



Lancashire and  
South Cumbria  
Integrated Care Board

# NHS Lancashire and South Cumbria Integrated Care Board

## Strategic Safeguarding Plan 2024-2027



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## Introduction

Lancashire South Cumbria Integrated Care Board (ICB) serves a wide geographical area which includes four Local Authorities. Being aware of the demography of our communities and how our populations access our services ensures future planning of safeguarding delivery and that services are best placed to respond with Partners in addressing abuse and neglect that exists within our communities.

Lancashire and South Cumbria ICB is committed to safeguarding all including those who access services we commission. The term safeguarding covers everything that assists a child, young person or adult at risk to live a life that is free from abuse and neglect, and which enables them to retain independence, well-being, dignity and choice. It is about preventing abuse and neglect, as well as promoting good practice for responding to concerns on a multi-agency basis.

This document sets out the strategic approach and priorities to strengthen our arrangements for safeguarding across the ICB over the next three years and in the future. This plan includes the agreed areas of focus for Children, Young People and Adults, this is to be read in conjunction with the Children in Care, [Care Leavers Strategy](#) and contribute to and is aligned with the [ICBs Strategy Mission](#)

This is the ICBs first Strategy for Safeguarding, it outlines the intended improvement journey to achieve three key outcomes.

- **Promote personal centred care and support**
- **Promotion of a stronger safeguarding system**
- **Embedding improvement and shaping future practice that protects and promotes safeguarding.**

## Safeguarding in Lancashire and South Cumbria

Lancashire and South ICB is committed to promoting the safety and wellbeing of children, young people and adults and older adults who may be at risk of abuse or neglect. Our principal philosophy is that safeguarding is everybody's business. We work closely with Local Authorities, healthcare providers, Safeguarding Partnerships and networks of professionals to help prevent the abuse of children, young people and adults.

Everyone has the right to live in safety, free from abuse and neglect. The NHS Lancashire and South Cumbria Integrated Care Board (ICB) works closely with partner agencies e.g. health professionals, police, local councils and education to help keep adults and children living in our communities safe from harm.

All NHS commissioned services have a key role to play in safeguarding and promoting the welfare of unborn babies, children, young people, adults and older adults.

## **Safeguarding Children**

**Children** -There is a statutory duty under Section 11 of the Children’s Act 2004 and in accordance with the Working Together Guidance “Working together to Safeguard Children” (2023) to safeguard the needs of children under the age of 18 years.

Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children is defined under the Children Acts 1989 and 2004. ICBs have a duty under Section 10 of the Children Act 2004 to cooperate to improve well-being and under Section 11 of the Children Act 2004 to ensure that their functions are discharged with regard to the need to safeguard and promote the welfare of children. A whole organisational approach to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children is required. The scope of child safeguarding is much wider than child protection and involves all commissioners and providers of healthcare

## **Safeguarding Adults**

**Adults** - The Care Act 2014 came into force on the 1 April 2015. The Care Act 2014 sets out the legal framework for how providers should protect adults at risk of abuse or neglect. Under The Care Act, an adult at risk is someone over 18 years old who:

- has care and support needs
- is experiencing, or is at risk of, abuse or neglect
- as a result of their care and support needs is unable to protect himself or herself against the abuse or neglect or the risk of it.

The act sets out the statutory requirement for Local Authorities, health, police and other agencies to both develop and assess the effectiveness of their local safeguarding arrangements and is governed with six principles to safeguard vulnerable adults from harm.

Under the 2014 Care Act, Safeguarding Adults Boards (SABs) are responsible for undertaking Safeguarding Adult Reviews (SAR). The purpose of a SAR is to ‘promote effective learning and improvement action to prevent future deaths or serious harm occurring again’ (ref SCIE). Implementation of learning remains a priority area across the ICB whereby we continue to build a culture of learning through an appreciative model approach.

## **The role of Safeguarding in the ICB**

- Ensure the organisations we commission to provide health and care services maintain procedures to ensure the safety of people at risk of abuse and neglect.
- Ensure we are one health system including place-based partnerships collaborating with the Children’s Safeguarding Assurance Partnerships (CSAPs) and Safeguarding Adults Boards (SABs). We will also work with the Community Safety Partnerships ~(CSPs), communities, Advocacy Services, Police and Crime Commissioners and Third Sector and Voluntary Organisations to safeguard people in our communities.

