

Safeguarding Adults Strategy 2023/2026

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Context

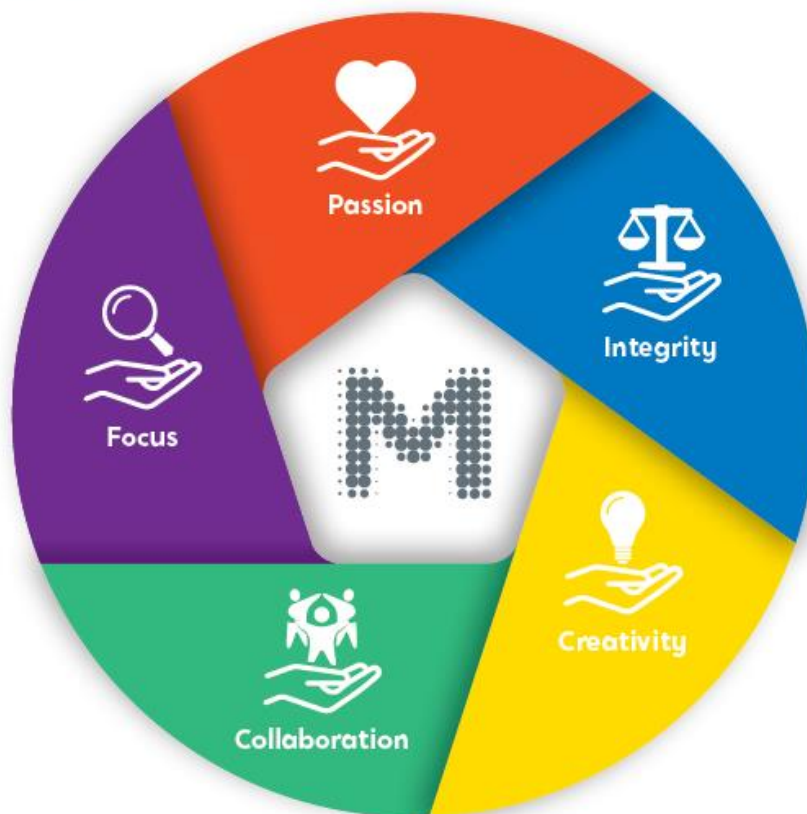
Middlesbrough's Strategic Plan


Our Safeguarding Strategy is aligned with Middlesbrough's strategic plan. We aim to work with communities and other public services to improve the lives of our residents.

Our Values

Our values define who we are and what we do. All of our staff live our values in everything they do.

Our Values



| | | | | |
|--|---|---|--|---|
|  Passion We believe in Middlesbrough and are proud to work for the town |  Integrity We are open and transparent and treat everyone with respect |  Creativity We have the courage to try new ideas and new ways of working |  Collaboration We work with others to make Middlesbrough better |  Focus We are clear about what we will deliver to meet the needs of the town |
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What is Safeguarding?

Our legal Duties:

The Care Act 2014 placed adult safeguarding on a statutory footing giving Local Authorities a duty to cause enquiries to be made where allegations of abuse or neglect were raised. In doing so it gave Local Authorities clear duties and responsibilities in relation to all of their assessment and support functions including safeguarding.

The Act is based on the fundamental concepts of promoting wellbeing, independence and choice and involving individuals throughout adult social care interactions.

There are six principles which underpin safeguarding practice (The Care Act [Statutory Guidance](#) 2014, updated October 2023).

| Principle | What does this mean? |
|------------------------|---|
| Empowerment | We support and encourage people to make their own decisions. This is also about informed consent |
| Prevention | It is better to take action before harm occurs. |
| Proportionality | The least intrusive response appropriate to the risk presented |
| Protection | Support and representation for those in greatest need |
| Partnership | Local solutions through services working with their communities. Communities have a part to play in preventing, detecting and reporting neglect and abuse |
| Accountability | Accountability and transparency in delivering safeguarding. |

What does Safeguarding Consider?

The aims of adult safeguarding are to:

- prevent harm and reduce the risk of abuse or neglect to adults with care and support needs
- stop abuse or neglect wherever possible
- safeguard adults in a way that supports them in making choices and having control about how they want to live
- promote an approach that concentrates on improving life for the adults concerned
- raise public awareness so that communities as a whole, alongside professionals, play their part in preventing, identifying and responding to abuse and neglect
- provide information and support in accessible ways to help people understand the different types of abuse, how to stay safe and what to do to raise a concern about the safety or well-being of an adult
- address what has caused the abuse or neglect

What Constitutes abuse and neglect?

There are different types and patterns of abuse and neglect.

| Type of abuse | Forms abuse may take |
|------------------------------|---|
| Physical | Assault; hitting; slapping; pushing; misuse of medication; restraint; inappropriate physical sanctions. |
| Domestic violence | Psychological; physical; sexual; financial; emotional abuse; 'honour' based violence. This includes consideration of coercion and control. |
| Sexual abuse intimidation | Rape; indecent exposure; sexual harassment; inappropriate looking or touching; sexual teasing or innuendo; sexual photography; subjection to pornography or witnessing sexual acts; indecent exposure; sexual assault; sexual acts to which the adult has not consented or was pressured into consenting. |
| Psychological abuse | Emotional abuse; threats of harm or abandonment; deprivation of contact; humiliation; blaming; controlling; intimidation; coercion; harassment; verbal abuse; cyber bullying; isolation; unreasonable and unjustified withdrawal of services or supportive networks |
| Modern slavery | Slavery; human trafficking; forced labour and domestic servitude; traffickers and slave masters using whatever means they have at their disposal to coerce, deceive and force individuals into a life of abuse, servitude and inhumane treatment |
| Discriminatory abuse | Harassment; slurs or similar treatment: because of race, gender and gender identity, age, disability, sexual orientation, religion |
| Organisational abuse | Including neglect and poor care practice within an institution or specific care setting such as a hospital or care home, for example, or in relation to care provided in one's own home. This may range from one off incidents to on-going ill-treatment. It can be through neglect or poor professional practice as a result of the structure, policies, processes and practices within an organisation. |
| Neglect and acts of omission | Ignoring medical, emotional or physical care needs; failure to provide access to appropriate health, care and support or educational services; the withholding of the necessities of life, such as medication, adequate nutrition and heating. |
| Self-neglect | This covers a wide range of behaviour neglecting to care for one's personal hygiene, health or surroundings and includes behaviour such as hoarding. |
| Financial or material abuse | Theft; fraud; internet scamming; coercion in relation to an adult's financial affairs or arrangements, including in connection with wills, property, inheritance or financial transactions; the misuse or misappropriation of property, possessions or benefits. |

Safeguarding Adults in Middlesbrough

Our Access Safeguarding Team

The Access Safeguarding Team was created in November 2019 to provide a close alignment of our intake and safeguarding work.

We work to ensure that people have access to the support they need to live as independently as possible and to be free from abuse and neglect.

We believe that everybody has the right to be safe from abuse and protected from harm, no matter who they are or what their circumstances are.

We practice in a way which puts the individual at the centre known as 'Making Safeguarding Personal'.

The Teeswide Safeguarding Adults Board

Middlesbrough is part of the [Teeswide Safeguarding Adults Board](#) (TSAB) which works in partnership to safeguard and promote the well-being and independence of adults at risk of harm or abuse living in the Boroughs of Middlesbrough, Redcar & Cleveland, Hartlepool and Stockton-on-Tees.

The TSAB co-ordinates and monitors the effectiveness of partner organisations working together to implement their responsibilities for protecting adults at risk of abuse or neglect.

The TSAB is also responsible for developing policies and procedures which provide a framework for safeguarding practice.

An effective safeguarding system

Middlesbrough is committed to promoting safeguarding practice. We do this by:

- Contributing to work of TSAB by providing representation at the relevant sub groups and participating in the development, implementation and review of the TSAB Policies, Procedures and Practice Guidance
- Provide a strategic and operational lead for safeguarding practice, representing Middlesbrough at local and regional forums to share and learn from good practice.
- Ensuring that all adult social care staff are aware of the safeguarding procedures and that safeguarding is seen as everybody's business.

Middlesbrough is committed to continuous improvement of our safeguarding practice.

We do this by:

- Reviewing and auditing our safeguarding practice, including participation in the TSAB audit framework.
- Ensuring that our staff are well informed, well trained and are able to adapt to changes with the adult safeguarding arena.
- Reflecting on feedback from those we work through Making Safeguarding Personal. This helps us to look at what works well and what needs to improve.
- Implementing learning from Safeguarding Adults Reviews and Domestic Homicide reviews.
- Participating in the annual Quality Assurance Framework led by TSAB, which seeks assurance in relation to the quality of our safeguarding practice.

Middlesbrough is committed to partnership working to deliver the best outcomes for the adults we work with. We do this by:

- Holding regular meetings with CQC and our Contracts and Commissioning Unit to share information relating to our providers
- Holding monthly meetings with the NENC ICB Medicines Optimisation Team to review medication errors within provider services
- Working with the Focus Under Nutrition Team which support our care homes
- