

**OLDHAM
SAFEGUARDING
ADULTS
BOARD**



**ANNUAL
REPORT
2022-23**



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Helping people live safely in Oldham

What is Safeguarding?

“Safeguarding means protecting an adult’s right to live in safety, free from abuse and neglect. It is about people and organisations working together to prevent and stop both the risks and experience of abuse or neglect.” Care Act 2014

Safeguarding is also about respecting an individual’s views, wishes, feelings and beliefs when acting in the interests of their wellbeing.

Oldham’s Safeguarding Adults Board is responsible for leading adult safeguarding arrangements in the borough. It does this by bringing together a huge number of teams and organisation to ensure services work together effectively; helping people to live free from harm and protecting their human rights.

Who are the Safeguarding Board?

By law, the Board’s membership must include Oldham Council and the Oldham based teams from Greater Manchester Police and NHS Greater Manchester Integrated Care.

Working as a collaborative, the Board brings together representatives from the following sectors and services:

- Voluntary sector organisations
- Healthwatch Oldham
- Probation Service
- Greater Manchester Police
- Pennine Care NHS Foundation Trust
- Northern Care Alliance NHS Foundation Trust
- Public Health
- Oldham Housing organisations
- Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Service
- Oldham Council
- NHS Greater Manchester Integrated Care

The Board is managed by an Independent Chair who is responsible for providing safeguarding leadership and oversight. Through the work of the Board, the Chair seeks assurance from partner agencies that they are working together effectively to help keep people safe.

Safeguarding is everyone’s business

There are many different types of abuse and neglect such as financial and sexual abuse, domestic violence, elder abuse, modern day slavery and even self-neglect; all of which can happen at home, in the community or within places where care is provided.

The safeguarding responsibilities of the Board are just part of the solution. Our greatest resource for identifying and reporting safeguarding concerns are families, friends, and members of the public. So, our mission for 2023-24 is to ensure that safeguarding is everyone’s business by encouraging people to be curious, highlighting the signs to look for and making it easy to make a safeguarding referral.

The Board has three core duties:

1. Conduct a Safeguarding Adult Review where there is evidence to suggest that someone has experienced harm as a result of abuse or neglect.
2. Produce a Strategic Plan setting out the changes the Board wants to achieve and how organisations will work together to help keep people safe.
3. Publish an Annual Report setting out information on safeguarding trends locally, the actions of the Board over the last year, and priorities for the coming year.

This Annual Report provides an overview of safeguarding trends in Oldham during 2022-23. It also provides information on the Safeguarding Adult Reviews commissioned by the Board and how the learning from these reviews has shaped and improved the way services work in Oldham.

Profile of abuse and neglect in Oldham

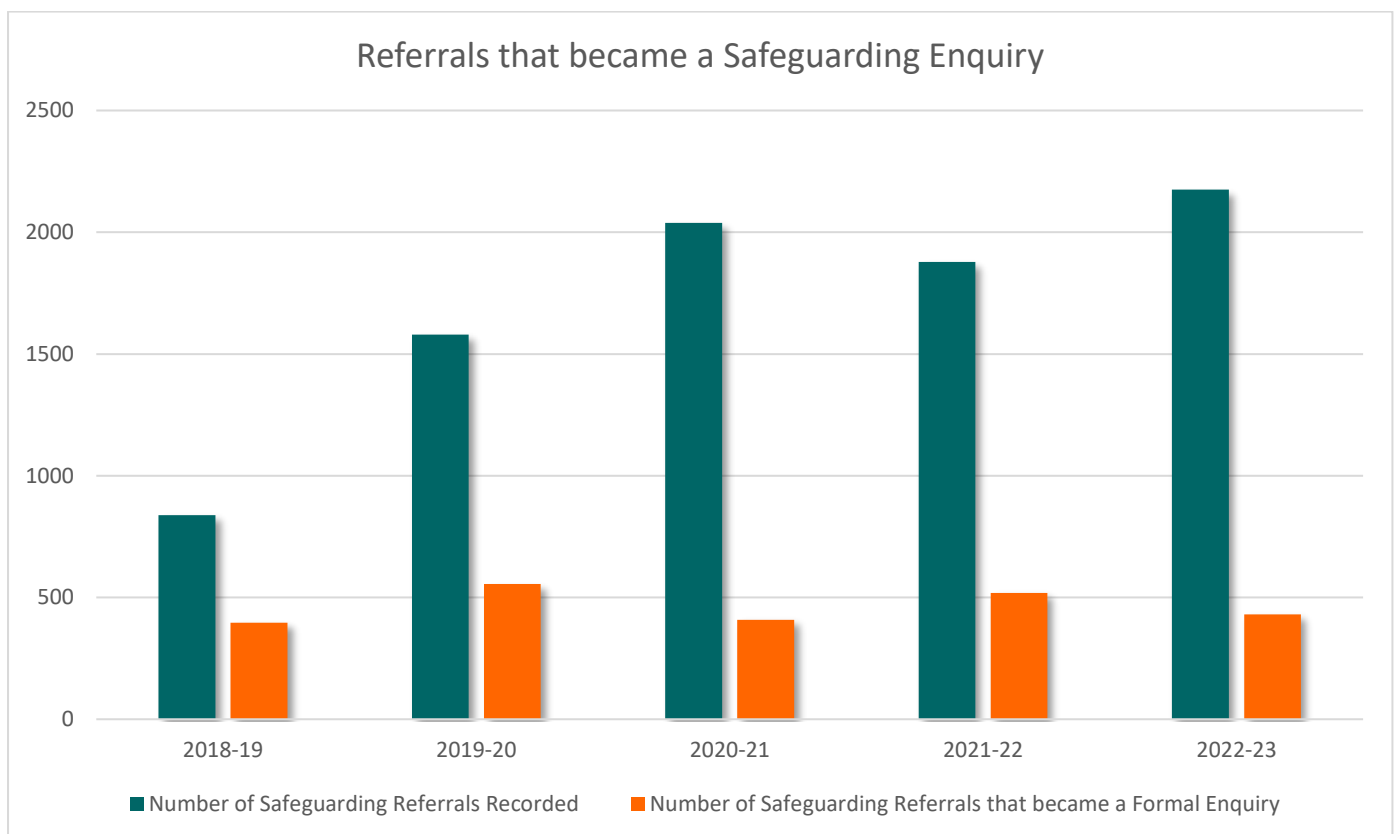
The following information shows the numbers and types of safeguarding abuse recorded for Oldham residents in 2022-23. This data has been compared to the numbers and types of safeguarding abuse from previous years to help us understand any changes or new types of safeguarding concerns that need to be addressed.

Safeguarding referrals that became a formal safeguarding enquiry

Each safeguarding referral received is investigated and if we believe that an adult with care and support needs is at risk of serious abuse or neglect and is unable to protect themselves because of those needs, the referral becomes the subject of a formal safeguarding enquiry.

The purpose of a formal safeguarding enquiry is to ensure that the referral is investigated, to gather more information, to collect the views of the adult at risk of serious abuse or neglect and the views of anyone else who may be relevant, and to prevent, or stop, abuse from occurring.

The chart below shows the number of safeguarding referrals that have gone on to become formal safeguarding enquiries over the last five years.



During 2022-23, a total of 2175 safeguarding referrals were received and of these, 430 became a formal safeguarding enquiry. The number of safeguarding referrals increased by 16% in 2022-23 compared to the previous year.

Some of this increase may be due to safeguarding awareness campaigns designed to encourage the residents of Oldham to report their safeguarding concerns and training provided to professionals in Oldham about making safeguarding referrals and the criteria for formal enquiries.

Whilst the number of overall referrals has increased, the number of those that have led to formal safeguarding enquiries has remained relatively consistent over the last five years with an average of 460 each year.

Sex, age, and ethnic group of safeguarding referrals

Of the 2175 safeguarding referrals in 2022-23, 60% related to women and 40% related to men.

This is the same proportion as previous years and, as women make up 52% of the total adult population in Oldham, this means that the percentage of safeguarding cases per head of population in 2022-23 were slightly higher for women than for men.



safeguarding referrals were about women in 2022-23



safeguarding referrals were about men in 2022-23



Of the 2175 safeguarding referrals in 2022-23:

- 930 (43%) were 18-64 years old
- 265 (12%) were 65-74 years old
- 473 (22%) were 75-84 years old
- 506 (23%) were 85 years old or older

Considering different age groups, during 2022-23, it was recorded that over 50% of all safeguarding referrals related to someone aged 65 or over. Whilst the percentage of people aged 85 years and over has increased slightly from 20% to 23% the breakdown by age group has remained consistent over the last few years.



Of the 2175 safeguarding referrals in 2022-23:

- 82% were White British
- 7% were Asian/Asian British
- 1% were Black/African/Caribbean
- 1% were Mixed/Other Ethnicity
- 9% were Unknown/refused information

Considering the ethnicity of Oldham residents, during 2022-23, it was recorded that 82% of all safeguarding referrals related to White British people. This is the largely the same proportion as previous years and, as White British people make up 65% of the total adult population in Oldham, this means that the percentage of safeguarding cases per head of population in 2022-23 were slightly higher for White British people.

Overall the 2022-23 figures suggest that White British people aged 65 and over were more likely to be the subject of a safeguarding referral compared to any other group.

Number of closed safeguarding referrals and enquiries



2253 safeguarding referrals and enquiries were closed in 2021-22

2631 safeguarding referrals and enquiries were closed in 2022-23

During 2022-23, a total of 2631 safeguarding referrals and enquiries were closed which is more than the 2175 safeguarding referrals received in the year. This is due to a push by Oldham's Strategic Safeguarding Service to increase the number of timely closure of referrals and enquiries and includes the closure of outstanding cases from 2021-22.

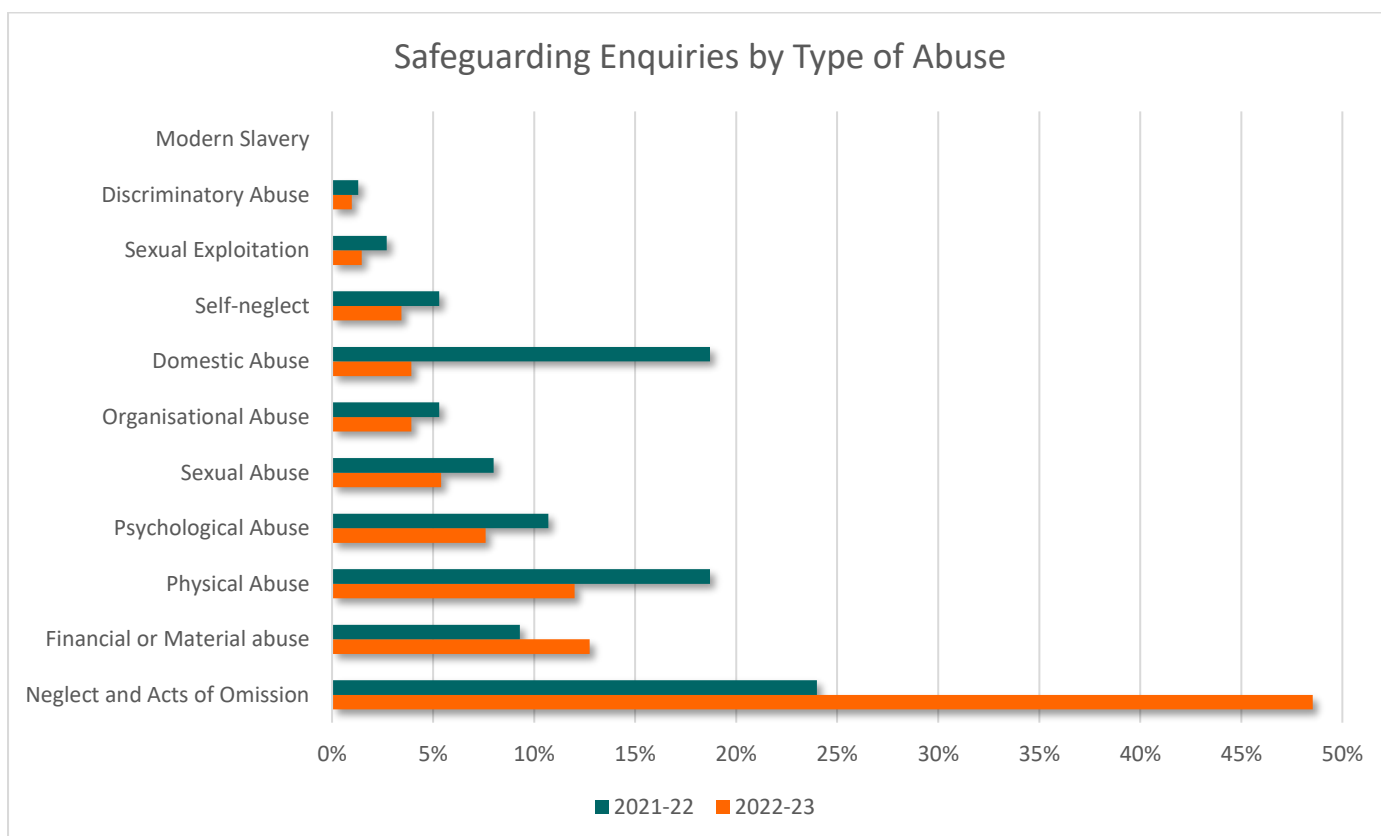
Mental Capacity

A person lacks mental capacity if their mind is impaired or disturbed in some way, which means they are unable to make a decision at that time as they cannot understand the information relevant to the decision; retain that information; or use or weigh up that information as part of the process of making the decision. Examples of how a person's brain or mind may be impaired include mental health conditions, dementia and intoxication caused by drugs or alcohol misuse. The 2022-23 figures include a higher proportion of complex safeguarding enquiry cases compared to 2021-22 with **46%** of the closed safeguarding enquiries involving people who lacked capacity to make their own decisions. This had increased from 40% in 2021-22.



Types of safeguarding abuse

The chart below shows a breakdown of the **types of safeguarding** abuse investigated in 2022-23 compared to 2021-22. Some safeguarding investigations can involve the recording of more than one category of abuse for the same person and these are the cases that often involve multiple agencies working together to ensure those involved are safe.



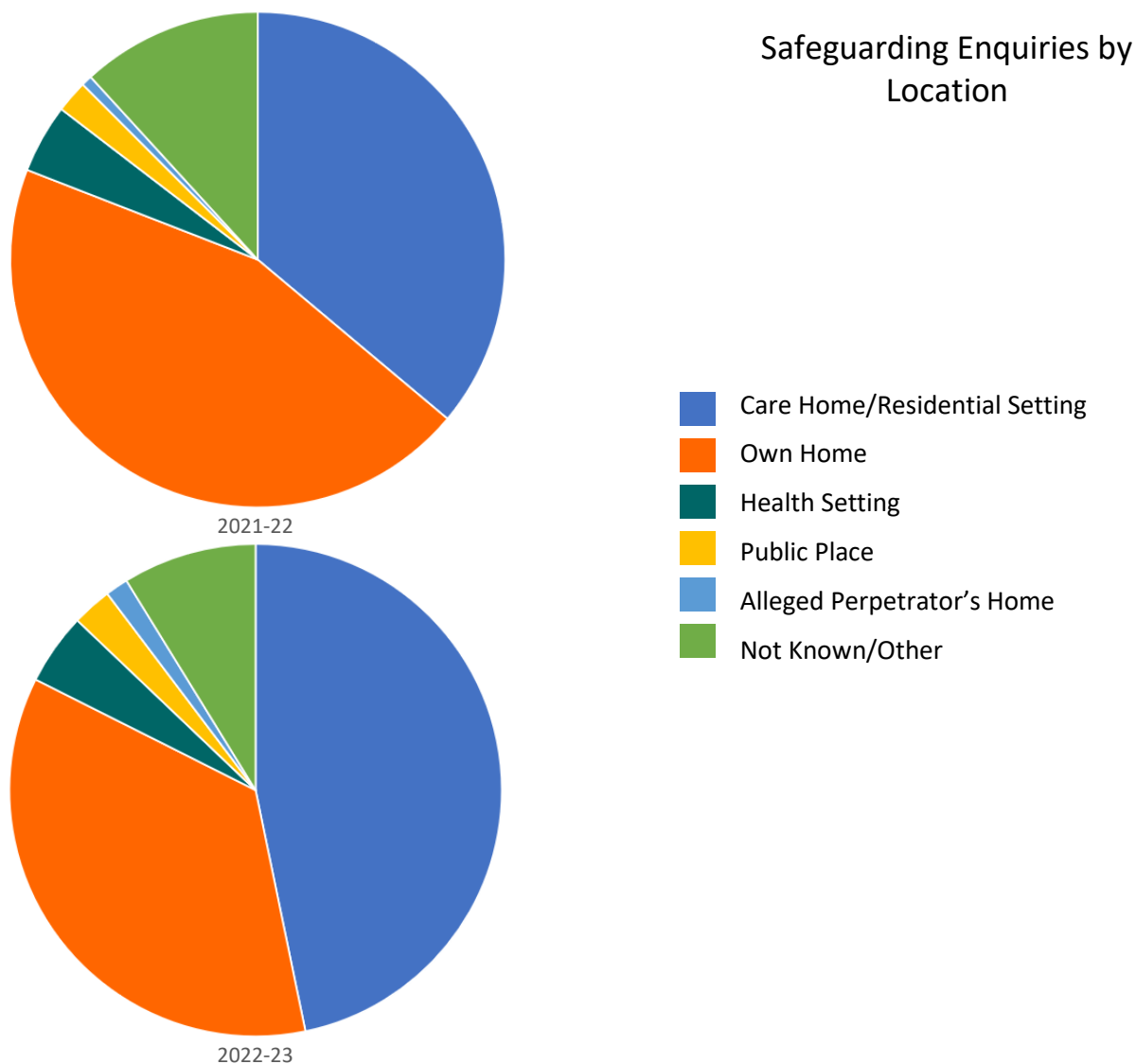
Modern Slavery is an umbrella term for all forms of slavery, human trafficking, and exploitation. It includes holding a person in a position of slavery, servitude, forced or compulsory labour, or facilitating their travel with the intention of exploiting them soon after. In 2022-23, there were ten safeguarding referrals received related to Modern Slavery in Oldham. None of these progressed to a safeguarding enquiry. As it is often the case that the potential victims do not have care and support needs, these cases are usually responded to through alternative processes rather than via a safeguarding enquiry. Local professionals are being encouraged to recognise the signs of Modern Slavery and provided with the details of the alternative processes that can be used to respond to concerns about Modern Slavery through new multi-agency training, practitioner guidance and briefings that the Board introduced in 2022-23.

