






Sunderland Safeguarding Adults Board Safeguarding Annual Report 2021 – 2022

 An illustration of a spiral-bound notebook with a white cover. The cover has the words "Annual Report" in bold black text at the top. Below the text is a large green circle containing a white letter "Y".	<p>This report tells you about the work of Sunderland Safeguarding Adults Board (SSAB) and what we have done in 2021 – 2022.</p>
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 An illustration of a group of five diverse people (three men and two women) standing together. They are holding a large, gold shield with a black border. The shield has the words "Safe Guarding" written on it in black text.	<p>Sunderland Safeguarding Adults Board is a group that makes sure that adults at risk are kept safe from all kinds of abuse.</p>
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 An illustration of three people (two men and one woman) sitting at a table, appearing to be in a meeting. Above them are three speech bubbles. The central speech bubble contains the text "Any other business?".	<p>The Board is made up of:</p>
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 <p>Sunderland City Council</p>	<p>Sunderland City Council</p>
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 <p>Sunderland Clinical Commissioning Group</p>	<p>Sunderland Clinical Commissioning Group – now called the Integrated Care Board</p>
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 <p>South Tyneside and Sunderland NHS Foundation Trust</p>	<p>South Tyneside and Sunderland NHS Foundation Trust</p>
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 <p>Cumbria, Northumberland, Tyne and Wear NHS Foundation Trust</p>	<p>Cumbria, Northumberland Tyne and Wear NHS Trust</p>
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 <p>Healthwatch Sunderland</p>	<p>Healthwatch Sunderland</p>
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We also work with other organisations to make sure they keep people safe.



The aim of the Safeguarding Board is to make sure that people in Sunderland can live safely, free from neglect and abuse.



We all work together to make sure that this happens.



Following the Care Act 2014 is an important part of our work.



We work together to look after people well.



We have made a lot of progress and are looking to improve all the time.



People are the most important part of our work, and our aim is "Making Safeguarding Personal".



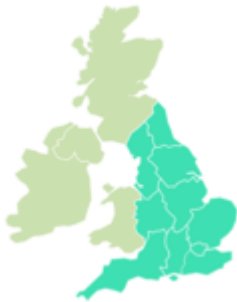
Making safeguarding personal improves things for everyone, not just those involved in the safeguarding process.



During 2021 – 2022 there was an increase in safeguarding referrals during the pandemic and there were also more difficult cases.



We improved how we collected information.



We keep up to date with what is happening around the country to help us deal with difficult cases.



The most common issues in Sunderland that are linked to abuse are:



Self-neglect – we can help people who cannot look after themselves properly.



Mental Capacity – we support people who cannot make decisions for themselves.



Homelessness and the risk of becoming homeless.



Difficult safeguarding cases including drug misuse.



Domestic abuse



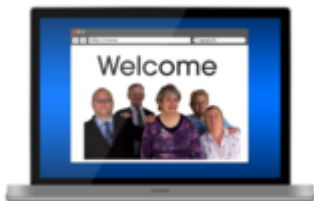
Suicide, which was made worse by the pandemic. Preventing this is very important.



We try to stop abuse from happening.



We hold safeguarding events and share messages on our social media to help people keep themselves safe.



We improved our website to make sure information is shared widely and in different formats.



We have a lot of information, including leaflets and posters available to the public and professionals.



We keep up to date with developments and share this information all over the country.



Self-neglect has been a big issue, and there have been more cases. We work hard with other organisations to raise awareness of what self-neglect is.



We trained staff and made a video for the public, so people know what to do if they are worried about someone.



We put in place a lot of recommendations from a safeguarding adult review called 'Alan'.



Our mental capacity training is much better, and staff can now do online training.



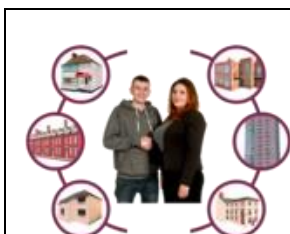
We have a new referral system for people who are at risk of harm because of their decisions.



We share information with safeguarding boards around the country so that we can all work better.



Homelessness became worse during the pandemic.



