead Safeguarding Partner and the respective Directors of Nursing as the Designated Safeguarding Partner (DSP). NENC ICB Chief Executive will continue to work closely with the ICB Executive Chief Nurse and AHP Officer designated accountable for statutory functions in the ICB including safeguarding, to ensure effective delivery of these arrangements
- The commitment in support of the new MASA arrangements is that through the LSP arrangements each CSP partnership will work to ensure fair shares/proportionate partnership contributions for 2025/26.

Safeguarding Assurance – Overview

NENC ICB has a statutory responsibility for ensuring safe systems of care are delivered and to ensure that all health providers with whom they commission, discharge their functions regarding safeguarding and the promotion of welfare of children, young people and adults at risk. The statutory safeguarding assurance processes set out in the SAAF (2022) have been adhered to.

NENC ICB Contractual Standards provide the safeguarding audit framework used to monitor all NHS and Non-NHS providers of health care and ensure annual safeguarding arrangements are in place to provide oversight of provider safeguarding assurance.

NENC ICB Safeguarding Teams oversee the coordination of system safeguarding assurance in coordination with contracting, commissioning and quality teams.

Our Safeguarding assurance model for NHS commissioned services includes actively engaging and seeking assurance from our large acute trusts, Private Hospital Trusts, GP Practices and Nursing Care Homes as well as numerous smaller commissioned or independent services. Assurance of ICB's is overseen by NHS England who have a statutory role to oversee assurance.

Formal NHSE ICB assurance reviews are carried out quarterly via the Safeguarding Commissioning Assurance Toolkit (SCAT). The organisation was fully compliant across all standards.

The ICB has responded to all Section 11 requests from Children's Partners

Facilitated ICB and provider compliance with NHSE workforce survey

Achievements 2024-2025:

- ICB wide assurance audit undertaken of main NHS providers which evidenced strong compliance with contractual obligations and safe and effective safeguarding arrangements
- Revised and updated Safeguarding Health Assurance Framework issued as contractual requirement for 2025/26
- Formalised governance and reporting into the ICB Quality and Safety Committee

Emerging Risks:

- Wide variation in terms of ICB commissioned health resource into LA based multi agency safeguarding Hubs (MASH) which impacts on outcomes for children/adults. Initial scoping has been completed to inform future plans
- Wide variation in support for primary care in relation to multi agency risk assessment conferences (MARAC) and multi agency public protection arrangements (MAPPA). Initial scoping has informed pilot deep dive review
- Capacity and succession plans for safeguarding practitioners across the NHS providers and in fulfilling the ICB Designated Doctor requirements
- Wide variation in commissioning and delivery of the medical adviser role across the ICB
- Volume of reviews continues to increase at pace placing demands on the teams

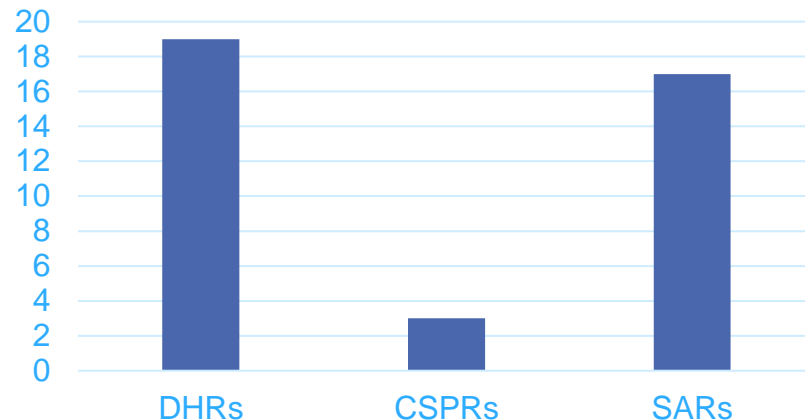
Safeguarding Statutory Reviews: 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025

ICB's are required to participate in all statutory safeguarding reviews, Safeguarding Adult Reviews (SARs), Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews (CSPR's) and Domestic Homicide Reviews (DHR) as outlined within legislation including the Care Act (2014), The Children and Social Work Act (2017) and Domestic Violence, Crime and Victims Act (2004).

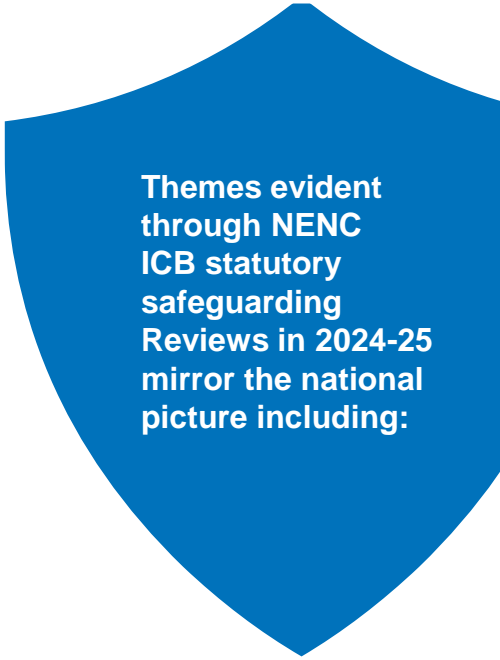
The ICB contributes to all reviews via our Designated Safeguarding Teams across NENC ICB as part of the Safeguarding Adult Boards, Children Partnerships and Community Safety Partnerships review panel processes.

Learning from these reviews informs local partnerships and system level development and improved outcomes for our population – the aim is to identify thematic areas of learning to influence our ICS system, regional and national priority areas of work. During 2024-25 NENC ICB 31 statutory reviews were commenced and an additional 22 non statutory reviews (local learning and rapid reviews)

Total DHR/CSPR/SAR activity



Safeguarding Statutory Reviews



Themes evident through NENC ICB statutory safeguarding Reviews in 2024-25 mirror the national picture including:

- Domestic Abuse Related Deaths, where victims of DA are taking their own lives
- Coercive control
- Self-neglect (lack of MCA and exec functioning, non-concordance with treatment plans, i.e. Diabetics)
- Non-accidental injuries/physical abuse in infants under 1 year old
- Hidden males
- SUDI featuring substance misuse by parents

NENC ICB Learning and Improvement Enabler

- During 2024/25 the group led and/or coordinated with Designated teams
 - ✓ ICB Board level training
 - ✓ Bruising in immobile babies' pathway launched and training delivered which included a video featuring leads from all partner agencies
 - ✓ Safeguarding children partnerships reviewing their response to intrafamilial child sexual abuse following national report
 - ✓ Raising awareness of Domestic Abuse in cancer quality group South Tees and GP services
 - ✓ Diabetes related Safeguarding Adult Reviews shared with primary care

Domestic and sexual violence

Domestic Abuse Requirements	Assurance and Key Areas of Development (see also Serious Violence Duty which now incorporates domestic and sexual abuse): includes Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG)
ICB Statutory Functions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Executive Chief Nurse is accountable for the statutory commissioning assurance functions of domestic (DA) and sexual abuse (SA) and serious violence. • Statutory responsibility to participate in Domestic Abuse Related Death Reviews (previously Domestic Homicide Reviews - DHR's) • ICB has a duty to collaborate on the commissioning of community support services for victims of domestic and sexual abuse and serious violence. (Victims & Prisoners Act, 2024) • Strategic oversight via Community Safety Partnerships, Safeguarding Boards and Safeguarding Partnerships • NENC ICB signatory to the sexual safety charter
NENC ICB Domestic abuse policy, procedures and systems to monitor the domestic abuse agenda	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Domestic and sexual abuse is incorporated within all Safeguarding Policies for ICB staff • Domestic and sexual abuse is one of four key ICB Joint Forward Plan safeguarding priorities in line with the positive duty under Domestic Abuse Act 2021 and Health and Care Act 2022 • Designated professionals maintain oversight of the system response to DA, SA, Serious violence with the inclusion in provider safeguarding contractual standards in 2024-25. • ICB representation on the Community Safety Partnerships and Domestic Abuse (DA) local partnership board and partners in each area's DA Strategies
2024-2025 Developments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The ICB has four Quality Assurance Reviewers providing professional advice and guidance to the Home Office in respect of health learning from our DARDs • DA, SA and VAWG workstreams developed and offer a consistent view around ICB priorities and development e.g. DA/SA support services and DA champions
Domestic Abuse Related Death Reviews	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NHS England Safeguarding case review tracker provides oversight of learning and recommendations for the ICB footprint. • 19 Newly commissioned DARDs during 24-25
System developments for 2025- 26	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthened oversight of DARDs, CSPRs and SARs learning and recommendations for the ICB footprint ensuring actions are robust and impactful to the population we serve. • Enact the duty to cooperate in the commissioning for support services for Victims. • Continue to provide an ICB wide offer of support and guidance around DA, SA, serious violence and VAWG agenda.

Serious Violence Duty

The Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Act received Royal Ascent in April 2022. The Serious Violence Duty (SVD) requirements came into effect in January 2023, they introduced a new statutory duty for specified authorities in a locality to collaborate to prevent and reduce serious violence. NENC ICB is the specified authority for health in each ICB area and needs to ensure services work together to share data and knowledge and to target interventions to prevent serious violence.

Serious Violence Duty Requirements	Assurance and Key Areas of Development
ICB Statutory Functions	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Executive Chief Nurse holds the serious violence duty responsibilitiesNENC ICB contributes and engages with other duty holders via relevant partnerships including the Violence Reduction Unit, place Community Safety Partnerships, Safeguarding Boards and Safeguarding Partnerships.
Embedding SVD within NENC ICB policy, procedures and ensure systems in place to progress the agenda	<ul style="list-style-type: none">The ICP Joint Forward Plan 2023/4-28/29 outlines our priorities In response to our statutory safeguarding duties and legal duties.Safeguarding partnerships have undertaken preparatory JTAI and audit work in response to serious youth violence and shared findings.More health navigators are being introduced into hospital settings to support those attending with injuries from violent incidents.Training has been delivered in PLT sessions relating to FGM and SARCs to raise awareness.Safeguarding team member is now part of the ICB VAWG programme group offering expert advice.
System developments for 2025- 26	<ul style="list-style-type: none">ICB will work together with partners to discharge its duty to collaborate to support the commissioning of health services where required for victims of serious violence and ensure a streamlined service.promote the 'Make a Change' programme, a model which is a community-wide, early response approach to people who are concerned that they are using harmful behaviours in their intimate, or previously intimate, relationships. Training has been delivered and primary care have been supported by the Named GP in identifying and referring patients to this programme.Ongoing and specialist advice as required in the ICBs prioritisation of the prevention and reduction of violence against women and girls (VAWG) and for the needs of victims of abuse

Prevent

The Prevent Duty Guidance 2023 denotes the health sector specified authorities as NHS Trust and Foundation Trusts in England and Wales. Prevent is part of the UK's Counter Terrorism Strategy known as CONTEST. Prevent works to stop individuals from getting involved or supporting terrorism or extremist activity.

Prevent Requirements	Assurance and Key Areas of Development
ICB Prevent statutory functions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Executive Chief Nurse as a Board level executive director fulfils the function of a Prevent Lead
Prevent within NENC ICB Policy, Procedures to ensure systems in place to monitor the Prevent agenda	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prevent is incorporated within NENC ICB Safeguarding Policy including a Prevent concern flowchart and locality referral details. It sits alongside long-established safeguarding duties on professionals to protect people from a range of harms Prevent is included within NENC ICB safeguarding reporting and Safeguarding provider safeguarding contractual standards including training compliance to ensure that people who are susceptible to radicalisation are supported NHSE national data reporting from NHS Acute provider trusts included in quarterly ICB assurance
System developments for 2025-26	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The ICB will work strategically with partners at Contest Board or Gold command in the delivery of required compliance and assurance in line with national policy and have oversight of Contest Strategy implementation in health provision. This will be further supported by effective leadership and guidance as part of the local delivery teams for Prevent duty. The ICB will ensure effective health representation at 'Channel panels' across the 14 Local Authorities and offer support and leadership in the event of high level risk strategy meetings in the context of public safety or complex cases requiring ICB Safeguarding and Commissioning. The ICB will cease from attending 'Channel panel' as a core member. The ICB operational leads will review and establish an effective Prevent information sharing protocol from neighbourhood and General Practice areas, in conjunction with Clinical leads for Primary Care. The operational leads will work with the workforce and development leads to establish the ESR process ensuring all professional registered staff complete level 3 on line Prevent training as part of their mandatory training programme.

Mental Capacity Act (MCA)

NENC ICB as a commissioner needs to be able demonstrate understanding and compliance with the Mental Capacity Act 2005 (MCA) and Deprivation of Liberty Safeguarding 2009 (DoLS) within the organisation and seek assurance that any services it commissions are also compliant

Mental Capacity Act (MCA)	Assurance and Key Areas of Development
ICB Statutory Functions	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Executive Chief Nurse is the organisational MCA lead and ensures that the organisational statutory responsibilities are fulfilled
MCA Policy, procedures and systems	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• MCA policy for ICB has been reviewed and updated March 2025.• Designated professionals have maintained oversight of the commissioned services compliance with MCA requirements via the ICB safeguarding contractual standards to ensure oversight and compliance. Local assurance groups are also in place with providers where MCA DoLS data is shared with ICB safeguarding designates.• ICB safeguarding teams provide MCA support on complex safeguarding cases to providers, primary care, Local Authorities and CHC. Advice and support is also available to directors regarding complex cases and actions for ICB.• MCA training for the ICB is required to meet its safeguarding responsibilities. ESR review and access is under way for this training and ad hoc MCA training is available to ICB staff as and when required from the ICB safeguarding teams.• DoLS questionnaire was sent to all providers and ICB safeguarding teams in April 2024 to gain a baseline awareness of MCA DoLS practice and data across the NENC region. The DoLS questionnaire was sent to providers and ICB leads for MCA to identify good practice in MCA and areas of concern, this largely scored positive to the questions posed showing the ICB to be compliant with MCA good practice.• ICB professional lead for MCA DoLS is now established and MCA forum is underway / in development to oversee the MCA/DoLS priorities in the ICB including challenges, issues, risks and mitigations. First meeting was held in March 2025.• Primary care and provider involvement through ICB processes is in place for the forum as well as NHSE and regional LA leads.

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Mental Capacity Act (MCA)	Assurance and Key Areas of Development
System Developments for 2025/26	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Thematic learning from statutory safeguarding reviews to inform improved outcomes and system development focusing on issues with quality of MCA standards, reporting and adherence to policy. Recent SAR analysis reports MCA and self neglect as two areas which are affecting 60% of all SAR referrals.• Continue to strengthen response to MCA for 16/17-year-olds across the ICB• Develop a clear assurance and governance framework for MCA, DoLS and Court of Protection (CoP), including training and policy, across the ICB and identify risks for MCA applications e.g. DoLS and CoP waiting lists• Develop audit process across ICB, both qualitative and quantitative, with providers to identify key areas of development and risk. Provide data for NHSE where required.• Further development of the MCA Oversight and Development Group where MCA, DoLS and CoP issues are reviewed and discussed with key stakeholders. Terms Of Reference is now in place and there is multi agency sign up to the group including providers, LA, NHSE, CHC and children's services. Regular quarterly meetings in place for the 2025/2026 period reporting to the safeguarding committee.• Develop a new toolkit to use across services to identify key areas of assurance and identify risks. Toolkit currently under consultation.• Oversight of national and regional developments.• Improve the patient voice experience and develop promotional materials regarding the law, advocacy and human rights• Continual improvement of MCA assessments, quality of recording, improvements in the best interest framework and application of primary and secondary care• Review of CoP DoLS in CHC: this is the legal responsibility of the ICB, and the action is currently held by the LA in most areas (funded by ICB) so whilst the request are covered the review will clarify any risks associated with variation in practice

