

*Wirral  
Safeguarding Adults  
Board*

*Annual Report  
2021-2023*



**SAFEGUARDING IS EVERYBODY'S  
BUSINESS**

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## Glossary of Terms

<b>WSAPB</b>	<b>Wirral Safeguarding Adults Partnership Board</b>
<b>SAB</b>	<b>Safeguarding Adults Board</b>
<b>SAR</b>	<b>Safeguarding Adults Review</b>
<b>DHR</b>	<b>Domestic Homicide Review</b>
<b>MCA</b>	<b>Mental Capacity Act</b>
<b>LGA</b>	<b>Local Government Association</b>

*Safeguarding is everybody's  
business*



**Glossary of Terms**

Wirral Safeguarding Adults Partnership Board is a new Board , it formed in September 2021 after the previous combined Board of Knowsley, Wirral, Sefton and Liverpool decided to set up separate Boards.

The Board includes senior managers from the Local Authority, local NHS services, Police, Fire and Rescue Services, Probation, Age UK Wirral, and Healthwatch.

This is the first report from the Board covering the 18 month period since its start and up to the end of March 2023. All Safeguarding Adults Boards have a duty to publish a report each year to describe the work done by the Board and I am pleased to introduce this on behalf of all the members of the Board . It details the priorities for the first year and the structures of the Board which have been developed to help deliver on them.

One of the most important roles in any community is ensuring people can live fulfilling lives safe from abuse, exploitation and harm. The role of the Board is to work together to protect people, who have care and support needs, from fear and abuse . The Board has a statutory duty to monitor and evaluate what is done by partner agencies individually and collectively to safeguard and promote the welfare of adults with care and support needs.

As the Independent Chair of the Board my role is to encourage, support and at times challenge all agencies, to ensure they work together to better protect adults in Wirral.

For the period covered by this report the Board has met 4 times and also held a development day looking at quality and safety in the Care Homes on the Wirral. The Board is supported by sub-groups, who are the real engine of the board and who take forward actions and provide members with data, assurance and intelligence to understand the experiences of people in Wirral, who may experience abuse, and of the frontline staff working with them.



## Foreword by the Chair



The start of this new Board has been very busy and all members have worked together to start to help gain insights and understanding of the issues that affect people on the Wirral . In particular the report details the work done to develop spotlight sessions to inform and educate people in particular areas, the beginnings of developing a performance framework and also the ground breaking work of the communications and engagement sub-group in listening and talking to a whole range of people across the borough on their experiences and understanding of safeguarding and working within the safeguarding process. The insights gained from this work will inform the work of the Board in the coming year.

In addition the year ahead will see the Board further develop their monitoring and assurance work, and embedding learning from Safeguarding Adult Reviews and other learning reviews.

I have been impressed by the participation and contributions of all partners, who are under enormous pressure, and their commitment to their local area and the people of Wirral. Particular thanks must go to the Board Manager and the Lead Administrator for the Board who between them manage the many demands of the work programme, drive forward the many actions and provide constant, professional and quality support to the sub-groups and to me as Chair.



## Foreword by the Chair



# Membership



About the board

## The Wirral Safeguarding Adults Partnership Board

### *The 3 Statutory Partners are :*

- ◆ Wirral Health and Care (Wirral Council )
- ◆ Integrated Care Board NHS England
- ◆ Merseyside Police

### *The non-statutory partners include:*

- ◆ Merseyside Fire & Rescue Service
- ◆ Healthwatch
- ◆ Age UK Wirral
- ◆ National Probation Service
- ◆ North West Ambulance Service
- ◆ Wirral University Teaching Hospital
- ◆ Cheshire & Wirral Partnership Trust
- ◆ Wirral Community Health & Care NHS Foundation Trust

*\*Elected members are also invited to sit on the board as observers*

### WIRRAL SAFEGUARDING ADULTS PARTNERSHIP BOARD

#### STRATEGIC PLAN 2022- 2024



The board has 4 formal meetings a year plus 2 development sessions.

In addition to these meetings a series of ‘Spotlight’ sessions are offered to board and sub group members to support the development of knowledge and understanding on specific elements of safeguarding adults work.