We are working hard to reduce homelessness and prevent people becoming homeless.



Sunderland City Council started working with the Domestic Abuse Board in 2021.



A Domestic Abuse advocate project was set up in Sunderland to train staff in GP surgeries about domestic abuse.



It may soon be available to GP surgeries nationally.



The Safeguarding Board have been working closely with trained hospital staff to support victims of domestic abuse.



There have been more safeguarding referrals as hospital staff have more awareness of domestic abuse.



We received regular funding from Sunderland Clinical Commissioning Group to help people at risk of abuse.



Sunderland Clinical Commissioning Group are to fund three (3) domestic abuse projects over the next three (3) years with Wearside Women in Need.



These will set up a trauma unit for women who have been victims of domestic abuse.



Improve staff training in GP practices.



Fund a member of staff to give support to victims of domestic abuse



Fund a member of staff to support people who need mental health services



There were more suicides in Sunderland during the Covid pandemic.



We work with other partners to help reduce suicide and people harming themselves in Sunderland.



We delivered training in workplaces, schools and in the community on how to look after yourself.



Since the training started suicides in Sunderland have gone down.



Northumbria Police aims to protect vulnerable people.



A new safeguarding plan was put in place for everyone to live without fear.



Police Officers were trained how to prevent vulnerable people becoming involved in criminal behaviour.



Police have improved how they share information with hospital and ambulance services.



Sunderland Safeguarding Adults Board received a referral about financial abuse in a care home.



A lot of organisations worked together to look into the concern.



A report was sent to the Police to investigate.



New guidelines were put in place to protect residents.



GP practices have been trained to speak at events about safeguarding.



GP practices supported the Domestic abuse programme during the pandemic.



Six (6) volunteers were trained as Domestic Abuse champions.



Sunderland Clinical Commissioning Group are getting training to support staff who are at risk of domestic abuse.



NHS
Cumbria, Northumberland,
Tyne and Wear
NHS Foundation Trust

A new member of staff at Cumbria, Northumberland Tyne and Wear Trust works on the most important safeguarding issues.



A lot of safeguarding referrals involve people who have poor mental health.



Sunderland Royal Hospital Emergency Department are using a new risk assessment process to keep people safe.



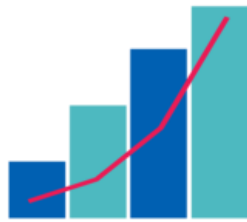
Sunderland Safeguarding Adults Board work closely with emergency services to share good practice.



People who are in a mental health crisis are referred to specialists early to prevent suicide or self-harm.



People may go missing during a mental health crisis. Police work closely with safeguarding to give a lot of support to people at risk of going missing.



Sunderland has a high level of alcohol and drug misuse.



This leads to more crime and antisocial behaviour.



The police are involved in meetings with housing providers and the City Council to make things better for the community.



During the pandemic we made sure that meetings were still held online.



We shared four (4) newsletters last year to give important information to deal with the impact of the pandemic.



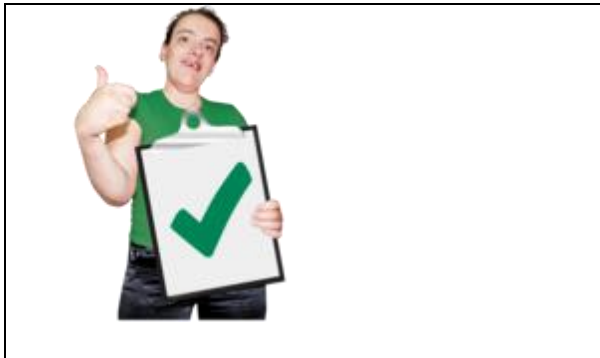
Safeguarding Adults Week was held in November 2021 with the aim of making sure that every adult has a voice and is respected.



We changed the way we worked to make sure that reviews and events went ahead.



We worked closely with lots of organisations to keep people safe during the pandemic.



To help us give the best service we looked at all the information we had to improve our work.



We learn from and share good work.



We keep up to date with new laws which affect our work.



We worked in different ways to deliver training throughout the pandemic.



We work with a lot of different partners in campaigns to keep people safe.



