



North Lincolnshire Safeguarding Adults Board

Partnership Agreement

April 2026

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Introduction

The purpose of this partnership agreement is to provide all relevant partner agencies with a high-level description of the role and purpose of North Lincolnshire Safeguarding Adults Board (NLSAB) in relation to its statutory functions, local objectives, structure, operations, membership, and the roles and expectations of the statutory partner agency representatives.

Further details of areas of work for NLSAB will be found in the Strategic Plan, Annual Report and at www.northlincsab.co.uk hence duplication of those sources will be kept to a minimum.

This document will also provide a resource for example for new board members, agency representatives deputising for board members, and informing other agency staff about the formal remit and operations of NLSAB.

Statutory requirements for a Safeguarding Adults Board

This partnership agreement reflects the statutory functions of the SAB as outlined in Section 43 of the Care Act 2014, and subsequent statutory Care and Support Guidance. The Care Act 2014 requires partner agencies to agree how they must work together and the roles they should undertake to keep adults with care and support needs, at risk of harm safe.

The Care Act 2014 creates a duty to promote wellbeing and prevention in all care and support functions of which safeguarding is one. Adult safeguarding is also included as one of the five aims of co-operation between partners relevant to care and support.

Section 43 of the Care Act 2014 requires each local authority must establish a Safeguarding Adults Board (SAB) for its area, the objective of a SAB being to help and protect adults where there is reasonable cause to suspect that an adult

- has needs for care and support (whether, or not the authority is meeting any of those needs),
- is experiencing, or is at risk of, abuse or neglect, and
- as a result, of those needs is unable to protect himself or herself against the abuse or neglect or the risk of it.

Care & Support Guidance 14.104 states that each Safeguarding Adults Board should:

- Identify the role, responsibility, authority, and accountability with regard to the action each agency and professional group should take to ensure the protection of adults at risk of abuse or neglect
- Establish how it will hold partners to account and gain assurance of the effectiveness of its arrangements
- Determine its arrangements for peer review and self-audit
- Establish mechanisms for developing policies and strategies for protecting adults at risk of abuse and neglect which should be formulated, not only in collaboration and

consultation with all relevant agencies but also take account of the views of people who use care and support, families, and carer representatives

- Develop procedures for identifying circumstances giving grounds for concern and directing referrals to a central point
- Formulate guidance about the arrangements for managing adult safeguarding, and dealing with complaints, grievances, and professional and administrative malpractice
- Develop strategies to deal with the impact of issues of race, ethnicity, religion, gender and gender orientation, sexual orientation, age, disadvantage and disability on abuse and neglect
- Balance the requirements of confidentiality with the consideration that, to protect adults at risk of abuse or neglect, it may be necessary to share information on a 'need-to-know' bases
- Identify mechanisms for monitoring and reviewing the implementation and impact of policy
- Carry out Safeguarding Adult Reviews
- Produce an Annual Report
- Produce a Strategic Plan
- Promote multi-agency training

Role and scope of North Lincolnshire Safeguarding Adults Board

NLSAB exists to fulfil these statutory obligations for North Lincolnshire. The SAB has oversight of and leads adult safeguarding across the locality and will have an interest in matters that contribute to the prevention of abuse and neglect. The NLSAB's remit is to agree objectives, set priorities and co-ordinate the strategic development of adult safeguarding across North Lincolnshire. It is the key mechanism for agreeing how local agencies will work together effectively to safeguard and promote the safety and wellbeing of adults at risk.

The NLSAB aims to promote awareness and understanding of abuse and neglect amongst service users, carers, professionals, care providers and the wider community and works to generate community interest and engagement to ensure that 'safeguarding is everyone's responsibility'.

Key principles

The SAB adheres to a range of key principles that underpin their work, emphasising recognition of respect for human rights, autonomy and empowerment, equality, proportionality, confidentiality, and participation.

