North Lincolnshire
Safeguarding Adults Board

Strategic Plan

2026 - 2029

Foreword

We are proud to present the North Lincolnshire Safeguarding Adults Board Strategic Plan 2026-29. This strategic plan builds on the strong partnership work undertaken as part of our previous strategic plan and sets out our future plans to help and protect adults at risk in North Lincolnshire.

We want this plan to be clear about our intentions and priorities, so that we have the best chance to work well together. In developing our strategic plan for the next three years we have:

- Held a number of development sessions to reflect on our current arrangements and progress made against the delivery plan including bespoke sessions for SAB members, subgroup chairs and members and the Independent Chair.
- Developed a consultation questionnaire for all staff and volunteers in North Lincolnshire including frontline staff, providers, colleagues from other Boards and partnerships.
- Developed a series of mechanisms for engaging with adults with a lived experience and their carers to hear what is important to them, including a questionnaire and a consultation process.
- Considered learning locally and nationally about best practice and areas for improvement.
- Utilised the data and information about performance and outcomes in North Lincolnshire.
- Reviewed how we have been able to meet the commitments made in the previous 3-year strategic plan, looking at what has worked well and what could be better.

Our strategy for the next three years reflects the commitment that we have made to putting people's voice at the heart of everything we do – once more embracing the ethos of 'Experts Together'. We are committed to being a reflective and learning partnership and we want to continue to develop and promote excellent safeguarding practice in and as part of our local communities.

Shona McFarlane - Independent Chair

What is the Safeguarding Adults Board?

The Safeguarding Adults Board (SAB) is a multi-agency partnership which has statutory functions under the Care Act 2014. Our main focus is to ensure that safeguarding arrangements in North Lincolnshire work effectively so that adults at risk are able to live their lives free from harm and exploitation.

North Lincolnshire Safeguarding Adults Board has the following core functions as set out in the Care Act 2014:

- **To develop and publish a strategic plan** that sets out how we will meet our main objectives and what the members will do to achieve this.
- **To undertake and publish Safeguarding Adults Reviews (SARs).**
- **To publish an annual report** detailing what the SAB has done to achieve our main objective and how we have implemented our strategic plan.

In addition, the SAB supports adults with care and support needs by:

- Assuring itself that local arrangements are in place as defined within The Care Act 2014 and statutory guidance
- Assuring itself that practice is person-centred and outcome focussed.
- Working collaboratively to prevent abuse and neglect where possible.
- Ensuring that agencies and individuals give timely and proportionate responses where abuse and neglect have occurred.
- Assuring itself that safeguarding practice is continuously improving and enhancing the lives of adults in our area.

The partnership is made up of the three statutory agencies who work together with other key partners who represent adults with care and support needs and their carers:

- North Lincolnshire Council
- Humber and North Yorkshire Integrated Care Board
- Humberside Police

The agencies who are part of the extended membership of the SAB are:

- Northern Lincolnshire and Goole NHS Foundation Trust (Humber Health Partnership)
- Rotherham, Doncaster, and South Humber NHS Foundation Trust
- East Midlands Ambulance Service
- Healthwatch North Lincolnshire
- Humberside Fire and Rescue Service
- Ongo Homes
- Probation Service (North and North East Lincolnshire Probation Delivery Unit)
- Care Quality Commission
- Regulated Health and Social Care Provider representatives

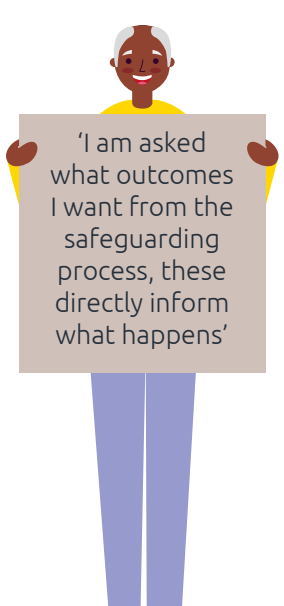
The Cabinet Member for Adults & Health, North Lincolnshire Council is also invited to attend the NLSAB as a member.

Our local approach

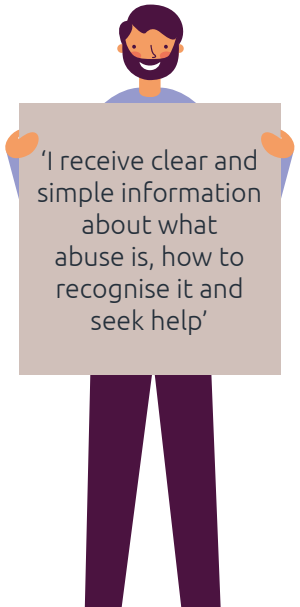
In North Lincolnshire, there is an ongoing drive and commitment to ensure continuous improvement leading to better outcomes and experiences for adults at risk in North Lincolnshire. We are committed to a culture of continuous learning and improvement, underpinned by high challenge and high support, which contributes to **our ambition of keeping people in their own homes, families, jobs and communities**.

The safeguarding principals that support and guide our local approach are:

Empowerment
People being supported and encouraged to make their own decisions and informed consent



Prevention
It is better to take action before harm occurs



Protection
Support and representation for those in greatest need

Proportionality
The least intrusive response appropriate to the risk presented

Partnership
Local solutions through services working with communities. Communities have a part to play in preventing, detecting and reporting abuse and neglect

Accountability
High challenge, high support and transparency in delivering safeguarding

What we achieved in our last strategic plan

There is a demonstrated clear commitment and contribution to safeguarding adults across the area. Partners have made good progress delivering against the priorities and objectives identified within the previous strategic plan.

Key achievements include:

- As a result of the learning from the Adult A SAR in 2020 and regarding the absence of a forensic service nationally and locally. North Lincolnshire Health and Care Partnership Board, in collaboration with the North Lincolnshire and East Riding SAB (supported by NHS England and the Faculty of Forensic and Legal Medicine), have **developed a Forensic Medical Examination pilot service** which is successfully continuing with positive outcomes being achieved.
- **Establishment of the Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Target Priority Group** which focusses solely on individuals identified as cyclical rough sleepers in North Lincolnshire. The people discussed are deemed to have vulnerabilities that are not currently being met or where further support from partners is needed.
- Developed and implemented a **Scrutiny and Assurance Framework** which provides assurance to partners in relation to safeguarding practice and ensure that policies and procedures are effective.
- Developed a **data dashboard** for the SAB which has continued to be enhanced using PowerBI. The dashboard allows partners to have oversight on key safeguarding categories and demographics and includes real-time data in relation to timescales and ongoing enquiries.
- Work has taken place to **enhance our online referral e-forms** to ensure that staff can refer concerns in a timelier manner. Guidance has also been developed to improve the quality of referrals. An e-form has recently been launched for members of the public to submit concerns online.
- Following consultation with key partners, the SAB **threshold document was reviewed and enhanced** to support decision making around safeguarding incidents. The enhanced document was expanded to include guidance around themes such as pressure ulcers, falls, and maladministration of medication.
- A range of **tools and resources have been co-produced** with adults with a lived experience including the **Experts Together Workforce Tool, the Makaton Help Card and a range of easy read materials** to supplement our website.

What do adults with a lived experience say?

We regularly seek feedback from adults who have a lived experience of safeguarding around the support that they have received. Some of the comments we received include:

'Thank you for coming to talk to me I like that you care'.

I felt supported and that actions were being taken.

'I feel good that I was listened to'.

'The support helped me to feel safer and I feel glad to have been helped by you'.

I felt I was listened to and not judged', you have been really nice, and thank you for helping me.

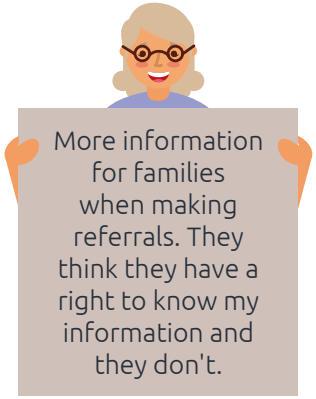
I have more people to contact now, if I need help in the future.

I was happy with the support offered and happy that you have taken time to make sure I am ok.

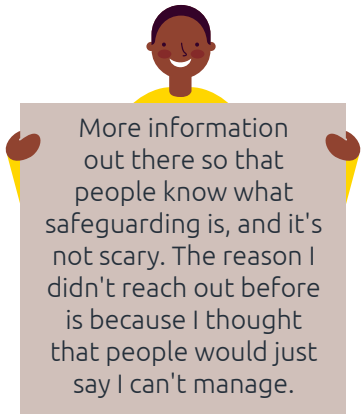
I feel safer and I better understand around my needs and support.