- Secure Designated safeguarding professionals as experts and strategic leaders for Safeguarding Children in Care, Care Leavers and the Mental Capacity Act (MCA)
- Ensure clear safeguarding accountability and performance management arrangements are in place that will promote continuous improvement
- Respond to safeguarding and mental capacity legislation that impacts on health care provision
- Support Local Authority with delivery of their statutory duties relating to S42, S47 and S17 enquires when abuse or neglect is suspected.

Within the ICB the CEO holds overall accountability for safeguarding arrangements supported by the Chief Nursing Officer, under whom a safeguarding structure is in place, to ensure safe discharge of associated responsibilities. The organisation will support a “Think Family” population health approach to safeguarding, to prevent harm and promote wellbeing.

## **Our Purpose**

Our overriding purpose is to work together to safeguard children, young people and adults who are at risk of harm through abuse or neglect, as defined in legislation and guidance. It is recognised that the risk of abuse can increase due to socio economic factors, age, disability, ill health, an individual’s personal characteristics, additional vulnerabilities, life events or circumstances such as suffering adverse childhood events, domestic abuse, living conditions or lifestyle. It is our aim to prevent and reduce harm, whilst supporting individuals (including through advocacy if appropriate) to take and maintain control over their lives in a way that suits them.

## **Our Values, Vision and Mission**

In outlining our Values, we acknowledge that bias, inequality, and power imbalances exist, and we take positive steps to challenge this in all we do. Our Values are respect, authentic, sincere, collaborative, and inclusive. We tirelessly focus on the day in the life of the child or vulnerable adult.

## MISSION

We are collectively committed to addressing the societal issues that contribute and influence vulnerability of children, young people, adults and older adults. Our pledge to all is for you to have trust in us and our partnerships, that we will listen, respect your views, use language that cares, ensuring you are heard, making safeguarding personal. We aspire to identify and remove abuse and neglect from our communities. We are realistic that this involves everyone being involved, safeguarding being everyone's business. We will start with actions that make a positive impact, that will educate, protect and support to break the cycle of abuse and neglect that is present in our communities.

## VISION

**To build a future where** we are responsive of what our communities, individuals say they need to protect, prevent them from neglect and abuse and promote them to feel safe.

**We will promote** ways of working that recognise safeguarding is everybody's responsibility, and that the safety and wellbeing of those in vulnerable circumstances are at the forefront of our business, our society will have a refreshed understanding and perspective of their role in safeguarding.

**We will support families** living in deprivation and promote equality by ensuring that health inequalities are addressed.

### **PROMOTE** Personal Centred Care and Support

- We will improve our understanding and application of legal literature and apply core principles in all we do.
- We will apply person centred approaches when working with risk
- We will enhance individual involvement, choices, and control.
- Drive forward our pledge to be a Trauma Informed Organisation

### **PROMOTION** for a stronger Safeguarding System

- We will continue to build strong alliances and collaborative working arrangements with Providers.
- We will continue to be an equal and strong partner into the Safeguarding Partnerships
- We will apply best practice, research and innovation while continuing to develop research skill across our workforce

### **EMBEDDING** improvement and shaping future practice that protects and promotes safeguarding.

- We will apply digital support to advance communications including implementation of agreed tools and approaches to improve sharing of information.
- We will build a culture of learning through appreciative model approaches for learning
- We will demonstrate the effectiveness of our safeguarding training.
- We will demonstrate the effectiveness of supervision

## Plan on a Page

**To build a future where** we are responsive of what our communities, individuals say they need to protect, prevent them from neglect and abuse and promote them to feel safe. **We will promote** ways of working that recognise safeguarding is everybody's responsibility, and that the safety and wellbeing of those in vulnerable circumstances are at the forefront of our business, our society will have a refreshed understanding and perspective of their role in safeguarding.

**We will support families** living in deprivation and promote equality by ensuring that health inequalities are addressed.

### PROMOTE Personal Centred Care and Support

We will improve our understanding and application of legal literature and apply core principles in all we do.

We will apply person centred approaches when working with risk

We will enhance individual involvement, choices, and control.

Drive forward our pledge to be a trauma informed organisation.

### A STRONGER SYSTEM

### PROMOTION for a stronger Safeguarding System

We will continue to build strong alliances and collaborative working arrangements with Providers.

We will continue to be an equal and strong partner into the Safeguarding Partnerships

We will apply best practice, research and innovation while continuing to develop research skill across our workforce

### CITIZEN AWARENESS AND COURAGE

### EMBEDDING improvement and shaping future practice

We will ...  
-build digital support to advance communications to improve sharing of information.

- build a culture of learning through appreciative model approaches

-demonstrate the effectiveness of our safeguarding training.

-demonstrate the effectiveness of supervision

**We never stop listening and acting upon the voice of children, young people, adults and older adults**

During 2024-2027 we will:

## PROMOTE Personal Centred Care and Support

### Objectives

We will improve our understanding and application of legal literature and apply core principles in all we do.

We will apply person centred approaches when working with risk

We will enhance individual involvement, choices, and control.

Drive forward our pledge to be a trauma informed organisation.

To meet this objective over the coming years

We will deliver new ways of working ensuring the voice of child and vulnerable adult is present in all we do.

We will be clear in our communications of legislation pertinent to safeguarding activity, raising awareness and engagement to build expertise, confidence when supporting individuals.

We will guide actions that support person centred risk planning with a specific focus on transition and complex case management.

We will lead by example demonstrating collaborative professional mindset that wraps around to support vulnerable individuals.

### Key indicators of success and impact

The team will join in community groups to gain insight of inequalities and the voice of vulnerable populations.

We will monitor the effective use of ICB Safeguarding intranet and website.

When we undertake case audit, effective application of relevant legislation will be evident

Our MDTs will demonstrate multiagency team cohesion when supporting complexity. Evident through appreciative review.



During 2024-2027 we will:

## PROMOTE a stronger Safeguarding System

### Objectives

We will continue to build strong alliances and collaborative working arrangements with Providers.

We will continue to be an equal and strong partner into the Safeguarding Partnerships

We will apply best practice, research and innovation while continuing to develop research skill across our workforce.

We will safeguard those who alleged to have experienced harm or abuse from a person in position of

### To meet this objective over the coming years

We will: -

- Mature collaborative system leadership
- Developing an assurance framework
- Revise our assurance mechanisms and audit process
- Regularly be visible to our Services.
- Provide targeted / proactive visits.

We will have a model of Matrix working that interface with ICB Directorate teams, Place and our Statutory Partners

Our ICB Safeguarding team will develop research skills and confidence, so we will have the ability to extract information from a variety of materials. Improving how we form judgements to facilitate innovative best practice in safeguarding.

Promote PIPOT compliance through policy development and training a framework to manage and assess risk and coordinate proportionate responses to concerns raised.

### Key indicators of success and impact

We will expand the safeguarding network and evaluate its impact on increasing members' professional development.

Our team will have consistency in our response, this will be evident in hub audits.

We will expand our teams access to academic literature by providing them with access Open Athens

We will continual raise PIPOT via staff training, robust governance processes, formal data collation.

During 2024-2027 we will:

**EMBEDDING** improvement and shaping future practice that protects and promotes safeguarding.

### Objectives

We will apply digital support to advance communications including implementation of agreed tools and approaches to improve sharing of information.

We will build a culture of learning through appreciative model approaches.

We will demonstrate the effectiveness of our safeguarding training.

We will demonstrate the effectiveness of supervision.

### To meet this objective over the coming years

We will develop a Comprehensive Learning and Development Framework that informs practice.

It will have 4 component parts: -

- Self-reflectivity – whereby staff spend time in personal reflection on a safeguarding issue, connecting it to their beliefs, values, and their own life experiences.
- Dialogue– whereby staff are facilitated to engage in a depth of sharing of experience and perspectives through which they create knowledge and meaning.
- Appreciative Inquiry – whereby staff come together and spend time reflecting on care delivery that went well. Aligning best practice evidence, culture, and behaviour for successful delivery
- The voice(s) of victims and of survivors remains central focus.

We will have a programme of review and reflective practice, once a year the whole team will reflect on learning from local and national reviews, repeated system learning themes and plan strategic action for improvement.

We will review our response to child deaths to ensure we are consistent across Lancashire and South Cumbria and compliant with best practice and statutory guidance.

### Key indicators of success and Impact

Implementation of Digital advances will be evident in learning reviews.

We demonstrate that we are improving how we co-design training with survivors and users of the safeguarding system.

We will evaluate the impact in practice of Safeguarding Supervision and training through case audit and learning circles.

We will peer evaluate our child death response.