To prove we are doing good work:



We train our staff well.



We keep everyone updated.



We check our work to make sure it is good.



The main issues we need to work on are:



Self-neglect and hoarding



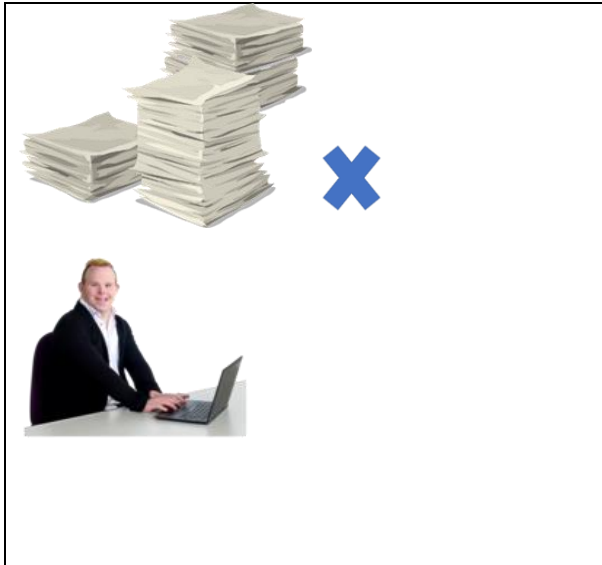
Mental Capacity Act and Deprivation of Liberty, and preparing for the new Liberty Protection Safeguards which will replace Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards.



Suicidal thoughts and improving mental health



Domestic violence and abuse



The way of dealing with referrals has improved.



The Safeguarding Team dealt with over four thousand (4000) reports of abuse and over seven thousand (7000) adult concern referrals.



This is over one thousand (1000) more referrals than the year before.



A new member of staff was employed to manage the increase in safeguarding referrals.



Reports of abuse are still going up.



Every referral is important to the Safeguarding Adults Board Team.



In 2021 – 2022 most abuse happened in people's own home or in a care home.



Other places abuse happened were in the abuser's home or in a hospital.



A lot of the people abused had disabilities.



These included people with physical disabilities, learning disabilities and people with mental health issues.



Most abuse was physical abuse.



Other types of abuse were emotional abuse.



Self-neglect



Financial abuse



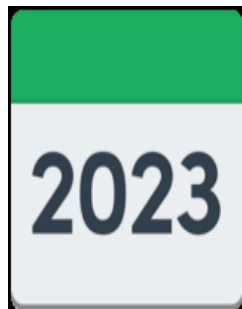
More women than men were victims of abuse.



Most abused women were over seventy-five (75) years old.



Most male victims of abuse were between eighteen (18) and sixty-four (64) years old



Over the next year the main areas we will be working on are:



Safeguarding issues resulting from the Covid pandemic



Stopping abuse from happening



Listening to and valuing people's voices and what they want from the Safeguarding Adults Board



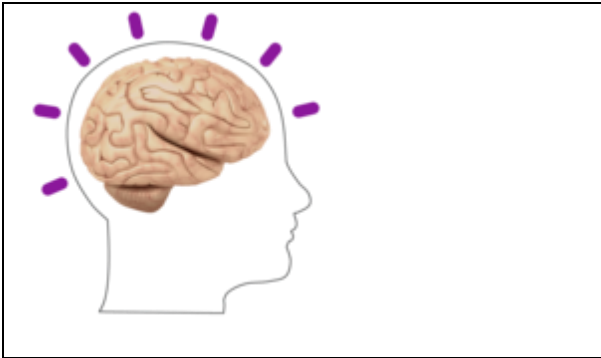
Continue to be involved in regional events to help us improve our training and knowledge



Dealing with people with alcohol problems and understanding how alcohol changes how people make decisions



Making care plans and support better for people who have problems with alcohol



Supporting people with brain injuries



Helping people who do not look after themselves properly (self-neglect)



Helping homeless people and people at risk of becoming homeless



Improving the lives of victims of abuse



Getting as much information as we can to improve things for everyone involved in safeguarding.

Produced by
 Sunderland People First
A Voice For Change