Some of the areas that adults would like us to improve on are:

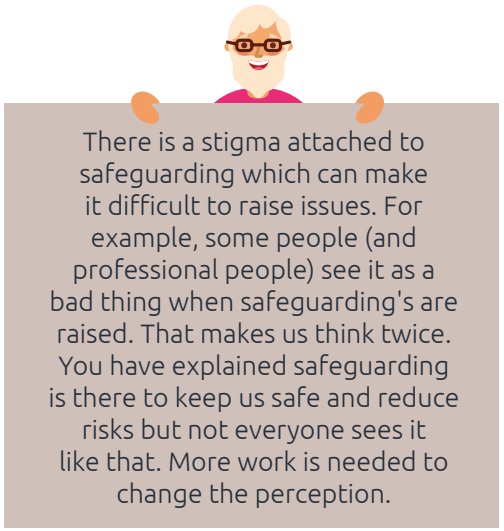
Sometimes people lack confidence or personal resources to approach professionals for support.



More information for families when making referrals. They think they have a right to know my information and they don't.



More information out there so that people know what safeguarding is, and it's not scary. The reason I didn't reach out before is because I thought that people would just say I can't manage.



There is a stigma attached to safeguarding which can make it difficult to raise issues. For example, some people (and professional people) see it as a bad thing when safeguarding's are raised. That makes us think twice. You have explained safeguarding is there to keep us safe and reduce risks but not everyone sees it like that. More work is needed to change the perception.

Social media is a risk for vulnerable adults too, and not just young people - why is it never one of your priorities.

What is our workforce telling us?

As part of the development of this Strategic Plan, a consultation questionnaire for all staff and volunteers in North Lincolnshire including frontline staff, providers, colleagues from other Boards and partnerships was disseminated. We have also held a number of development sessions to seek staff views. Some of the comments we received include:

What is working well?

Strong working relationships between agencies

Information is readily available, easy to find and easy to follow

The regular communications and newsletters are useful and highlight key issues

The online forms are useful and allows businesses to make referrals

We have a strong data set which allows us to identify themes and trends easily

Individuals are at the heart of discussions and decision making and they feel that they are

There is a strong learning culture between partners and we work collaboratively to respond to learning

We have welcomed the new training programme and the regular offer of safeguarding adults training for our staff

We have a good understanding of data and intelligence which gives us a high level of assurance

Regular sharing of people's feedback and using the voice of people to make improvements

We like having a specific lead person within the Safeguarding Adult's Team to link in with and discuss safeguarding matters with

Areas to strengthen

Increase understanding of the definition of safeguarding i.e. do some staff understanding what we mean when we say 'an adult with care and support needs'

Increasing understanding of agencies own responsibilities. It's not a case of just making a referral and someone else will deal with it

Increase understanding of the role of the SAB and how people can engage with us

Share more information about what happens after a safeguarding concern is raised and what feedback may be shared.

More work with the public to break the stigma of safeguarding

More prevention activity – raising awareness of safeguarding with the general public and how they can seek support at the earliest opportunity

More training on challenging topics for practitioners such as self-neglect and professional curiosity

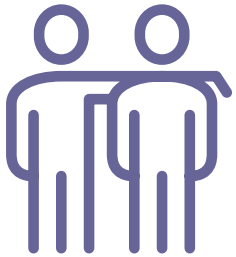
Make more connections within communities and increase awareness of difference in cultures

Undertake more regular scrutiny activity to enhance our evidence of improvements made. Also, to use real life local stories to enhance training.

What is our data telling us?

The SAB regularly reviews and scrutinises available data and intelligence to identify themes and trends, informing areas for development, innovation and improvement. Below is a summary of our 2024-25 data. Further detail can be found in our Annual Reports available on our website.

The majority of safeguarding concerns **(54%)** are raised by care homes. Other professionals such as social workers, health staff, the police and ambulance service account for **34%**.



7% of concerns are raised by **people with care and support needs / family/ carers / friends**

5% of concerns are raised by the **wider community**.

62% of people involved in enquiries were assessed as **lacking capacity** to be involved in the safeguarding process—**94%** of these people were **supported by an advocate / family member/friend**

38% of people involved in enquiries **had capacity**.

The top three **types of abuse** emerging from concluded safeguarding enquiries were…

53% **Neglect/acts of omission**

17% **Physical abuse**

10% **Psychological abuse**

The bottom three **types of abuse** emerging from concluded safeguarding enquiries were…

1% **Discriminatory abuse**

0% **Modern Slavery**

0% **Sexual exploitation**

75% of all safeguarding enquiries were in relation to people **over the age of 65**.