The six key principles that underpin all adult safeguarding work are:

- **Empowerment** – Personalisation and the presumption of person-led decisions and informed consent
- **Prevention** – It is better to take action before harm occurs

- **Proportionality** – Proportionate and least intrusive response appropriate to the risk presented
- **Protection** – Support and representation for those in greatest need
- **Partnership** – Local solutions through services working with their communities. Communities have a part to play in preventing, detecting, and reporting neglect and abuse
- **Accountability** – Accountability and transparency in delivering safeguarding. (Care & Support Guidance, 14.4)

In addition to these principles, the NLSAB also endeavours to demonstrate the following values:

- **Self-responsibility**- each partner is responsible in their own right for the safeguarding of any vulnerable persons and has a Collective ownership and commitment for safeguarding adults across the NLSAB partnership
- **Equality of opportunity** – amongst all partners, the inclusion of adults with a lived experience and experts by experience
- **Integrity** - the board partners will operate transparency and be the place of significant specialist knowledge for others to access to support the residents of North Lincolnshire
- **Excellence** - in terms of supportive relationship to enable each and every partner to be their best organisation

Making Safeguarding Personal

Making Safeguarding Personal is a shift in focus and emphasis from a process supported by conversations to a series of conversations supported by process. Ensuring there is emphasis in those conversations about what would improve an individual's quality of life as well as their safety.

Making Safeguarding Personal approaches will become a 'golden thread' that will run through strategic and operational adult safeguarding work in North Lincolnshire. Unless people's lives are improved, then all the safeguarding work, systems, procedures and partnerships are purposeless.

An outcome approach to safeguarding that will:

- enable and empower individuals to express what they want to happen
- enable agencies and practitioners to support people to make the difference they want in their lives
- make the process of safeguarding person centred

Structure of North Lincolnshire Safeguarding Adults Board

Safeguarding Adults Board Executive Group

The Safeguarding Adults Board Executive Group meets quarterly and is chaired by the independent chair but led by the three statutory partners, North Lincolnshire Council, NHS Humber and North Yorkshire Integrated Care Board and Humberside Police.

The meeting considers strategic safeguarding issues, policy change and local challenges and agrees the agenda for the full NLSAB meeting.

The Executive Group is responsible for agreeing and signing off any policies and procedures.

The Executive Group holds the responsibility for agreeing and commissioning any Safeguarding Adult Reviews as defined by the Care Act 2014. Where a referral for a SAR is made to the SAB team, a SAR Executive Meeting will be convened in accordance with our SAR Framework.

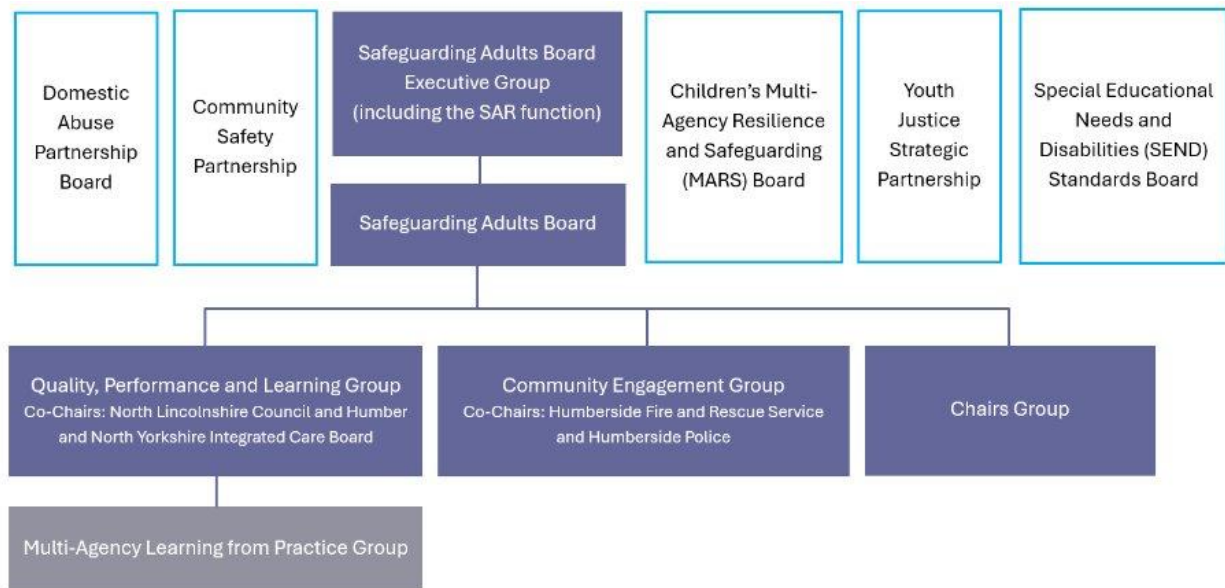
Safeguarding Adults Board

Following the executive group, the Safeguarding Adults Board also meets quarterly with an extended membership. The Board is chaired by the SAB Independent Chair.

Underpinning subgroups

Much of the activity of NLSAB is delivered by the subgroups according to the strategic plan. Progress is reported to and overseen by the NLSAB, through reports which are presented by the subgroup chairs.

Our partnership diagram below shows the chosen governance arrangements for the North Lincolnshire SAB.



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.

Board partners are expected to support the work of subgroups, for example by identifying and approving the involvement of staff members with particular roles, knowledge, and skills. These representatives may not otherwise be Board Members.

Quality, Performance and Learning Group

The Quality, Performance and Learning Group meets quarterly and is co-chaired by North Lincolnshire Council and Humber and North Yorkshire Integrated Care Board.

The overall purpose of the Quality, Performance and Learning Group is to seek assurance around the quality of safeguarding practice and the effectiveness of the safeguarding system across North Lincolnshire. The subgroup will also take a lead on the implementation of the SAB Scrutiny and Assurance Framework and the SAB Education and Training Programme. The group will take account of the views and experiences of those with a lived experience of safeguarding.

Community Engagement Group

The Community Engagement Group meets quarterly and is co-chaired by Humberside Fire and Rescue Service and Humberside Police.

The overall purpose of the Community Engagement Group is to promote awareness of safeguarding, and the role of the Safeguarding Adults Board amongst the wider community. The group will take the lead on stakeholder engagement, communications and any community outreach work. The group will take account of the views and experiences of adults with care and support needs and the wider community, particularly in relation to the prevention of abuse and neglect.

Chairs Group

The Chairs Group takes place quarterly prior to the 2 above subgroups meeting.

The groups is an opportunity for the subgroup chairs to meet to discuss progress against the delivery plan, set the agendas and consider any key lines of enquiry for upcoming subgroup meetings. The group will also consider areas which require escalation to the SAB Executive Leads.

Multi-Agency Learning from Practice Group

The Multi-Agency Learning from Practice Group meets 6 weekly and is chaired by the Principal Social Worker, North Lincolnshire Council.

The purpose of this meeting is to provide multi-agency audit and quality assurance of practice at key points along the safeguarding pathway to identify good practice, strategic themes and areas for development. Thematic audits may be undertaken at the request of the SAB and/or subgroups.

The outcomes from the meeting will be presented to the Quality, Performance and Learning Group for consideration around strategic learning.

Independent Chair

NLSAB has an Independent Chair. The Independent Chair is able to constructively challenge and hold to account the partner agencies of the SAB and can also act as a spokesperson for the NLSAB.

This arrangement provides reassurance that the Board has some independence from the statutory and other partners.

Safeguarding Adults Board team

The NLSAB will be supported by a team consisting of a Board Manager, a Business Coordinator and an Assurance Officer. The SAB team will support the Board and its subgroups to carry out its business in meeting the objectives of its strategic plan.

Responsibilities of the board

The core duties of the SAB are set out in Chapter 14 of the Care Act Statutory guidance.

