



KNOWSLEY
SAFEGUARDING
ADULTS BOARD
PREVENTION THROUGH PARTNERSHIP



ANNUAL REPORT

April 2025 – March 2026



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Foreword from the Independent Chair

Once again, I am pleased to introduce the Knowsley Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report for 2025/26.

The Board has the statutory responsibility for ensuring that all partners in Knowsley work together to safeguard adults who have care and support needs. It does this by holding partners to account and by monitoring and evaluating the work done.

In 2025/26 I continued to be impressed by the senior leaders, who attended on behalf of their organisations. Consistent contributions supported the functioning and effectiveness of the Board, a wide range of partners enabled joint working which is a key role for the Board. It is only by working together that organisations can properly provide the best support to adults in Knowsley who need it.

This report outlines the progress the Board has made in the year, and the many areas of action taken forward. The subgroups who are the engines of the Board have worked hard to deliver on the priorities agreed and have produced real insights into the Board to increase our understanding of the issues for people in Knowsley. The work with The ARC Day Service, Act for Action, Your Voice, Your Choice and Knowsley Older People's Voice producing the video on the website 'Hear our Voice', has resulted in Board members taking actions that were meaningful. Much work has been taken forward embedding learning from these sessions and from local and national Safeguarding Adults Reviews, audits and case studies.

The priorities for the Board for the next two years are described in the report, and I look forward to the Board continuing to 'Hear Voices', as we focus in the coming year on the 'voice' of staff who work in all the agencies. It will be essential for the Board to hear their challenges and barriers as well as celebrating all the good work that takes place.

Thank you to all who support and contribute to helping to safeguard adults with care and support needs. Thanks too, to all Board members and subgroup members and the Board team who provide so much support to all.

Sue Redmond



Introduction

Purpose of the Annual Report

This Annual Report is produced in line with the **Care Act 2014** and outlines how the Knowsley Safeguarding Adults Board has carried out its statutory duties during 2025–26.

The Annual Report describes the Board's activity, reflects on the effectiveness of safeguarding arrangements, shares learning from reviews, case studies and identifies priorities for the year ahead.

The report is intended to:

- Provide accountability to local people and partner agencies
- Demonstrate how safeguarding arrangements are working in practice
- Promote learning and continuous improvement
- Support transparency and public assurance

About Knowsley

Knowsley is a metropolitan borough in the Liverpool City Region with approximately 163,000 residents (Office National Statistics, 2024). The borough experiences some of the highest levels of deprivation nationally, which continues to have a significant impact on health inequalities; life expectancy and safeguarding risks. An increasing older population, alongside a complexity of need among adults of all ages, are key considerations for safeguarding adult arrangements.

Key information about Knowsley and the people who live here:



Knowsley is home to an estimated **162,565** residents (Office National Statistics, 2024)

An increase of **1.8%** compared to 2023, making Knowsley one of the top **20%** fastest growing local authorities in England and Wales.

According to the 2021 Census, **4.7%** of Knowsley's population class themselves as part of an ethnicity minority group.

Between 2011 and 2021, the number of residents from Black, Asian, and Minority Ethnic groups increased by **81%** which equates to **3,249** people.



Population projections suggest there will be an increase in the coming years, with the number of residents increasing by **16,534** between 2021 and 2031.

The average age in the borough is **39.7** years old.



Between 2011 and 2021, there has been an increase in Knowsley of **14%** in people aged 65 years and over.



The biggest change in population in Knowsley is the increase in those aged 65 years and over.

It is estimated that the number of people in this age group will increase by **24.9%**, the equivalent of an additional **6,545** people by 2031.

According to the Index of Multiple Deprivation 2025, Knowsley was the 11th most deprived local authority in England, **40%** of Lower Layer Super Output Areas in Knowsley fall into the **10%** most deprived nationally.



Nearly one in two (**42.5%**) of the Knowsley population have at least one medical condition whilst **21.6%** have more than one medical condition.

Safeguarding Adults

Safeguarding is underpinned by six statutory principles:

Safeguarding adults means protecting an adult's right to live safely, free from abuse and neglect. It involves people and agencies working together to prevent risks and promote well-being while supporting adults to make their own choices. The [Care Act 2014](#) defines an adult at risk as someone who:

- Has needs for care and support (whether these are being met, or not), and
- Is experiencing, or is at risk of, abuse or neglect, and
- As a result of those needs, is unable to protect themselves from abuse or neglect

Categories of abuse

The Care Act 2014 includes 10 categories of abuse:

- Physical Abuse
- Modern Slavery
- Domestic Abuse
- Discriminatory Abuse
- Sexual Abuse
- Organisational or Institutional Abuse
- Psychological or Emotional Abuse
- Neglect and Acts of Omission
- Financial or Material Abuse and Self Neglect

For more details see: [KSAB Fact Sheets 10 Categories of Abuse](#)



<https://knowsleysafeguardingadultsboard.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2025/03/KSAB-7-minute-briefing-6-Principles-of-Safeguarding.pdf>

Why these principles matter

The six safeguarding principles embed human rights, dignity, and social justice into practice. They drive culture change by shifting the focus from doing to people, to working with them, and they provide the golden thread that links adult and child safeguarding, supporting transitional safeguarding for young people.

Safeguarding is everyone's business

Safeguarding is the responsibility of everybody; individuals and agencies should work together in partnership with adults so that they are:

- Safe and able to protect themselves from abuse and neglect
- Treated fairly and with dignity and respect
- Protected when they need to be and can easily get the support, protection and services that they need

Making Safeguarding Personal

The Care Act 2014 introduced '[Making Safeguarding Personal](#)' (MSP), an outcome-based approach to adult safeguarding that includes a focus on the adult's own views, wishes and desired outcomes. The core principle of MSP is 'no decision about me without me'. A KSAB 7-minute briefing can be found on this page: [7 Minute Briefings | Knowsley Safeguarding Adults Board](#)

How to Report a Safeguarding Concern

An adult safeguarding concern should be raised with the local authority where there is reasonable cause to suspect that the adult may have care and support needs (whether they are receiving care and support or not) and where there is reasonable cause to suspect that the adult is at risk of or experiencing abuse or neglect.

An adult at risk is a person aged 18 years or over who has needs for care and support.

To raise a concern about an adult who may be at risk of abuse or neglect, ring the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) for advice on 0151 443 2600 or to raise a concern complete the online form [here](#).

Dial 999 if an adult needs Police help in an emergency or

Contact 101 to report a crime.

If you wish to report a concern about the quality of care that does not meet the criteria for a safeguarding response, please follow this link [Quality Concern - Knowsley MBC](#)

Safeguarding Adults Board (SAB)

Role and Purpose

The Care Act 2014 gave Safeguarding Adults in England its first legal footing and created Safeguarding Adults Boards. The overarching purpose of SABs is to seek assurance that safeguarding systems are working effectively.

Safeguarding Adults Boards have specific duties as set out in Schedule 2 of the Care Act 2014 to:

- Hold partner agencies to account for how they work together to protect adults from abuse and neglect
- Be assured that Safeguarding arrangements are working well in the borough
- Be committed to making Safeguarding Personal
- Produce an Annual Report
- Develop Strategic Plans
- Facilitate and share learning from Safeguarding Adults Reviews

The Boards do not work with residents or members of the public directly, other than when undertaking a Safeguarding Adult Review. It is a partnership of senior leaders from relevant agencies, whose purpose is to maintain strategic oversight over safeguarding arrangements in the borough.

