

Gateshead

Safeguarding Adults Board

Multi-Agency Safeguarding Adults Policy and Practice Guidance – Policy Statement

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Update and Approval Process

Version	Group/ Person	Date	Comments
1	Catherine Hardman	June 2026	New Document

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Review Date	This Policy Statement will be reviewed at least every 2 years or sooner if legislation or best practice changes.

Living a life that is free from abuse and neglect is a fundamental right of every person. Safeguarding adults is about protecting that right while promoting wellbeing, choice, dignity, and independence.

This Safeguarding Adults Multi-Agency Policy and Procedures are underpinned by the [Care Act 2014](#) and the [Care and Support Statutory Guidance](#). Chapter 14 of the statutory guidance provides the legal framework for safeguarding adults and replaces the former *No Secrets* guidance.

The Care Act places adult safeguarding on a statutory footing and establishes clear duties for organisations and professionals to work together to prevent abuse and neglect and to respond effectively when concerns arise. Safeguarding duties apply where an adult:

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

When abuse or neglect does occur, responses must be timely, proportionate and effective, and must place the adult at the centre of decision-making wherever possible. Adults should be supported to understand the concerns, to express their views, and to influence the outcomes of safeguarding activity.

The Gateshead Safeguarding Adults Multi-Agency Policy and Procedures adopt the principles of Making Safeguarding Personal (MSP). Safeguarding in Gateshead is therefore person-led and outcome-focused, recognising that safeguarding is not only about processes, but about working with people to achieve the outcomes that matter to them in their own lives. Prevention and early intervention are key elements of this approach.

A cornerstone of the Care Act is the general responsibility on local authorities and partners to promote individual wellbeing. Wellbeing is a broad concept that includes personal dignity, physical and mental health, protection from abuse and neglect, control over day-to-day life, participation in work or education, social relationships, and suitability of living accommodation. The Care Act emphasises that individuals are best placed to judge their own wellbeing, and safeguarding practice must reflect this principle.

The Care Act also establishes a duty of co-operation between the local authority and its partners, including health services, the police, and other relevant organisations. In Gateshead, safeguarding adults is underpinned by strong, established partnership working, reflected in the membership and activity of the Safeguarding Adults Board and its supporting sub-groups.

The Gateshead Safeguarding Adults Multi-Agency Policy and Procedures has been developed to ensure that adults with care and support needs who are experiencing, or are at risk of, abuse or neglect are protected through clear, consistent and effective multi-agency responses across Gateshead.

All staff, in all agencies and roles, including volunteers and unqualified staff, have a responsibility to help prevent abuse and neglect and to take appropriate action when concerns arise. The GSAB policy and procedures set out how organisations and individuals should work together to safeguard adults appropriately. The intended audience is professionals and frontline workers across all sectors,

including statutory services, private and independent providers, and voluntary and community (third sector) organisations.

The Safeguarding Adults Board (SAB) is the statutory body responsible for providing strategic leadership and oversight of safeguarding adults in Gateshead. The SAB ensures that this policy and procedures are developed, implemented, embedded and kept under regular review. The statutory partners of the SAB are the local authority, the police, and the Integrated Care Board (ICB), working together with a wide range of partner organisations to promote effective safeguarding arrangements.

Legislative and Statutory Framework

This policy statement is informed by and should be read in conjunction with the following legislation and statutory guidance:

- Care Act 2014
- Care and Support Statutory Guidance, in particular Chapter 14 (Safeguarding)
- Mental Capacity Act 2005
- Mental Capacity (Amendment) Act 2019
- Data Protection Act 2018 and UK General Data Protection Regulation (UK GDPR)
- Human Rights Act 1998
- Equality Act 2010