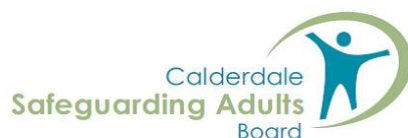




Calderdale Safeguarding Adults Board

**Annual Report
2023 to 2024**



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1. Foreword from the Independent Chair – Marianne Huison

I am delighted to share with you the excellent work of Calderdale Safeguarding Adults Board over the past year. The Board is a mature board with a broad membership which functions well and receives strong support from Julia, the Safeguarding Partnership Manager, and her team. The Safeguarding Business unit also support the work of the Calderdale Safeguarding Children Partnership which ensures work to safeguard both Adults and Children is joined up. This is a real strength in our local Multi Agency Safeguarding Arrangements, particularly when working to strengthen the support children & young adults receive as they transition to adulthood.

2023/2024 has continued to provide challenges to all front-line services supporting those with care and support needs in Calderdale due to the increasing complexity and acuity of cases exacerbated by the impact of austerity.

Adult Services and Wellbeing are currently transforming the way they deliver their services, including safeguarding services. The scale of change is significant and includes a new strengths-based model of working with adults, their families and support networks, developed in Calderdale, and called the 8 P's (see link/appendices for more information on this model). In Board discussions I have been impressed with how staff have been committed and enthusiastic about driving this change, despite it increasing their workload in the short term. A recent Peer Challenge was incredibly positive about the effective roll out of the 8 P's model, and consequential improvements in the assessment of need, provision of support and outcomes achieved.



Highlights for me this year have been: -

Attendance at face-to-face safeguarding training has more than doubled and the take up of E-learning has also significantly increased this year. Feedback from training is always positive, but most importantly, has included evidence of how training has improved practice. Some excellent training on Trauma Informed Practice and Equality, Diversity and Inclusion has been delivered. Providing access to free quality training for front line staff to support professional development and their ability to recognise and respond effectively to abuse and neglect is a priority for the Board.

Similarly, the Board has received multiple assurances that learning from Safeguarding Adults Reviews has changed practice: -

- The delivery of Self Neglect training and use of the Self Neglect Toolkit have led to increases in recognising Self Neglect as a safeguarding issue and increased the number of referrals.
- More assessments made under the Mental Capacity Act have been made leading to better decision making to support and safeguard people.
- Deprivation of Liberty applications have increased by 29%, ensuring that individuals rights are protected.
- Similarly, an increased use of Advocates ensures a person-centred approach in meeting their care and support needs.

Significant work has been undertaken this year to provide new and updated procedures and guidance, reflecting both local and national learning from SARs, to ensure our workforce have access to high quality and up to day resources to support and enhance their practice.

Strong and improved performance in responding to safeguarding concerns has been demonstrated this year. Achieving the agreed outcomes for people are still extremely high (97%) and timeliness of responding to Safeguarding concerns/undertaking enquiries in line with section 42 of the Care Act has improved significantly over the last year.

Working with the Safeguarding Children Partnership, and learning from existing good practice in Calderdale, the Board has developed a set of Transitional Safeguarding Principles for all organisations working with children, young people, adults, and families. The aim of the principles is to ensure that transitions within or between services are strengthened and people well supported.

Through our Joint Safeguarding Engagement Group, we have increased our engagement with children, young people, adults, families, and local network. This is hugely important to allow us to seek the views of those with personal experience of the safeguarding process so we can work with them to improve.

Areas for focus in 2024/5

Given the pace of change as we move towards the establishment of a Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub for Adults there is a great deal of work to be done across the partnership.

Ensuring the Thresholds Guidance is well understood and embedded in practice will be key. Building on the excellent consultation and co production of this Thresholds Guidance and utilising our engagement networks we will look to revise and co-produce our Safeguarding Adults Board Strategy.

Continuing work to develop a culturally competent workforce will remain a priority for the Board, not only through providing training but also through gathering assurance that this is positively impacting on practice.

Joint work with the Safeguarding Children Partnership on Transitions will continue next year with a focus on the risk and vulnerability during adolescence and early adulthood.

The Board will continue to focus on workforce development by providing up-to date and high-quality procedures, toolkits, and training.

Similarly, the Board will continue to seek assurance that partners are working together effectively to prevent and respond to harm and abuse in Calderdale.

I hope you enjoy reading about the work of the board and are assured of not just the effectiveness, but the passion and commitment of all the agencies represented on the Safeguarding Adults Board to keep adults in Calderdale safe.

M.R. Huison

Marianne Huison,
Independent Chair
Calderdale Safeguarding Adult Board

2. Calderdale Context

Calderdale presents a unique demographic and socioeconomic profile that has important implications for responding to need, planning and service provision.

Geography and Population Size: Calderdale, while one of the largest rural boroughs in terms of area, has a relatively small population of approximately **208,700** residents.

Age Distribution:

- There are **fewer younger adults (20-34)** in Calderdale (17%) compared to the national figure for England (19%).
- **Older adults (50-64)** make up a larger proportion of Calderdale's population (21%) compared to England's 19%, suggesting a significant aging population.
- The **75+ age group** is also growing, with projections showing a **29%** increase in this demographic.
- The population aged **85 and over** has steadily increased by **11%** since 2011, emphasising a growing elderly population.

Disability and Health:

- By **March 2024**, **28.4%** of Calderdale residents aged 16-64 will have a **work-limiting or Equality Act core disability**, higher than the national average of **24.8%**. This has implications for healthcare, social services, and employment support.

Ethnic Composition:

- The largest ethnic group is **White British (82.7%)**, followed by **Pakistani (8.5%)**, with smaller numbers of **Other White (2.4%)**, **Indian (0.9%)**, and **Irish (0.8%)**.
- Ethnic diversity is more pronounced in younger age groups:
 - **15.6%** of children aged 0-4 and **13.4%** of children aged 5-14 are from the **Asian ethnic group**.
 - The pensioner population remains predominantly **White**, with fewer than **3%** from other ethnic groups.

Socioeconomic Deprivation:

- **Income Deprivation:** **14.9%** of Calderdale's population is income deprived, positioning the borough as the **75th most income-deprived local authority** in England (out of 316).
- **Life Expectancy:**
 - **Male life expectancy** is **77.5 years**, which is slightly lower than the national average of **78.9 years**.
 - **Female life expectancy** is **82.2 years**, also below the national average of **82.8 years**.

- There is a significant gap in life expectancy across socioeconomic groups: **10.6 years for men** and **9.1 years for women** between the most and least deprived areas in Calderdale.