The Board is required to:

- Publish a Strategic Plan for each year detailing how it will meet its main objectives and what partners will do to achieve this
- Publish an Annual Report detailing what the Board has done during the year to achieve its objectives
- Conduct Safeguarding Adults Reviews in accordance with S44 of the Care Act 2014

Strategic plan

NLSAB's strategic plan lays out our shared goals and vision over the next three years. It covers how the Board will focus on the prevention of abuse and neglect as well as making sure that organisations work together to keep people safe when abuse has occurred, giving people choice, control, and involvement. It emphasises our focus on the underlying principles of 'making safeguarding personal'.

The latest Strategic Plan can be accessed on the [NLSAB website](#).

Annual report

NLSAB's annual report outlines the activities the Board has undertaken to fulfil its statutory responsibilities for the strategic development and oversight of adult safeguarding across North

Lincolnshire. The Report highlights the Board's progress and achievement in delivering the priorities and objectives identified within the strategic plan.

NLSAB annual reports are available on the [NLSAB website](#).

Safeguarding Adults Reviews

NLSAB must arrange a Safeguarding Adults Review (SAR) when an adult in its area dies as a result of abuse or neglect, whether known or suspected, and there is a concern that partner agencies could have worked more effectively to protect the adult.

The SAB must also arrange a SAR if an adult in its area has not died, but the SAB knows or suspects that the adult has experienced serious abuse or neglect.

The SAB is also free to arrange a SAR in any other situations involving an adult in its area with needs for care and support.

The SAR Framework which sets out our local processes for undertaking SARs is available on the [NLSAB website](#).

Scrutiny and Assurance Framework

The NLSAB Scrutiny and Assurance Framework sets out our arrangements for scrutiny and assurance.

The arrangements include opportunities to work in partnership to learn and improve practice across the multi-agency adult safeguarding system and shares information about the range of mechanisms we utilise to identify learning.

The [Scrutiny and Assurance Framework](#) is available on the [NLSAB website](#).

Multi-agency policies, procedures and guidance

The SAB will produce safeguarding procedures and guidance in line with national guidance and these procedures will be made available to professionals and the public on the Safeguarding Adults Board website.

The guidance will contain inter-agency procedures for safeguarding adult work in the North Lincolnshire area. The document should be accessible to all staff within constituent agencies and to independent practitioners in direct contact with adults and their carers, including independent and local authority care providers and appropriate voluntary organisations.

Links to other partnerships & strategies

The SAB works with other strategic forums and Boards to ensure that any duplication is reduced, and efficiencies are maximised.

- Children's Multi-Agency Resilience and Safeguarding (MARS) Partnership
- Community Safety Partnership (CSP)
- Domestic Abuse Partnership Board (DAPB)
- Youth Justice Strategic Partnership Board (YJP)
- Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Standards Board
- Health & Wellbeing Board (HWBB)
- Health and Social Care Standards Board
- Adults Partnership

Membership

The statutory agencies who are partners within NLSAB are:

- North Lincolnshire Council (Adults & Health)
- North Lincolnshire Health and Care Partnership (Humber and North Yorkshire Integrated Care Board)
- Humberside Police

The agencies who are part of the extended membership of the NLSAB 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 (Local housing provider)
- 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.

The SAB member organisations should designate a named person to attend all meetings. The named person must have the required seniority, experience, skills and decision-making authority to represent their organisation. A designated person (also of sufficient seniority) should also be identified to deputise for the named person when necessary.

The named person (and their deputy) must:

- Be able to make decisions on behalf of their organisation
- Have sufficient knowledge of other agencies and of appropriate legislation
- Understand the statutory requirements and the role they fulfil as Board members
- Be able to hold their organisations to account
- Have sufficient seniority to commit their organisation on policy practice and development
- Be able to commit resources in their organisation to support the work of the SAB

Organisations should only nominate individuals who can meet the above requirements and SAB should review membership accordingly as part of its own monitoring function.

The SAB may also wish to invite individual partners to some meetings depending on specific focus or to participate in its work generally.

