

Newham Safeguarding Adults Board

Annual Report 2024-2025



Equality Statement

Newham is a vibrant, dynamic, and culturally rich London Borough, home to one of the most diverse communities in the country. This diversity is our greatest strength, shaping a borough full of energy, creativity, and potential.

We are firmly committed to building a workforce and partnerships that reflect the communities we serve. Representation matters, not only in who we are, but in how we listen, engage, and make decisions. That's why we are taking coordinated, focused, and meaningful action to foster an inclusive culture where diversity in all its forms.

The Newham Safeguarding Adults Board is committed to fostering diversity and inclusion in all aspects of its work. We actively promote representation and engagement across cultural, racial, gender, age, disability, socio-economic, and linguistic backgrounds. By valuing different perspectives and lived experiences, we ensure that safeguarding decisions are informed, equitable, and responsive to the needs of our diverse community. Our approach reflects a belief that inclusion strengthens collaboration and improves outcomes for adults at risk.

We are committed to actively challenging racism, discrimination, inequality, and injustice in all their forms. Our shared goal is to make Newham a fairer, safer, and more equitable place for everyone where all people can live, learn, work, and thrive with dignity and respect.

The Newham Safeguarding Board Partnerships across adults, children, health, police and community safety play a vital role in promoting these values and ensuring that every individual, regardless of age or circumstance, is protected, supported, and heard.

1. Statement From Our Independent Chair



I am pleased to present the Annual Report for 2024–25 on behalf of the Newham Safeguarding Adults Board (NSAB). This has been a year of both consolidation and change in the safeguarding landscape, as we continue to fulfil our statutory responsibilities under the Care Act 2014. Alongside there have been a whirlwind of changes from wider legislative and policy developments, sobering national reviews of services, and significant disruption and financial constraints in all our public services and everyday lives.

This has been an exceptionally challenging year, and the SAB team and partners have worked extremely hard to keep pace. Throughout, the Board has remained rooted in its central purpose: to protect adults with care and support needs from abuse and neglect, and to ensure that safeguarding is personal, proportionate, and respectful of individual rights. This report highlights how our partnership has responded to safeguarding concerns, drawn learning from Safeguarding Adults Reviews, and strengthened our responses to areas such as self-neglect, cuckooing, and mental health.

The Care Act 2014 requires us to prevent abuse and neglect, but it is the lived experiences of residents that bring urgency and meaning to this obligation. The learning from Safeguarding Adults Reviews has provided a sobering view of some of the experiences our residents face. The data, priorities, and case studies in this report reflect both the scale of need and the resilience of our communities. Our residents' experiences remain central to our understanding of what safeguarding must achieve and continues to challenge us to do better.

This reporting year we have increased our efforts to share lessons learnt and monitor that learning is embedded to improve practice. New partnerships are in place to safeguard residents who are discharged from hospital, to improve care for mental health patients in our Emergency Departments and to support care homes look after residents with very complex emotional and mental health needs. Oversight of safeguarding arrangements and the impact of local housing improvements have, and continue, to receive scrutiny and support.

There is more work we are keen to do to shape our work by increasing our efforts to listen and act on the voices of Newham's residents. They remind us that safeguarding is not solely about compliance with statutory duties, but about safeguarding practices built on trust, equity and compassion.

Sola Afuape

Independent Chair

Newham Safeguarding Adults Board

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sola Afuape".

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2.What Is Safeguarding?

Safeguarding Adults refers to adults aged 18 or older who are at risk of abuse or neglect due to their care and support needs. The intention is to prevent abuse and neglect and when it does occur, optimise the safety, wellbeing and quality of life for residents, maintaining their right to make choices and have control over how they live their lives.

Who do we help keep safe?

Safeguarding Adult duties apply to any adult who:

- Has needs for care and support (regardless of whether the local authority is meeting those needs)
- Is experiencing or is at risk of abuse or neglect; and
- Is unable to protect themselves from the risk of, or the experience of, abuse or neglect, as a result of their care and support needs.

What is Abuse?

Abuse is any action (either deliberate or unintentional) or a failure to act that results in harm to the adult. This can include neglect, which is a failure to provide appropriate care.

Abuse can be:

- A single or repeated act, or a lack of appropriate action
- Harmful or distressing, sometimes even leading to death
- Occurring anywhere—at home, in day care centres, or in hospitals.

For more details about the different types of abuse and to report any concerns, please visit the [Newham Safeguarding Adults webpages](#)



Safeguarding Principles

Our safeguarding principles mirror those listed in the Care Act and underpin all adult safeguarding work:



3. Newham Safeguarding Adults Board (NSAB)

The Care Act 2014 outlines the duty for each Local Authority to convene a Safeguarding Adults Board (SAB). In the London Borough of Newham this is called the Newham Safeguarding Adults Board (NSAB). NSAB is funded through contributions from its statutory partner organisations.

NSAB Membership

Members of NSAB are senior leaders from a wide range of statutory and non-statutory organisations, working collaboratively under the leadership of an independent Chair.

The Care Act 2014 outlines three statutory partners who have collective responsibility to fulfil the NSAB statutory duties. These are

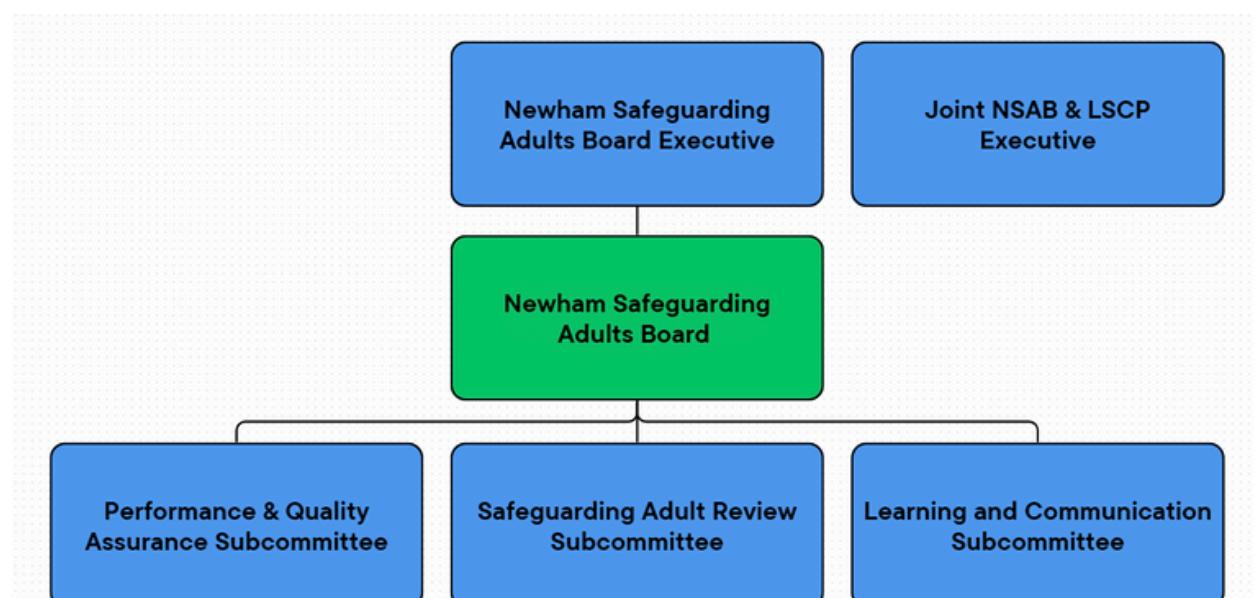
- The London Borough of Newham (The lead Statutory partner)
- Metropolitan Police Service
- North East London (NEL) Integrated Commissioning Board (ICB).

NSAB has extended the membership of the Board to include representatives from:

- Barts Health NHS Trust
- Healthwatch Newham
- London Fire Brigade
- National Probation Service London
- East London NHS Foundation Trust
- Community Health and Mental Health Services
- GP Clinical Lead for Safeguarding Adults
- Age UK East London
- Voiceability Advocacy Services
- Department of Work and Pensions
- London Ambulance Service.

NSAB Board Governance & Structure

To ensure independent external scrutiny, NSAB appoints an Independent Chair, responsible for overseeing its work. They are accountable to the Local Authority Chief Executive.



Subcommittees

To support the delivery of the NSAB's strategic objectives, NSAB has established subcommittees that focus on three key areas:

1. Safeguarding Adult Reviews (SARs)

2. Performance & Quality Assurance

3. Learning & Communication

Each subcommittee reports regularly to the Board and is chaired by a NSAB representative.

1. Safeguarding Adults Review Subcommittee (SAR) - Chair: Independent Chair of NSAB

The SAR Subcommittee reviews all referrals to establish if they meet the criteria for a SAR under Section 44 of the Care Act 2014. It provides recommendations for the different approaches available to undertake SARs and provides oversight of these.

2. Performance and Quality Assurance

Subcommittee (PQA) - Chair: Director of Quality Assurance, Safeguarding and Workforce Development, London Borough of Newham Adult Social Care

The PQA ensures that recommendations and actions arising from SARs are fully implemented by partner agencies and the impact of these are understood. It uses data analysis and multi-agency audits to assess the effectiveness of safeguarding activity across Newham.

The subcommittee also includes learning from other reviews, including LEDER, Safeguarding Children Practice Reviews, and Domestic Abuse Related Death Reviews.

3. Learning and Communication Subcommittee (L&C) - Chair: Designated Nurse for Safeguarding Adults, Newham NHS North East London Partnership

The L & C Subcommittee fosters a collaborative, multi-agency approach to developing skills and knowledge related to safeguarding. This includes creating and overseeing training and development activities to ensure that all agencies involved in safeguarding adults are equipped with the necessary skills and knowledge to effectively discharge their safeguarding duties and champion best practice.

SAB Executive and Joint Children's Executive

NSAB Executive, attended by senior leaders from the three statutory partners Health, Police and the Local Authority, provides a forum to discuss system level risks, partnership working and oversight of NSAB statutory duties. It is chaired by NSAB's Independent Chair and meets bi-monthly.

NSAB continues to prioritise strong partnership working with the local Safeguarding Children's Safeguarding Partnership and bi-monthly joint Executive meetings are held with the Children's Safeguarding Partnership. The meetings focus on:

- Governance and strengthening partnership working
- Development of joint priorities and escalation of shared risks and issues
- Safeguarding issues affecting both young people and adults.

The three Newham partnership chairs are developing a tri-partnership approach to include the Community Safety Partnership.

NSAB Business Unit

A new NSAB Business Unit was restructured and went live on April 1, 2024. The restructure provided additional capacity and safeguarding expertise. This was, however, a period of significant operational pressure as new roles were recruited to and new team members embedded into their roles.

- **Safeguarding Adults Board (SAB) Business Manager**

A new permanent SAB Business Manager was appointed in July 2024. This role is critical for ensuring NSAB meets its statutory functions and strategic objectives, overseeing NSABs operational functioning.

- **Business Support Officer**

A Business Support Officer provides administrative support to NSAB.

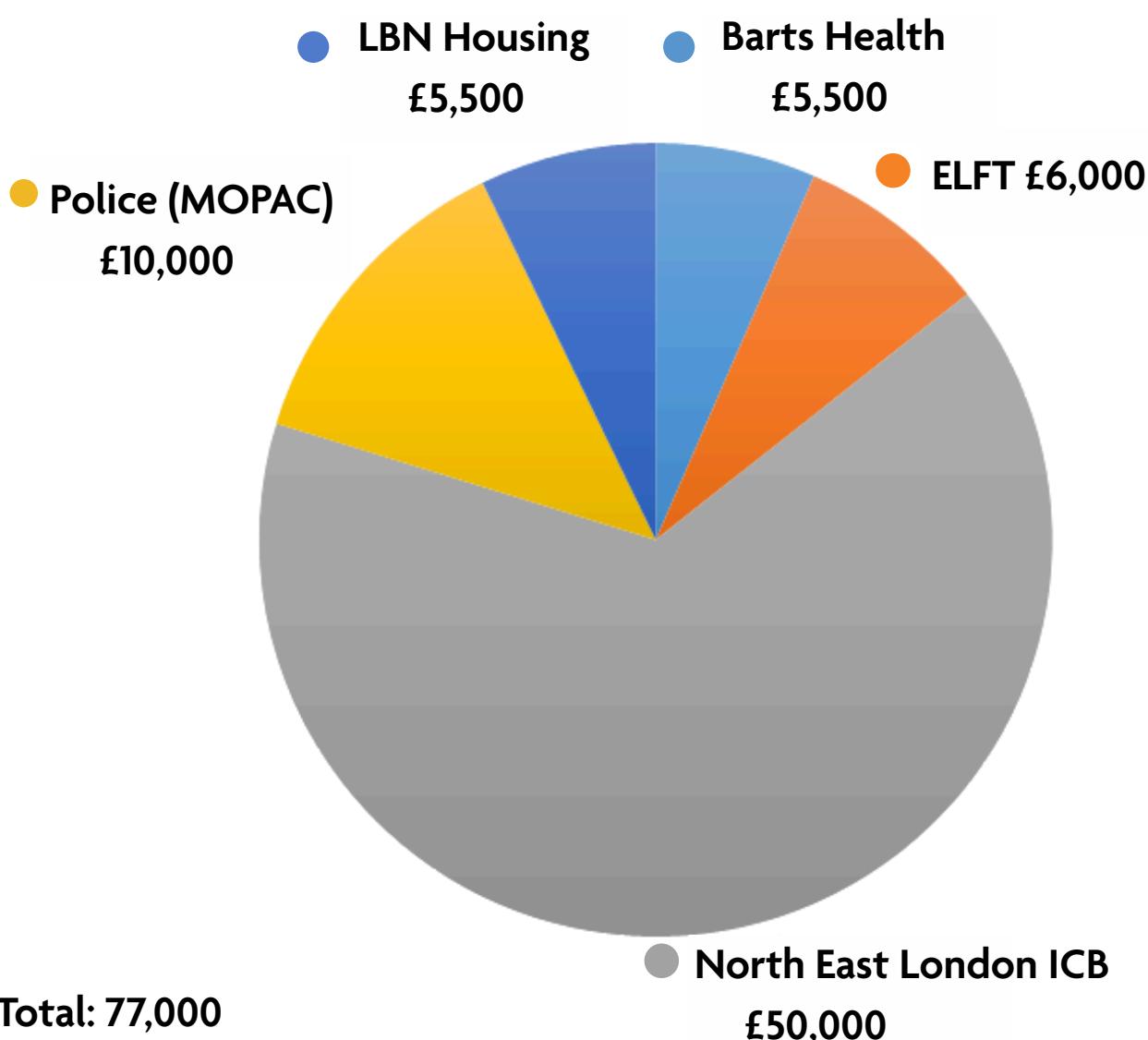
- **Safeguarding Advanced Practitioner**

A new Safeguarding Advanced Practitioner role was established and joined the team in September 2024. This role provides practice expertise to drive quality assurance and practice improvement across the partnership.

4. Funding for the Safeguarding Adults Board 2024-25

Additional funding is made available by London Borough of Newham. NSAB funding is used to fund posts within the NSAB business unit, costs for commissioning independent SAR Chairs and independent reviewers, and for partnership development learning opportunities.

NSAB Funding 2024/25



5. What does Newham look like?

Population & Age Profile

In 2024-25 there were 378,200 people in Newham. 187,050 males, 191,150 females. Population growth forecast: Expected to rise by 57,000 to 435,200 by 2035.



Working-Age Adults in Employment

Working-age population (16–64): (71.7%)

- Employment rate: 71.1%
- Unemployment rate: 5.0%
- Economic inactivity: 26.7% (includes carers, students, long-term sick)



Ethnic Diversity within the Borough

- **Asian:** 45% (Indian, Pakistani, Bangladeshi, Arab)
- **Black:** 18% (Black African, Black Caribbean, Other Black)
- **White:** 28% (White British, White Other)



Newham ranks among the most deprived boroughs in England:

Deprivation (IMD) includes:

- Income (22.5%)
- Employment (22.5%)
- Education (13.5%)
- Health (13.5%)
- Crime, Housing, Environment (each ~9.3%)



Life Expectancy in Newham

- Men: 80.2 years
- Women: 83.3 years

Despite the figures above, healthy life expectancy is considerably lower. Only 7.9% of residents are aged 65 and over, this group faces high levels of deprivation, ranking 3rd nationally in the Income Deprivation Affecting Older People Index. Demand for adult social care is increasing, with most clients aged 65+, but a significant number of working-age adults also require support due to long-term conditions and disabilities. Given Newham's younger demographic and persistent health inequalities, adult social care needs often arise from the late 50s onwards.



Over 200 languages spoken in the borough

Most common non-English languages:

- Bengali, Urdu, Gujarati, Tamil, Panjabi
- Polish, Portuguese, Arabic, Turkish, Mandarin/Cantonese
- English as main language: 63%
- Non-English main language: 37%

6. Residents' Voices and Raising Awareness of Safeguarding Adults

National Adult Safeguarding Week 18th – 24th November 2024

This is a picture taken from the community engagement event, which includes members of the NSAB team as well as the late Cllr Neil Wilson and stall holders who attended.

Safeguarding Adults Week (SAW 2024) - Resident Hub - Safeguarding Conference Hub at Stratford Library



NSAB hosted a Safeguarding Community Engagement Day Hub at Stratford Library on Monday 18th November 2024 as part of National Adult Safeguarding Week. The event was an opportunity for residents to come together to engage in safeguarding discussions with services from across Newham to express concerns, learn about important safety issues, and understand where to turn if they felt at risk.

There were around 15 stall holders, including London Borough of Newham – Adult Social Care, London Fire brigade, Met Police, and Newham Money 47 people attended the resident engagement event with 14 of these being Newham residents. Those who completed feedback forms felt that the event was either excellent or good. Most people learned new information about safety, with the highest category being psychological abuse.

Respondents in Newham reported that they would like more information on the following topics.

- Safety during shorter days/darkness
- Employer perspectives on safeguarding
- Contacting social services
- Neighbourhood safety
- Health-related safety (e.g., Type 2 Diabetes)
- Crime-free zones
- There were also ideas of how we could improve on the effectiveness of the event, including. Statistics of safeguarding adult cases would help enforce the issue
- Presentations, question and answer sessions and more publicity of the event.

NSAB organised events for professionals during National Adult Safeguarding Week. Sessions from the London SAB Network, Trauma informed approaches provided by Thrive LDN, Trauma informed practice and domestic abuse & Cuckooing: Multi-Agency Safeguarding, Powers and Practice both provided by Care knowledge. The NSAB also arranged internal sessions on; Learning from SARs-Cultural competencies, Care leavers & transitions and The Iris Programme safeguarding residents around domestic abuse. The internal sessions were well attended and evaluated.

Equity in safeguarding

The Equity Quality Improvement (QI) Project, presented by partners in Public Health to the Safeguarding Adults Board in November 2024, provided valuable insights into safeguarding referral patterns across demographic groups. Key findings from the data analysis revealed:

- **Overrepresentation** of older white female residents and younger Black Caribbean individuals (particularly aged 20–29) in safeguarding referrals. There is an overrepresentation of Black and Asian residents in SARs.
- **Underrepresentation** of South Asian communities, prompting further investigation into potential barriers or gaps in referral pathways.

To address these disparities, the next steps include:

- Engaging with referrers and residents to share findings and gather feedback
- Targeting high-volume referrers such as police and healthcare professionals to improve understanding and referral practices
- Developing simplified, public-facing materials to support community engagement.

Board Discussion and Endorsement

- The Chair emphasised the dual goals of contextualising population disparities and refining the proposed action plan
- Board members raised important considerations:
 - Concerns about Southeast Asian underrepresentation and called for improved GP referrals and councillor training.
 - The use of data findings to inform health service improvements and promote equality in safeguarding.
 - The importance of alignment with broader adult social care initiatives, particularly for future CQC inspections
- There was clarification that the analysis included both safeguarding concerns and outcomes and reiterated the importance of community engagement
- The Board endorsed the proposed plan and agreed to receive scheduled updates.

To ensure the review reflected lived experiences, Healthwatch Newham led a community consultation with families from similar backgrounds.

This work was further deepened following the deaths of two young men, whose cases met the criteria for a SAR. To ensure the review reflected lived experiences, Healthwatch Newham led a community consultation with families from similar backgrounds.

In March 2025, a community engagement event was held, co-chaired by Cllr Canon Ann Easter and closed by Sola Afuape, Independent Chair of NSAB. Around 50 residents attended, representing Newham's diverse communities. The event was supported by a task group comprising residents, community organisations, and statutory partners.

Event Objectives

- Raise awareness and understanding of safeguarding among residents.
- Improve the NSAB's insight into community experiences
- Build trust and confidence in reporting safeguarding concerns.
- Share real-life case studies and lived experiences
- Develop a Decision Support Tool for identifying safeguarding abuse
- Clarify responses to concerns that fall below statutory thresholds
- Strengthen the safeguarding capacity of community organisations.

Healthwatch Community Engagement Event

Healthwatch Newham raised concerns about the demographic representation in safeguarding referrals and Safeguarding Adults Reviews (SARs), particularly the over-representation of Black and Asian residents in SARs although this demographic is underrepresented in safeguarding referrals. In response, the Newham Safeguarding Adults Board (NSAB) partnered with Healthwatch to undertake a comprehensive community engagement programme.

This work was further deepened following the deaths of two young men, whose cases met the criteria for a SAR.

Residents' Voices:

The event heard directly from the voices of residents and their lived experiences of social care.

Aa's story – Transitions:

A described the challenges of transitioning her child who has disabilities from children's social care to adult social care, noting that "systems haven't improved in 15 years."

A shared how life-changing medication was altered without consultation and expressed concern about the lack of contact from Adult Social Care since the pandemic.

"I still feel my child and my family's needs continue to be unheard and forgotten."

S's story – receiving support from professionals:

As a community advocate, **S** highlighted the importance of inclusive engagement.

"Healthwatch Newham gave us a voice. We felt listened to. Many of our parents are disabled and do not speak English with confidence. We are so pleased to be part of this event."

M' story – raising safeguarding concerns:

M, a social care professional, shared the case of KW, a vulnerable adult who died following a series of safeguarding failures.

"Despite numerous attempts to report the carer and request a change, nothing was done. KW died alone. The family still has no resolution."

The event reaffirmed the importance of listening to residents' voices to shape inclusive and effective safeguarding practices. NSAB and Healthwatch Newham remain committed to ongoing community engagement and continuous improvement.

Strategic Response from NSAB:

- Strengthen governance and oversight.
- Embed equity to address disparities in access and outcomes.
- Enhance multi-agency collaboration.
- Promote personalised safeguarding through community and frontline engagement.



Artwork courtesy of the 'Art for Fun'

7. Partnership Training and Multi-agency audits

The NSAB sought comprehensive assurances from the partnership regarding the availability, content, and efficacy of existing training programmes. Specifically, the NSAB requested clarity on the range of training provided across the partnership, including detailed information about content aims and associated key performance indicators (KPIs). In addition, there was a requirement for transparent reporting on compliance levels, such as RAG (**Red, Amber, Green**) ratings, to assess the extent to which regulatory and organisational standards are being met.

The NSAB also emphasised the importance of conducting thorough needs analyses to identify gaps in training provision, as well as the development and implementation of robust plans to address these needs and promote continuous improvement. These assurances are foundational to ensuring that all staff have equitable access to relevant training, driving organisational compliance, and supporting the ongoing development of the workforce.

By providing accessible learning opportunities and ensuring strict adherence to regulatory standards, organisations empower their workforce, position themselves for sustainable success in service provisions whilst robustly safeguarding residents.

Training Compliance Trends Analysis

- **Overall Compliance:** Many organisations show **GREEN** ratings, indicating strong adherence to training standards.
- **Areas of Concern:**
 - **ICB and NUH** show **AMBER** ratings for Level 3 training, suggesting partial compliance and need for improvement.

Statement clarifying ICB's position on training

“The ICB follow the same compliance target as the NHS provider services. The ICB presently has a rag rating of amber for safeguarding Level 3 training and is on target to meet its compliance.”

The ICB had an increase in numbers requiring training due to NHSE guidance that those with a commissioning and quality role should be trained to safeguarding level 3 compliance, which had an impact on compliance. SGL3 training is scheduled monthly.

Statement clarifying NUH's position on training

“The training needs analysis for safeguarding adults L3 training was reviewed and updated in Barts Health in line with the Intercollegiate guidance for Health Staff Safeguarding Adults Training in September 2024. There was a significant drop in compliance due to the increased number of staff requiring training and as such the Trust is working to a 2-year trajectory to reach the Trust target of 85%. The Trust is currently ahead of the target and likely to meet compliance earlier than expected.”

Private Health Providers have **RED** ratings for two training areas, though these are supported by clear action plans.

Statement clarifying LFB's position on training.

- **London Fire Brigade** remains **unrated** due to pending clarification on training support needs
- London Fire Brigade staff undertake computer based safeguarding training which forms part of their scheduled training program. Currently due to some reporting issues we are unable to provide data on the precise completion figures for this training in the period 01.04.2024 to 31.03.2025, but this training package is being actively engaged with
- London Fire Brigade has also worked with the Newham Safeguarding Adult Board and accepted cuckooing training that has been offered to operational staff in the borough, and the borough management team hold regular meetings with senior members of the safeguarding adults board and are standing members of the board itself.

Statement clarifying ASC's position on training.

In 2024-25 ASC delivered the following Safeguarding Adults training:

- **4 x Enquiry Officer Training**
Out of a total of 80 places available ASC had an uptake of 50 staff across LBN and ELFT (63% attendance rate)
- **2 x Safeguarding Adults Manager Training**
Out of a total of 40 places available ASC had an uptake of 19 staff from LBN (48% attendance rate).

Adult Social Care shows consistent and comprehensive training compliance by:

1. **Updating management** through the Quality Governance Board and SMT meetings on a monthly and fortnightly basis respectively
2. **Providing compliance data** on training attendance. Statistics on mandatory training compliance are presented, and reports are sent to be circulated to team managers in Adults Operations to ensure that training is completed.
3. **Using a tracker** maintained by the Workforce Development Team to monitor attendance of mandatory training as well as non-attendance and to encourage future uptake.

This approach ensures that training compliance is **visible, measurable, and actively managed** across the organisation.

- **Cuckooing training** is increasingly being offered across sectors, indicating responsiveness to emerging safeguarding risks.
- **Data gaps in training:**
 - Lack of submissions from **LAS, MET Police, and Housing** limits full sector analysis and will require follow-up.

Cuckooing and Mental Capacity Act Audits

The ART (Accessibility, Relevance and Trustworthiness) Framework, (as outlined in the Health Equity Toolkit), prompts services to analyse barriers to uptake that are within their control and make effective changes.

The Cuckooing audit applied the ART framework to test accessibility, relevance, trustworthiness within the following objectives: evaluating awareness and communication; assessing information sharing and collaboration; analysing training and resource availability; reviewing timeliness and accessibility; evaluating collaboration; measuring impact and effectiveness.

The identified challenging areas suggested a need for:

- Unified escalation protocols across agencies
- Improved data integration and access.
- Formalised governance and policy frameworks
- Strengthened interagency communication and joint training
- Monitoring systems to ensure timely safeguarding responses.

The NSAB remains committed to advancing its strategic priority of addressing cuckooing within the borough. This ongoing work involves a coordinated approach, where the NSAB will facilitate collaboration among partner agencies to identify, prevent, and respond to cuckooing incidents more effectively. Through regular review and development, the NSAB aims to strengthen the collective capacity of local services.

Joint Adult Social Care (ASC) and Children Social Care (CSC) MCA audit

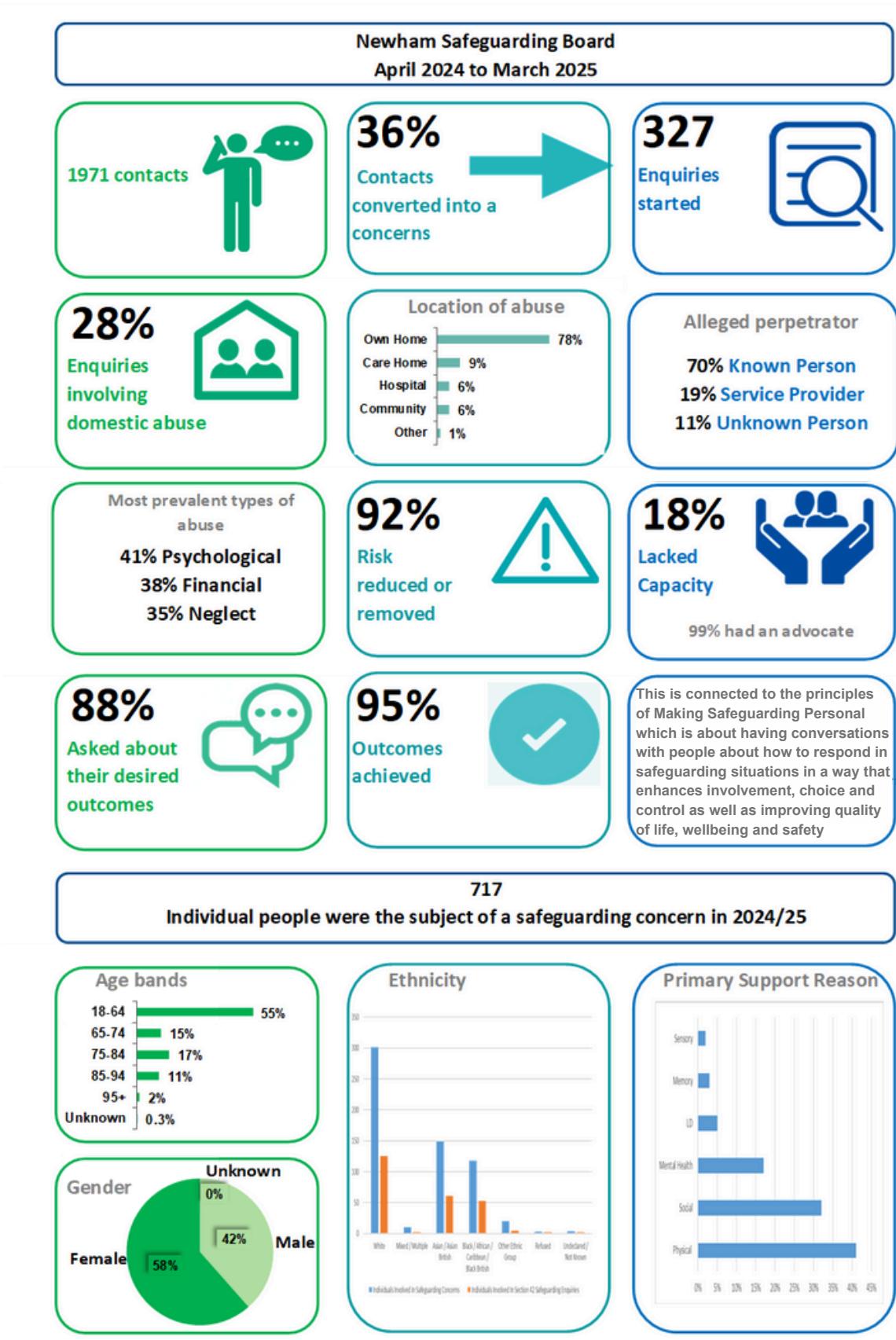
The audit critically examined the interface between ASC and CSC, with particular attention given to the impact of adult capacity issues on children living in the same household.

The audit specifically evaluated the quality and suitability of MCA assessments carried out by Adult Services, ensuring that these assessments were thorough and fit for purpose.

Furthermore, it considered the degree of involvement from Children's Social Care in cases where children could be affected by an adult's mental capacity. The recognition, assessment, and support provided to young carers were scrutinised, with reference to statutory guidance and established best practice.

In addition, the audit reviewed the effectiveness of multi-agency liaison and coordination between Adult and Children's Services throughout the handling of each case. A key focus was placed on whether the perspectives, needs, and welfare of children were actively considered and addressed alongside interventions designed for the adult. The findings from this audit will guide improvements in joint working, ensuring both adult and children's needs are met in complex family situations.

8. Safeguarding Data



Between April 2024 and March 2025, Adult Social Care received 1,971 contacts, of which 36% progressed into safeguarding concerns. These concerns led to 327 formal enquiries, with 28% involving domestic abuse.

Most of the abuse occurred in individuals' **own homes (70%)**, and in 70% of cases, the alleged perpetrator was someone known to the person. The most prevalent types of abuse were **psychological (41%)**, **financial (38%)**, and **neglect (35%)**.

Encouragingly, **92%** of cases saw the risk either reduced or removed.

In line with the principles of **Making Safeguarding Personal**, **88%** of individuals were asked about their desired outcomes, and **95%** of those outcomes were achieved. Where individuals lacked capacity (**18%**), **99%** had an advocate involved to support their voice and rights.

A total of **717** individuals were the subject of safeguarding concerns.

The largest age group affected was **18–64 (55%)**, followed by older adults aged **75–84 (17%) and 65–74 (13%)**.

Women made up 58% of those affected, and the most common primary support reason was physical support, followed by support with memory and cognition.

Ethnicity data shows a diverse population, with the highest representation from **White British/Irish/Other White backgrounds**, followed by **Asian/Asian British**, and **Black/African/ Caribbean/Black British communities**.

This data reflects the Board's continued commitment to promoting safety, dignity, and empowerment for adults at risk in Newham.

9. Safeguarding Adults Reviews (SAR)

Under Section 44 of the Care Act 2014 NSAB has a statutory duty to carry out a SAR which is a multi-agency review process which seeks to determine what relevant agencies and individuals involved could have done differently that could have prevented harm or a death of an adult resident in the borough from taking place.

The purpose of a SAR is not to apportion blame. It is to promote effective learning and improvement to prevent future deaths or serious harm occurring again.

SARs are essential for identifying learning opportunities to improve safeguarding practices and outcomes.

The NSAB SAR Subcommittee serves as the decision-making body for SAR referrals, using the SCIE Quality Markers to guide SARs and ensure quality standards are met. Each SAR generates recommendations and an action plan, monitored by the Performance and Quality Assurance (PQA) Subcommittee.

Over the past year, the SAR Subcommittee has made significant progress in addressing the backlog of Safeguarding Adults Reviews (SARs) and managing new referrals. Key highlights include:

- 6 SAR Subcommittees and two additional SAR Panels were held in the 2024-2025. The SAR Subcommittee has made substantial progress in strengthening the (SAR) process and addressing both historical and new cases. The focus has been on improving the end-to-end SAR pathway—from referral to publication—and ensuring timely, meaningful, and cost-effective reviews.

Key Developments and Achievements:

- **Process Improvements:**
 - Ongoing review of SARs with efforts to streamline referral, commissioning, and publication stages of reports
 - Strengthened referral and quality assurance processes
 - Enhanced tracking of SAR progress and agreement on methodologies.
- **Team and Structure:**
 - Formation of a dedicated NSAB team with clearly defined roles and responsibilities
 - Drafting of terms of reference for reviewing historical SARs, pending Subcommittee agreement.
- **SAR Activity:**
 - One SAR has been published: several others are in progress, including historical and new cases
 - Eight SAR referrals and eight SARs reviewed but not yet commissioned
 - Commissioned SARs include JH to conclude by 2025 (with independent reviewer) and Miss A, expected to conclude by 2026.

- **Workstreams and Panels:**

Two active workstreams:

- **Workstream 1:** Led by Advanced

Practitioner, focusing on historical SARs and completed actions.

- **Workstream 2:** Multi-agency panels to:

- Agree methodologies for SARs meeting Section 44 criteria
- Review new referrals for threshold and appropriateness.

Panels held in January and scheduled for March 2025, with three cases under review.

- **Learning and Collaboration:**

- SARs, Lilian, and Ann have been presented at the Performance and Quality Assurance (PQA) Subgroup
- Emphasis on using completed SARs to inform future reviews and learning
- Business unit supporting panels with partner briefings to enhance workshop effectiveness.