Knowsley Safeguarding Adults Board

Knowsley Safeguarding Adults Board (KSAB) brings together senior representatives from partner agencies in the borough including:

- Knowsley Metropolitan Borough Council (lead statutory partner)
- Merseyside Police (statutory partner)
- NHS Cheshire and Merseyside Integrated Care Board and provider organisations (statutory partner)
- Probation services
- Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service
- Healthwatch Knowsley
- Voluntary, Community and Faith Sector representatives
- Livv Housing (on behalf of housing providers)
- n-Compass Advocacy Service
- Mersey Care
- West Lancashire Teaching Hospital



KSAB Vision

The vision of the Safeguarding Adults Board is that all residents live their lives free from violence, abuse, neglect and exploitation, and their rights are protected.

Please Protect Me By Irene Hughes

(Knowsley Older People's Voice member)

Each of us has a voice you know!
So kindly take time to care
You know that I have struggles,
So please protect me with your care!

We all have to work together
So you know how much I can bare
Please listen to what I have to say
And let us start from there

Thank you for not talking over me
And my burdens we can share
My worries can now be broken
So please protect me with your care!

See I have a fighting spirit, & values of my own
My family, friends & professionals can now
comprehend my woes!

Let's rejoice together & all work as a team
This is how safeguarding should really be seen!

Acceptance not Avoidance is very much the key
By keeping us together

So please protect me



Governance and Board Structure

KSAB meets at least 4 times per year to provide leadership, challenge and to be assured that Safeguarding Adult arrangements are working in Knowsley.

The KSAB Independent Chair has a critical role in leading, challenging and supporting the Board to achieve its priorities.

The Board is supported by three multi-agency subgroups which take forward the operational work for the Board; task and finish groups are facilitated to undertake identified specific tasks:

- **Learning Partnership Subgroup** – promotes good practice to share learning from incidents and reviews and makes sure policies, procedures and guidance are embedded in practice.
- **Policy, Practice and Procedure Subgroup** – leads on the development, implementation, and evaluation of the KSAB policies, practice and procedure guidance.
- **Community Intelligence and Performance Subgroup** – leads on the KSAB quality assurance framework which includes performance, intelligence, audits, and case studies that are used to inform the work of the Board.

The KSAB Business Unit coordinates Board activity, supports subgroups and makes sure that the work of the Board is aligned to its strategic priorities.

The Board maintains strong links with the Health and Wellbeing Board, Community Safety Partnership, Children's Partnership and other strategic partnerships, supporting a whole-system approach to safeguarding.

Funding arrangements

The Board is funded by the three statutory partners, Knowsley Council (Adult Social Care), NHS Cheshire and Merseyside and Merseyside Police to support it to achieve its ambitions, commission the Independent Chair and support the Business Unit to undertake Board activity.

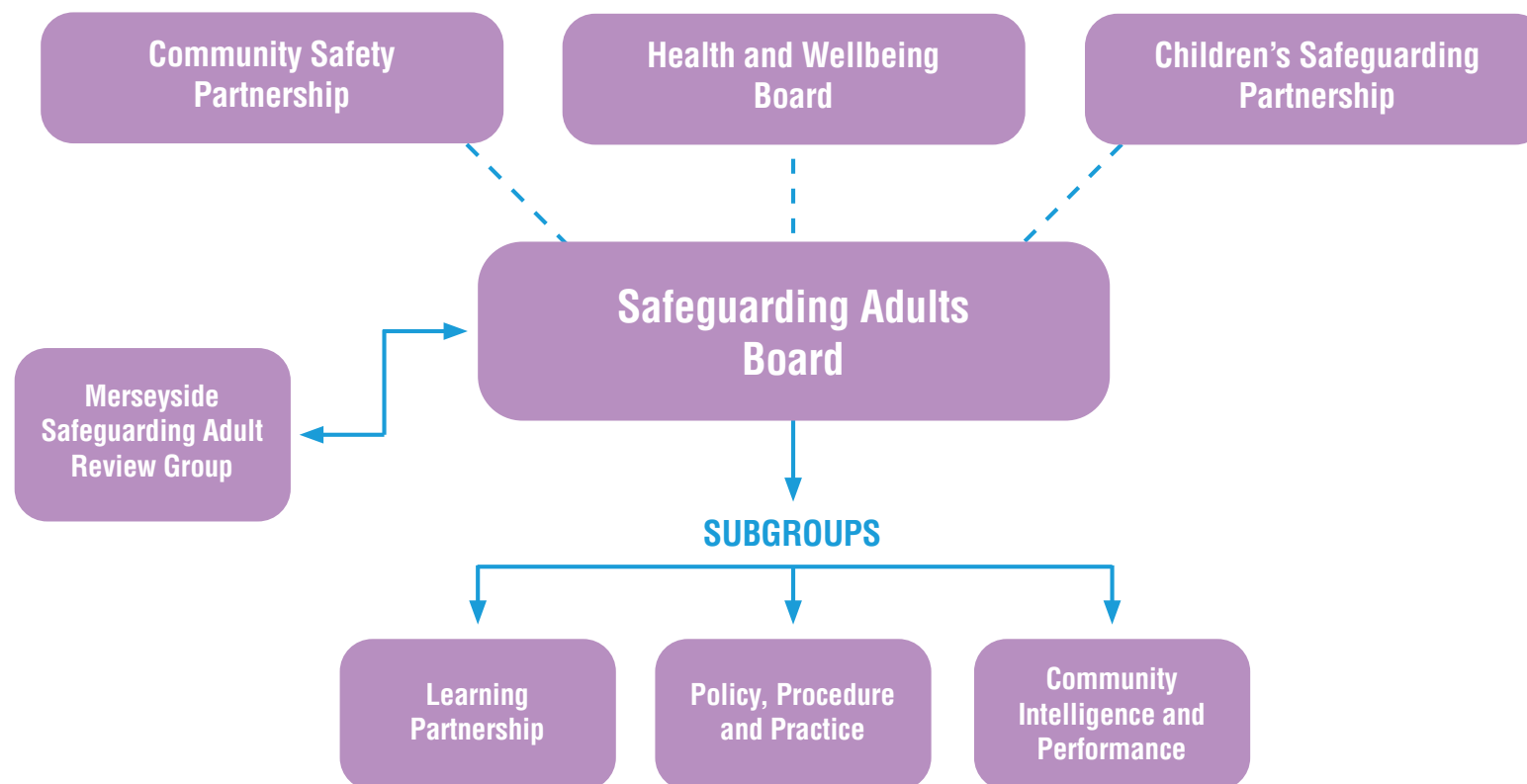
For more information about the work of the Board, see link to [Knowsley Safeguarding Adults Board Website.](#)



**KNOWSLEY
SAFEGUARDING
ADULTS BOARD**

PREVENTION THROUGH PARTNERSHIP

Knowsley Safeguarding Adults Board Structure



Partner organisations:

- Knowsley MBC
- Merseyside Police
- NHS Cheshire and Merseyside
- Healthwatch Knowsley
- One Knowsley
- Probation
- Merseyside Fire and Rescue
- Mersey Care
- Mersey & West Lancashire NHS Trust
- LIVV Housing Group
- Northwest Ambulance Service
- N-Compass Advocacy Service
- Knowsley Disability Concern



Strategic Business Plan and Priorities

The Care Act 2014 places a duty on Safeguarding Adults Board's to produce a Strategic Business Plan which sets out how Board partner agencies will support adults with care and support needs from the risk of abuse and neglect while promoting their wellbeing.

During 2025–26 the Board operated within its agreed [Strategic Business Plan](#), focusing on strengthening safeguarding arrangements and responding to learning and assurance activity.

The Board's priorities for the year were:

- **Ensuring KSAB governance and arrangements remain fit for purpose**
- **Learning from experience to improve safeguarding practice**
- **Providing assurance that safeguarding adults activity is effective and person-centred**

Progress against these priorities has been monitored through delivery plans, Board challenge and subgroup reporting.

PROGRESS AGAINST PRIORITIES

Strategic Priority 1

Making the Knowsley Safeguarding Adults Board fit for purpose

- Production and Publication of Annual Report and Strategic Business and Implementation Plans
- Annual Information Sharing Agreement updated and agreed for use
- Developed and updated KSAB policies, procedures and guidance documents, website insights showed that most hits were the Policies and Guidance Pages
- Governance links and information flow developed between Knowsley and Merseyside Boards through meetings, shared projects and learning events
- Development of partnerships with local community and voluntary sector agencies and stakeholders, engagement activities were underpinned by partnership

Strategic Priority 2

Learning and evaluating from experiences

- Learning from SAR's in Knowsley and surrounding boroughs shared via learning briefings, webinars, presentations at team meetings and documents on the KSAB website
- Thematic learning across SAR's and other reviews locally and nationally analysed and summarised for publication on the KSAB website
- Impact survey shared with staff across Board member agencies to measure how learning has been embedded within partner agency practice
- Encourage a culture of learning, shared the KSAB Learning Strategy, briefings, 7-minute briefings, audit findings
- Shared best practice, coordinated bitesize awareness sessions, learning lunches and other forms of learning opportunities
- Engagement with residents to consult and co-produce learning resources e.g. posters, briefings and videos to raise awareness of Safeguarding which have been shared locally and nationally

Strategic Priority 3

Ongoing assurance that the work of KSAB is having a positive effect to safeguarding Knowsley residents.

- Voice of the adult heard regularly at Board through case studies, feedback videos, 'you said we did' presentations
- Engagement with adult residents, co-production of materials to raise awareness of Safeguarding and a multi-agency week-long event during Safeguarding Adults Week
- Board self-assessment to assess how policies, procedures and guidance had been embedded and in use within member agencies
- Challenge and scrutiny of partner agency response to Safeguarding and measures put in place to develop responses





Safeguarding Adult Reviews

Safeguarding Adult Boards have a legal duty to coordinate Safeguarding Adult Reviews (SARs) as outlined in section 44 of the [Care Act 2014](#). SARs enable lessons to be learnt from serious incidents or deaths to help prevent harm from occurring again.

Merseyside Safeguarding Adults Group (MSARG)

Knowsley Safeguarding Adult Review (SAR) referrals are screened by a collaborative group of professionals from the Local Authority areas of, Knowsley, Sefton, St Helens and Wirral. The group is known as the Merseyside Safeguarding Adult Review Group (MSARG).

Knowsley SAR referrals are discussed by MSARG to establish if a referral meets the Care Act 2014 criteria for a SAR. Recommendations are then made to the relevant local Safeguarding Adult Board Chair who consider the recommendation and decides if a SAR or other type of review should be carried out. Over the last year MSARG met nine times, one Knowsley referral was discussed. The referral did not meet the criteria for a SAR; however, a multi-agency learning review is being progressed to identify gaps and enable learning from the circumstances of the case.

Safeguarding Adults Reviews 2025–26

A Safeguarding Adults Review known as ‘SAR Alice’ was approved by Board in November 2024. An implementation plan was taken forward to action recommendations made in the review report.

The report identified recurring themes that are repeated in local and national reviews:

- The importance of professional curiosity and challenge
- Recognition and response to self-neglect
- Information sharing and continuity of oversight
- The complexity of multi-agency working with adults experiencing long-term risk
- Missed appointments and gaps in follow up resulting in an adult not being seen by professionals for long periods
- The importance of Making Safeguarding Personal
- Considering the impact of carers’ mental health and the impact on family dynamics
- Ensuring the person in receipt of direct payments can care for the adult
- Housing contracts to consider adults with care and support needs who are not tenants but reside at the property

Some of the actions undertaken to address themes from this review:

- New Knowsley Safeguarding Adults Board (KSAB) Guidance for Missed Appointments of Adults with Care and Support Needs accessing Health and Social Care Services – the document has been shared and is published: [KSAB-Guidance-for-Managing-Non-attendance-Feb-24.pdf](#)

- 7-minute briefings developed and shared for professionals to gain a better understanding of Professional Curiosity, Disguised Compliance and Coercive Control: [7 Minute Briefings | Knowsley Safeguarding Adults Board](#)
- A new Primary Care Guidance ‘Rough Guide to follow up Vulnerable Adults who miss Appointments’ was shared with Knowsley NHS Practices
- NHS audit on the Quality of Annual Health Checks resulted in the development of new guidance that was shared with GP practices. Mersey Care refreshed their ‘Annual Health Check Passport’ and shared widely
- NHS Standard Operating Procedure for medication was updated; uncollected medication concerns can now be tracked and followed up appropriately
- Supported housing schemes arrangements refreshed to include monitoring for adults with care and support needs who are not tenancy holders
- Domestic Abuse Training offered to professionals across Knowsley
- Risk management process (MARAM) was reviewed and rolled out to Adult Social Care staff: [Multi-Agency-Risk-Assessment-Guidance-MARAM-updated-23.pdf](#)
- Professionals were encouraged to signpost carers to Knowsley Carers’ Hub to access support / for carers assessment. [Knowsley Carers Hub N’Compass webinar](#)
- KSAB’s Safeguarding Adult Review Policy and Procedures were updated: [Policies and Procedures for Professionals | Knowsley Safeguarding Adults Board](#)

Learning and Assurance

Learning from a Safeguarding Adult Review known as, SAR 'Alice' was shared through learning events, multi-agency briefings and practice guidance. KSAB has monitored the implementation of the action plan and sought assurance that learning is embedded in day-to-day practice.

A survey asked agencies how they shared and embedded SAR learning materials, responses included; delivered training/learning from the SAR action plan, developed toolkits, facilitated team meeting quizzes, included SAR case studies in supervision sessions and policy updates. Responses included improved awareness of communication styles and how respondents would complete assessments for adults better.

Domestic Abuse Related Death Reviews (DARDR)

DARDR's are managed and coordinated by the Knowsley Community Safety Partnership (CSP). Safeguarding Adults Boards are involved in DARDRs if there are significant points of learning relating to safeguarding adults.

In 2025 the CSP coordinated a DARDR known as 'DARDR10'. The review focused on a woman who was killed by her husband in the family home. The man had mental health issues including possible dementia, although this was not diagnosed until sometime after the homicide.

The author of the DARDR report acknowledged a document produced by KSAB (2025) which may have helped to support professionals Domestic Abuse Toolkit on the KSAB website if it had been launched before the incident.

The author praised the guidance document and recommended a review of the content to increase the focus on mental health. This action has been initiated following approval of the report by the Community Safety Partnership on 4th June 2026.

Assurance

One of KSABs key functions is to be assured that local safeguarding arrangements are effective in protecting adults at risk of abuse or neglect. A range of processes are used to seek assurance, including monitoring performance data, coordinating audits and case studies, self-assessment and reviewing practice to assess how well agencies are working together to safeguard adults and promote their wellbeing.

During 2025-26 the Board has sought assurance from partners about:

- Adults in closed and secure settings (Integrated Care Board/Mersey Care)
- Suicide rates and responses in Knowsley (Public Health)
- Deprivation of Liberty arrangements (Dols) (Adult Social Care)
- Refuge and Asylum Seekers (Strategic Housing)

Homelessness and rough sleeping

The Knowsley Safeguarding Adults Board focuses on homelessness and rough sleeping under its responsibilities of the Care Act 2014, and in support of a Ministerial letter of May 2024 which offered Safeguarding Adults Boards recommendations for Safeguarding Adults Boards on Individual Rough Sleeping.

Consideration of coordination of Safeguarding Adults Reviews (SARs) are a key component of the recommendations, particularly where adults experiencing homelessness die and there are concerns about multi-agency collaboration.

In November 2024 a homeless Knowsley resident sadly completed suicide. For the purpose of this report the adult is called 'Adult H'.