Additional responsibilities

ICB Statutory Function	Assurance and Key Areas of Development	System Developments for 2025/26
Modern Slavery	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Publication of its annual Modern Slavery Statement in full support of the Governments objective to eradicate modern slavery and human trafficking Dedicated ICB exploitation safeguarding nurse instrumental in Modern Slavery operations Use of contracts to ensure that providers adhere to Modern Slavery legal requirements 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop and embed ICB Modern Slavery operating procedures Training to be rolled out to all staff following ratification
Exploitation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work with multi-agency colleagues to raise awareness and manage criminal and sexual exploitation across the age span. Numerous briefing sessions delivered by exploitation safeguarding nurse across the ICB and to some partnerships Videos created for training resources e.g. Home takeover for distribution to all areas of health sector 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Explore wider coverage of exploitation subject matter across the ICB NHS footprint Incorporate learning from national and regional reviews and incidents into the ICB learning programme
Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NHSE monitor FGM assurance ICB receive assurance via contract monitoring. Updates shared with workforce as required: 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continued compliance with reporting NHSE data reporting using Safeguarding Integrated Data Dashboard (SIDD)
CP-IS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CP-IS is mandated via the Information Standards Notice DCB1609: Child Protection - Information Sharing It's also included in the standard contract for providers of NHS unscheduled care ICBs need to be supported to optimise the Child Protection Information System (CPIS) and facilitate system-level launch with NCRS 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Facilitate the NHS Long Term Plan requirement for CP-IS to be extended to 'all health care settings' including general practice (in hours), child and adolescent mental health services (CAMHS), sexual assault referral centres, termination of pregnancy services, school nursing and health visitors, community paediatrics and dentistry

Child Death Overview Panels

- Child Death Review [CDR] partners have a legal responsibility to ensure that the deaths of children normally resident in their area are reviewed. This function is carried out by the Child Death Overview Panel (CDOP) to ensure that a review is undertaken for all infant/child deaths age 0-17 years, excluding babies who are stillborn, late foetal loss and planned terminations of pregnancy carried out within the law
- The four CDOPs across NENC ICB use an eCDOP system that supports the 14 local authorities. It allows sharing of information in order to build a picture of emerging themes and patterns
- Arrangements for these four panels have evolved over time with a mix of funding sources, employment agreements, leadership roles and membership and processes.
- During 2024/25 scoping of these arrangements led to an agreed review with the initial engagement session undertaken January 2025 with review to be completed during 2025/26
- Paediatrician for Child Deaths and Designated Doctors fulfil the ICB responsibilities as members of the four CDOPs
- CDOP has a statutory requirement to produce local annual reports which provides a summary of the key learning and emerging trends arising with the aim of preventing future child deaths which will be reviewed through the NENC ICS Health Safeguarding Committee and ongoing governance
- During 2024/25 secured NHSE funding in support of the Eyes on the Baby: multi-agency SUDI prevention programme to implement an innovative safeguarding leadership and development project building on the success of the 'Eyes on the Baby' pilot.

Team highlight achievements 2024-25

Review and audit with multiagency partners of our commissioned services e.g. Multiagency Safeguarding Hubs

Development of a multi-agency action plan in response to the National Review into Child Sexual Abuse

Escalation to national panel and regional CDOP's regarding ICB wide criminality and associated motor vehicle theft and subsequent accidents for young people – for thematic learning and regional response

Designated Nurses enabled to provide interim NHSE leadership to the NHSE team

Developing framework for high-risk community cases (MASA) and providing training from ICB for all partner agencies to support the embedding of the framework

Delivering Self Neglect training to primary care services during safeguarding week

Development and submission of qualitative multi agency report on MCA and self neglect

Internal improved communication to deliver a one team safeguarding approach across the ICB

Continually lead on safeguarding reviews to influence practice and performance to improve outcomes for the most vulnerable members of our population

Continued to support LAs and care home providers with the complexities of quality and safeguarding

Highlight achievements 2024-25 - Named GPs

ICB-wide:

- Played a vital role in the delivery of training and signposting to primary care teams to embed multiagency safeguarding policies and processes
- Supported multiagency working between partners and general practice in complex multiagency safeguarding queries
- Provided specialist advice to statutory reviews to ensure that primary care recommendations are appropriate and achievable
- Worked to raise the safeguarding perspective in contracting and clinical commissioning conversations. (e.g. trauma informed care awareness across all service provision)
- Worked collaboratively with senior leadership to define and develop the named GP role, consistent with the ICB constitution and to ensure the ICB can meet its statutory safeguarding duties (still awaiting HR implementation). Currently establishing ways of working together more closely and meet regularly to determine and deliver an agreed programme of work

- Revised 'Child Was Not Brought' guidance for GP practices
- Developed separated parents' guidance
- New EMIS templates for initial and review child protection conference reports
- Worked with Named Midwife to develop SOP that improves Midwifery/GP practice working together
- Worked with Designated Safeguarding Lead for schools to improve relationship between schools and GP practices to help safeguard children

Highlight Achievements 2024-25 - Named GPs

(continued)

Collaborated with NEY named GPs to develop shared guidance and working practices (e.g. guide on writing statutory review chronologies and individual management reviews)

Worked with a national pilot service for domestic abuse perpetrators. Named GP led a new selective enquiry pilot in general practice to recognise, respond and refer those with abusive behaviours

Developed and delivered forensic awareness in safeguarding & Non-fatal strangulation training locally across multiagency networks and shared with wider ICB.

Working with designated doctor, developed pathways for suspected sexual abuse in children in the community and FGM pathways in the community

Led a Make a Change selective enquiry project in primary care as part of national pilot looking at the effectiveness of perpetrator interventions

Embedding through multi agency training the Domestic Abuse Template used by GPs to report and share MARAC related safeguarding information

Developing a new pathway to be used for dual diagnosis (alcohol and mental health) for complex patents

Delivered peer quarterly peer network meetings for practice safeguarding leads

Delivered trauma-informed care and signposting of alcohol and substance misuse training for practice safeguarding leads

Worked with clinical resources team to build a new template for Serious Incident Reporting Scheme (SIRS) for GP IT systems

- Implementing the care leavers pathway into primary care to commence March 2025.

In- practice safeguarding meetings (supporting families meetings): Piloting a 'signs of safety' model to be used in some practices.

Established practice domestic abuse champions

Liaised with Northumbria Training Programme to provide 4 free sessions per week of GP doctor-in-training time into the team to experience primary care safeguarding

Highlight achievements 2024-25 – Designated Doctors for Safeguarding Children

Thematic summary

- Provided medical expertise into local safeguarding partnership functions – sub-groups, executive etc.
- Provided medical expertise into learning reviews including CSPR, rapid reviews
- Provided medical expertise for updated guidance (e.g. FGM, non-fatal strangulation, FII/PP)
- Development of multiagency learning opportunities on key issues such as neglect
- Liaised with local trusts and primary care on access to learning opportunities
- Provide support and supervision to named professionals

Specific examples

- **Newcastle/Gateshead:** Recommended local partnership executive request NSPCC undertake system wide snapshot of sexual abuse services
- **Sunderland:** Implementation and monitoring of multiagency guidance on FII/PP
- **Tees:** Development of process to identify, assess and manage unmet health needs for children being assessed for neglect
- **Durham:** Implementation of Bexley learning model in the partnership through acting as chair of partnership strategic group
- **Darlington:** Co-investigator with Durham University implementing 'Eyes on the Baby' multi-agency learning package (Northern Accelerator programme)
- **Cumbria:** Chair of Partnership Case Review Group implementing learning from good practice as well as from serious harm

Regional

- Liaison with NHSE, NENC ICB and Public health to develop regional workshop on safer sleeping through development of the Eyes on the Baby Multiagency workforce learning package

Priorities for 2025/26

Continue to deliver our statutory responsibilities and those outlined within the SAAF (2024) for Safeguarding (Children, Cared for Children and Adults) on behalf of the ICB.

Develop and embed an ICB wide assurance and audit plan to support the NHSE Safeguarding Commissioning Toolkit (S-CAT) and Looked After Children data set returns

Review the variation of health input into Multi-agency safeguarding hubs working closely with partners

Review of multi agency risk assessment conferences (MARAC) and multi agency public protection arrangements (MAPPA) in support of primary care

Undertake initial Internal Audit

Support further development of Trauma Informed practice in our ICB and commissioned services

Review the ICBs response to Child Deaths to ensure consistency and compliance with best practice and statutory guidance

Work with digital leads to implement CP-IS Phase 2 towards a single care record

With NHSE and NHS providers review workforce plans for safeguarding specialists to ensure effective and safe discharge of statutory duties, economies of scale and the transfer of any NHSE agreed functions

Facilitate implementation of children's social care reforms

Conclusion

This report has been compiled at a time of significant change and transformation in the NHS and heralds the third major change for the ICB in its short 3-year history.

The report provides an overview of the range of activities and developments providing assurance to the NENC ICB Board and partners of the ICBs commitment to the effective discharge of its statutory safeguarding duties in relation to safeguarding children, young people and adults at risk.

Our continued focus for 2025/26 as the new ICB emerges in its strategic commissioning role will be to align with the national initiatives to strengthen our multiagency safeguarding arrangements, ensure that learning from reviews nationally and locally is transferred into systems and practice and informs our population health improvement priorities.

Our Designated Professionals as experts and strategic leaders for safeguarding will continue to be a vital source of safeguarding advice and expertise to commissioners to fulfil the responsibility for ensuring commissioned services are safe and effective, including safeguarding vulnerable people. This expertise will remain for all other relevant agencies and other organisations including the Local Authority (LA) and NHS England, other health professionals in provider organisations, regulators, the Safeguarding Children Partnership Arrangements, Safeguarding Adult Boards (SABs) and the Health and Wellbeing Boards (HWBs)

Safeguarding Partnerships and Boards

Annual Reports

ICB Local Delivery Team	Children's Safeguarding Partnerships Annual Report	Safeguarding Adult Boards Annual Reports
Newcastle	Newcastle NSCP Annual Report 2023-2024	Newcastle NSAB Annual Report 2023-2024
Gateshead	Gateshead GSCP Annual Report 2023-2024	Gateshead GSAB Annual Report 2023-2024
Sunderland	Sunderland SSCP Annual Report 2023-2024	Sunderland SSAB Annual Report 2023-2024
South Tyneside	South Tyneside STCP Annual Report 2023-2024	South Tyneside SAB Annual Report 2023-2024
Northumberland	NCASP Annual Report 2023-2024	North Tyneside NTSAB Annual Report 2023-2024
North Tyneside	North Tyneside NTSCP Annual Report 2023-2024	
Cumbria	Cumbria CSCP Annual Report 2023-2024	Cumbria CSAB Annual Report 2023-2024
Durham	Durham DSCP Annual Report 2023-2024	Durham DSAP Annual Report 2023-2024
Tees	South Tees STSCP Annual Report 2023-2024 Darlington DSP Annual Report 2023-2024 HSSCP Annual Report 2023-2024	Tees Wide TSAB Annual Report 2023-2024

Glossary

- **SAB** – Safeguarding Adult Board
- **SCP** – Safeguarding Children’s Partnership
- **CDOP** – Child Death Overview Panel
- **MARAC** – Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference (Domestic Abuse meeting for professionals to safeguard victims)
- **Child Protection Conferences** – statutory meeting to share information to safeguard children/young people and promote their welfare, development and health
- **CSPR** – Child Safeguarding Practice Review
- **SAR** –Safeguarding Adult Review
- **DHR** - Domestic Homicide Review
- **DARDR**- Domestic Abuse Related Death Reviews
- **Cared for Children** – Children in Care of Local Authority
- **Trauma informed care/practice** – an approach which considers how an individual’s behaviour or thinking may be impacted by past trauma
- **MCA** – Mental Capacity Act • **DoLs** – Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards
- **NHSE** – NHS England
- **ESR** – Electronic Staff Records
- **S-CAT** – Safeguarding Commissioner Assurance Tool

Safeguarding Annual Report 2024-25

**NHS North East and North Cumbria
Integrated Care Board**

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