Roles and expectations of members

The roles and expectations of partner agency representatives include:

- Commitment and active engagement in the business of the board
- Promote partnership working and collective ownership of adult safeguarding
- Sharing information and promoting the understanding of each other's duties and priorities.
- Provide constructive and supportive challenge, and in turn be open to accountability within the partnership
- Learning from areas which both worked well, and those which need improvement
- Ensuring the learning from the board is shared and disseminated within own organisations.
- Championing the safeguarding of adults within their own agency
- Identifying safeguarding adults' issues that require board attention and escalating issues of concern where necessary
- Ensuring that actions required by the board are carried out and supporting the work of subgroups

Members who attend in a professional and managerial capacity should:

- Be able to present issues clearly in writing and in person
- Be experienced in the work of their organisation
- Have a thorough understanding of abuse and neglect and its impact
- Be knowledgeable about the local area and population
- Advise the board on issues or courses of action relevant to their expertise
- Be able to explain their organisation's priorities
- Understand the pressures facing front line practitioners
- Provide constructive challenge and feedback on board activity
- Undertake pieces of work as required by the board
- Recognise limits to their inputs into board decisions

Attendance

It is expected that if nominated members cannot attend, nominated deputies may attend in the place of the Board Member, but may not do so for more than two consecutive meetings without review of the member nominated by the partner agency.

Lack of attendance at Board meetings is seen as damaging to the strategic development of interagency arrangements for safeguarding adults. Where neither the nominated nor deputising member attends for two or more meetings, this fact will be drawn to the attention of the executive body of the relevant agency by the Independent Chair of the SAB.

A register will be kept and form part of the Annual Report.

Accountability and governance

Accountability for the coordination of the NLSAB is located within the Local Authority through the Director of Adults & Health.

The NLSAB is chaired by an independent person appointed by the NLSAB but is accountable to the Director of Adults & Health.

In the first instance, each agency is accountable to its own governance structure. Each agency may be subject to external inspection that may include safeguarding.

In addition to this, the Care Act and Guidance provides a duty to cooperate. There is an expectation that Safeguarding Adults Boards will *'hold partners to account and gain assurance of the effectiveness of its arrangement.'* (Care & Support Guidance 14.104)

Declarations of interest

All NLSAB Members are required to declare an interest that arises or maybe perceived to arise in the course of conducting the NLSAB. Members should declare any conflicts of interest at the start of the NLSAB meetings. Board members who have declared a personal interest will be able to participate at the discretion of the Chair.

Information governance

Responsibility for registration with the Information Commissioner and information governance lies with the individual constituent members of the Board.

The member organisations of the NLSAB are expected to adhere to the information sharing requirements under Section 45 of The Care Act 2014, and the information policy within the SAB Multi Agency Safeguarding Policy & Procedures and the following:

- Caldicott Principles
- General Data Protection Regulations
- Crime and Disorder Act 1998
- Nolan 'seven principles of public life'

Complaints and disputes process

The NLSAB is a collaborative partnership body with an Independent Chair who will ensure that no particular sector or members is unduly favoured. Problems and issues should normally be debated and resolved at SAB meetings.

Any dispute or complaint that cannot be resolved and which compromises the effectiveness of the safeguarding arrangements will be addressed by the following dispute resolution process:

- If two or more agencies are engaged in a disagreement that cannot be resolved satisfactorily and is likely to endanger the effectiveness of the Board, the Independent Chair will convene a joint resolution meeting with the parties involved. The meeting will be chaired by the Independent Chair with an agenda agreed prior to the meeting by all parties involved.
- If the dispute is between the Chair and a SAB partner the Director of Adults and Health will chair the meeting.
- If no resolution can be reached consideration should be given by the Chair and the Director of Adults and Health to seek formal independent arbitration via a professional body such as the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators to reach an acceptable conclusion.

Funding

The Executive Leads of the NLSAB will agree levels of funding and resources contributed to the Board to carry out its functions and to discharge their statutory accountabilities.