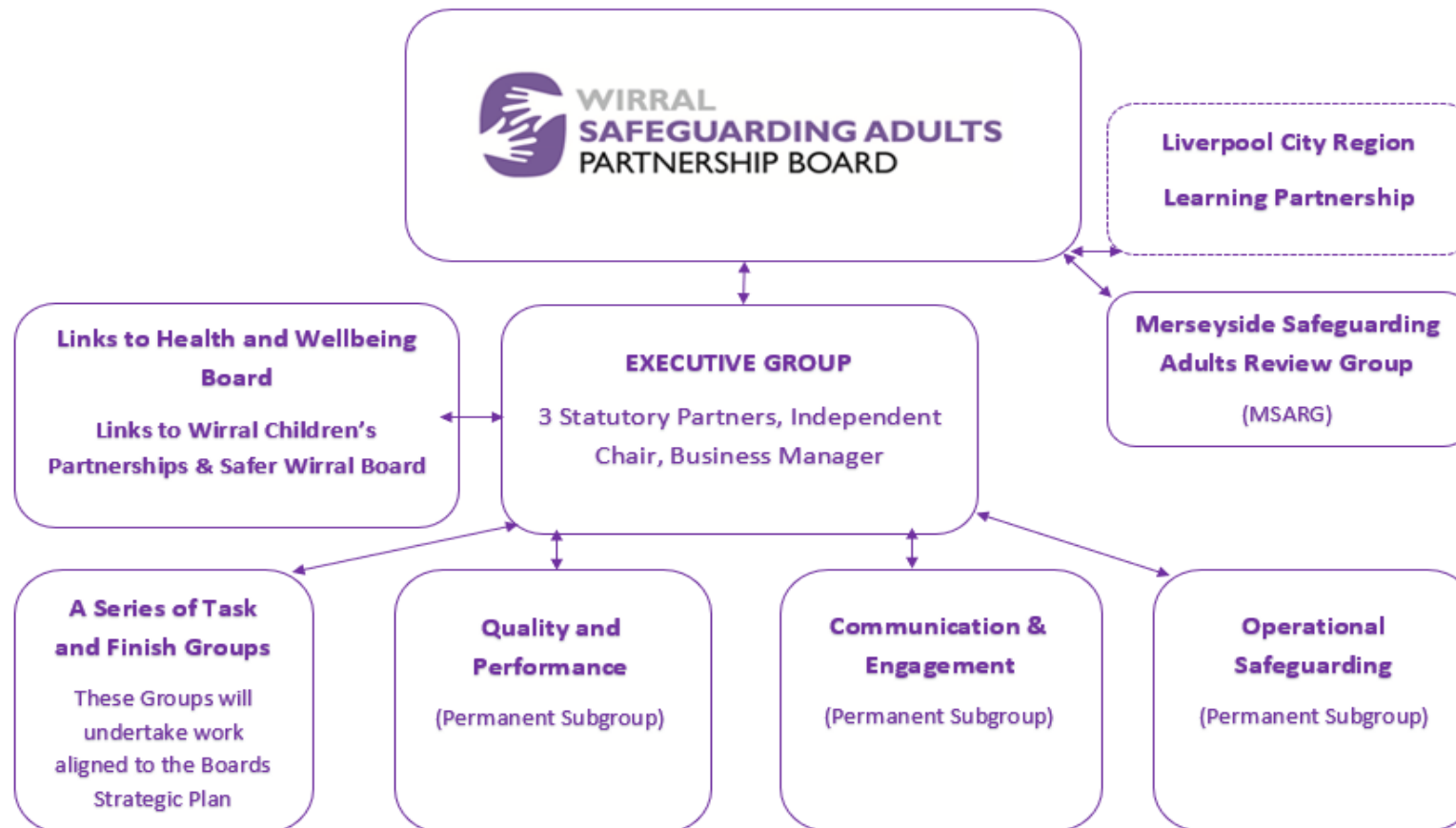
# Board Overview



About the board

## WIRRAL SAFEGUARDING ADULTS PARTNERSHIP BOARD

### STRUCTURE





## Data Collection Headings

The following data is taken from the National Safeguarding Adults Collection (SAC) which is produced on an annual basis. The information is submitted by each local authority and is then collated and published nationally by NHS—Digital.

Wirral Local Authority along with other North West Performance leads provide 42 datasets covering adult safeguarding. This information is collected quarterly to enable Adult Social Care departments to monitor their work in relation to Safeguarding Adults. The Wirral Safeguarding Adults Board is currently working on a bespoke report for the board which will include a range of partnership data but for the purposes of this report the National data will be used.

The following pages will show information in relation to;

- Safeguarding Demand numbers
- Location %
- Safeguarding by Allegation Type %
- Actions and responses %



Safeguarding Data

# National Statistics— Key Facts

The following information is from [Data - NHS Digital](#)

## Safeguarding Concerns

Between 1st April 2022 and 31st March 2023 a total of 587,970 concerns of abuse were raised nationally showing an increase of 9% on the previous year. This is a national average of 1,313 concerns per 100k adults. The Wirral figure is 1,553 per 100k adults.

## Section 42 Enquiries

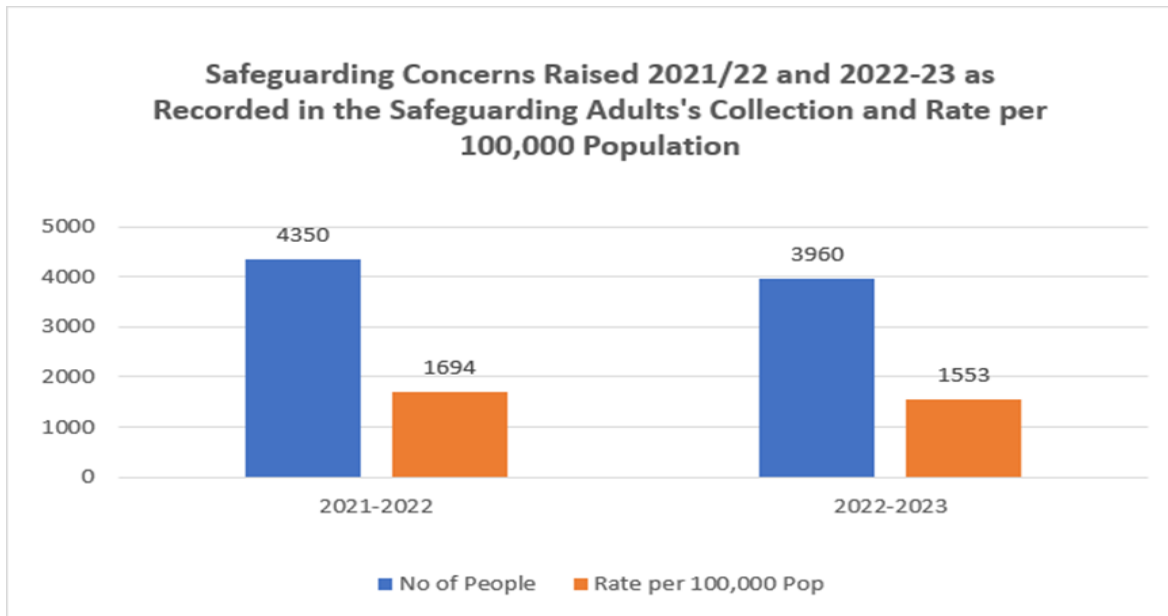
The total number of Section 42 and Other Enquiries between 1st April 2022 and 31st March 2023 nationally was 191,190 which is an increase of 4% from the 2021/2022. Wirral saw a decrease in 2022/ 2023 from 318 enquiries per 100k adults to 258 per 100k adults.

## Age of individuals involved in Section 42 Enquiries

The majority of individuals reported by Local Authorities to have been involved in Section 42 Safeguarding Enquiries between 1st April 2022 and 31st March 2023 were 85 and over. This is approximately 1 for every 38 adults in England. This age group is also the most affected on the Wirral.



## Numbers of Concerns received by Wirral Adult Social Care



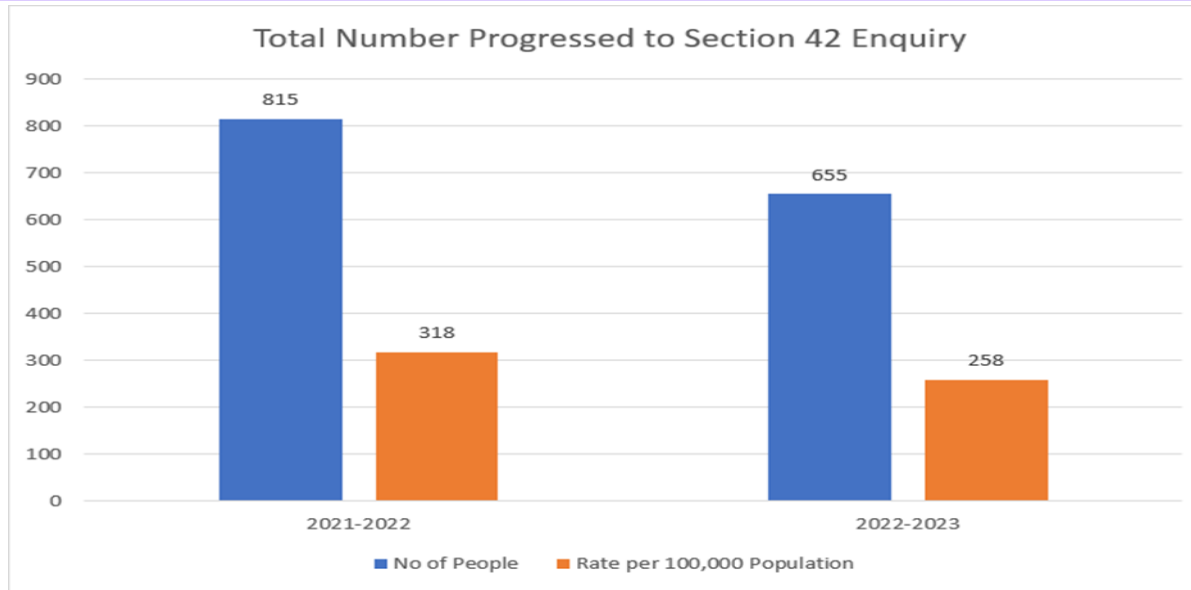
A Safeguarding concern is when someone contacts the local authority with concerns about an Adult with Care and Support needs and the concern is of a safeguarding nature i.e. a form of abuse or neglect.

The chart above shows that the total volume of adult safeguarding concerns on the Wirral has remained fairly consistent with 4350 in 2021/2022 and 3960 in 2022/2023 financial years. This is, however, a significant decrease on the volumes recorded in the years previous to this. In 2019/2020 the number was 6620 reducing to 4910 in 2020/2021.

This is due to a review and redesign of the MASH (Multi-agency Safeguarding Hub) and also the introduction of the Care Concerns model. Pre 2021 Wirral were an outlier regionally due to very high numbers of safeguarding concerns but it is now inline with average figures both regionally and nationally.



## Section 42 Enquiries



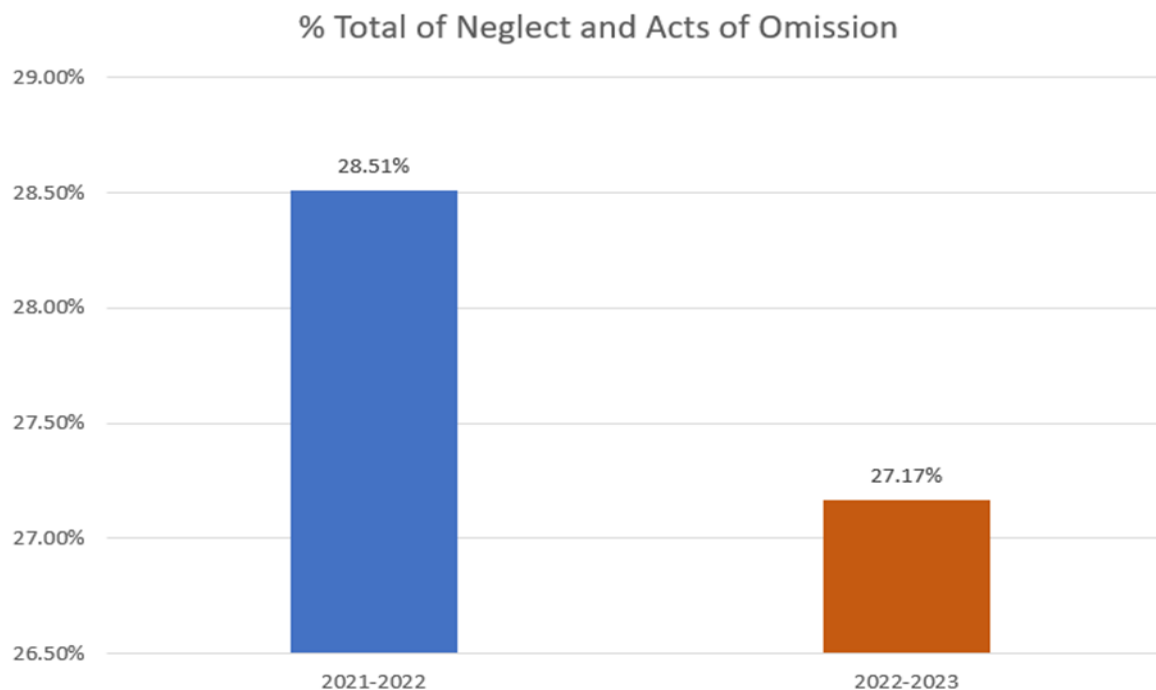
After some initial information gathering it may be decided that a full investigation is required. These are called Enquiries. An enquiry may be a Section 42 Enquiry ( ie. It meets the criteria as set out under s42 of the Care Act ) or an Other Enquiry ( it doesn't meet the criteria set out in the Care Act but it is felt that the individual concerned would benefit from further support with the issue).

Between 1st April 2021 and 31st March 2022 815 Section 42 Enquiries were carried out on the Wirral. For the same time period in 2022/2023 that number reduced to 615. This is in line with a reduction in the total number of concerns raised. In relation to our national peers Wirral is now more in line with average figures rather than having significantly more as in previous years.

One area of interest is that the numbers of 'Other' enquiries undertaken on the Wirral is very low compared to some peer authorities and is something that may warrant further consideration.



# The type of alleged abuse

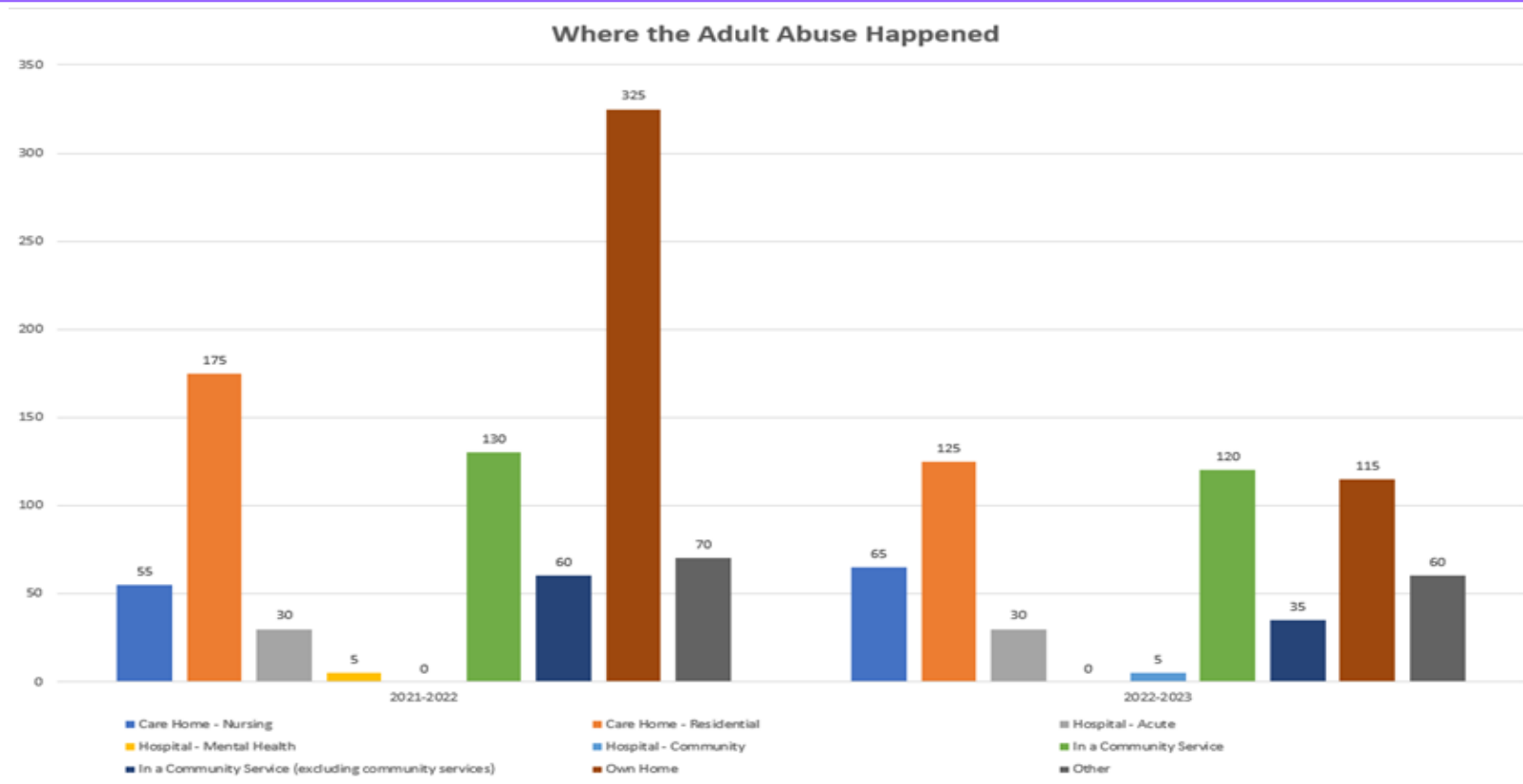


The most common type of abuse on the Wirral is 'Neglect and Acts of Omission'. This also reflects the regional and national picture.

All volume of other forms of abuse have remained consistent however there has been a slight increase of reporting on allegations of sexual abuse and sexual exploitation between 1st April 2021 and 31st March 2022 and the same time period in 2022/2023 of 1.9%.



# Where the alleged abuse took place



When alleged abuse is investigated it is the persons own home or residential care home which is most often stated to be the location of where it took place. This is not just the case for the Wirral but also regionally and nationally. As the chart above shows there has been a 6% decrease in 2022/2023 of alleged abuse taking place in a persons own home and a 2.5% increase of it taking place within a residential care home when compared to 2021/2022. We believe this is a result of more accurate recording rather than an increase in alleged abuse in residential homes.



## Quality & Performance sub-group

Chaired by Associate Director of Quality and Safety  
NHS Cheshire and Merseyside



Work of the Sub-Groups

The primary purpose of the Quality and Performance sub-group is to monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of what is done by organisations working with adults with care & support needs, to keep the board updated and advise on any areas for concern.

### ACHIEVEMENTS 2021-2023

This sub-group held its initial meeting in November 2021, and met 9 times up until March 2023. So far the group has;

- Developed a Quality Assurance framework
- Undertaken an assurance exercise with commissioners of services to ensure their contract arrangements include safeguarding adult responsibilities
- Refreshed a self assessment tool for agencies to see how well they are doing in relation to their safeguarding adult responsibilities

### Forward plan

- To embed the use of a new performance report for use by the sub-group to better understand Adult Social Care data and identify themes and trends
- To develop a way to meaningfully collect data from partners inc Police, Health etc
- To develop a programme of multi-agency audits building on the findings of single agency audits

## Quality & Performance sub-group cont.d



### Work of the Sub-Groups

#### FRAMEWORK KEY



Domain 1 - Provide board with assurance that there is adequate capacity and skills within the safeguarding workforce



Domain 2 - Provide board with oversight of care provider activity, triangulating care concerns data with safeguarding data. This will enable proactive monitoring thereby potentially helping to identify trends which are a precursor to safeguarding incidents.



Domain 3 - Provide board with oversight of safeguarding activity (demand). To identify areas of concern and highlight if specific demographic cohorts are experiencing higher rates of abuse.



Domain 4 - Provide board with oversight of people's experience of the safeguarding process.

This framework is used to structure each meeting of the Quality & Performance sub-group. Reports are brought to the meeting by the relevant professionals and shared with the group for discussion, challenge and further action as appropriate. It enables the group to have knowledge and understanding of lots of different aspects of adult safeguarding work.



# Operational Safeguarding sub-group

## Currently Chaired by Board Business Manager

The Operational Safeguarding sub-group aims to support the development and roll out of Adult Safeguarding policies and procedures and to ensure that partner agencies operate in accordance with them. This group also aims to lead on the development of new approaches to working with adults with care & support needs.

### ACHIEVEMENTS 2021-2023

The Operational Safeguarding group was not part of the initial board structure . Following a review of the board structure it held its initial meeting in December 2022 and has met 3 times during this period. So far the group has;

- Revised and published a new Wirral Multi– Agency Safeguarding Adults Policy
- Developed and published a board Escalation procedure for all partners to use
- Undertaken a piece of work to understand the use of Advocacy on the Wirral and how this can be improved

### Forward Plan

- To refresh and publish a new multi-agency Safeguarding Adults procedure
- To develop a Wirral Complex safeguarding strategy
- To develop a strategy for work around Modern slavery and help partners to recognise the signs and how to support victims
- To support partners to fulfil their responsibilities in relation to P.I.P.O.T ( Person in a position of trust) and manage allegations made against those working with adults with care & support needs



Work of the Sub-Groups

# Communication and Engagement sub-group

## Chaired by Chief Executive of Age UK Wirral

The Communication & Engagement sub-group aims to ensure the experiences of local people, including adults at risk, carers, advocates and those working with adults with care & support needs, are heard and used to improve the ways services work. It is also working to increase the awareness of adult safeguarding issues to help people feel more confident in asking for help.

### ACHIEVEMENTS 2021-2023

This sub-group held its initial meeting in November 2021 and has met on 5 occasions during this period. The group is very well attended and so far has;

- Undertaken a survey of those working with adults with care & support needs to understand how organisations support their staff
- Followed this up with a series of engagement sessions in order to understand how the 'system' works on the Wirral and how it could be improved
- Attended the Childrens 'Big Learn' event to increase the knowledge of Adult Safeguarding within the children's workforce
- Supported the Wirral White Ribbon Event — ending violence against women and girls

### Forward Plan

- Develop ways to meaningfully engage with adults with care & support needs to understand what works well and what can be improved
- Hold an awareness raising and networking event during Safeguarding Adults week
- Refresh and print new leaflets and posters and distribute across organisations on the Wirral
- Establish a WSAPB Communications Charter to try and offer a consistent message to the public about safeguarding adults work



Work of the Sub-Groups

# Safeguarding Adults Review Group

## Chaired by Senior Officers, Merseyside Police

The **SAR (Safeguarding Adults Review) sub-group** is a collaboration between the Wirral, Knowsley, St Helens and Sefton Safeguarding Adults Boards. Every board has a statutory duty to undertake a Safeguarding Adults Review when an individual with Care & Support needs has died as a result of , or has suffered, abuse and/or neglect and there is thought to be a failure in the way in which organisations worked together to protect them.

The group receives and considers all referrals and then makes a recommendations to the Chair of each Safeguarding Adults Board Chairs who will make the final decision.

### Work undertaken April 2021– March 2023

- The Merseyside Safeguarding Adults Review Group meets on a monthly basis
- 27 referrals have been considered by the group. The breakdown is as follows;
  - 19 between April 2021 and March 2022
  - 8 between April 2022 and March 2023
- From the 27 referrals **8** were for **Wirral residents**
  - 5 between April 2021 to March 2022
  - 3 between April 2022 to March 2023
- 3 of the 8 Wirral referrals have progressed to a full Safeguarding Adults Review

### Work undertaken cont.d

- 2 of the 8 Wirral referrals have progressed to other forms of reviews
- The remaining 3 have resulted in action being followed up with an individual agency as no multi-agency failings were found
- The board received and signed off 3 completed SARS during this time. Details of which can be found overleaf