Implications for Policy and Services:

- **Ageing Population:** As the proportion of older adults continues to grow, the borough will need to prioritise health and social care services for the elderly, particularly addressing age-related health issues, housing, and social isolation.
- **Health Inequality:** The life expectancy gap between the most and least deprived neighbourhoods highlights the need for targeted health interventions and poverty alleviation programs, particularly in income-deprived areas.
- **Diversity in Younger Populations:** The growing diversity in younger age groups, particularly among children, calls for culturally sensitive service provision, including in education, healthcare, and social services.
- **Disability Support:** With rising numbers of working-age adults having a disability, it's critical to provide adequate support for disabled residents.

This profile suggests that Calderdale will face increasing pressures on social services, healthcare, and support systems for both an aging population and economically disadvantaged groups.

SAB Members

The Partner organisations who contribute to the Safeguarding Adult Board are:

- Calderdale Metropolitan Borough Council:
 - [Adult Services and Wellbeing](#)
 - [Community Safety and Domestic Abuse](#)
 - [Public Health](#)
 - [Housing](#)
 - [Customer Services](#)
- [West Yorkshire Integrated Care Board - Calderdale Cares Partnership](#)
- [West Yorkshire Police – Calderdale District](#)
- [Calderdale and Huddersfield Foundation Trust](#)
- [South West Yorkshire Partnership Foundation Trust](#)
- [Together Housing](#)
- [West Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service](#)
- [WomensCentre Ltd](#)
- [Voluntary Sector Infrastructure Alliance](#)
- [Probation Service](#)
- [Department for Work and Pensions](#)
- [Healthwatch UK \(Calderdale\)](#)

3. The Calderdale Safeguarding Adults Board Approach to Safeguarding

3.1 The Purpose of a Safeguarding Adult Board

The **Safeguarding Adults Board (SAB)** exists to **help safeguard adults** with care and support needs. Its primary role is to ensure that **local safeguarding arrangements** are effective and meet the requirements set out by the **Care Act 2014** and related statutory guidance.

The SAB achieves this by:

- **Ensuring** that safeguarding arrangements are in place and comply with legal and statutory guidance.
- **Promoting a person-centred, outcome-focused** approach to safeguarding.
- **Collaborating with partners** to prevent abuse and neglect wherever possible.
- **Coordinating timely and proportionate responses** to situations of abuse or neglect.
- **Continuously improving** safeguarding practices to enhance the quality of life for adults in its area.

The **SAB** leads safeguarding initiatives across its locality, overseeing and coordinating the work of member and partner agencies. It also promotes a culture that values the principles of **Making Safeguarding Personal (MSP)**, ensuring safeguarding practices are tailored to individual needs and desired outcomes.

3.2 Core Duties of the SAB

The **Safeguarding Adults Board (SAB)** has three core statutory duties:

Develop and publish a strategic plan outlining how the board will meet its safeguarding objectives, including the contributions of its partner agencies.

Publish an annual report detailing the board's activities and evaluating the effectiveness of safeguarding efforts.

Commission Safeguarding Adult Reviews (SARs) for cases that meet specific criteria. These reviews investigate whether different practices could have prevented harm or a death, and make recommendations for improving future safeguarding actions.

This annual report outlines how the Calderdale Safeguarding Adults Board (CSAB) has fulfilled its core duties and statutory responsibilities over the past year.

The CSAB is led by Independent Chair Marianne Huison, who has no direct links to Calderdale agencies, ensuring impartial oversight. Marianne also chairs the Barnsley Safeguarding Adults Board and scrutinises the Sunderland Safeguarding Children Partnership.

The work of the CSAB is supported by the Calderdale Safeguarding Business Unit, managed by Julia Caldwell, the Safeguarding Partnerships Manager. This unit also supports the Calderdale Safeguarding Children Partnership and the Domestic Homicide Review team.

This approach ensures that safeguarding efforts are not only compliant with legal requirements but also proactive in continuous improvement and collaboration to protect adults at risk in Calderdale.

Feedback from our non-statutory Board partners is that they consider it to be a privilege to be part of the Board, which is very inclusive, respectful of the contributions that all partners make and illustrates the strength of the partnership in Calderdale.



4. Calderdale Safeguarding Adult Board Achievements 2023-2024

The Calderdale Safeguarding Adult Board (CSAB) has made strides in enhancing safeguarding practices and ensuring better outcomes for adults during the year. Key achievements include:

1. **Training and Capacity Building:**
 - **Face-to-Face Training:** Increased attendance from **1,030** in 2022-23 to **2,459** in 2023-24.
 - **E-Learning:** Expanded e-learning sessions to **6,016** in 2023-24, up from **5,201** in the previous year.
2. **Safeguarding Week Activities:**
 - Delivered **29 learning sessions** during Safeguarding Week, with participation exceeding **250 individuals**.
3. **Improved Practice Assurance:**
 - Received confirmation of improved practices from organisations involved in the three Safeguarding Adult Reviews (SARs) published in prior years.
4. **Self-Neglect Referrals:**
 - Increased the number of self-neglect referrals through implementing the new **Self-Neglect Toolkit and Guidance**, targeted training, and awareness raising.
5. **Raising Awareness of Concerns:**
 - Influenced the number of safeguarding concerns received, aligning the numbers more closely with comparator data.
6. **Enhanced Local Authority Response:**
 - Influenced the Local Authority's responsiveness to **Section 42** enquiries, through performance monitoring, resulting in a reduction in the number of **Stage 1** enquiries not initiated on time.
7. **Positive Feedback on Training:**
 - Received feedback indicating that training initiatives have led to noticeable improvements in practitioner performance.
8. **Updated Safeguarding Procedures:**
 - Updated and implemented **16 new multi-agency safeguarding procedures** to enhance collaborative efforts across agencies.
9. **New Guidance Launches:** Launched local guidance on various topics, including:
 - **Self-Neglect**
 - **Large Scale Enquiries**
 - **Adults with Fabricated or Induced Illnesses**
 - **Working with Non-Engaged Adults** in response to learning from local reviews.

These achievements reflect the CSAB's commitment to continuously improving safeguarding practices, enhancing the knowledge and skills of practitioners, and ultimately ensuring the safety and well-being of adults in Calderdale. The ongoing evaluation and adaptation of strategies and resources demonstrate a proactive approach to safeguarding in the community.