87% of enquiries related to people who were of **White/British** ethnicity.

58% of all safeguarding enquiries were in relation to **females** and **41% males**

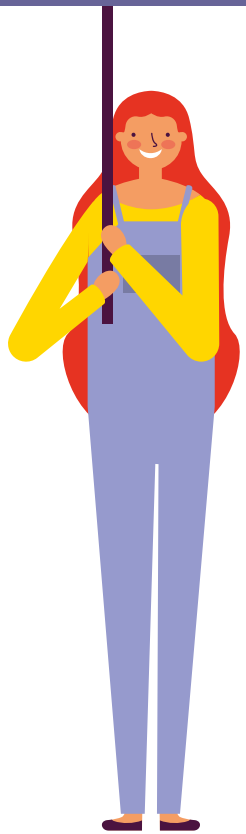
86 adults with a lived experience shared their feedback through our 'My Safeguarding Journey' feedback forms. Of these…

- **100%** said they **felt fully or partially listened** to as part of the process
- **97%** said they **felt safer** following intervention
- **99%** said **people worked together in partnership** to help them be safe
- **100%** said that **they know how to get help if they don't feel safe in future**

Our priorities 2026-29

Strategic priorities

Involvement and engagement



Action to take

- Collaborate with adults with a lived experience, community groups and other organisations to strengthen information for adults themselves around safeguarding.
- Encourage the reporting of concerns by the public and provide clear advice and guidance for those who do report around what happens next.
- Utilise key leads within the community to bust the myths and break the stigma of safeguarding.
- Continue to seek the views and experiences of adults with lived experience and ensure we use feedback to improve our safeguarding response.
- Continue to ensure that people are provided with appropriate advocacy support.
- Collaborate with partners to strengthen information provided to unpaid carers around safeguarding.

Outcomes for people

People are empowered to share their views and experiences around safeguarding.

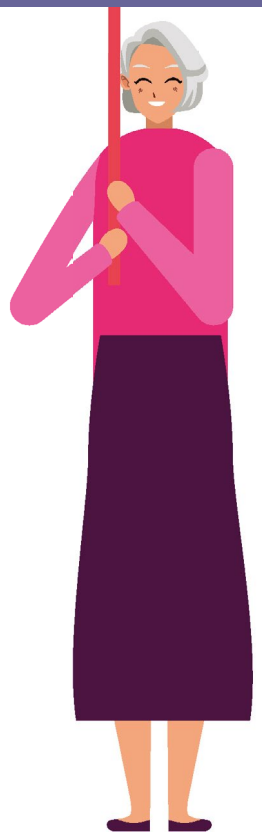
People feel more confident in reporting safeguarding concerns and accessing support.

The principles of Making Safeguarding Personal continues to be central to the way we support people.

Our priorities 2026-29

Strategic priorities

Prevention & early intervention



Action to take

- Develop a communication plan to raise awareness of key safeguarding messages across the community, maximising opportunities to engage and understand our local neighbourhoods and communities, ensuring that our engagement covers all areas of Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI).
- To further engage with, learn and understand, the challenges that our communities face in the prevention of abuse and neglect.
- Further strengthen our online offer of information, advice and guidance.
- Continue to raise awareness of the role of the Safeguarding Adults Board and increase visibility across the multi-agency workforce.
- Create opportunities to improve the way we work with and listen to people representative of all our communities to ensure our work is fully inclusive and reflective of their views and experiences.
- Continue to explore opportunities to support care homes to share knowledge and best practice.

Outcomes for people

People at risk of abuse and neglect will be identified at the earliest stage and have access to clear and simple information which allows them to keep themselves and others safe.

The workforce and members of the public understand the role of the Safeguarding Adults Board and our local offer.

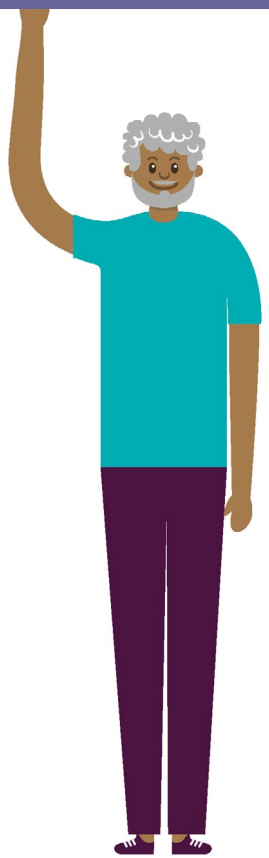
People with a lived experience are empowered to share their views and how they feel about their experiences.