The incident was reported to KSAB, and a rapid review was coordinated by Public Health. A referral was subsequently submitted to the Merseyside Safeguarding Adults Review Group for consideration of a Safeguarding Adult Review (SAR). The case did not meet the Care Act 2014 criteria for a SAR: [Safeguarding Adults Reviews \(SAR\) | Knowsley Council](#) and the findings and recommendations from the Rapid Review were developed into a multi-agency implementation plan which was actioned by partners. The implementation plan was presented to Board and accepted as complete in June 2026.

Learning from the review

A fast response from Police to the scene of the suicide attempt was positive, however a language barrier may have inhibited effective communication. Police had no prior knowledge of 'Adult H' so they could not know his ethnicity/language to enable a different response, had this information been known an interpreter could have offered support with communication.

An issue with the NHS 111 system resulted in a call for support which dropped out. Following the dropped-out call, Adult H was supported by SHARe Knowsley who were able to reduce his risk by contacting his GP for an appointment for the next day. The 111 system has been reviewed and updated following this review.

There was good practice from a SHARe Knowsley caseworker by sharing information and concerns with the Whitechapel Centre who were also supporting 'Adult H'.

'Adult H' was registered with a local GP Practice but had no contact prior to the GP appointment request made by SHARe Knowsley. Questions regarding the support provided within the community to assess and meet physical and psychological needs of patients coded as Asylum seekers were discussed and actions were taken by ICB to introduce a system to support these adults.

The requirement to vacate home-office accommodation 28 days after asylum granted, without appropriate alternative accommodation led to insecure accommodation for 'Adult H' (sofa surfing and living rough). This is a common problem not unique to 'Adult H' or Knowsley as a national housing shortage means that accommodation is not always available. National Government was made aware of this issue for 'Adult H' and others.

Earlier placement in accommodation may have reduced risks associated with worsening mental health and wellbeing.

Contributing factors which should be considered when supporting resettlement of asylum seekers/refugees:

- Unknown trauma/experiences prior to arrival in UK
- Cultural issues due to religion/beliefs – The impact of asking and recording sexual orientation should be considered
- The impact of homelessness/insecure accommodation



Sub Group Activity

Learning Partnership Subgroup

The Learning Partnership Subgroup coordinated multi-agency Safeguarding Adults awareness and learning during 2025–26, the subgroup coordinated Safeguarding Adults Week activity, promoting public and professional awareness of safeguarding and encouraging engagement across partner organisations.

- Developed and shared Safeguarding Review Briefings and guidance including
- 7-minute briefings x 14. All existing briefings were refreshed and uploaded to the KSAB website: [7 Minute Briefings | Knowsley Safeguarding Adults Board](#)
- Impact survey to assess use of KSAB resources and learning materials

- Development of a multi-agency 'Professional Curiosity Toolkit'
- Safeguarding Adults Week (SAW), awareness sessions from Knowsley's Advocacy / Carers Services, Merseyside Police, Mersey Care, Wirral Public Health, Savera UK and Liverpool City Region colleagues.
- Voluntary and community sector engagement project to support understanding of safeguarding criteria, when it's right to make a referral and what happens after a referral is made
- Coordination of a webinar 'raising a safeguarding concern' [Resources for Professionals | Knowsley Safeguarding Adults Board](#)

Community Intelligence and Performance Subgroup

The subgroup led on performance monitoring, audits and assurance. Activity included multi-agency audits exploring specific safeguarding themes and quarterly review of performance data to understand trends and pressures.

The subgroup provided the Board with assurance around safeguarding practice and highlighted areas where further focus or improvement is required.

Achievements 2025-26

- Monitoring and updating the KSAB Communication and Engagement Strategy
- Coordinated an engagement project with four day-centres to co-produce materials which were shared at a week-long Community Event and shared with agencies across Knowsley and nationally.
- **'Hear My Voice'** video developed and launched during Safeguarding Adults Week – feedback included; “Powerful,” “All professionals should watch this video” and “Makes you really think about practice”
- Coordination of a community engagement project with 28 agencies holding a marketplace style event over the week of Safeguarding Adults Week – feedback included:
 - “Lovely to meet new services and share knowledge”
 - “Positive and productive opportunity to engage with the community and community services”
 - “Thank you for giving us the space to share our stories and see what local services offer”
- Refreshed the KSAB newsletter and developed it into an e-bulletin

KSAB news. The bulletin continues to reach over 300 individuals each quarter

- Thematic audit on Domestic Abuse was completed
- Case study ‘Bob’ [Case studies](#) - highlights a multi-agency approach to making safeguarding personal for a victim of domestic abuse with care and support needs
- Demographic Audit – review of Safeguarding referrals to gain understanding of demographics to provide assurance of equality of access
- Family referrer re-audit – review of Safeguarding referrals by referrer to gain understanding of abuse for ‘family referrals’
- Continual development of a multi-agency data dashboard
- Board Self-Assessment completed and analysed
- Suicide Audit completed and learning shared

Policy, Practice and Procedure Subgroup

The Policy, Practice and Procedure Subgroup has overseen the development and review of safeguarding policies and guidance, ensuring that local arrangements remain current, consistent and aligned with national guidance.

- New ‘No Contact’ Guidance developed to support practitioners when struggling to engage with residents
- Renewed all policies, procedures and guidance documents within agreed timescales
- Discussed policies with Merseyside colleagues with the aim of creating pan-Merseyside policy and guidance where possible



Contributions from Statutory Partners

Adult Social Care, Knowsley Metropolitan Borough Council

Adult Social Care in Knowsley Council continues to play an integral role in the work of the Safeguarding Adults Board.

Adult Social Care hosts and supports the Boards Business Unit, attends all Board meetings, and is actively involved in the Boards subgroups to improve safety, develop practice and to share learning from reviews and emerging themes. Adult Social Care contribute to the work of the Merseyside Safeguarding Adults Review Group, which make recommendations in response to serious incidents involving adults with care and support needs.

The Councils adult safeguarding services have continued to further improve their responses to safeguarding referrals by implementing the learning from the Local Government Peer Review of Safeguarding in 2023 and the Association of Directors of Adult Social Services Peer Review in 2024. Additionally, last year the Council received a full, comprehensive assessment by the Care Quality Commission which considered how well the Council was fulfilling its statutory responsibilities under the Care Act 2014. This took place in February 2025, and in August 2025 we received the outcome of the assessment – we were rated 'Good' overall, and 'Good' in all nine areas inspected, including Safeguarding, and Safe Systems.

While the outcomes of both reviews and our overall assessment by CQC were extremely positive, Adult Social Care recognise that there is always more that we can do. We continue to build on our training and development offer to Adult Social Care staff and are hoping to expand our offer to partner organisations, including the voluntary, community, and faith sector. From our audit and quality assurance work we know that we deliver good quality safeguarding responses in most situations, but our ambition is to do this in every situation of concern. We have developed a Practice Development Team within Adult Social Care, which focusses on making sure we train and support our future workforce in Social Work.

The Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) continues to experience demand as a result of both the number of referrals and growing complexity of safeguarding situations. Despite this pressure, there continue to be no waiting lists for safeguarding referrals or safeguarding enquiries, and additional resource has now been permanently aligned to the MASH in recognition of the growth in demand and complexity presenting to the team. Additionally, this year we have permanently established the Knowsley Intervention Team, which works closely with MASH to support the oversight and governance of high-risk cases, and those cases which require intensive input and management to support and minimise risks. The team follow an 'assertive outreach' model, where there are frequent and intensive responses, contact and support with adults, with the purpose being to reduce, delay and redirect demand from those adults on Social Work, emergency services and health and social care services

The Adult Social Care Performance Team, Commissioning and Public Health have worked closely with the Board. This has included continued monitoring and reporting on cost-of-living impacts that affect residents' safety and wellbeing. This helps to support a joined-up approach across the Council and partners in providing additional support such as the Warm Home Initiative, access to food and hardship funds.

The Boards Business Unit with support from other Adult Social Care Teams and partners delivered a successful Safeguarding Adults Week in November and has continued to develop and deliver 7-minute briefings and other resources on a range of topics during the year which are available on the Boards website.

Integrated Care Board

NHS Cheshire and Merseyside continue to actively support the work of the Knowsley Safeguarding Adults Board (KSAB).

The Designated Safeguarding Adults Professional (DASP) is aligned to all the sub-groups of the Board and continues to chair the Community Intelligence Subgroup (CIP) to support activity required to progress audits, case studies, community engagement activity, monitoring of performance and gathering community intelligence from partner agencies to inform activity.

Wider health partners are also actively involved in KSAB and sub-groups for example Mersey Care have supported:

- The development of 7-minute briefing on ADHD, supported by Mersey Care ADHD services.
- The development of three 7-minute briefings on neurodiversity (Autism, ADHD, Learning Disability)
- Delivered a lunch and learn on Domestic Abuse and Suicide on behalf of KSAB
- Arranged a lunch and learn session focusing on research relating to Domestic Abuse and suicide for KSAB partners to attend

ICB NHS Cheshire and Merseyside Safeguarding activities/ achievements over the past 12 months include:

- Safeguarding Commissioning Standards for 2025/2026 for NHS Provider Trusts and small NHS contract holders have been standardised.
- Safeguarding Training Strategy was updated.
- Continued delivery of safeguarding training to GP's across Cheshire and Merseyside
- Partnership working has continued with the Primary Care Networks (PCNs) facilitated by Knowsley's Quality Forum.
- Future NHS was populated with learning resources such as podcasts, presentations, recordings, and documents of key interest relating to safeguarding adults.
- Domestic Abuse related training was coordinated for two PCN's supported by The First Step to raise awareness and strengthen practice.
- A monthly safeguarding newsletter is shared across all Cheshire and Merseyside GP practices.
- The Named GP and Designated SGA lead for Safeguarding continues to support the interface with GP's following Domestic Homicide Reviews and Safeguarding Adult Reviews.

Safeguarding challenges this year:

- Continuing to ensure that safety and quality is maintained during a period of ICB change, uncertainty and periods of business continuity.
- Embedding learning from Safeguarding Adult Reviews, Child Safeguarding

Practice Reviews and Domestic Homicide Reviews and ensuring cross cutting themes from the reviews are examined in detail. To support learning, an ICB review tracker and L&D group has been developed to identify themes, trends to inform activity across Cheshire and Merseyside.

Merseyside Police

Merseyside Police continue to support Knowsley Safeguarding Adults Board, fully participating in meetings and supporting the Business Plan throughout the year.

Merseyside Police Chair the Merseyside Safeguarding Adult Review Group (MSARG) to discuss safeguarding adult review (SAR) referrals with the aim of assessing if referrals meet the Care Act 2014 criteria for holding a SAR. The Police chair of MSARG completed a joint presentation for a SAR Learning Webinar discussing a particular case to share learning with partners across Merseyside.

Merseyside Police continue to drive the Vulnerability Plan 2025-2030, delivering strategy in line with national best practice. The principles to adopt a 'suspect focused – victim centred – context led approach will enable Merseyside Police to deliver an effective response to vulnerability, increase victim satisfaction and create reductions in overall threat, risk and harm.

The recently published HMIC Inspection 2025-27, demonstrates continuous improvement in our response to vulnerability, moving from a previous grading of Requires Improvement to Adequate. In particular, it was noted that there had been notable change since the last inspection, improving systems, process and service to communities.

Top 3 Priorities for Safeguarding 2026

- Continue to advance public trust and confidence in Merseyside Police and the service it delivers to local communities
- Deliver the Force Strategic Vulnerability Plan through focussed tactical and operational delivery, using the Adults at Risk 4 P Plan to drive performance with a One Team approach. This includes continuing to build and enhance collaboration across the Partnership, continually seeking cohesion to prevent and protect
- Endeavour for front line staff to have professional curiosity embedded in identifying risks posed to vulnerable adults, becoming routine practice. Enhance training to identify risk and vulnerability, be accountable and take ownership – ask the ‘difficult’ questions

Training opportunities focusing on vulnerability this year included:

Professional Curiosity Awareness, Identifying and Managing Vulnerability and Risk, Domestic Abuse, Harmful Practice, Child Protection, Child Exploitation, case review learning etc.

There is directed study where trainees are asked to research local support agencies to get information on what support local agencies can provide and how to refer residents for help.

Officers are directed to the Knowsley Safeguarding Adult Board and Local Authority websites for further awareness, policy and training opportunities. In the policy we also direct officers to LA websites for further training.





Safeguarding Activity and Performance

Safeguarding demand during 2025–26 remained high, reflecting national trends and increasing complexity of need.

The Board used Adult Social Care performance information to identify themes, inform assurance activity including multi-agency audits and case studies and shape future priorities.

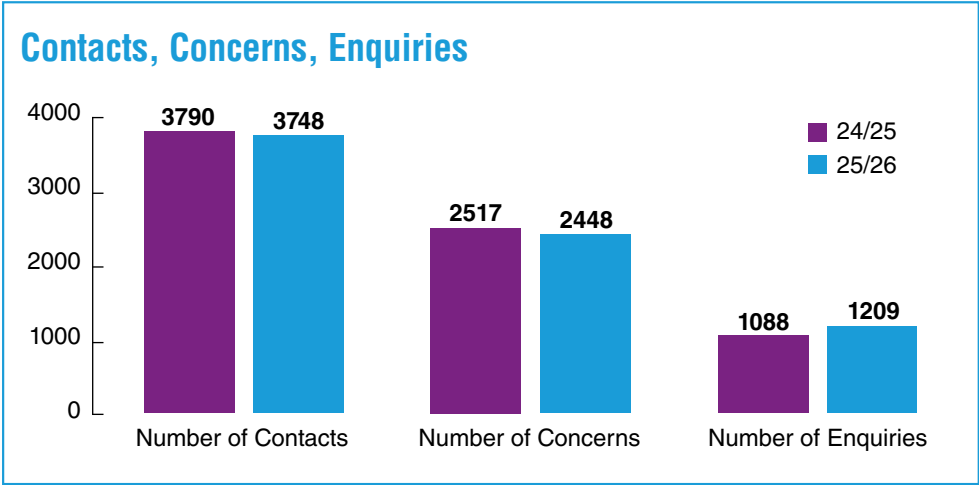
Demand Activity

Contacts / Concerns / Enquiries	24/25	25/26	% Diff between years
Number of Contacts	3790	3748	-1%
Number of Concerns	2517	2428	-4%
Number of Enquiries	1088	1209	11%
Contacts to Concerns Conversion	66%	65%	-1%
Concerns to Enquiries Conversion	43%	50%	7%
Re-Enquiries %	19%	16%	-3%

Over the year 3748 contacts were received, of which 2428 (65%) progressed to a concern and 1209 (50%) progressed on to an enquiry.

Compared to 2024-25 there were 42 less contacts received. Concerns decreased by 4% (89 fewer contacts progressing to a concern) whereas statutory safeguarding enquiries (section 42 of the Care Act 2014) increased by 11% (121 more concerns progressing to enquiry).

Those which did not meet the Care Act 2014 criteria would have been considered through different areas of work to support the people, where needed.



The data shows contacts, concerns and enquiries for the last two years. The proportion of concerns that met the criteria for a safeguarding enquiry under Section 42 of the Care Act increased in 2025/26 compared to 2024/25. The data also shows that there continues to be high rates of contacts to MASH that do not require any safeguarding responses.

Safeguarding Contact Demographics

Contacts by age group

Age Group	24-25	25-26	Contacts 24-25	Contacts 25/26	% Diff between Years
Adults	1788	2107	47%	56%	9%
Age 65-74	509	476	13%	13%	-1%
Age 75-84	787	618	21%	16%	-4%
Age 85-94	624	500	16%	13%	-3%
Age 95+	82	47	2%	1%	-1%
Grand Total	3790	3748			

Contacts by Gender

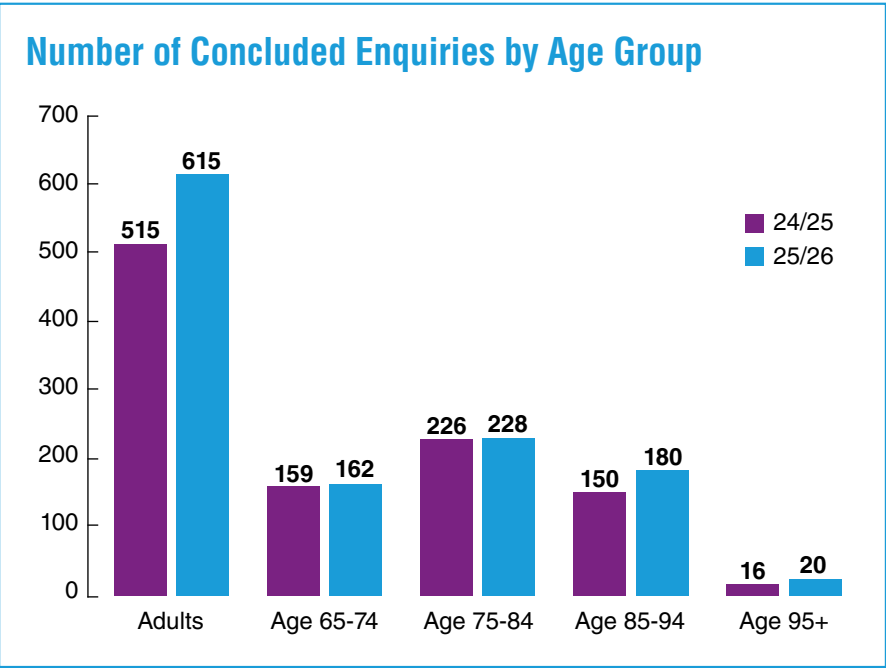
Age Group	24-25	25-26	Contacts 24-25	Contacts 25/26	% Diff between Years
Female	2135	2022	56%	54%	-2%
Male	1655	1726	44%	46%	2%
Grand Total	3790	3748			

These tables show that contacts for adults aged 18-64 have increased by 9% in 2025/26 compared to the previous year. For adults aged 65 or older there has been a decrease in the number of contacts for all age groups. Overall, contacts relating to females remains more than males despite a decrease of 2%.

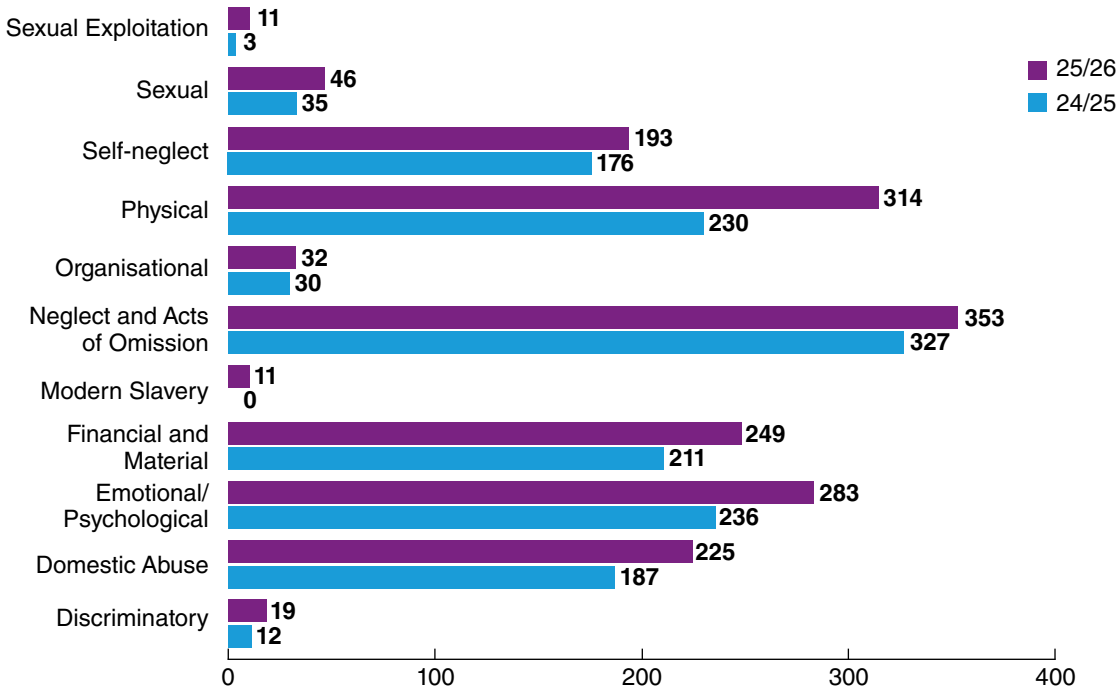
Concluded Enquiries:

Location of risk remains highest in ‘own home’ (56%). Looking at types of abuse reported, there was a slight decrease (3%) in neglect and acts of omission, although this is still the most common type of risk identified in safeguarding enquiries. The second most common type of abuse was physical, which saw a slight increase (2%)

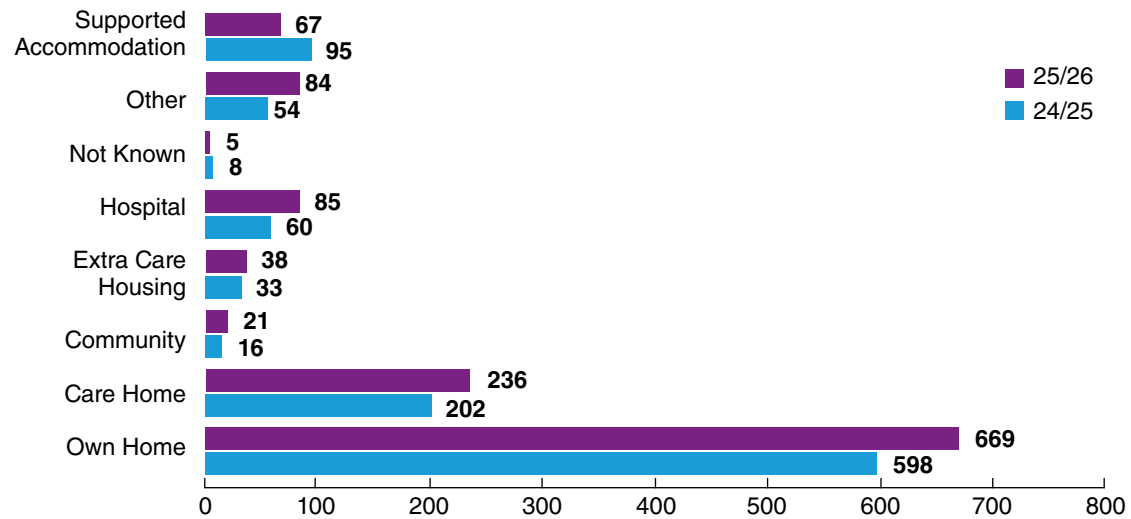
Number of Concluded Enquiries by Age Group



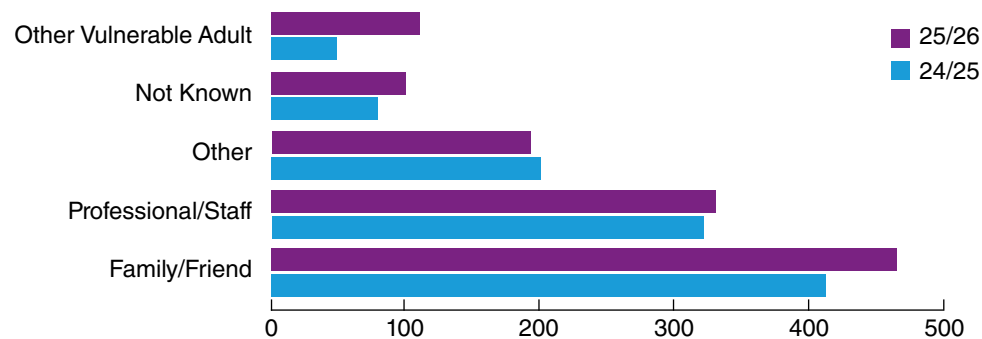
Number of Concluded Enquiries by Abuse Type



Number of Concluded Enquiries by Location Setting



Number of Concluded Enquiries by PATCH

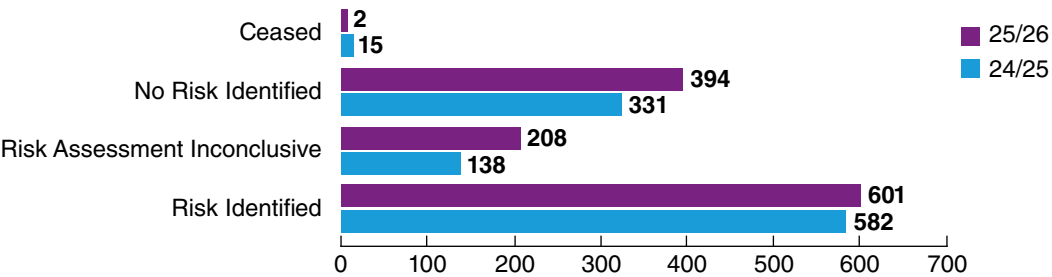


Risk Outcomes:

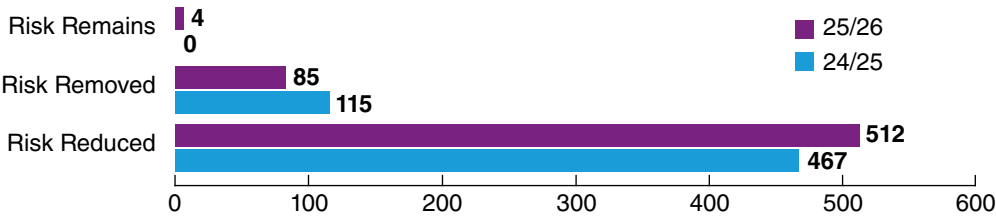
There has been a total of 1205 concluded safeguarding cases in 2025/26. 394 (33%) resulted in no risk being identified, 208 (17%) were inconclusive, 601 (50%) resulted in risk being identified and 2 were ceased by the adult at their request, where risk was identified, 85% of adults had the risk reduced, 14% had the risk removed and risk remained in 1%.



Number of Concluded Enquiries by Risk Outcome



Number of Risk Identified Cases by Risk Action

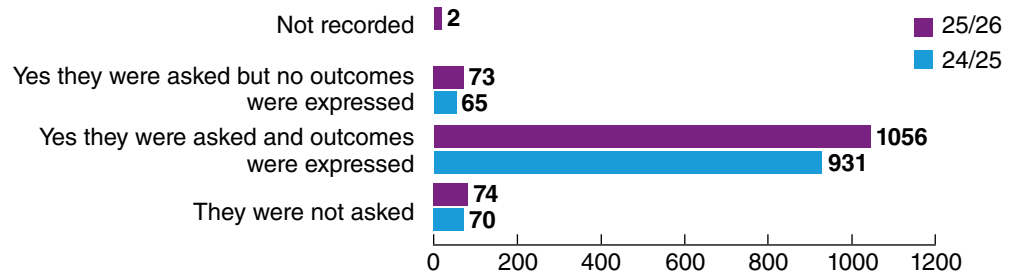


Making Safeguarding Personal (MSP) Outcomes:

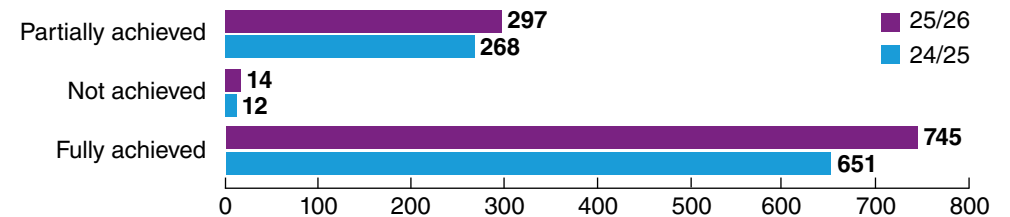
The Knowsley MASH team continued MSP work with adults who were involved in safeguarding enquiries. Of the concluded safeguarding cases (2025/26), 6% (74) were not asked about their desired outcomes, 6% (73) were asked but no outcomes were expressed and 88% (1056) were asked and expressed outcomes.

Of those adults that expressed outcomes, 99% (1042) of cases show that outcomes were either fully or partially achieved. Every safeguarding incident where adults were not asked about their outcomes is reviewed to make sure any learning is identified.

Number of Concluded Enquiries by MSP



Number of Concluded Enquiries by MSP Outcome



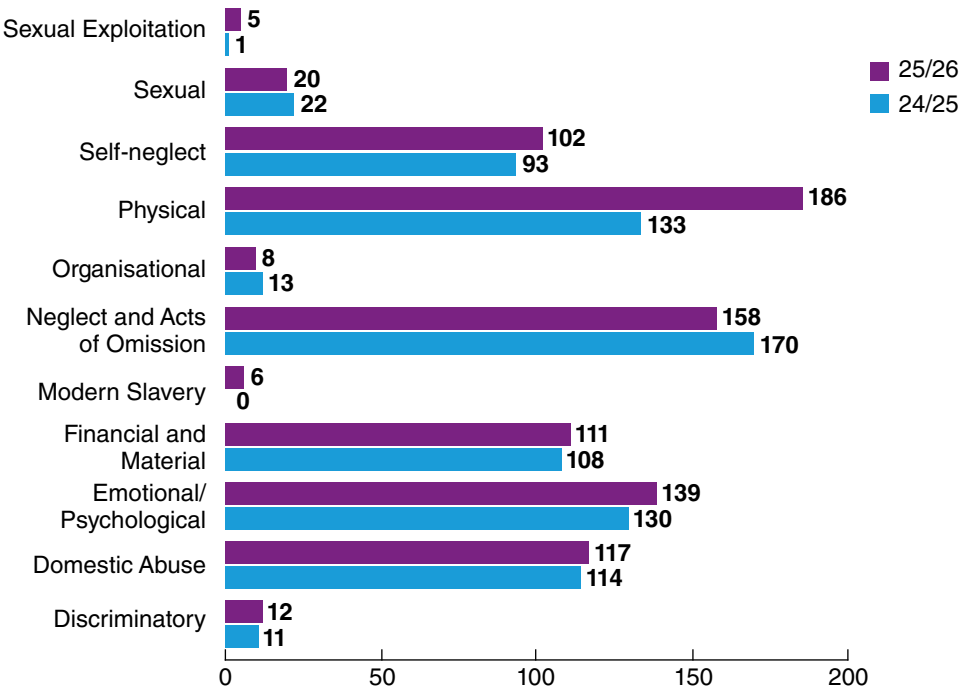
Risk Identified Cases – Abuse and Location Type

Overall, 52% of safeguarding incidents where abuse or neglect was identified took place in the adults’ own home, a decrease of 2% from last year. Physical Abuse was the highest overall abuse type identified (22%), having increased by 5% from the previous reporting year. There was a 3% decrease overall in Neglect and Acts of Omission compared to previous year.