5. Engagement with Adults, Families and Communities

The **Joint CSCP / SAB Safeguarding Engagement Subgroup** is a newly formed group with the following aims:

- **Facilitate Participation:** Encourage the participation of children, young people, families, adults, and local residents to influence, improve, and help develop safeguarding services in Calderdale.
- **Seek Feedback:** Gather views, feedback, thematic complaints, compliments, and trends from children, families, and adults in Calderdale. The group will analyse and use these lived experiences to inform the work of the **CSCP** and the **CSAB** to improve services and practices.
- **Promote Effective Engagement:** Work on delivering effective engagement with adults, professionals, third-party/voluntary sector organisations, and local communities. The goal is to raise awareness of available support services and ensure people and communities understand how they can contribute to making safeguarding "everyone's business."
- **Communication:** Disseminate key messages from the **CSCP** and **CSAB** to communities, agencies, and frontline workers.

Structure and Membership

The subgroup has established a **new Terms of Reference** and has gathered a **diverse membership** to represent a broad spectrum of voices across Calderdale. The wide membership includes those not typically represented in other CSAB or CSCP subgroups or workstreams, allowing for broader networking and exchange of information.

Members have found the subgroup particularly valuable for sharing insights on **local safeguarding priorities** and how different organisations can contribute to them. The group also provides a platform for partners to **share trends** from people who need to access services and frontline practitioners.

Listening to the Voices of the Community

The group identified the current efforts being made by different organisations and services to **capture and listen** to the voices of the people in Calderdale. This gave the **CSAB** and **CSCP** assurance about ongoing efforts, while also highlighting any gaps or areas that require improvement.

Toolkits and Resources for Faith, Sports, and Voluntary Organisations

To support organisations that may not regularly deal with safeguarding issues, the **CSAB** and **CSCP** are developing a series of **Toolkits** for settings such as faith organisations, voluntary

sector services, and sports organisations. These toolkits will be available in various formats, including glossy, printed guidance, online resources, West Yorkshire-wide materials.

Furthermore, **Safeguarding Briefings** with the sports sector have been successfully established and run bi-annually.

Communication Channels

In **September 2023**, the **SWAY Newsletter** was introduced as a new communication tool to share safeguarding news from the **Safeguarding Partnerships**. These newsletters are available on the **CSCP Website** under the "Safeguarding Partnerships Newsletters" section.

This newsletter, along with other initiatives, helps to ensure that key safeguarding messages are consistently communicated to all relevant parties, including adults, professionals, and the wider community.



6. Learning and Improvement Activity

6.1 Safeguarding Adult Reviews

A **Safeguarding Adults Review (SAR)** is a vital multi-agency process aimed at identifying how agencies and professionals could have acted differently to prevent harm or death of adults. The insights gained from SARs play a crucial role in enhancing safeguarding practices and ensuring better outcomes for individuals and communities. They also provide an opportunity to capture and share positive practice as well as areas for improvement.

Key Issues Identified in Calderdale SARs: The SARs conducted in Calderdale have highlighted several significant areas for improvement within the partnership:

Multi-Agency Risk Management: Enhancing collaboration among agencies to develop a more effective safeguarding response.

Response to Self-Neglect: Improved strategies and interventions to address cases of self-neglect and associated risks.

Sexual Safety: Implementing robust guidelines to ensure the sexual safety of adults.

Consideration of Mental Capacity and Executive Functioning: Greater emphasis on understanding mental capacity and how it affects decision-making in safeguarding scenarios.

Implementation of Learning: The learning derived from SARs informs the CSAB business planning, focusing on key priorities that will positively impact individuals and communities.

Action Plans: SAR recommendations are closely monitored to ensure they are being implemented effectively at both system and individual agency levels.

Progress Events: Following the completion of SAR action plans, events are held to ensure that the learning is embedded within organisations.

Improvements Achieved: Data and progress reviews indicate that there has been an improvement in:

Awareness and Identification of Self-Neglect: Enhanced recognition of self-neglect cases leading to timely and effective interventions to reduce associated risks.

Multi-Agency Guidance: Development of policies and guidance on topics such as sexual safety and self-neglect.

Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH): A plan is in place to implement a MASH to improve multi-agency risk assessment and safeguarding plans.

SAR Progress in 2023-2024:

The CSAB published three SARs in the previous year and initiated two new reviews in 2023-2024:

- **Adult F:** Near completion at the time of the report.
- **Adult G:** Concluded during the year and scheduled for publication in 2024-2025.

All SARs are made available to the public on the CSAB website, promoting transparency and accountability.

This structured approach ensures that Calderdale is committed to continual improvement in safeguarding practices, learning from past experiences to enhance the protection of adults in the community.



Key Learning and Findings from Adult G's Safeguarding Adult Review (SAR):

In the case of **Adult G**, good practice was highlighted for the **Police, Hospital, and GP** for their effective collaboration in addressing Adult G's welfare and care needs. Additionally, the **persistence of individual workers** in trying to engage Adult G in services was noted as a strength.

Some learning from the case was aligned with existing Action Plans around Domestic Abuse, and known areas for improvement and they included:

Routine Domestic Abuse Enquiries in A&E:

- Conducting **routine domestic abuse enquiries** whenever individuals present at **Accident & Emergency** departments.

Community Safety Partnership Assurance:

- Assurance was sought from the **Community Safety Partnership** that recent changes made following a review of **Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conferences (MARAC)** would address concerns raised in the SAR.

MARAC Attendance and Representation:

- A review of **MARAC attendance** was recommended to ensure that **all relevant agencies** are consistently represented, with contingency plans in place for any absences.

Effectiveness of Risk Management at MARAC:

- A review of the **risk management** process at MARAC was advised, ensuring clarity on **who holds the risk** and that **all required actions** are taken to mitigate risks effectively.

Flagging Processes Awareness:

- There is an increased **awareness of flagging processes** within each organisation to enhance safeguarding responses.

Training on Domestic Violence Protection Orders (DVPOs) and Domestic Violence Protection Notices (DVPNs):

- Awareness-raising and **training on DVPOs and DVPNs** were identified as essential, with a focus on how these orders can be enforced.

Assurance on PIPOT and LADO Processes:

- It was recommended to seek **assurance** that the **Person in Position of Trust (PIPOT)** and **Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO)** processes are being consistently adhered to across relevant agencies.

These findings reflect a commitment to improving multi-agency responses to safeguarding, with specific attention to **domestic abuse, risk management**, and the **engagement** of vulnerable individuals. The recommendations serve to strengthen practices and ensure that lessons from the case of Adult G are effectively embedded within local safeguarding procedures.

6.2 The Impact of Learning & Improvement

There has been a significant increase in the training attendance. Live training has gone from 1030 attendances in 2022-23 to 2459 in 2023-24. The types of course being attended are those we promoted and wanted to upskill on – such as Domestic Abuse, Equality Diversity and Inclusion, and Supervision.

Two Trauma Informed Practice courses were delivered by Professor David Shemmings, Emeritus Professor of Child Protection Research, 62 people attended. There remains demand for further trauma informed training, the enthusiasm from which is driving commitment to learn more and develop this into practice.

e-Learning

A total of 6016 e-learning training sessions were completed in 2023-2024 which is an increase from 5201 in 2022-2023.

Face to Face Training

915 places were filled on live sessions 2019-2020.

202 places were filled on live sessions 2020-21.

927 places were filled on live sessions 2021-22.

1030 places were filled on live sessions 2022-23.

2459 places were filled on live sessions 2023-24.

Evaluation

Learners are invited to complete evaluation questionnaires for all face to face or live online courses. 417 out of 418 learners said their skills or knowledge of the subject had improved.

Evaluation reports of the full years training have been shared with the providers of each session to analyse and develop the content for the 2024-25-year programme.

Some quotes from attendees demonstrating different thinking prompted by the training:

- It was very interactive and referred to historic case studies which I found beneficial in linking how faith resulted in the abuse taking place. It was an emotional topic.
- Reinforce my curiosity to be mindful to ensure that all family members are spoken to.
- The content was fantastic great having people delivering with lived experience of alcohol and drug abuse.
- The personal knowledge of the course leader. She was able to describe in real life examples and explain terminology. The session was open, and it was easy to join in with discussion which enabled deeper understanding.
- I now feel more confident in dealing with safeguarding concerns from staff members. I also have a new confidence that Calderdale has a wonderful and strong safeguarding team.
- All of it. I changed my approach after this training.

6.3 Transitional Safeguarding

The Safeguarding Children Partnership and Safeguarding Adults Board held a joint development day in November 2023 focused on transitions from childhood to adulthood. Services who already plan, prepare and support people from childhood to adulthood gave presentations on good practice, and the wider partnership explored what the current gaps are, and which young people and adults might fall through the net.

From this joint development session, the following questions are to be considered by statutory, voluntary, and commissioning partners in Calderdale, to establish Transitional Safeguarding Principles for Calderdale:

- Are Commissioners considering the impact when services stop or start at the age of 18? Could Commissioners consider broadening service specifications to enable a better transition to adulthood?
- Do services have age cut offs, inflexible provision? Or is your service person centred and does it support emotional, physical, and psychological transition, no matter what their age? How can your service be more flexible?
- Are you aware of, and using [escalation procedures](#) when there are disagreements or gaps between services?
- How do you explain transition processes so that parents, carers, and young people can make informed choices?
- How do you make views of the child or young person and parent/carers central to and evident in the planning or improvements around transition?
- Do you identify young people or adults who might 'fall through the gap' and what your or other services can do to support a safer transition?
- Have you considered the best way to communicate with people you work with? Including face to face, social media platforms etc?
- Are there realistic expectations between services – do you understand the remit, role, and limitations of other services? Can these limitations be challenged?
- What are your ambitions for children and young people you work with?
- Have you considered what training, development opportunities and shadowing staff and volunteers might need to better support transition?
- Have you identified agencies, professionals, or services (educational, voluntary, statutory and community) you might need to contact in order to strengthen your approach to transitional safeguarding?

- Does your organisation review how effective you are in supporting transition from childhood to adulthood?
- If there are systemic gaps or improvements needed about Transitional Safeguarding in Calderdale, is your organisation going to communicate and help resolve this?
- Have you shared innovation or where you've overcome barriers as good practice examples?

A further joint development day will be planned for Summer 2024 to follow up on how organisations have considered these questions and what progress has been made in Calderdale about effectively supporting children and adults through the transition process.



6.4 Safeguarding Week

Overview: Calderdale's Annual Safeguarding Week in June 2023 featured a diverse program of online, hybrid, and face-to-face events. This year, the initiative included national, regional, and local contributions from across the multi-agency partnership, targeting practitioners working with both children and adults.

Event Highlights:

- **Total Sessions Offered:** 29 learning sessions.
- **Attendance:** More than 250 participants

Key Event:

West Yorkshire Wide Event with Cath Knibbs: An author, researcher, and Child and Adult Trauma Psychotherapist led a session that received outstanding feedback. Respondents rated the session a **4 or 5** for its ability to challenge their understanding of ACEs (Adverse Childhood Experiences) and trauma.

Participant Feedback:

- "I cannot put into words how good this training was. Amongst the best training I have ever attended in 20 years of practice. I will recommend management encourage all the 0-5 workforce to watch the playback if it is available."
- "Cath was so passionate and knowledgeable; the time just flew. I have learned so much, and what I knew has now got the evidence to support it. Thank you so much."
- "Fantastic. One of the most informative and useful training sessions I have done; thank you."

Resources and Engagement:

During the week, participants had access to a variety of resources, including videos and links related to safeguarding topics, which were available on the **Calderdale Safeguarding Children Partnership** and **Safeguarding Adult Board** websites.

Website Analytics:

- **233** page views recorded.
- **119** users accessed the dedicated Safeguarding 2023 webpage.

Social Media Analytics:

- **Impressions:** 7,044 (significantly lower than previous years)
- **Engagements:** 53
- **Comparison:**

- 2022: 18,193 impressions, 181 engagements
- 2021: 59,315 impressions, 481 engagements

Action Required: Further investigation into the drop in social media engagement is necessary.

Evaluation: Two online evaluation forms were utilised to assess both West Yorkshire and local Calderdale events, as well as the resources provided.

Overall Evaluation:

- Positive feedback indicated increased practitioner knowledge due to attendance at sessions.
- Practitioners expressed that the learning would enhance their practice and support their work with children, young people, families, and adults.
- The effectiveness of online learning was recognised, but there is a preference for a variety of session formats.

Suggestions for Improvement:

- Record all events to allow those who cannot attend in real time to access the sessions later.

Conclusion:

Calderdale’s Safeguarding Week 2023 was a successful initiative, contributing significantly to the knowledge and skills of practitioners in safeguarding practices. However, addressing the decline in social media engagement and implementing suggestions for improvement will be essential for future events.



6.5 November Safeguarding Week 2023

Overview: In support of the Ann Craft Trust, **National Safeguarding Adults Week** was observed from **November 20th to 24th, 2023**. Calderdale collaborated with other West Yorkshire colleagues to host a variety of events during this week-long program.

National Events:

Four key events promoted by the Ann Craft Trust included:

1. **Who's Looking After the People Looking After the People?**
2. **How Have Organisations Prioritised Safeguarding Adults?**
3. **Let's Start Talking – Taking the Lead on Safer Cultures in Your Organisation**
4. **Creating Safer Cultures in Sport: Developing Boccia England's 'Your Wellbeing Toolkit'**

Local Events:

Calderdale offered five online sessions, including:

- **Self-Neglect**
- **Person in Position of Trust (PiPoT)**
- **Challenges Facing Children and Adults in an Online World**
- **Achieving Good Outcomes for Adults at Risk**
- **Webinar on Safeguarding Adult Thresholds**

Face-to-Face Session:

- **Complex Lives, Safe, High Tolerance Drug and Alcohol Model** hosted by the Basement Project.

Promotion and Evaluation:

The program was publicised via the Safeguarding Partnerships website, the Safeguarding Newsletter, Calderdale Council E-Call bulletin, social media platforms (Facebook, Twitter).

Although all local events received positive feedback, the number of evaluations collected was low compared to attendance. Participants rated all sessions as "good."

Future Improvement: To enhance feedback collection, it is recommended to revert to the evaluation method used in previous Safeguarding Weeks by distributing an online survey during the sessions. This approach encourages real-time feedback and engagement from participants, improving the overall evaluation process.

7. Performance and Quality Assurance

7.1 Data, Analysis, and the impact of the SAB

Number of Safeguarding Concerns

The data on safeguarding concerns for 2023/24 in Calderdale presents some important trends in the context of adult safeguarding:

Total Safeguarding Concerns: In **2023/24**, there were **4,433** safeguarding concerns raised, showing a slight decrease from **4,862** in **2022/23**. The lower number of total concerns is seen as a positive trend, aligning more closely with comparators.

Section 42 Criteria: Of these concerns, **2,198** (or **49%**) met the criteria under **Section 42** of the Care Act, which focuses on safeguarding duties for adults at risk. This is an **8% decrease** from the **57%** in 2022/23, where **2,775** concerns met the criteria.

Concerns by Setting: Care Homes: In **2023/24**, **1,783** concerns originated from care homes, down from **2,012** in the previous year. This drop may indicate improved safeguarding measures or reporting practices within care settings.

Own Home: Concerns from a person's own home remain fairly stable, with **1,774** reported in 2023/24 compared to **1,892** the year prior.

Key Insights and Considerations:

- **Review of Referral and Assessment Processes:** The positive trends suggest that ongoing refinement of safeguarding assessments and criteria application is working well, but continued monitoring is important to maintain this trend.
- **Focus on Home-Based Safeguarding:** Additional attention may be needed to address safeguarding risks in people's own homes, particularly for those receiving domiciliary care or living independently with vulnerabilities who may be hidden from services.
- **Ongoing Care Home Monitoring:** While concerns from care homes have decreased, it will be essential to ensure that this is due to improved care practices, or correctly addressing concerns as quality issues, rather than underreporting. Continued engagement with care homes to support staff training and safeguarding awareness is important, as will the implementation of the new Thresholds guidance.

These trends highlight the importance of maintaining effective safeguarding practices, with particular attention to home-based care and ensuring that concerns meeting Section 42 criteria are properly identified and acted upon.

Timeliness of Safeguarding Response

The **Timeliness of Safeguarding Response** data for 2023/24 reflects a positive trend in addressing safeguarding concerns more quickly:

- The percentage of **Concerns actioned within 72 hours** has improved from **69% in Q1** to **75% in Q4**, showing that safeguarding concerns are being addressed more promptly as the year progressed.
- Similarly, the percentage of **Section 42 (S42) enquiries actioned within 12 weeks** rose significantly from **62% in Q1** to **76% in Q4**, indicating improved efficiency in managing and resolving safeguarding enquiries.

Implications and Next Steps:

- **Positive Trajectory:** The improvements in both 72-hour responses and 12-week S42 enquiries highlight the system's growing efficiency. This upward trend is crucial for ensuring the safety and well-being of adults at risk of harm.
- **Ongoing Monitoring:** The indicator will continue to be monitored, ensuring that these gains in timeliness are sustained over time and that further improvements are identified and implemented where necessary.
- **2024-2025 Audit on "Waiting Well":** An audit is planned to focus on the experiences of individuals who are on waiting lists within the Local Authority. This audit will assess whether those individuals are "waiting well," meaning their needs are being monitored, and appropriate interim support is in place during the waiting period.

This focus on timeliness, combined with the upcoming audit, demonstrates a commitment to not only improving response rates but also enhancing the overall experience and care for those involved in safeguarding processes.

Number of Section 42 Safeguarding Referrals accepted and characteristics

The safeguarding data for Calderdale shows the reporting and recording of abuse types, alongside some areas where targeted efforts are making a positive impact.

Key Statistics:

- **Neglect or Acts of Omission** remains the most prevalent type of abuse but has **reduced to 1,218** from **1,469** in the previous year. This **17% reduction** is likely to reflect improved management or a more accurate identification of cases.
- **Physical Abuse**, the second most prevalent type, saw a **significant reduction to 664** from **957**, marking a **31% decrease**.
- **Organisational Abuse** saw a **substantial drop to 245** from **374**, representing a **34% reduction**. The high previous figure was attributed to incorrect recording, and the reduction aligns with corrective actions in recording following this being raised from the SAB subgroup.

- **Psychological or Emotional Abuse** decreased to **132** from **166**, a **20% reduction**, and **Sexual Abuse** saw a sharper decrease to **26** from **62** last year, a **58% reduction**.
- **Self-Neglect** is the **only type of abuse that increased**, rising from **159** in 2022/23 to **182** in 2023/24. This **14% increase** is likely due to the positive impact of the implementation of the **Self-Neglect Toolkit** awareness-raising and training, as well as raised cost of living.
- **Domestic Violence and Abuse** and **Financial or Material Abuse** remained **static**, showing no significant change in reported cases year-over-year.

Recommendations and Next Steps:

- **Thresholds Guidance:** The **Thresholds Guidance** clarifies the distinction between **quality issues** and **safeguarding issues**, ensuring pathways are clear and concerns are directed appropriately, potentially bringing down the number of concerns.
- **Continued Monitoring and Training:** As the new Thresholds Guidance is implemented, it's essential to continuously monitor the changes, the reporting, and that no safeguarding concerns are missed due to misclassification as quality issues.
- **Enhanced Focus on Self-Neglect:** Given the increase in self-neglect cases, further training and resource allocation may be needed to ensure that professionals can effectively address and manage these situations.
- **Addressing Domestic Violence and Financial Abuse:** Although these abuse types remain static, sustained efforts through partner agencies and community-based initiatives should focus on identifying and supporting victims and reducing incidents.

Type of abuse	2022-2023	2023-2024				2023-2024
	Total	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Total
Discriminatory Lower	13	3	0	1	3	7
Domestic Violence and Abuse Static	32	6	8	4	13	31
Financial or Material Static	108	22	30	28	32	112
Modern Slavery Lower	4	0	0	1	1	2
Neglect or Acts of Omission Lower	1469	350	296	283	289	1218
Organisational Lower	374	35	65	69	76	245
Physical Lower	957	191	154	145	174	664
Psychological or Emotional Lower	166	29	31	28	44	132
Self-Neglect Higher	159	38	45	50	49	182
Sexual Abuse Lower	62	7	4	6	9	26
Sexual Exploitation NEW	NA	1	0	0	0	0
Total	3344	682	633	615	690	2620

Outcomes for concluded full, formal S42 enquiries

The outcomes for concluded full, formal **Section 42 (S42) enquiries** in 2023/24 indicate positive progress in involving individuals in defining their desired safeguarding outcomes and achieving those outcomes:

- **92% (2395 people)** were asked to define their desired outcomes at the end of 2023/24, an improvement from **86%** in 2022/23. This shows better engagement with individuals about what they want from the safeguarding process.
- **97% (2543 people)** reported that their **desired outcomes had been achieved**, the same high percentage as the previous year. This consistency reflects effective safeguarding interventions that align with individuals' needs and preferences.
- **63% (1642 people)** reported that they **feel a lot safer or quite a lot safer** after the enquiry. While this figure is significant, it also highlights that further efforts might be needed to ensure a larger proportion of individuals feel secure after safeguarding interventions.

Key Points:

- **Increased Engagement:** The rise to 92% of individuals being asked about their desired outcomes shows a positive shift towards a person-centred approach in safeguarding.
- **High Outcome Achievement:** Maintaining a 97% achievement rate for desired outcomes is a strong indicator of the effectiveness of the safeguarding process.
- **Safety Perception:** While a majority of people feel safer, continued focus on improving perceptions of safety is important, particularly for the 37% who may still have concerns.

These results demonstrate progress in both listening to those involved in safeguarding enquiries and successfully delivering on their expectations, with a clear emphasis on safety and well-being.

Number of Safeguarding Concerns and S42 enquiries where there is a Lack of Capacity

This year has seen a notable increase in the number of **Mental Capacity Assessments** undertaken, reflecting a more focused and successful effort by the Local Authority.

- In 2022/23, there were **1,979** assessments carried out.
- In 2023/24, this number increased to **2,419** assessments, representing a significant rise.

This increase highlights the Local Authority's commitment to ensuring that more individuals undergo thorough capacity assessments, enabling better-informed safeguarding decisions. The Safeguarding Adults Board (SAB) is now more assured about the effectiveness and reach of these assessments, demonstrating progress in protecting individuals who may lack capacity.

Use of Advocacy and Advocacy Type

The data for the current year indicates a positive trend in the provision of **advocacy support** for individuals under safeguarding measures:

- The number of people receiving advocacy support has increased to **1,078 (78%)** in 2023/24, compared to **785 (67%)** in the previous year (2022/23).

- Conversely, the number of cases without advocacy support has decreased to **302** (22%) at the end of 2023/24, down from **381** (33%) at the end of 2022/23, marking an **11% reduction**.

This increase in advocacy support suggests a strengthened focus on ensuring that adults have access to guidance and representation during safeguarding processes, leading to better outcomes for those involved.

Number of Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards (DoLS) applications, allocations, and completions

There has been a huge increase in individuals requiring DoLS assessments and authorisations which places huge new financial demand upon Local Authorities, and those requiring authorisation of a Deprivation of Liberty that fall outside of the DoLS scheme (own homes, supported living) have placed unprecedented demand upon the Court of Protection. The efforts made this year have resulted in a significant improvement in the **Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards (DoLS)** process:

- A total of **917 DoLS applications** were completed in 2023/24, representing a **29% increase** compared to **710 applications** completed in 2022/23.

This increase highlights the positive impact of hard work and commitment from the Local Authority in addressing safeguarding measures and ensuring that individuals' rights are upheld.

Index of Multiple Deprivation for Community Safeguarding Alerts

In 2023/24, it was observed that a significant portion of safeguarding concerns originates from areas with high deprivation levels:

- **65% of all safeguarding concerns** and **65% of all Section 42 enquiries** are attributed to the highest levels of deprivation, as identified by the **Indices of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) 1-5**.
- There is an unexpected high level in referrals from **IMD 6 and 7**. This surge is thought to stem from supported living arrangements that have not yet been excluded from the 'community referrals' data. To improve the accuracy of the analysis, starting in **April 2024**, the focus will shift to analysing IMD data solely from individuals in their **Own Home**. This change aims to refine the understanding of safeguarding concerns and the contexts in which they arise.

8. SAB coordinating how professionals safeguard and support adults

Between **April 2023 and March 2024**, the **Calderdale Safeguarding Adults Board (CSAB)** focused on updating and introducing new procedures aimed at improving the safeguarding of adults in increasingly complex conditions. These procedures are designed to support professionals across **West Yorkshire (excluding Leeds), North Yorkshire, and York** in their collaborative efforts to protect adults, especially those impacted by challenges such as the rising cost of living, increasing mental health issues, and escalating substance use.

The primary objective of these procedures is to make safeguarding as **simple and effective** as possible, providing practitioners and managers with the necessary tools to achieve the best outcomes for vulnerable adults. The new and updated policies are aligned with both national and local changes, ensuring that professionals have clear, actionable guidance to support their work.

Significance of the Updates:

- **Adapting to New Challenges:** As conditions like the cost of living crisis, mental ill health, and substance abuse become more prevalent, the updated procedures ensure professionals are equipped to respond appropriately.
- **Collaborative Focus:** These procedures encourage **multi-agency collaboration**, ensuring that all professionals involved in safeguarding are on the same page, working together to prevent harm and respond effectively when needed.
- **National and Local Relevance:** By aligning with national changes, the procedures remain consistent with broader safeguarding frameworks while also addressing local needs specific to the region.