- **Governance and Oversight:**

- There is continued emphasis on cross-partnership collaboration and decision-maker involvement to ensure effective progress.

Historical SAR's update

The NSAB plays a pivotal role in coordinating responses, fostering interagency collaboration, and driving systemic improvements to protect vulnerable adults. Historical (SARs) provide an indispensable framework for reflective learning, enabling the identification of recurring gaps, patterns, and enduring challenges in supporting those most at risk. The NSAB has undertaken an audit of historical SARs to evaluate the actions implemented following the recommendations made.

The Learning and Communication Subcommittee has developed a series of seven-minute briefings.

The recent multi-agency audit revealed a range of complex risks impacting vulnerable adults, particularly those who are homeless, housebound, or who may decline services. These included:

- Inconsistent approaches to risk assessment and escalation
- Difficulties in embedding learning across agencies
- Challenges in establishing clear service pathways
- Organisational connectivity
- The timely escalation of provider concerns, and
- The effective sharing of information.

The audit also highlighted the necessity for robust provider monitoring and quality assurance mechanisms. Persistent challenges included working with residents in relation to substance misuse, complex health conditions, contingency planning for mental health crises and making advance decisions regarding mental capacity. The audit demonstrated the need to improve service awareness and ensure contingency plans are in place for individuals with multiple disadvantages, especially where there is disengagement from support networks and statutory services.

The Performance and Quality Subcommittee has undertaken the initiative to ensure that lessons from historical SARs inform future practice. Members are engaged in the final stages of addressing the findings, employing a reflective approach centred on the guiding question: "If similar safeguarding circumstances were to arise again, how would your service respond differently?" This process encompasses the evaluation of previous actions, identification of gaps and areas for development, and the recognition of good practice and key learning points.

In addition, members are asked to propose targeted improvements, identifying training and resource requirements, and strengthening multidisciplinary collaboration, utilising constructive feedback mechanisms to facilitate ongoing dialogue and continuous improvement across agencies.

The Learning and Communication Subcommittee will further progress the development and finalisation of the seven-minute briefings for the outstanding historical SARs. This initiative is designed to disseminate key lessons learned from each review, thereby enhancing organisational awareness and capacity for reflective practice across partner agencies. These briefings will facilitate targeted learning opportunities, support the consistent integration of best practice, and ensure that staff at all levels remain informed of critical insights.

The Subcommittee will continue promoting a culture of continuous improvement, ultimately strengthening the safeguarding response for adults at risk throughout the partnership.

The work undertaken by the NSAB in response to historical SARs illustrates a clear commitment to continuous learning, system improvement, and collaborative working. By systematically addressing recurring themes, the NSAB has taken meaningful steps to enhance the safety and wellbeing of Newham's most vulnerable adults. Sustained vigilance and robust partnership working will be essential to maintain and deepen this progress in the years to come.

10. Strategic Priorities

This section highlights our key strategic priorities and our progress with these. Please see the appendix at the end of this report for a link to the [NSAB Strategic plan](#).



Updates from our Strategic Priority Groups - Progress to Date

Mental Capacity

The Mental Capacity Act (MCA) subgroup was set up to ensure that MCA practice is embedded across services in Newham, in line with legislation to protect and promote the human rights of adults at risk in the borough. It is chaired by a partnership member from East London Foundation Trust.

The subgroup is made up of a range of core partner agencies to ensure a range of perspectives and includes London Borough of Newham Adult Social Care (LBN ASC) and Housing, Barts Health, East London NHS Foundation Trust (ELFT), Northeast London Integrated Care Board, (ICB) Voice Ability, MET Police and Department of Work and Pensions (DWP). The subgroup has developed an action plan with the following core objectives and achievements.

- **Objective 1:** Promote high quality MCA and DOLs assessments and the integration of MCA principles into care and support planning across all specialist services, departments, and work programmes to ensure person-centred and legally compliant practice
- **Achievements/progress-** Partner agencies —including the (MET), LBN ASC, (ELFT), (LAS) —have provided assurance that robust Mental Capacity Act (MCA) audit processes are in place. MCA-related staff training is embedded across these organisations. Partners have confirmed that clear roles and responsibilities regarding MCA are established, supported by quality assurance mechanisms and competency frameworks. Each organisation has established quality assurance frameworks, embedded competency frameworks, and maintains a repository of MCA-related resources to support staff practice and compliance.

Actions in Progress

Barts Health: To provide formal assurance regarding their compliance with Mental Capacity Act (MCA) responsibilities.

Metropolitan Police Service (MET): To clarify whether MCA-related staff training is subject to audit and quality assurance processes.

Actions in Progress

Barts Health is in the process of providing formal assurance regarding their compliance with relevant safeguarding responsibilities.

The resident survey has yet to be distributed and remains pending.

- **Objective 2:** Ensure that community Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards (DoL) applications are being submitted for individuals receiving NHS Continuing Healthcare (CHC) funded care in their own homes or tenancy-based accommodation, where the criteria for a deprivation of liberty are met
- **Achievement/progress-** NEL ICB is the lead organisation for this action. As part of their contribution, they have developed a Liberty Protection Safeguards (LPS) risk stratification tool for providers to complete. In addition, the NHS London CHC/Continuing Care DoL Task and Finish Group has produced a set of flowcharts outlining the community Deprivation of Liberty (DoL) process, accompanied by a comprehensive resource pack to support implementation. ASC are now tracking data on community DOL applications and are planning to report on this via Power BI
- **Objective 3:** Provide support to Children and Young People's Services in relation to compliance with the Mental Capacity Act (MCA) and Deprivation of Liberty (DoL), particularly in the context of the current absence of the Liberty Protection Safeguards (LPS) framework.

Actions in Progress

Work is underway to develop a Children and Young People's Quality Assurance Framework, which will serve as a benchmark for organisations to assess their compliance with the Mental Capacity Act (MCA) and Deprivation of Liberty. Children and Young People's Services (CYPS) have implemented a dedicated flag within the Azeus system—distinct from adult services—to maintain a live register of children subject to DoL. This enhancement enables accurate data tracking, with 20 children recorded under DoL in March. CYPS have also refreshed their DoL guidance to ensure clarity and alignment with current legislation. MCA training is actively being delivered.

Self-Neglect

In response to the multi-agency audit on self-neglect and the increasing number of high-risk self-neglect concerns in Newham a working group, co-chaired by board members from Local Authority housing and health, has been established with the goal of co-producing a Self-Neglect Policy and Practitioner Toolkit for all agencies. The objectives are as follows.

- **Objective 1:** Advance understanding of data and practice relating to self-neglect through the development of a multi-agency toolkit. Achievements/Progress- A draft version of the self-neglect toolkit has been produced and circulated for feedback. Delivery of the toolkit is scheduled for March 2026, but it is hoped the toolkit will be completed and ready for implementation by the end of 2025. Input from communications teams is required to format the final version of the toolkit and produce an accompanying video
- **Objectives 2 and 3** are scheduled for delivery in 2026.

Cuckooing (Joint Adults & Children's Partnership)

In Autumn 2024, a working group was set up to focus on combating cuckooing through awareness campaigns and inter-agency cooperation. The aim to raise awareness and coordinate efforts to address this issue comprehensively. People who experience cuckooing will need support from various organisations and will need a united response from all agencies.

The cuckooing subgroups has developed three core objectives these are as follows.

- **Objective 1:** To develop and implement a strategic 10-point plan focused on addressing cuckooing, establishing it as a priority across partner agencies through coordinated actions and shared accountability.
- **Achievements** - Two successful partnership workshops were held in October and November 2024, resulting in the development of a comprehensive 10-point plan to address self-neglect. These initiatives. The plan includes key actions such as raising awareness among communities and professionals, delivering preventative education for both youth and adults, enhancing victim support, promoting cross-partner collaboration, strengthening quality assurance and data collection, supporting prosecution efforts, and delivering targeted training sessions
- **Objective 2** - To develop and implement a comprehensive awareness-raising campaign aimed at enhancing understanding of safeguarding issues among partner organisations and the local community.

Achievements

A 7-minute briefing on cuckooing has been successfully completed and circulated. An easy-read version of the briefing is currently in development to improve accessibility. In addition, a monthly cuckooing training session is now available to all partner agencies, supporting ongoing awareness and capacity building across the partnership.

Actions in Progress

- Production of an educational video on cuckooing remains outstanding
- Recording of the cuckooing training session is underway to support wider dissemination
- Resident awareness-raising events have been agreed and are scheduled for delivery, aiming to improve community understanding and engagement.

Objective 3

To advance the implementation of the 10-point strategic plan on cuckooing through coordinated oversight and delivery by the formal Cuckooing Taskforce Group.

Achievements

The Cuckooing Taskforce Group has been established and will continue its work through to March 2026. In addition, the monthly Cuckooing/Operation Monkash panel—chaired by the Metropolitan Police—is actively convening and attended by representatives from safeguarding governance, Adult Social Care (ASC) Mental Health, and Community Safety. This multi-agency forum supports coordinated responses and strategic oversight of cuckooing-related concerns.