The most common form of abuse in 2022-23 related to neglect and acts of omission. These are cases where a person who is responsible for the support of an adult at risk has failed to provide adequate care or essentials such as medicines, nutrition, heating etc. Neglect and acts of omission has consistently been the most common form of abuse over the last four years. Levels have increased from 24% in 2021-22, to 48% of cases investigated in 2022-23.

Conversely, there has been a decrease in the percentage of discriminatory, organisational, physical, and sexual abuse cases investigated in the last year.

Where the abuse took place

The charts below show that for both 2021-22 and 2022-23 the most common places where the reported abuse or neglect took place was within a care home/residential setting or the person's own home.



The Safeguarding Adults Board review safeguarding data regularly. In 2022-23, the Board oversaw further development of a detailed data 'dashboard'. The insights from this are used by the Board to review safeguarding resources such as training and guidance and where appropriate, adjust the way services work together to keep people safe in Oldham.

Safeguarding – what does good look like?

When Oldham Safeguarding Adults Board report on safeguarding data, we often focus on safeguarding enquiries, because this is a statutory responsibility. But this is only part of the picture. In 2022-23, Adult Social Care worked with other partner agencies to deal with a further 1,745 safeguarding referrals that did not meet the criteria for a safeguarding enquiry, but often involved a great deal of work to keep people safe and well.

In Fred's case a referral was made about self-neglect and hoarding. Fred is a 79 year old gentleman who lives alone in his own property. He has been known to many services over the years, including the Police, the Fire and Rescue Service, Social Prescribing, Adult Social Care, Environmental Health, his GP, Age UK Oldham, and Mind.

A private personal assistant (PA) is a person that helps someone to manage their household or personal-related tasks. Fred's wife was diagnosed with dementia. There was a private PA (PA) going into their house, to support him and his wife. His wife's dementia deteriorated, and she is now being cared for in a residential home. The private PA support was cancelled. Fred can be described as a 'person who hoards'. Most of the items he hoards are electrical equipment, electronics, and gadgets. These items are quite expensive, and he has been targeted by some local people. He has also had two serious electrical fires and did not request any medical support for his burns. Fred was reluctant to accept support from services and was neglecting himself by not eating or drinking properly, not attending GP appointments and became increasingly depressed and expressed suicidal thoughts. A safeguarding referral was made due to concerns about self-neglect and hoarding behaviour.

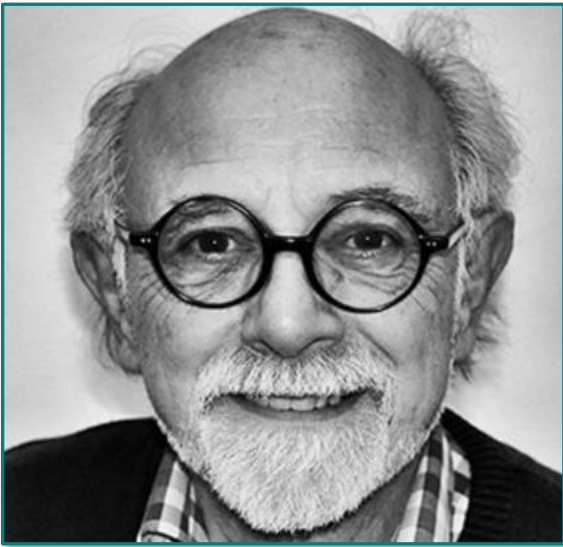
Professionals from some of the services in Oldham that knew Fred started to use Oldham's Team Around the Adult approach. This is designed to bring together a range of different representatives from across the Safeguarding Partnership to provide support for someone. Members of the Team Around the Adult began to meet to work in partnership with Fred to explore some of the risk that was known about and develop and deliver support that was focused on solutions that would last. A Team Around the Adult can do this by asking for advice or support from representatives from other services and organisations who do not necessarily know or meet the person. Sometimes the representatives from these services will join the Team Around the Adult.

A multi-agency risk assessment and risk action plan was agreed by all the professionals involved in the Team Around the Adult. The Social Worker involved had known Fred when his wife lived at home, they were able to establish a positive working relationship with him. A private PA was put in place and is now supporting Fred with paying his bills, organising his finances, and helping him to clear the clutter in his house. Fred is now getting all the right benefits that he is entitled to. His finances and debts are being managed and he is accepting practical and emotional support from his private PA. The hoarding in the property is also reducing.

The Team Around the Adult continue to meet once every month. They make sure they are reviewing the risk assessment together and sharing all new information. Fred was asked about what his wishes were, what he would want to happen. "To have my wife living back home," he said, "and to organise my house." Through really positive multi-agency commitment and support Fred is some way to achieving his positive outcome.



Message from the Independent Chair



- Structured cross-agency working to meet multi-dimensional complex need
- Quality assured evaluations of local safeguarding practice initiatives

It is a hallmark of an effective safeguarding partnership that public awareness of safeguarding is heightened and that demand for service is high. These hallmarks are evident in the Oldham partnership arrangements.

The partners are committed to ensure that good quality safeguarding services are available to all communities in the borough, that these services innovate to meet the changing needs of residents and that the public have confidence in the skills, abilities, and resources of the local safeguarding partners.

The spirit of this commitment will be taken into the final year of the current three-year strategy for safeguarding in Oldham and during 2023-24 we shall be consulting on how this strategy should be refreshed for the future.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'H. Giller'.