These updates emphasise the **commitment of the CSAB** to ensure that safeguarding practices are current, relevant, and effective in delivering positive outcomes for adults at risk in Calderdale and beyond.

8.1 Procedures

Between April 2023 and March 2024, a number of multi-agency procedures were implemented as new or updated following national or local changes. These procedures apply to all professionals working with adults across West Yorkshire (but not Leeds), North Yorkshire and York. A full list of the 16 new or updated policies can be found in Appendix 2.

8.2 Local Guidance and Toolkits

This year in Calderdale, the SAB produced a 7-point Briefing on [Fabricated or Induced Illness](#) to help practitioners implement the new policy.

The [Large Scale Enquiry Policy and Protocol](#) for Calderdale was updated. This supports the multi-agency partnership in understanding and responding to concerns about Organisational abuse or neglect. This practice guidance sets out when a Large-Scale Enquiry should be considered, as well as general practice principles for Safeguarding Coordinators

that will need to be applied with professional judgement and proportionality in light of the specific circumstances.

The [Calderdale Multi-Agency Self-Neglect Guidance and Risk Assessment Tool](#) was re-written in response to local learning from review and best practice to improve the wellbeing of the person and prevent serious injury or even death of individuals who appear to be self-neglecting.

[Guidance for Working with Non-Engaged Adults](#) has been written and launched in response to learning from local reviews and ensuring professionals have the best guidance to try to engage with people in the best way. Feedback from staff and managers, alongside the learning from reviews, highlights that engagement with adults is sometimes hard and prevents support and safeguarding activity. Therefore, the importance in producing this guidance was crucial to support professionals to engage with adults.

In response to the learning from Mr E Safeguarding Adult Review, the SAB has produced the [Multi-Agency Sexual Safety and Relationships Guidance](#) for Calderdale. The purpose of this guidance is to support staff and managers to understand what processes they need to have in place and how to respond where there has been an actual or alleged sexual safety incident or concerns about the appropriateness of a relationship. Providers, stakeholders, staff, people who use services, the police, and safeguarding teams need to work together on the approach to sexual incidents to make sure that concerns and allegations are taken seriously and given the attention and sensitivity they deserve.

9. Areas identified for increased focus during 2024 and beyond.

The **CSAB** has identified several key areas of focus for **2024 and beyond**, based on insights from reviewing and quality assuring safeguarding practices, analysing data, and gathering feedback from people, families, carers, and communities. These priority areas aim to enhance safeguarding measures across the region and ensure that interventions are effective, person-centred, and culturally sensitive. The key areas are:

1. Strengthening Multi-Agency Working

- **Development of a Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH):** CSAB will support the partnership in creating a robust MASH to streamline safeguarding processes. This includes establishing **clear safeguarding thresholds** and developing **defined pathways** to support adults at risk of abuse or neglect.

2. Outcomes Assurance

- CSAB will prioritise improving how they measure and assess the outcomes of individuals who have received safeguarding interventions. This will be achieved through:
 - **Data collection and analysis**
 - **Audits and reviews**
 - **Feedback from adults, carers, families, and communities** to ensure that interventions are meaningful and lead to positive changes.

3. Workforce Development

- CSAB aims to encourage ambitious **Workforce Development Strategies**, particularly those reflecting local needs identified through reviews, audits, and self-assessments. These strategies will aim to upskill the workforce and ensure that safeguarding practices remain responsive and effective.

4. Cultural Competence and Equality

- A focus will be placed on increasing **organisational awareness and competence** regarding the **diverse cultural values and beliefs** within Calderdale. The Board will:
 - Identify and address any inequalities in service delivery.
 - Promote a **respectful and culturally sensitive approach** that aligns with the diverse needs of Calderdale's communities, ensuring safeguarding services are inclusive.

5. Regional Policy Alignment

- There will be an emphasis on developing more **regionally aligned policies and procedures**. This will allow organisations with broader footprints to respond to safeguarding concerns **seamlessly and effectively** across neighbouring authorities, enhancing collaboration and consistency in safeguarding practices.