People are supported by knowledgeable confident care providers.

Our priorities 2026-29

Strategic priorities

Further develop our Scrutiny and Assurance Framework



Action to take

- Progress arrangements for the recruitment of Independent Scrutiny Officers to ensure that effective scrutiny and challenge is at the heart of multi-agency practice.
- Continue to undertake regular scrutiny and assurance activity to measure the impact and embedment of practice improvements, including evidencing improvement from SARs.
- Continue to scrutinise the data around provider referrals which progress to Section 42 enquiries to ensure that concerns are submitted appropriately and continue to be reflective of a high-quality care sector.
- Support partner agencies to improve practitioner awareness of safeguarding and the quality and impact of their safeguarding practice through the identification of good practice and learning.
- Review our local SAR Framework to take account of the recommendations set out in the National Analysis of SARs.
- Collaborate with other Boards and partnerships to identify any recurring themes and identify where learning can be addressed or applied more widely.

Outcomes for people

Adults will be supported by a skilled workforce who will utilise all opportunities to learn from current safeguarding practice.

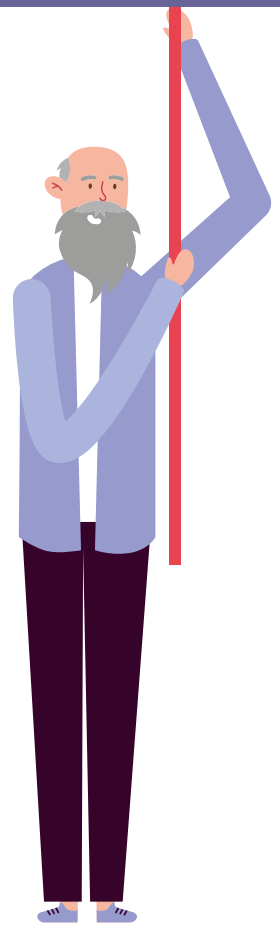
More robust understanding of our local picture will allow the Safeguarding Adults Board to better target resources and strengthen multi-agency safeguarding responses.

We will use the outcomes from people's lived experience to develop our own learning, and to inform and influence our own processes and policies.

Our priorities 2026-29

Strategic priorities

Ensuring confident, competent safeguarding practice



Action to take

- Further strengthen available toolkits and guidance for multi-agency practitioners to support their practice.
- Enhance our available Education and Training offer to ensure that the workforce, including the voluntary, charity and social enterprise sector and faith groups, have access to appropriate training to provide them with the skills, values, knowledge and expertise needed to do their job well.
- Seek assurance that the workforce is legally literate and understands the legislative frameworks associated with safeguarding adults.
- Strengthen the workforce understanding of person-centred and trauma-informed language and promote the importance of inclusive communication.
- Develop escalation policy and procedures and increase practitioner confidence to challenge and remove barriers.
- Work to break down the barriers to accessing services across our communities and highlight the importance of escalating concerns about more vulnerable individuals, including those who are who are experiencing rough sleeping, exploitation and/or are self-neglecting.
- Continue to build upon the local joint board protocol and workplan with the other key boards and partnerships to deliver on joint objectives and actions.

Outcomes for people

Adults will be supported by a skilled proactive workforce confident in the application of safeguarding legislation.

Multi-agency staff will work together to provide a solutions and outcomes focused, co-ordinated response to safeguarding issues.