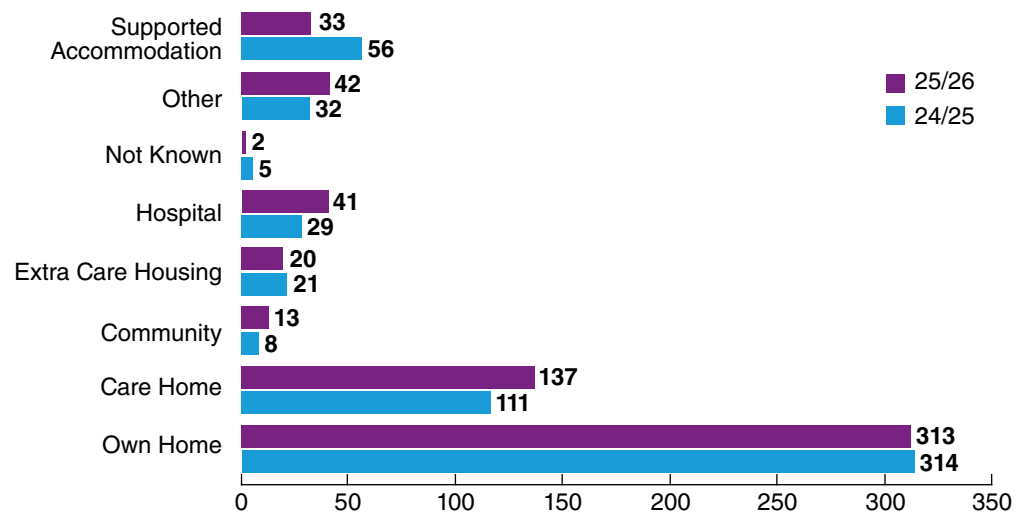
Abuse in own home - The highest proportion of abuse that took place in adult’s own home is Emotional Abuse (20%) which saw a slight increase, Domestic Abuse decreased this year from 21% to 19%, there was an increase in Neglect and Acts of Omission from 10% to 13%.

Abuse in care home - 18% of safeguarding incidents where abuse or neglect was identified took place in a care home setting. The highest proportion of abuse in care homes was Physical with 49%, which has increased from 26% the previous year. There was a decrease in Neglect and Acts of Omission from 49% to 32%.

Number of Risk Identified cases by Abuse Type



Number of Risk Identified cases by Location Setting





Key Challenges

Key challenges during the year have included:

- Workforce pressures across health, care and partner agencies
- Increasing complexity of safeguarding cases, including self-neglect
- Balancing risk management with autonomy and choice
- Wider social and economic pressures which impact on vulnerability

KSAB has sought to address these challenges through partnership working, reflective learning and continued challenge.

Priorities for 2026–27

Priority 1

Prevention & Early Intervention Objectives:

- Strengthen intelligence pooling and community based problem identification
- Embed cross agency learning from Safeguarding Adult Reviews, Domestic Homicide Reviews and national reviews
- Increase cross Board learning and collaboration (Children's, Community Safety Partnership, Merseyside Boards)
- Develop a multi-agency safeguarding induction offer
- Provide more targeted thematic learning (e.g. self neglect, online harm, transitional safeguarding, domestic abuse, trauma informed practice)
- Maximise public awareness opportunities

Priority 2

Assurance, Impact & Accountability Objectives:

- Strengthen KSAB impact reporting and annual assurance cycle
- Implement self assessment and cross agency quality assurance
- Annual analysis of “no further action” for safeguarding enquiry outcomes
- Annual audit summaries for Community Intelligence and Performance subgroup/Board
- Assurance briefing on themes of abuse (e.g. care homes)
- Develop a multi agency performance dashboard (Adult Social Care, Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub, Merseyside Police, Public Health, Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service)
- Refresh Board handbook to support membership roles and responsibilities

Priority 3

Building Trust & Confidence with Communities and Workforce Objectives:

- Strengthen the voice of adults via Healthwatch, Carers, front-line staff, One Knowsley/Voluntary Community and Faith Sector
- Improve Board visibility and communication to frontline teams
- Provide consistent learning updates and “you said we did” feedback loops
- Develop resources to support professional curiosity
- Provide voluntary/community sector support to improve safe practice and referrals
- Streamline paper circulation and Board decision making via Microsoft Teams
- Improve clarity of Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub outcomes to agencies

These priorities will be informed by engagement with partners and learning from 2025–26.

Accountability

This Annual Report will be shared with statutory partners and published to ensure transparency and accountability. KSAB will continue to seek assurance that safeguarding adult arrangements in Knowsley are effective and continuously improving.

Appendix A

Report References

[Care Act 2014](#)

[KSAB Fact Sheets 10 Categories of Abuse](#)

[Making Safeguarding Personal](#)

[Strategic Business Plan 2025-26](#)

[Report Adult Safeguarding Concern - Knowsley Council](#)

[Quality Concern Form - Knowsley Council](#)

Contact

Knowsley Safeguarding Adults Board:

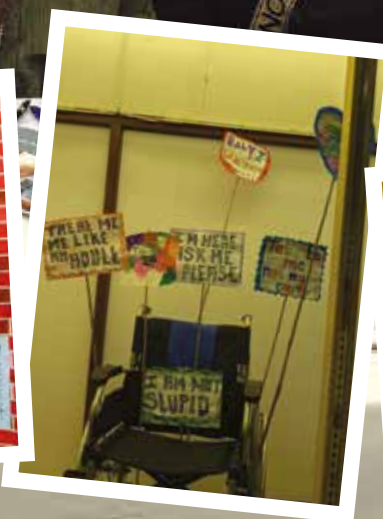
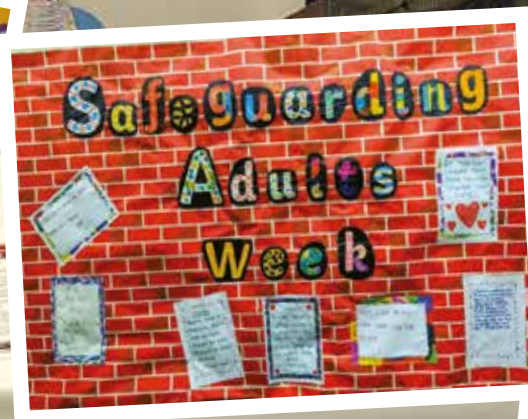
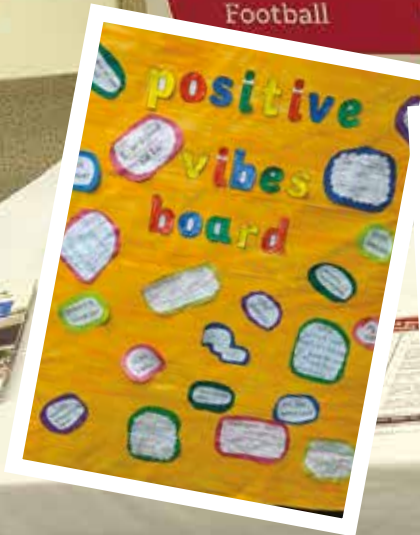
Email address: ksab@knowsley.gov.uk

[KSAB Website](#)



Safeguarding Adult Week Community Event

AQA Education Job Carving
 Languages Horticulture
 Music Tuition Cooking for life
 Personal Trainer Nutrition
 Beauty Therapy Massage
 Dance Zumba
 Makaton Art & Sculpture
 Football Athletics



Images courtesy of
 the Arc, Act for Action, Older People's Voice, KDC