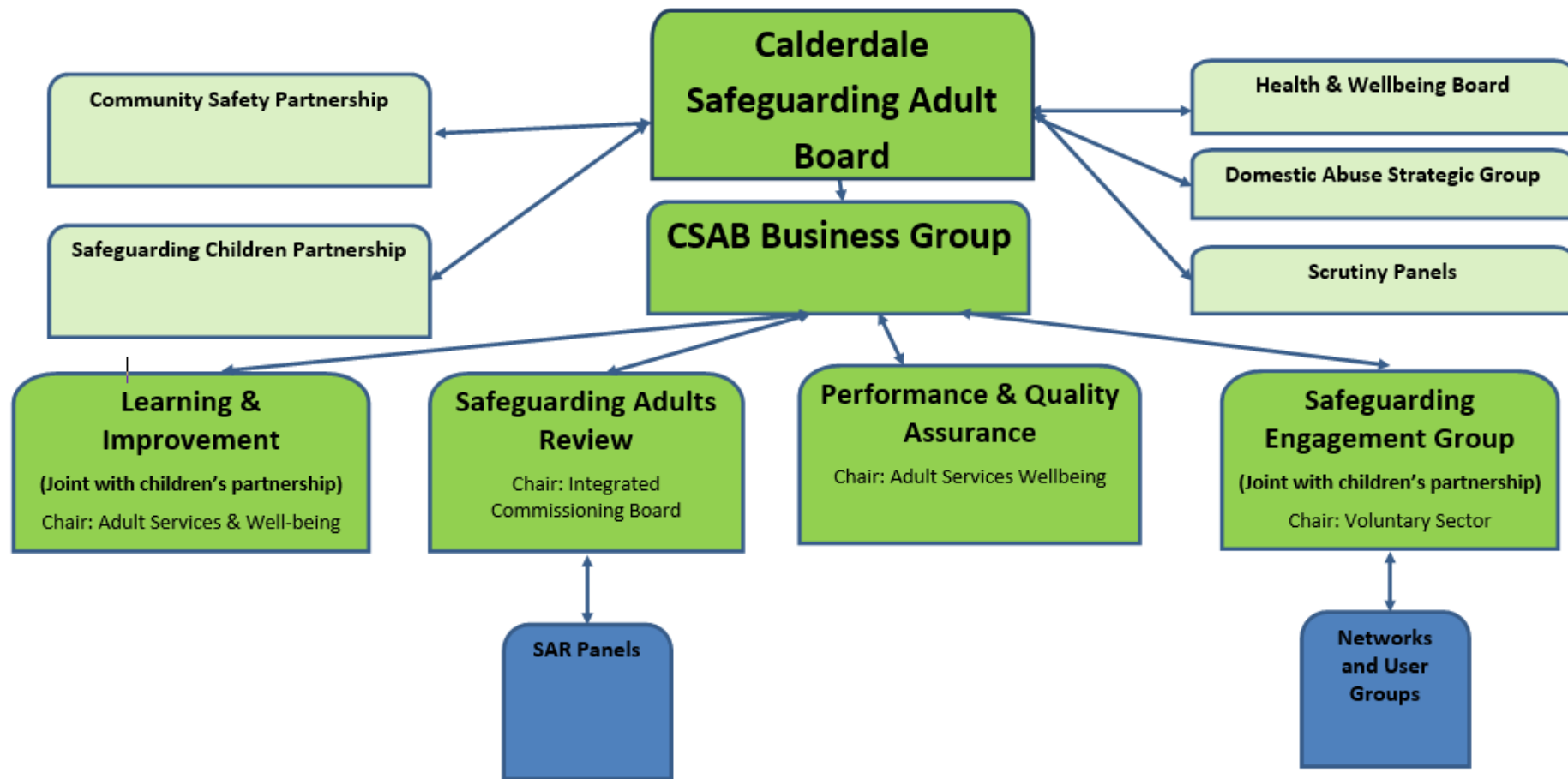
6. Transitions and Adolescence Risk

- **Joint work with the CSCP** will focus on the **‘Risk and Vulnerability in Adolescence’** strategy. This joint work will aim to ensure safer transitions from children to adults' safeguarding services, addressing the unique vulnerabilities of adolescents moving into adulthood.

These focus areas are part of CSAB’s ongoing commitment to improving safeguarding for adults in Calderdale by enhancing multi-agency collaboration, improving outcomes, supporting a culturally aware workforce, and ensuring the alignment of policies across the region.



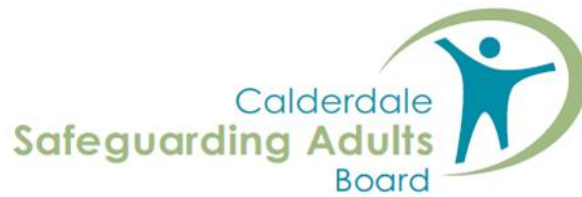
Appendix 1: Safeguarding Adult Board Structure Chart



Appendix 2 – Policies and Procedures Amended or Updated During the Year

Offensive Weapons Homicide Reviews	<p>In March 2024, this new chapter was added to Section 3, Learning and Improvement.</p>
Domestic Abuse (including MARAC)	<p>In March 2024, a new subsection has been created in Section 1, What is Domestic Abuse? named 'Definition of controlling and coercive behaviour'. Previously this information was included within the wider definition of domestic abuse. Text amends have also been made to Section 2, Domestic Abuse and Safeguarding to add clarity around domestic abuse and children, and information about IDVA's/ISVA's has been added to Section 3, Specialist Domestic Abuse Services and Support.</p>
Cuckooing (Forced Home Invasion)	<p>In March 2024, this new chapter was added to the Safeguarding Adults Practice Guidance section.</p>
Mate Crime	<p>In March 2024, this chapter was renamed 'Mate Crime'. It has been fully reviewed and refreshed. Information about cuckooing (also known as forced home invasion) has been relocated to a new chapter.</p>
Safeguarding Adult Reviews (SAR)	<p>In March 2024, a new section was added 'Safeguarding Adult Reviews in Rapid Time (SARiRT)'. </p>
County Lines	<p>In March 2024, this chapter was fully reviewed and refreshed in line with updated Home Office guidance 'Criminal exploitation of children and adults: county lines'.</p>
Allegations against Service Providers (including Organisational Abuse)	<p>In March 2024, Section 6, Making Enquiries has been updated to provide greater clarity about the responsibility of making enquiries.</p>
Fabricated or Induced Illness in Adults	<p>In December 2023, this new chapter was added to the Safeguarding Adults Practice Guidance section.</p>
Professional Curiosity	<p>In September 2023 Section 5, Be Self Aware in Your Practice has been updated to include proportionality.</p>

Transitional Safeguarding	In September 2023, in Section 5, Further Information and Resources, a link was added to the Local Government Association (LGA) Transitional safeguarding resources webpage.
Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)	In September 2023 Section 3, FGM and the Law, was updated to include information about the duties and measures of the Serious Crime Act 2015. Section 6 was also added, signposting users to local guidance in the Contacts and Practice Resources area.
Domestic Abuse (including MARAC)	In September 2023, Section 1.1, Definition of Domestic Abuse was revised and Section 3, Specialist Domestic Abuse Services and Support and Section 4, MARAC were also updated.
Honour Based Abuse	In September 2023 Section 4, Statutory Guidance and Practice Guidelines has been renamed. The content has been refreshed to include information about the multi-agency statutory guidance for dealing with forced marriage and practice guidelines for responding to cases that was issued in July 2022. A new Section 5, Additional Information and Resources has also been added that provides a link to additional resources and information.
Violent and Sexual Abuse	In September 2023, the abbreviation (MAPP) was removed from the main title and a new Section 1, Serious Violence Duty was added to provide information about the Serious Violence Duty under the Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Act 2022.
Modern Slavery	In September 2023 a new section was added to include the Local Government Association Guidance 'Council guide to tackling modern slavery'.
Safeguarding Adults with Dementia	In September 2023 Section 1, Adults with Dementia was refreshed to add further information about mental capacity, and a new section 'Further Guidance' was added to include a link to the government guidance 'Supporting people living with dementia to be involved in adult safeguarding enquiries'.



This report will be published on the [Calderdale SAB website](#).

As required by the Care Act 2014, it will also be shared with the Chief Executive and Lead Member of the Local Authority, the Police and Crime Commissioner (now the West Yorkshire Mayoral Authority) and the Chief Constable, the local Healthwatch organisation, and the Chair of the Health and Wellbeing Board. A copy will also be shared with the Chief Officer of the Clinical Commissioning Group.

For further information about this report contact Julia Caldwell,

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www.calderdale-safeguarding.co.uk

If you need safeguarding guidance or advice, call Gateway to Care on 01422 393000

To report adult abuse or neglect, call Gateway to Care on 01422 393000

To contact out of office hours, call the Emergency Duty Team on 01422 288000

[Guidance on making a referral](#) can be accessed from the [Safeguarding Board Website](#)