Work of the Sub-Groups

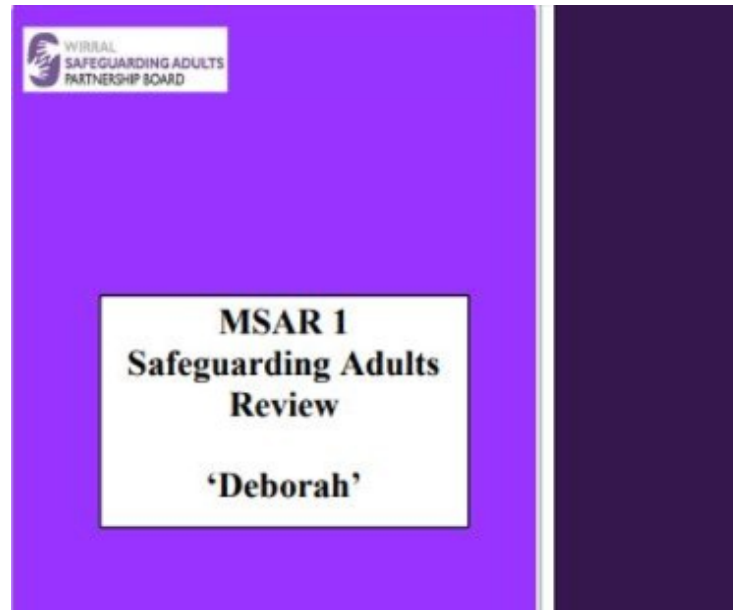
# Safeguarding Adults Reviews

From April 2021 to the end of March 2023 the Wirral Safeguarding Adults Partnership Board received and signed off 3 SARs.

## Deborah—MSAR 1

Deborah died in December 2018. She was 54. She had been diagnosed with early onset dementia in 2014. Safeguarding concerns arose periodically over the care her husband provided to her and considerable conflict arose between Deborah's birth family and her husband. Her husband arranged for Deborah to be cared for by his family in the country of his birth and she remained there until her death. Deborah's birth family applied to the Court of Protection for Deborah to be repatriated to the UK but her deteriorating health prevented this from happening.

The learning from this review included Mental Capacity assessments, mediation, the voice of the adult at risk, familial domestic abuse and coercion & control.



For copies of the full reports please visit the board website at [www.wirralsapb.co.uk](http://www.wirralsapb.co.uk)



SARS

# Safeguarding Adults Reviews



SARS

**MSAR 7 & 8—This was a joint review of 2 adults who had passed away following unwitnessed falls and where there was felt to be similar multi-agency learning**

## Adult 7

Adult 7 was a 94yr old gentleman who resided in the Care Home and had fallen and sustained a laceration to his head on the 14 January 2019. Adult 7 was taken to Wirral University Teaching Hospital where he subsequently died on the 17 January 2019. Up until 26 September 2018, Adult 7 had resided alone in his own home with minimal support. He had no family nearby and had no formal care provision in place. Concerns were raised by Northwest Ambulance service due to the lack of staff available to provide information about Adult 7's injury.

## Adult 8

Adult 8 was admitted from her own home to Wirral University Teaching Hospital in August 2018. Following a period of treatment at the acute hospital, Adult 8 was transferred to a care home in a T2A (Transfer 2 Assess bed) in September 2018.

During her time in the T2A bed Adult 8 had a total of ten recorded unwitnessed falls and subsequently died from her injuries in October 2018.

The Learning from this joint review included transition of care arrangements and sharing of information, home environmental assessments and co-ordination of care planning.

## Other work undertaken by the Board

In addition to the work of the sub-groups the board and its partners have also undertaken a number of other pieces of work as detailed below. The Board is keen to further develop its work with other partnerships on the Wirral such as the Childrens Partnership, Safer Wirral Partnership and the Domestic Abuse Alliance and looks forward to greater collaboration in the future to improve the support offered to all generations.

- Spotlight sessions have been held to increase knowledge and awareness of Domestic Abuse, Safeguarding Adult Reviews and Advocacy
- We have worked with the Childrens Partnership to develop the Cherish (anti-neglect) strategy
- We have made links with the Chairs of other Partnerships on the Wirral to seek out more opportunities to work together
- We held a Care home development day to bring together commissioners and providers to consider how this relationship can be strengthened and care provision can be improved
- Undertaken an effectiveness survey to understand how the Board has developed in its initial 18 months and how it can be improved



Other Board Work