How we will deliver our Strategic Plan

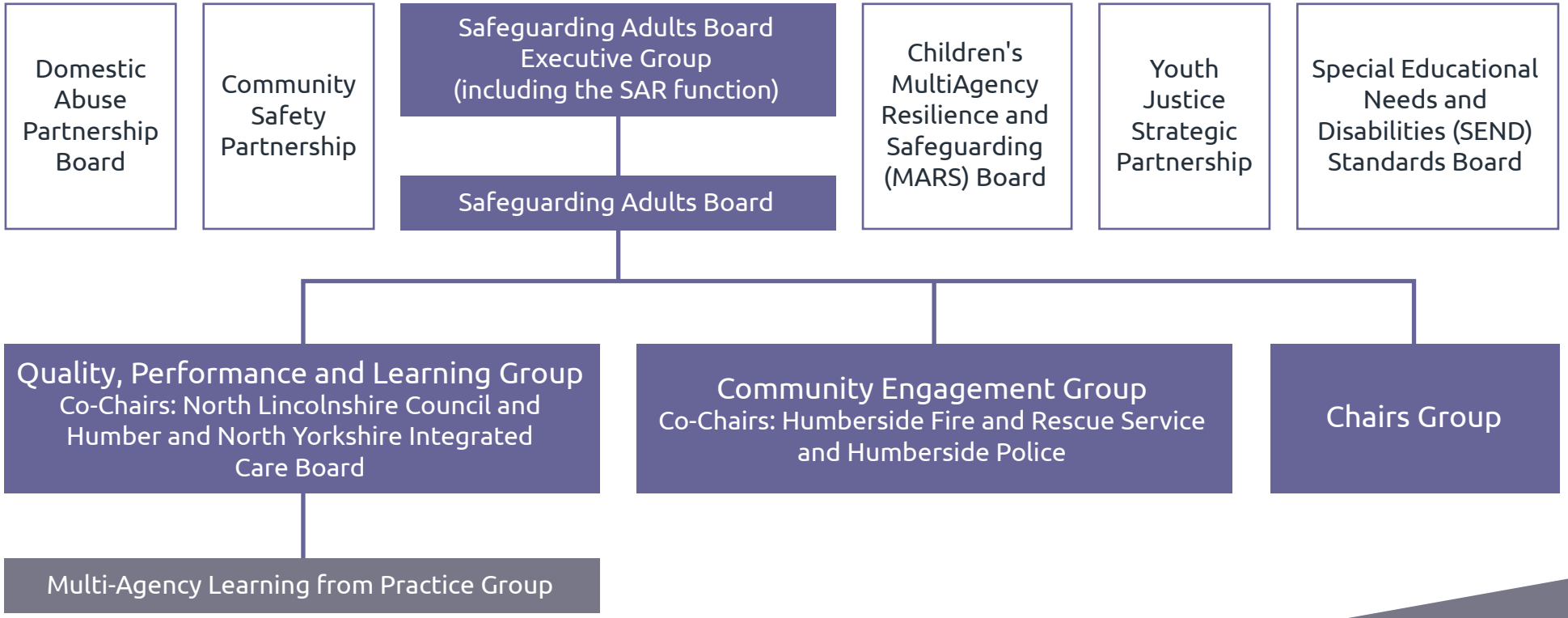
Our strategic plan is underpinned by a delivery plan which sets out actions built around the following areas:

- Action to ensure we deliver on our identified priorities.
- Actions carried forward from the previous delivery plan, where progress has been made, but where a further focus is required.
- Recommendations from local scrutiny and assurance activity and any relevant national reports and research.

To deliver our strategic plan, the Safeguarding Adults Board has a number of subgroups who will oversee and deliver on the agreed actions, with regular updates being provided to the Safeguarding Adults Board. Our subgroups are an essential mechanism for ensuring the work of the SAB is focused, effective and is able to continually improve.

Our partnership diagram below shows the chosen governance arrangements for the North Lincolnshire SAB. To ensure that our subgroups are aligned to our new strategic plan, the terms of reference and membership for each group have been reviewed and refocussed.

Our partnership diagram also makes reference to our joint-board working arrangements which are set out in our local joint-board protocol. Partnership working is at the centre of our local arrangements and there is a commitment to working together to ensuring effective links are made with each other to maximise effectiveness, minimise duplication and ensure efficient joint working.


Domestic Abuse Partnership Board
Community Safety Partnership
Safeguarding Adults Board Executive Group (including the SAR function)
Safeguarding Adults Board
Children's MultiAgency Resilience and Safeguarding (MARS) Board
Youth Justice Strategic Partnership
Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Standards Board
Quality, Performance and Learning Group
Co-Chairs: North Lincolnshire Council and Humber and North Yorkshire Integrated Care Board
Community Engagement Group
Co-Chairs: Humberside Fire and Rescue Service and Humberside Police
Chairs Group
Multi-Agency Learning from Practice Group

For further information, please visit our website

www.northlincssab.co.uk

Sign up to the Safeguarding Adults Board communication emails by scanning the QR code or by visiting the link below.

cloud.notifications.northlincs.gov.uk/SAB