Actions in Progress

- Development of a multi-agency flowchart outlining support provision in relation to cuckooing is underway.
- The commissioning quality assurance framework is under review, with plans to embed cuckooing-related considerations.
- Options for improving data recording within Children's Services are being explored to strengthen monitoring and response.
- Cuckooing content is being integrated into Safeguarding Level 3 training to enhance practitioner awareness and response.
- Finalisation of the cuckooing audit findings is in progress to inform future strategic planning.

All-Age Exploitation (Joint Adults & Children's Partnership)

The aim of this joint priority is to co-ordinate and drive forward multi-agency programmes and interventions in Newham which combat exploitation in all its forms e.g. financial abuse, modern slavery, sexual exploitation, criminal exploitation, and radicalisation by raising awareness and making the borough a safer place to live. The All-Age Exploitation Group Delivery Plan was developed to align activity across children's and adults' services, with oversight provided by the Newham Safeguarding Children Partnership (NSCP).

The subgroup is co-chaired by the Head of Youth Offending, Early Help and Safeguarding, and a Detective Chief Inspector from Northeast London Business Command Unit, Metropolitan Police.

The All-Age Exploitation partnership meetings are driving improvement in the support provided to children who have been groomed into joining “County Lines” drug retailing operations and other forms of exploitation. We are working with partners to identify instances of adult exploitation, support the safeguarding of survivors, and bring perpetrators to justice.

The Newham All-Age Exploitation Group has formally concluded its work. This decision reflects a strategic shift toward aligning safeguarding priorities under the newly established Newham Youth Safety Strategy Working Group.

The new group will continue the work previously led by the All-Age Exploitation Group, with an enhanced focus on contextual safeguarding, youth violence, and exploitation. It brings together key partners from children's and adult services, education, health, policing, and the community to deliver a coordinated and impactful response to the risks faced by young people in Newham.

Objective 1

To strengthen compliance and promote proactive support for children, young people, and vulnerable populations by addressing self-neglect, modern slavery, and exploitation. This will be achieved through strategic partnerships, targeted training programmes, and community awareness initiatives designed to improve identification, intervention, and safeguarding outcomes.

Achievements

- Multi-Agency Training:** Targeted training continues to be delivered to frontline professionals across statutory and voluntary agencies, enhancing awareness and understanding of modern slavery and child exploitation (CSE/CCE). Here is the link to the [NSCP training programme](#)
- Information Sharing and Risk Panels:** Partnership working has been strengthened through the Multi-Agency Child Exploitation (MACE) Panel, supporting coordinated responses to exploitation
- Local Mapping and Intelligence:** Contextual safeguarding and hotspot mapping have been enhanced to improve understanding of exploitation patterns and inform operational decision-making
- Policy and Practice Alignment:** Local pathways, referral forms, and practice guidance have been updated to ensure improved compliance with statutory duties across both children's and adult services.



Artwork courtesy of the 'Art for Fun'

Actions in Progress- via the new working group, NSCP Youth Safety Strategy Group

- **Community Engagement Gaps:** While awareness campaigns have been delivered, further direct engagement is needed—particularly with faith groups, local businesses, and grassroots organisations to strengthen community involvement
- **Young Person's Voice:** Embedding the lived experiences of young people and survivors of exploitation into service planning and delivery remains underdeveloped and requires targeted investment
- **Adult Safeguarding Integration:** Coordination between adult and children's services around transitional safeguarding (ages 16–25) is inconsistent and needs improved joint pathways and leadership
- **Data and Impact Measurement:** Although data collection is underway, clearer impact measures and cross-agency performance indicators are needed to demonstrate outcomes and inform commissioning decisions
- **Ongoing Training:** A sustained training programme is required, including regular refreshers, updated content, and targeted sessions for high-risk groups such as taxi drivers, youth workers, and private fostering providers.

Ongoing tasks to progress

Objective 2:

Ensure all suppliers, including council-registered schools, adhere to modern slavery standards through regular compliance audits. Review and finalise the Council's Modern Slavery Statement for 2024/25, outlining progress made in identifying, addressing, and eliminating modern slavery risks within Council supply chains.

Key Achievements in Tackling Modern Slavery

- The Council's Modern Slavery Statement (MDS) is strategically led and overseen by the Newham Safety Partnership Board, ensuring robust cross-agency collaboration and accountability
- Targeted training and awareness sessions have been delivered to internal teams and external partners, equipping them with the knowledge and tools to identify and respond effectively to instances of modern slavery and exploitation.

Actions in Progress

- **Finalising the Modern Slavery Statement 2024/25** - The Community Safety Partnership is preparing to publish the updated Modern Slavery Statement, which will set out the actions taken over the past year, highlight progress achieved, and outline priorities for the year ahead
- **Enhancing Supplier Accountability** - Modern Slavery Statements are a legal requirement under the Modern Slavery Act 2015 for organisations of a certain size, including the Council. Given the significant role of procurement in commissioning services and goods, it is essential that suppliers are held to account for upholding ethical standards across their entire supply chains
- Work is underway to strengthen monitoring and enforcement mechanisms, ensuring compliance is not only a statutory duty but also a demonstration of our wider safeguarding commitment. This approach provides assurance that safeguarding and human rights are embedded within all procurement processes, and that Newham is proactively working to prevent exploitation, promote transparency, and drive continuous improvement beyond simple compliance

- **Expanding Training and Support:** The Community Safety Partnership is working to increase access to training and guidance for schools and smaller contractors, helping them understand, meet, and evidence compliance with modern slavery requirements
- **Improving Data Collection:** Efforts are being made to enhance the quality and consistency of data collection, enabling better analysis and more targeted interventions.

Objective 3: Advancing Evidence-Based Responses to Modern Slavery

We have conducted a Rapid Needs Assessment (RNA) to gather and analyse local data on modern slavery. This assessment has helped to identify emerging trends, service gaps, and high-risk locations and populations. It has also supported the development of robust reporting mechanisms to inform evidence-based decision-making and targeted interventions.

Actions in Progress:

Strengthening the Response to Modern Slavery

In line with strategic recommendations, the council is advancing a comprehensive programme of work to tackle modern slavery across Newham:

- **Raising Awareness:** Community and staff awareness is being enhanced through targeted training, public campaigns, and improved data collection practices
- **Improving Collaboration:** Intelligence sharing and multi-agency coordination are being strengthened to better identify and support victims of modern slavery
- **Enhancing Victim Support:** Referral pathways are being reinforced to ensure timely access to safe accommodation and holistic support for those affected
- **Updating Safeguarding Practices:** Safeguarding strategies and procedures are under regular review to remain responsive to emerging risks and challenges
- **Monitoring Supply Chains:** Robust oversight mechanisms are being implemented to ensure ethical practices among suppliers and service providers, particularly in high-risk sectors
- **Targeted Interventions:** Tailored approaches are being developed for at-risk groups, with ongoing evaluation to adapt and improve support systems.

11. Partner Agency Perspective

London Borough of Newham



Progress and Achievements

- A range of multi-agency groups are in place
- The QI project which addresses the issue regarding equity
- Data shows that we exceed national and regional baselines regarding MSP, risk and advocacy.

Areas for development

- Audits have indicated that case recording is an area where practice can be improved
- The application of the Mental Capacity Act (2005)
- There are ongoing data quality issues.

Safeguarding Priorities 2024/2025

- There is strong anecdotal evidence to indicate that fire risk remains a major issue
- Awareness and responses to coercive behaviour
- Working with carers.

London Borough of Newham - Housing and Housing Need Progress and Achievements

- Improved resident safety compliance after negative C4 judgement from the Regulator for Social Housing
- Final draft of the Multi-Agency Self-Neglect Toolkit submitted for approval by the SAB
- Publication of Housing's policies on Hoarding and Self-Neglect and Vulnerable Tenants.

- Excellent working relationships maintained between Housing and Adult Social Care Colleagues, with regular meetings on complex cases and Housing representation on the High Risk Panel Areas for development
- Ensure the new Resettlement & Support team is embedded in the service. This team offer ongoing support and assistance to those residents in Temporary Accommodation as well as focussing at options to move them on to more settled/permanent accommodation.

Continued improvement against compliance failings identified by the Regulator including development of a new Diverse Needs Strategy to ensure that service design meets the needs of vulnerable residents

Strengthen joint working and information sharing between Housing and Adult Social Care regarding new regulations related to Awaab's Law and Fire Safety Regulations.

Safeguarding Priorities 2024/2025

- Continue to review and monitor the wraparound support including establishing regular pathway meetings with Adults and Children's Social Care to improve collaboration
- Expand Independent Living support to temporary accommodation tenants, providing assistance and support to vulnerable tenants on areas such as hoarding, self-neglect etc
- Rollout of the Multi Agency Self-Neglect Toolkit to all teams within Housing and encourage active use of the resource.

Metropolitan Police



Progress and Achievements

- Our Community Safety Unit and MARAC team are key to working across the partnership with both statutory and non-statutory agencies to safeguard and support survivors of domestic abuse, who represent some of our most vulnerable residents. Over the last year our MARAC regime was reviewed and the frequency increased to once a week, meaning the needs of survivors are now considered in a more timely and reflective manner. Following on from this success and in line with best practice across London we will be piloting a daily MARAC in the year 25-26
- Whilst being mindful of the needs of survivors, as the only law enforcement agency in the partnership we are committed to breaking the cycle of abuse by bringing perpetrators to justice and working with other agencies to divert them from abusive patterns of behaviour. This has been achieved through the work of our perpetrator panel and through our commitment to taking positive action in support of survivors of domestic abuse. As a result, we are now the second highest performing area of the MPS for detected DA crime and the highest when positive judicial outcome are factored in

- In the last year we have consolidated the achievements of our Missing Persons Unit and piloted the first "Local Missing Hub" in the MPS, which has consolidated all aspects of "missing" – from initial report to safe recovery – into one specialist team operating round the clock, seven days a week. This more streamlined approach has resulted in the prompt location and safeguarding of many vulnerable adults experiencing mental health and at imminent risk of self-harm.

Areas for development

- Right Care Right Person -The primary area for development is how we work in partnership to manage the implementation of the MPS Right Care Right Person policy, regarding the smooth transition to appropriate medical care of highly vulnerable adults detained by police under the limited powers of S 136 MHA. Regular meetings have been facilitated between key stakeholders to discuss operational difficulties and agree solutions. This work will continue as required to ensure agencies provide the best possible service to adults in crisis at a time of severe financial constraints
- Ongoing partnership work- We will continue the ongoing partnership work to support adult victims of exploitation, particularly in respect of the priority areas of cuckooing and trafficking. These crimes are often under reported and the support of partners is key to identifying them so that action can be taken
- PIPOT- We will continue, when appropriate, to support partners in dealing with allegation of adult abuse by Persons in Positions of Trust (PIPOT) and to act whenever possible to bring perpetrators to justice.

Safeguarding Priorities 2024/2025

- Supporting survivors of domestic abuse and bringing perpetrators to justice
- Supporting survivors of adult exploitation or abuse and bringing perpetrators to justice
- The safe recovery of vulnerable missing adults and effective handover to appropriate social and medical care.

North East London Foundation Trust



Progress and Achievements

- The launch of a new Quality Improvement project on Routine Enquiry into Domestic Abuse. This initiative aims to strengthen early identification of domestic abuse, enhance support pathways for service users, and ensure staff are equipped to respond sensitively and confidently to disclosures. Improved identification of safeguarding concerns following improvement work undertaken by the safeguarding team through training, safeguarding supervision and monitoring of In Phase alerts. This also tallies with the substantial increase seen in In Phase incidents with safeguarding adult implications. In 2024-25, the safeguarding team conducted several multi-agency and Trust-wide audits, this included a review of domestic abuse data available within the Trust. Findings have contributed to the Terms of Reference for the QI project into the implementation of Routine Enquiry across the ELFT footprint
- The Trust has demonstrated strong improvement in safeguarding training compliance across both children and adult safeguarding in 2024/25: Level 3 Adult Safeguarding training compliance saw a substantial rise from 62.3% to 89%, reflecting a 26.7% improvement over the reporting period, 96% of staff rated their confidence and knowledge as 4 or 5 out of 5 after attending Level 3 training

- The Trust “Domestic Abuse Steering” group meets bi-monthly to plan and identify areas of work that needs strengthening within the organisation to appropriately respond to concerns of domestic abuse. The meeting is chaired by the Associate Director of Safeguarding and is attended by the Corporate Safeguarding team, the Named doctors and the Public Health team. The group has a DA action plan to support the work, and reports into the Trust Safeguarding Committee.

Areas for development

- Deliver targeted training on early safeguarding indicators, including Routine Enquiry into Domestic Abuse
- Undertake monthly audits to identify learning and good practice
- Co-produce safeguarding feedback form in partnership with people with lived experience.
- Co-produce a safeguarding quality management framework aligned with CQC.

Safeguarding Priorities 2024/2025

- Identify and train Domestic Abuse Ambassadors in each borough/service
- Deliver integrated safeguarding training.

Progress and Achievements

- Continuing to deliver safeguarding awareness training to staff
- High numbers of safeguarding referrals being made, indicating good awareness from operational staff on signs of neglect and safeguarding indicators
- Close working with Newham Safeguarding Boards to share information and improve partnership working.

Areas for development

- Making safeguarding processes simpler by removing the differentiation between safeguarding referrals and welfare concern referrals
- Trying to ensure that data around safeguarding referrals made is stored and accessible to us and partners
- Ensuring that initial and refresher training is delivered to all operational staff.

Safeguarding Priorities 2024/2025

- Ensuring that staff are aware of the signs of neglect and when a safeguarding referral is needed
- Ensuring that the processes to make safeguarding referrals are simple and efficient
- Working with partners to ensure that information is shared to achieve the best possible outcome for people who are at risk.

Progress and Achievements-

- Delivering Community Safeguarding Event on 14 March inviting Newham residents to hear about the work of the SAB and LBN. 50 residents reflecting global majority communities to share their experiences and to hear how their contributions to the Dhiren and Paul SAR had been incorporated

- Ensuring that Community Safeguarding had been integrated into the tackling health inequalities work overseen by the Health Equity Board and the Quality Improvement Programme which has resulted in the interrogation and segmentation of data
- Delighted that the new Independent Chair and Business Manager were able to meet residents involved in the community consultations that Healthwatch have been undertaking.

Areas for development

- Develop a decision support tool which creates a standardised approach across SAB partners including the VCSF
- Create a checklist which can empower residents and community organisations to raise safeguarding concerns about adults without known care and support needs
- Develop a communication and engagement progress to promote the SAB.

Safeguarding Priorities 2024/2025

- Establish a Community Engagement sub-group of the board which reviews recommendations from the SARs and how they impact local communities
- To track reports of safeguarding concerns and be assured that they have been responded to appropriately with compassion and respect through both quantitative and qualitative data
- To make explicit the voice and experience of residents whose family members have been subjected to being reported on a safeguarding concern.



Artwork courtesy of the 'Art for Fun'

London Borough of Newham, Adults and Health, Public Health Commissioning Progress and Achievements

- Our sex work strategy and action plan has resulted in improved engagement of sex workers with services. Those engaging have received person-centred and trauma-informed care. At the same time there have been reductions in reports of Anti-social behaviour related to sex work in a number of areas in the borough. The high-risk sex work panel has continued to focus on swiftly reducing risk for sex workers
- The transformation of Mental Health Supported Living services has resulted in a coherent pathway for residents from high to medium needs care and vice versa. Work with colleagues in health has also supported timely hospital discharges, minimising loss of independence in the resident. The approach is person-centred and has, thus far, enabled several residents to take up more independent living
- Widening our prevention activities around healthy eating and smoking cessation to Newham residents accessing social care in a number of residential and day care settings. The required impact was to improve the health of residents and to delay the onset of ill-health and an increased need for further social care packages.

Areas for development

- Further development for women with complex needs, including looking at residential offers
- Continuing to improve the quality of mental health support in the borough through the development of a joint mental health strategy with East London Foundation Trust and the ICB
- Continuing to ensure an equity driven approach to commissioning which is co-produced with residents, particularly seldom heard residents.

Safeguarding Priorities 2024/2025

- Continue to develop proposals for services for women with complex needs
- Commission Mental health supported living services with a focus on maximising resident capacity to live safely and independently
- Continue to focus on working with residents with co-occurring mental health and substance misuse issues to improve access points into care and support and to achieve better outcomes.

Rough Sleeping: Strategic Update and SAB Response

National Context

- The Government's 2022 strategy, Ending Rough Sleeping for Good, recognises the intersection between homelessness, safeguarding, and adult social care. A 2024 analysis by the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) identified a 21–34% increase in new rough sleepers, many of whom had exited asylum support, prison, or hospital settings—despite statutory duties to prevent discharge to the streets
- The National Audit Office (July 2024) further highlighted unsustainable financial pressures on local authorities and the absence of a national strategy or measurable targets to reduce statutory homelessness.

Regional Context (London)

- The Target Thousand (T1000) initiative, launched in 2020, supports London's most vulnerable rough sleepers
- A 2023 review of 22 deaths within the T1000 cohort revealed recurring safeguarding themes consistent with national Safeguarding Adult Review (SAR) findings, although none met the SAR threshold
- Fewer than one-third of London boroughs currently conduct mortality reviews for deaths in rough sleeping pathways, with significant variation in approach.

Ministerial Recommendations to SABs

(May 2024)

In response to increasing concerns, Ministers issued recommendations to Safeguarding Adults Boards to strengthen their role in supporting individuals experiencing rough sleeping. The recommendations focus on four key areas:

1. Governance, Accountability & System-Wide Change
2. Named Board Member for Rough Sleeping
3. Strategic Plans, Annual Reports & Procedures
4. Safeguarding Adult Reviews (SARs).

Newham SAB Progress and Activity

(as of September 2025)

1. Governance

- Rough sleeping remains a strategic priority for the Board
- The issue is embedded within the Homelessness Response Programme and the Homelessness & Rough Sleeping Strategy (HRSS) Annual Action Plan
- SAB representation is confirmed in strategic planning forums
- The Adult Social Care (ASC) Practice Manager team has been expanded to improve outcomes through strengths-based approaches.

2. Named Board Member

- The Assistant Director of Commissioning continues to serve as the SAB's named lead for rough sleeping
- A bi-weekly multi-disciplinary team (MDT) meeting is embedded within the rough sleeping pathway, chaired by the ASC Practice Manager
- The London School of Economics (LSE) research team is evaluating the MDT model for potential wider application.

3. Strategic Plans and Procedures

- Rough sleeping will be a featured priority in the SAB Annual Report
- A Contract Monitoring Framework is now embedded within the rough sleeping pathway
- The updated HRSS includes safeguarding actions, awareness-raising, and clear referral responsibilities—including for Modern Day Slavery.

4. Safeguarding Adult Reviews (SARs)

- No new SARs have been commissioned since 2021; however, serious incidents continue to be monitored
- The SAB is working closely with the Safeguarding Governance team to track alerts and deaths within the street population.

Street Population Update

- May 2025 saw an increase in transient individuals with No Recourse to Public Funds (NRPF) and those exiting National Asylum Support (NAS)
- 24 individuals were identified in the Target Priority Group (TPG), with 7 confirmed as rough sleeping in August
- The Rough Sleeping Task Force has been reinstated
- Newham is hosting the Northeast London (NEL) sub-regional TPG Personal Health Budgets programme.

Profile:

A 54-year-old Black female with complex immigration status and significant mental health needs.

Support Provided:

CA was supported through No Second Night Out (NSNO), the Intensive Rough Sleeping Support (IRSS) programme, and multi-agency collaboration.

Outcomes:

A strengths-based care plan led to stable housing and improved mental health outcomes.

Key Learning:

- Early intervention and multi-agency collaboration are critical to successful outcomes
- Respectful communication and clear handovers help prevent disengagement
- Strengths-based reviews (e.g., Outcome Star) support resilience and recovery.

Resident Voice

“YOU are a LIGHTHOUSE in stormy waters...”

Progress and Achievements

- Subgroup and priority group activity has been maintained and activity developed
- Self-neglect priority group have completed a multi-agency toolkit
- The L&C subgroup has been established and progressing well
- The Cuckooing Priority group has started and is progressing well with good engagement.

Areas for development

- Partner engagement in Subgroup and priority activity. People can be good at attending meetings, but it can be a challenge getting people take the lead in key activity
- Maintain Self-neglect priority group. We have the tool kit, but further work is needed on the policy
- Maintain the MCA priority group
- Consider revisiting the actions for Joanna, Jon & Ben SAR. It was agreed that Quarterly-6 months audit of out of borough placements would be presented and shared with the SAB
- Consider reviewing the agenda for the SAB & SAB Subgroup as sometimes the agenda can be too much for one meeting
- Consider the number of SAB meetings & Priority groups. What are we wanting the outcomes to be. Have we achieved that or will they continue to be ongoing.

Safeguarding Priorities 2024/2025

- Neglect and acts of omission
- Self-neglect
- MCA.

London Borough Newham – Community Safety Team

Progress to date/Key Achievements

- Launch of the **Newham Integrated Community Enforcement (NICE) model** and **Public Space Action Plan** which aims to increase collaboration, coordination and communication between Council teams and partners. As well as provide a more holistic and joined up approach to enforcement priorities and community concerns
- Developed **Newham's Serious Violence Duty Strategy**. The strategy sets out the agreed definition of Serious Violence for the borough, summarises the key aspects of the Serious Violence Strategic Needs Assessment, the partnership arrangements that have been agreed locally to lead on delivery of the duty, the areas of activity to prevent and reduce serious violence, and activity to engage with voluntary sector organisations, communities - including young people, as well as businesses
- Delivered a **Modern-Day Slavery Partnership Action Plan** to take stringent steps to tackle and prevent slavery and human trafficking
- Community Safety have taken oversight of coordinating **Domestic Abuse Related Death Reviews (DADR's)** from which we can establish what lessons are to be learned from the domestic abuse related death regarding the way in which local professionals and organisations work individually and together to safeguard victims.

Areas for Development

- Development of new **Hate Crime Strategy 25-28** to better understand hate crime and hate incidents in Newham and to focus on building community resilience against hateful beliefs and attitudes
- More community engagement activities where we endeavour to give all people a say and stake in the decisions that matter and will engage communities that are not currently empowered to contribute.

Priorities in 2025/26

- This year the **Newham Safety Partnership Strategic Plan 25-28** was launched which sets out the priorities of the Newham Safety Partnership who are responsible for developing and implementing strategies to address crime and anti-social behaviour in the borough. As we work towards these priorities, we will ensure that we concentrate on early intervention, preventative action, and reducing adversity and disproportionality across our diverse communities
- Deliver a new campaign to tackle **VAWG, misogyny and street harassment**, to promoting improvements in work in this area and to embed the message that these attitudes are not acceptable in our borough
- Continue to work collaboratively across statutory and voluntary sector agencies to ensure delivery of violence reduction plans including the **Violence and Vulnerability Reduction Action Plan, Serious Violence Strategy and Youth Safety Strategy** to tackle violence in the borough
- Continue to be intelligence led, ensuring data is used to identify problems at the earliest opportunity and target our resources effectively by focussing on problematic locations through the NICE partnership model and Precision Policing.

Progress and Achievements

- We have a centralised dashboard (Power BI) which provides data on specific advocacy services we provide as well as the outcomes for our clients. This is accessible to all levels of our organisation to ensure visibility of Safeguarding Activity, with a focus on the outcomes. We regularly review engagement with our dashboards resulting in high levels of engagement
- We have developed a robust Safeguarding and Quality Assurance Team to oversee practice and audit every service/team and, where need identified, we will support a team leader in reviewing an advocate's case load to provide a check on quality with an action plan for team or individual improvement. As a centralised team we have independence from the individual teams leading to more meaningful/non-biased information
- We are continually supporting our advocates through learning and development, including 1:1 support for complex cases to discuss best practice and collaborative working. We have set up multiple Communities of Practice within our organisation to support specific areas of Advocacy.

Areas for development

- Currently we're reviewing and updating our Safeguarding Policies and Procedures within our newly formed Safeguarding and Quality Assurance Team to ensure that we are in line with current legislation and any trends and themes on a local level
- Equipping our advocates and staff with the skills, confidence and training required to deal with an increasing level of complex cases nationwide. We are achieving this by updating our Learning and Development Platform and further improving our skills and knowledge around safeguarding. We routinely measure this through auditing and will be implementing additional staff questionnaires and surveys to gauge confidence, analysed to measure effect of the enhanced training and support available.

Safeguarding Priorities 2024/2025

- At VoiceAbility we continually support our advocates in placed based trainings to provide the most up to date awareness around
- Rough sleeping and mental health
- Enhancing our data fields in Power BI to proactively enable us to routinely spot themes and trends across the country and drill down into this data for all the Local Authority areas where we work.

Closing statement from Independent Chair

Looking forward, our priorities for 2025/2026 will be to build and sustain the work from our current priorities to focus on embedding learning from the SARs and priority subgroups work. Our approach underpinning this will be to deepen community trust, create parity in decision-making with our residents, address inequities, and prepare for future statutory reforms.

Residents' voices remain our most powerful reminder of why this work matters. At a recent engagement event, one community advocate said: "Healthwatch Newham gave us a voice. We felt listened to." This is what we want safeguarding in Newham to achieve — not just protecting people from harm, but ensuring that every adult is heard, respected, and supported.

My thanks go to the SAB team, all our statutory and community partners and our residents. With special thanks to the new Local Authority lead partner, who joined the SAB team as the new Local Authority Lead partner representative and has been outstanding in her support of myself and the SAB team.



Sola Afuape

Independent Chair
Newham Safeguarding Adults Board

Art For Fun

Recognition of Artwork in Annual Report

The Newham Safeguarding Adults Board would like to acknowledge and thank the contributors to the “Art for Fun” initiative for providing the beautiful artwork featured in this year’s Annual Report. These creative pieces have added vibrancy and warmth to the report, reflecting the diverse talents within our community and reinforcing our commitment to inclusion and wellbeing.

Why Community Co-Production Matters

Community co-production is central to effective safeguarding because it ensures that the voices, experiences, and creativity of local people shape the way we work. By involving the community in meaningful ways—such as through initiatives like Art for Fun—we build trust, promote engagement, and create safeguarding approaches that are responsive, inclusive, and grounded in real lived experience.

We greatly appreciate the time, effort, and creativity that went into these contributions, and we look forward to continuing to showcase community-led initiatives in future publications.



Further Information

How to report adult safeguarding concerns

To report abuse, raise a concern about a vulnerable person or to find out more information about safeguarding adults in Newham, visit **www.newham.gov.uk/safeguardingadults** or call the 24 hour safeguarding helpline on **020 3373 0440**.

Further information can be found on the Board pages of Newham council's website.

- Published Safeguarding Adult Reviews

Newham Safeguarding Adult Reviews

Get in touch

You can contact the SAB Business Unit at nsab@newham.gov.uk

Or visit www.newham.gov.uk/safeguardingadultsboard

Appendix

[Strategic Priorities – Safeguarding Adults Board – Newham Council](#)

[Health - UTLA | Newham | Report Builder for ArcGIS](#)

