

# Safeguarding Adults Board protocol

## 1. Introduction

- 1.1 This document sets out the expectations of the relationship and working arrangements between Northumberland's Health & Wellbeing Board (HWB) and Northumberland Safeguarding Adults Board (NSAB). It covers their respective roles and functions, membership of the two boards, arrangements for challenge, oversight and scrutiny and performance management.
- 1.2 The Chair of the HWB and Independent Chair of the NSAB will formally agree to the arrangements set out in this document, which will be subject to review annually.

## 2. Northumberland Safeguarding Adults Board (NSAB)

- 2.1 The Northumberland Safeguarding Adults Board is a multi-agency partnership comprising statutory, independent and charitable organisations which have a stakeholder interest in safeguarding adults across Northumberland.
- 2.2 Northumberland County Council has strategic responsibility for overseeing multi-agency arrangements in its area for safeguarding adults at risk. This includes both arrangements for investigating and where necessary acting on referrals alleging that vulnerable adults are being abused or neglected, and wider arrangements for ensuring that the safety, independence and dignity of vulnerable adults are protected.
- 2.3 Formal national guidance on arrangements for protecting vulnerable adults from abuse is currently set out in [No Secrets](#) (Department of Health, 2000). From April 2015, the Board will operate within the new statutory framework set out in the Care Act 2014 and associated statutory guidance.
- 2.4 The Association of Directors of Adult Social Services (ADASS) published in October 2011 recommended standards against which to assess adult safeguarding services and then in March 2013 Advice and Guidance to Directors of Adult Social Services. Describing itself as a bridging note until the Care Act comes into force, this document set out the changes since its last Advice note and its vision. The Northumberland Safeguarding Adults Board has framed its operation with reference to this guidance.
- 2.5 The vision of the Safeguarding Adults Board is to protect and promote individual human rights, the capacity for independence and improved well-being so that adults at risk of abuse, and unpaid carers in Northumberland stay safe, are treated with dignity and respect, enjoy a sustained quality of life, and are at all times protected from abuse, neglect, discrimination, or poor treatment.
- 2.6 The role of the NSAB is to maintain and develop inter-agency frameworks to safeguard adults within Northumberland and to coordinate what is done by each person or body represented on the Board in relation to the safeguarding of adults.

## 3. The Health & Wellbeing Board (HWB)

### The Purpose of Health and Well-Being Boards

- 3.1 HWBs were established by the Health and Social Care Act 2012. They are intended to be a forum where key leaders from the health and care system work together to improve the health and wellbeing of their local population and reduce health inequalities.

- 3.2 Each upper tier and unitary authority must have its own health and wellbeing board. Board members are expected to collaborate to understand their local community's needs, agree priorities and encourage commissioners to work in a more joined up way. As a result, patients and the public should experience more joined-up services from the NHS and local councils in the future.
- 3.3 The HWB is a partnership of commissioners and providers of health and social care services in Northumberland. The Board oversees the production of the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) and the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy for Northumberland, which set the context within which commissioners of health and social care services are expected to work.
- 3.4 The Board will:
- a) Provide a forum to enable provider and commissioner dialogue
  - b) Provide a forum for challenge, discussion and the involvement of service users and local people
  - c) Ensure that health and social care services are provided in an integrated manner, and take full account of the need for service models which minimise the risk that adults with care and support needs will be abused or neglected.

#### **4. The Relationship between the NSAB and the HWB**

- 4.1 The roles and responsibilities of the two bodies are different but complementary. They share responsibility for promoting joint working and co-operation between partners to improve the wellbeing and safety of adults in Northumberland with care and support needs.
- 4.2 Whilst the NSAB contributes to that wider goal of improving the well-being of all adults, of necessity, it has a narrower focus on safeguarding adults who are unable to protect themselves from abuse or neglect due to care and support needs.
- 4.3 The NSAB will from April 2015 be a statutory body in its own right, and will retain separate statutory responsibility from the HWB. It will be chaired by an independent person.
- 4.4 The independent Chair of NSAB will be invited to attend HWB meetings, as/when necessary, in order to present reports and assist/advise on the development of effective plans and service delivery arrangements for safeguarding adults in Northumberland with care and support needs. Similarly, representatives of HWB will be invited to attend NSAB when there are issues of common interest.
- 4.5 NSAB will work with the HWB, informing and drawing on the JSNA, and the HWB will seek to advise, inform and consider issues referred to it by, and in conjunction with, the NSAB. The HWB may request the NSAB to consider issues for development, action or scrutiny.
- 4.6 The role of NSAB will be:
- a) to focus on ensuring that key organisations relevant to adults with care and support needs are working to safeguard them from the risk of abuse or neglect, and that the arrangements made by the HWB are effective in supporting this
  - b) to offer support, guidance, advice, challenge and scrutiny to HWB to enable the partner organisations to discharge their safeguarding responsibilities effectively
  - c) to produce and publish an Annual Report which comments on the effectiveness of safeguarding in Northumberland to inform the HWB and other stakeholders.

The Annual Report will be submitted to the Chair of the HWB (as well as the Chief Executive of the Council, the Leader of the Council and the Police and Crime Commissioner)

4.7 The HWB will:

- a) Ensure that the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment and Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy take account of the need to safeguard adults with care and support needs from abuse
- b) Consider evidence from the NSAB about the effectiveness of current services in meeting this objective

**Arrangements to secure co-ordination between the Boards**

4.8 To ensure effective co-ordination of the work of the two Boards:

- a) Between September and November each year the Independent Chair of the NSAB will present to the HWB their Annual Report
- b) At each point when there is a major update to the Health and Wellbeing Strategy or the JSNA, the NSAB will be invited to comment on it.
- c) In case of any urgent matters that need attention, respective Chairs will contact each other directly in the first instance.