Henri Giller
Independent Chair
Oldham Safeguarding Adults Board

“ This annual report from the Oldham Safeguarding Adult Board once again demonstrates the multi-layered complexity of safeguarding needs and vulnerabilities of local residents. These needs and vulnerabilities can manifest in acts of neglect and omission from carers (formal and informal), incidents of domestic conflict and abuse, exploitation in a variety of relationships and settings and vulnerabilities caused by or contributed to from compromised mental capacity.

The members of the safeguarding adult partnership need to be aware of the variety of these dimensions and complexities and ensure that their service responses are sufficiently robust to meet the challenges contained in the demands of safeguarding.

Strategic approaches currently employed by the local partnership include:

- Awareness raising initiatives on dimensions of safeguarding need
- A focus on the prevention of abuse, neglect, and exploitation
- Multi-agency training to establish a common knowledge base of safeguarding need

Safeguarding Adult Reviews

The Board has a legal duty to carry out a **Safeguarding Adult Review (SAR)** if it believes that someone has died of, or experienced, serious abuse or neglect. The aim of a SAR is to review the way agencies worked together to safeguard an individual or family. Learning from the review is shared across agencies and used by the Board to review the way services operate in order to prevent a similar situation.

Central to the process is the involvement of the family or the individual, if they are still alive. This ensures that we capture the experiences of people who use services and use this insight to inform any changes.

The following information shows the increase in the number of reviews commissioned by the Board in 2022-23 to compared to the previous year.

2021-22 2 Safeguarding Adult Reviews



2022-23 4 Safeguarding Adult Reviews



Common themes emerging from SARs involved the multi-agency management of risk; Complex and Contextual Safeguarding including cuckooing, financial abuse, and exploitation; and safeguarding transitions which is the term used to describe the period of change in a young person's life as they move from childhood to adulthood and the way services in Oldham support young people between the ages of 14 and 25, as they move from children's to adults' services.

The findings below came from a SAR completed in 2022-23.

Peter

Peter was in his early 70's when he was found deceased in his flat by police. He lived alone and had managed his own finances and medication.

Peter had a reduced cognition score although no formal diagnosis was made. A reduced cognition score means a person has trouble remembering, learning new things, concentrating, or making decisions that affect their everyday life.

Peter had been able to communicate to many agencies that there were issues and that he had been deemed to have mental capacity to return home from hospital a few days before he died.

There were several disclosures of financial abuse and exploitation by two younger males in the local area. Information was shared that the males were taking Peter's money, his bank card, his medication, and his phone. One of the males also tried to prevent professionals from accessing Peter. Paid carers commissioned to support Peter felt unsafe going into Peter's home because of the two males being present inside or outside of the flat. Five safeguarding referrals were made.

As it appeared Peter had mental capacity, it was left to him to stop letting people into his property. Although Peter's carers called police on his behalf to report that males were constantly harassing him, there was not a significant amount of recognition of exploitation and cuckooing and how this could have had an impact on decision making and capacity.

There was evidence of social care, police, and Peter's housing association sharing information, but there was little escalation within services and no multi-agency meetings planned.

The SAR suggested the need for clear guidance about what housing providers and other agencies could do to respond to exploitation including financial abuse and cuckooing and how they could escalate issues and report concerns better.

Listening to lived experience

In 2022-23, Oldham Safeguarding Adults Board worked in partnership with Age UK Oldham, Healthwatch Oldham and Oldham's Domestic Abuse Partnership, to carry out research to understand the domestic abuse experiences of people aged 55 and over. Through a mix of in-depth one to one interviews and focus group discussions, over forty residents in Oldham shared their stories and feedback; with experiences ranging from long standing abuse by an intimate partner to abuse from wider family members.

The research report can be found on the OSAB website: [Opening Doors: Understanding the experiences and responses to older victims of domestic abuse in Oldham - A research report by the Oldham Safeguarding Adults Board and Oldham Domestic Abuse Partnership.](#)

The research found that abuse can be triggered by life changing situations such as retirement, disability or taking on an informal caring role. The findings included that there was a need for a different response for older survivors. One of the survivors said:

"It is a subject that is still taboo, especially with the older generation whose mindset is 'I've made my bed, so I have to lie in it.'"

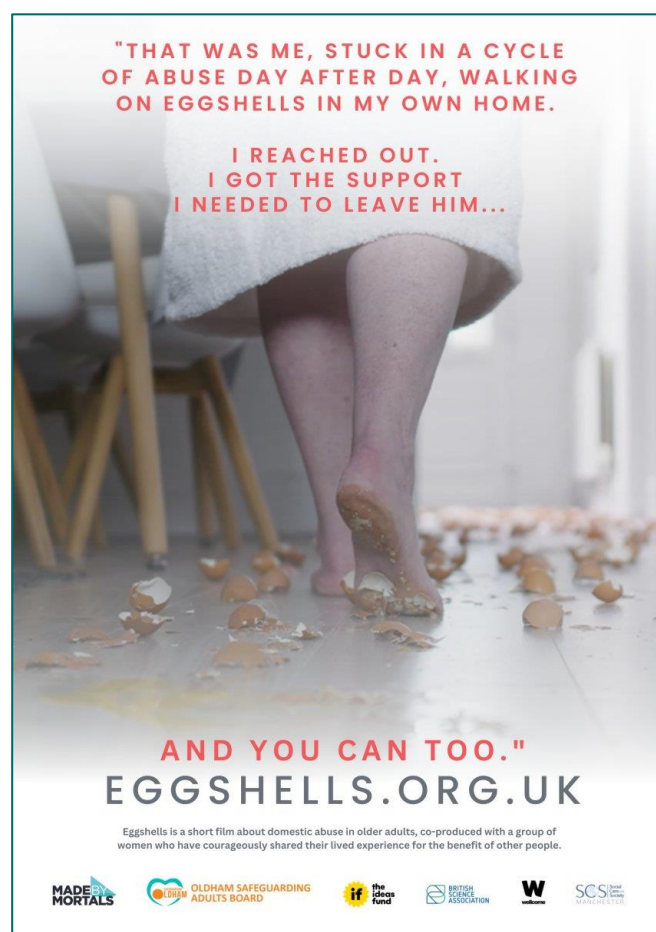
The feedback has been used to highlight the different forms of abuse experienced by people in later life as well as the barriers they face accessing help and support. It will also be used to review the appropriateness of current domestic abuse assessments and support options for older survivors.

We found that the majority of cases involve a gradual escalation of abuse as part of a long term relationship. 45% of survivors said that the abuse got more coercive and controlling over time with perpetrators monitoring and restricting their social contacts, movements, and finances. Often, due to the subtlety of coercion and control, older survivors did not recognise the behaviour as abuse until it escalated to a point where the severity of it made it difficult to leave. Equally, practitioners in Oldham did not

recognise these very early signs linked to coercion and control.

The Board launched 'Eggshells' a short film designed to help promote an understanding of these types of situations and to help everyone recognise the signs. The film focuses on domestic abuse experienced by older adults and was introduced as part of National Safeguarding Adults Week and just ahead of White Ribbon Day. Made By Mortals were asked to lead production of the powerful film. It was co-produced with a team of professional artists, partners from health and social care and a group of women from Oldham who courageously shared their lived experience as a way of helping others going through the same experiences. This vital film finishes by encouraging people to visit a new website: www.eggshells.org.uk for information and support in Greater Manchester. The website includes a collation of key links put together to support the film.

The film has now been viewed more than **245,000** times! You can watch Eggshells by clicking on the poster below or at www.eggshells.org.uk.



The research findings and campaign video were also shared widely as part of a new multi-agency training course that has been rolled out to Safeguarding Adult Boards across Greater Manchester.

Working in Partnership in 2022-23

The role of Oldham Safeguarding Adults Board is to ensure that organisations across Oldham work together to help adults live safely. Each year the Board produces a business plan which translates its agreed ambitions for a three-year period into an annual programme of work. The work of the Board is also shaped by learning from Safeguarding Adult Reviews (SARs) and people's feedback about their experiences of accessing services. The Board's achievements in 2022-23 included:

- **Team Around the Adult (TAA) and the Adults Complex and High Risk Panel (CaHRP)** – Agencies have continued to embed the procedures set out in the Tiered Risk Assessment and Management (TRAM) Protocol. For cases involving complex issues and risk, such as Fred's, the Protocol helps agencies coordinate support effectively through regular TAA meetings. Cases considered to be high or critical risk are escalated to the Adults CaHRP. The Panel brings together senior safeguarding leads and heads of services and departments for case discussions that require their oversight and to enable them to provide additional support to help problem solve.

"The TRAM protocol and the Panel was very supportive. I was case managing a high risk case and professionals at the Panel offered guidance and advice and helped me think out of the box."

An Oldham Professional

- **Preparing for Adulthood: Oldham's Transitions Policy** - Following multi-agency collaboration between adults and children's services in Oldham, a joint Transitions Policy was produced. The policy sets out best practice for how services should work together to support not only young people with care and support needs but also those at high risk of experiencing harm or abuse and likely to need support as an adult. Training for all professionals with the aim of embedding this policy will be rolled out in 2023-24.
- **Multi-Agency Training** – As a result of the Workforce Development Strategy for 2022-23, the Board oversaw the design, development, and piloting of 8 new multi-agency training sessions and the delivery of 12 different sessions through a pool of voluntary multi-agency trainers. Sessions included those related to Hoarding Awareness; the Mental Capacity Act; and Risk Management in Oldham. A total of 837 professionals representing

45 different services attended these sessions – both of these figures almost doubled from the previous year when 431 professionals representing 23 different services attended!

- **Adult Complex Safeguarding and Exploitation Strategy** - Following publication of the Greater Manchester Child Exploitation Report and review of cases in Oldham, the Board came together with the Children's Safeguarding Partnership at a joint learning event to hear about the lived experiences of victims and survivors and to agree to prioritise future actions. The Board published its [Adult Complex Safeguarding and Exploitation Strategy](#) setting out its understanding of complex safeguarding and exploitation, its approach to tackling adolescent and adult exploitation and how partners would work together to improve the lives of those at risk of exploitation. The strategy was purposely designed to be read alongside the [Children's Strategy](#).
- **Safeguarding Awareness** - The Board has supported numerous public campaigns to raise awareness of safeguarding issues including information on how to raise a safeguarding concern being sent to all residents in Oldham via the free local newspaper. See some examples below; click on the image to see a larger version.



Each year, partner agencies provide a summary of their own safeguarding work for publication as **Single-Agency Statements**. The following pages provide summaries from Adult Social Care and the Oldham based teams within NHS Greater Manchester Integrated Care and Greater Manchester Police as the three lead agencies on the Board.

Partner Contributions: Adult Social Care, Oldham Council

Oldham Council is responsible for providing a range of public services to support local communities. One of the main services it provides is **Adult Social Care** which has a statutory duty to prevent, delay, assess and meet the care and support needs of adults under the Care Act 2014. Adult Social Care is also responsible for assessing and authorising deprivations of liberty for adults where it is deemed to be in an individual's best interests. Social Care sits within the Adult Community Health and Social Care Service.

Where does safeguarding fit?

Safeguarding is the top priority in Adult Community Health and Social Care. The service provides the first point of contact to report safeguarding concerns and works with individuals and advocates to ensure individual's outcomes are at the centre of this process and protect those who are unable to protect themselves from abuse and neglect.

We work with other agencies to help people identify and manage risks and have a duty to work with our care providers, reviewing the quality of services to ensure the delivery of high quality and safe care.

Safeguarding in 2022-23

Safeguarding trends included:

- **Complex and Transitional Safeguarding** - Referrals for individuals at risk of criminal and sexual exploitation have continued to be a trend in 2022-23. Referrals for young people moving into adulthood have also continued to be a trend. These two trends are closely connected. Thematically, both of these areas require person centred, trauma informed responses, mental health assessments, mental capacity assessments (often executive functioning), an outreach approach, the use of legal frameworks, and intensive multi-agency partnership working to assess, manage and reduce risks to an individual's safety and wellbeing.
- **Preventative safeguarding responses and risk management work** undertaken at safeguarding referral stage has also been a trend. We have seen a 15% increase in safeguarding referrals in comparison to the previous year.

Our major successes included:

- **One Team Approach** - Workforce capacity challenges have required us to work creatively and flexibly to deliver a safe safeguarding service. A centralised safeguarding team responding to safeguarding concerns and completing safeguarding enquiries in locality teams has supported safe delivery. Embedding triage risk rating systems has allowed teams to work more flexibly.
- **Allegation Management** - We have undertaken awareness raising regarding allegation management concerns and these are now being consistently reported. The Allegation Management Lead role has now been embedded and work has been undertaken to enhance the infrastructure needed to respond to these concerns effectively.

Our Priorities for 2023-24

- **Making Safeguarding Personal (MSP)** – We aim to deliver high quality safeguarding practice through personalised, strengths based and outcome focused conversations. The Strategic Safeguarding Service will be working to support consistency across the service in the holding and recording of MSP conversations throughout 2023-24.
- **Co-production** - We will be exploring ways in which we can understand the experience of people using our safeguarding services, what helps them, what does not, and how we can co-produce effective safeguarding responses.
- **Adult MASH Review Update and Strategy** – A review and strategy for the Adult Social Care safeguarding front door will be progressed.
- **Care Home Safeguarding** - We will continue to monitor care home safeguarding trends by provider, category of abuse and outcome. We also aim to enhance our data reporting and analysis through conversations with residents, referrers, providers, commissioners, and multi-agency partners in support of high-quality safe care.

Partner Contributions: NHS Greater Manchester Integrated Care

NHS Greater Manchester Integrated Care is a new NHS organisation, overseen by a Board, and is in charge of the NHS money and making sure services are in place to put plans into action. Made up of representatives from the NHS and the local council, we are responsible for making decisions about health services in our area. The partnership operates at three levels: neighbourhood, locality and Greater Manchester and has a single vision and strategy. Hospitals, GPs, community services, voluntary services and others have come together to form 'provider collaboratives' within all three levels, helping to join care and help people live well across Greater Manchester's ten boroughs.

Where does safeguarding fit?

NHS Greater Manchester Integrated Care are committed to providing the care that Oldham people need, to ensuring safeguarding responsibilities are met and to reducing inequality whilst improving outcomes for those in need or at risk. Safeguarding is fundamental to every aspect of the organisation as we ensure that all our NHS Commissioned Providers such as the GP practices, hospital, community services and Mental Health services are fulfilling their responsibilities to safeguard those using their services.

Safeguarding in 2022-23

The year saw the recruitment completed to all posts within the ICB safeguarding team. The complements of the full Safeguarding Team to the Oldham Integrated Care place-based team brings expertise from learning disability, mental health, nursing, and social work.

Strengthening safeguarding practice across primary care and those delivering nursing care packages has remained a priority during these changes.

Our major successes included:

- **Assurances** - All GP practices met with the safeguarding team to review their safeguarding assurance audit, providing an opportunity to discuss any gaps in practice and knowledge and support to develop an action plan to meet those areas.
- **Transitions** - An area of growing concern where we have focused our support is the transition of complex care packages from children to adults.

- **Vaccination** - Oldham has seen a low uptake of the Covid vaccination and flu jab, particularly amongst residents who have a learning disability. A process has been established to support the vaccination programme for those patients who lack mental capacity to consent which guides practitioners to assess mental capacity, consider making best interests decisions, and escalating cases as needed for decisions to be made in the court of protection (when disagreements arise between health professionals and family members).
- **Routine Enquiry** – we have further developed Routine Enquiry for domestic abuse/violence with GPs. Routine Enquiry involves asking all women at assessment about abuse regardless of whether there are any indicators or suspicions of abuse. It was established in maternity, sexual health, health visiting, substance misuse and mental health settings. A series of newsletters and training sessions have aimed to include this into General Practice.

Our Priorities for 2023-24

- **Further Strengthening Practice around Domestic Abuse** - we aim to employ an Independent Domestic Abuse Advisor role within Primary Care services to work with GP practices on specific cases and work closely with the Local Authority Independent Domestic Violence Advisor (IDVA) team.
- **Modern Day Slavery** - we aim to work with key partners to further strengthen the offers that are currently available across Greater Manchester. The Oldham Modern Slavery toolkit will be shared across the Greater Manchester ICB footprint to ensure that a consistent approach is taken.
- **Changes to Safeguarding Approach** - The change of safeguarding approach from locality to a whole system will take some time to embed. The change brings exciting opportunities for safeguarding learning to be shared and embedded across the Greater Manchester footprint to promote good practice and early identification of themes.

Partner Contributions: Greater Manchester Police

Greater Manchester Police (GMP) are responsible for providing a first line response to the needs of the community. This includes fighting crime, keeping people safe and safeguarding vulnerable people.

Where does safeguarding fit?

Vulnerability remains the number one priority within GMP and we work in partnership to protect vulnerable adults living in and visiting our communities.

All GMP staff work internally and externally with partnership agencies to safeguard against all forms of abuse including domestic, financial, psychological, neglect and sexual abuse, as well as adults at risk of abuse or exploitation.

We work to ensure that we achieve the best possible outcomes for all individuals whilst also considering the wider threat posed by perpetrators.

Safeguarding in 2022-23

Key issues for GMP in 2022-23 included:

- **Domestic Abuse** – There has been an increase in reporting of domestic abuse with a focus on encouraging reporting, and accurate crime recording. Our focus has been on quality investigations. There has been a significant increase in domestic abuse victims disclosing rape, which is in part due to the work of Independent Domestic Violence Advocates (IDVAs) and other agencies engaging victims, but also an increase in confidence in reporting to the police. A MARAC, or multi-agency risk assessment conference, is a meeting where information is shared on the highest risk domestic abuse cases. The number of cases referred to the MARAC have doubled over the last three years, from 582 to over 1000 cases, with 38% of these cases being repeat victims and/or perpetrators.

Our major successes included:

- **Equipping our teams** - Following the publicised case in Rochdale, there has been an increased focus for detectives to consider the presence of mould at the scene of unexpected deaths. There is work ongoing to equip our detectives to deal with these cases and in particular where hoarding has been a factor.

- **Mental Health Joint Response Cars** - have been implemented allowing mental health practitioners, accompanied by a police officer, to attend any calls that the Force Contact, Crime and Operations (FCCO) branch receives regarding someone in mental health crisis. This allows the person to receive the care that they need, when they need it.

- **Domestic Abuse Day of Action** - Oldham Police take Making Safeguarding Personal seriously and ran a very successful Domestic Abuse Day of Action locally. We engaged with partners so there was a range of



activity undertaken. Ten high risk perpetrators were arrested. School engagement officers and a mental health and trauma practitioner delivered a talk at a school about healthy relationships, control, and consent. The IDVA service set up an information stall within the Spindles shopping centre advising the public about domestic abuse and dangerous relationships and showing the 'Eggshells' awareness video. There were also joint visits to the top harm cohort to attempt to prevent future re-offending and Domestic Violence Protection Order (DVPO) checks were completed with MASH and IDVAs.

Our Priorities for 2023-24

- **Domestic Abuse** - Additional resources will be invested once the force Domestic Abuse Arrangements Review (DAAR) Project is approved so there is a consistent approach across Greater Manchester. We will work in partnership to improve MARAC using the findings from a recent Safe Lives inspection.
- **Domestic Homicide Prevention Strategy** – evidenced based approach to repeat domestic abuse offending through partnership working.
- **Improving our intelligence function** - to support hidden forms of harm for adults at risk.

Plans for 2023-24

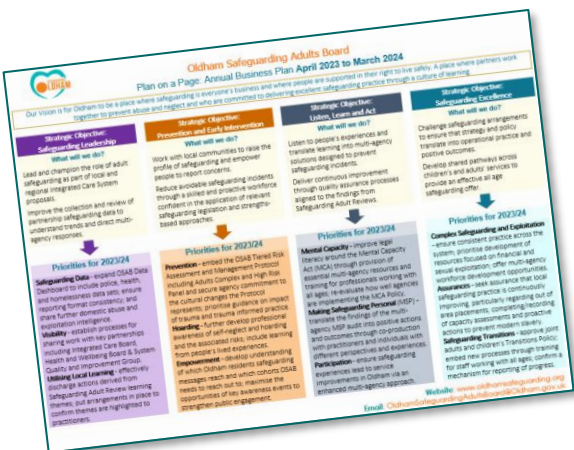
The Oldham Safeguarding Adults Board has made significant progress over the last twelve months, producing clear multi-agency safeguarding procedures, policies and training programmes designed to translate the learning from serious safeguarding incidents into effective practice. The Board has also aligned its processes with those across Greater Manchester and is working as part of a national network of Safeguarding Adult Boards, sharing ideas and best practice.

In 2023-24, we expect to see structural changes being embedded following new legislation set out in the Health and Care Bill to improve health and care for all through increased integration, joined-up planning, and prevention and the Mental Health Act White Paper outlining plans to change the law about when you can be detained and receive mental health treatment without consent. These changes include the introduction of the Liberty Protection Safeguards, designed to protect adults aged 16 and over who lack the capacity to consent to care or treatment, and the Care Quality Commission taking responsibility for assessing local authorities' delivery of their Care Act functions, including its duty to support multi-agency safeguarding arrangements, impacting across the partnership. Responding to these challenges will require effective safeguarding leadership and accountability at the most senior levels in Oldham.

The Board are currently in the final year of a [Three-Year Strategy](#) which set out its strategic aims from April 2021 to March 2024 by identifying the partnership's shared vision and direction for safeguarding adults within Oldham. The Board sets out its wider priorities in the annual Plan on a Page. The Board's priorities for 2023-24 (click on the image below to take a look):

Highlights of the key plans for 2023-24 are included below. The Board will:

- continue to work alongside the Safeguarding Children Partnership to support the development of local **safeguarding transitions** processes, encourage the 'buy in' of all agencies and support a programme of work to put the policy into practice; relevant SARs will continue to be used to understand and utilise the systemic learning when Transition cases present learning opportunities.
- prioritise a programme of multi-agency audits and **quality assurance** reviews focusing on risk management and the application of the Making Safeguarding Personal (MSP) principles which aim to develop an outcomes focus to safeguarding work. The Board will translate the findings of the MSP audit into positive actions through **co-production** with practitioners and individuals with different perspectives and experiences.
- ensure **complex safeguarding and exploitation** remain priorities for the year. The Board will produce practitioner guidance and referral pathways for each of the areas of exploitation recognised in the strategy - cuckooing, modern slavery/criminal exploitation, sexual exploitation, and financial abuse. Once these essential tools are complete, multi-agency training will be developed and offered to all practitioners. Together with local community groups, we want to design and launch a local communications campaign about the signs of exploitation and how to report any safeguarding concerns.
- review, interrogate and risk manage **safeguarding data** and trends through a bespoke Partnership Data Dashboard. The dashboard will be expanded to include police, health, and homelessness data sets and share further domestic abuse and exploitation intelligence. The Board will seek assurance from partners about mitigating actions where appropriate.
- prioritise the **use of local learning** and effective completion of the actions derived from Safeguarding Adult Reviews. These actions can vary from one-off pieces of work, such as producing and sharing a new briefing, to broad, multi-agency projects or events or substantial system changes.



Useful Contacts

What to do if you are worried about an adult

Abuse and neglect can happen anywhere, be carried out by anyone and it can take many different forms. If you are experiencing abuse, or you think someone you know is experiencing or is at risk of being abused or neglected, and they are not able to protect themselves then please report it.

The Oldham Adult Referral Contact Centre (ARCC) has been set up to help adults and families looking for support. In addition, the Oldham Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) has been set up to help people who want to report a safeguarding concern. Both services can be contacted using the following details:



0161 770 7777
or
Adult.Mash@oldham.gov.uk
or
ARCC@oldham.gov.uk

Stay in touch

The work of the Board is supported by the Board Business Unit who help the Board to carry out its legal roles and signpost residents and professionals to information, advice, and training resources. If you would like to keep in touch and find out more about our work through our bulletins, please contact us at:



Oldham Safeguarding AdultsBoard @oldham.gov.uk
Or visit our website:
www.OSAB.org.uk

Support Our Work

Please follow us on Twitter and share our content to raise awareness of safeguarding and what people can do to keep safe in Oldham:



Thank You from the Team



GREATER MANCHESTER FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE



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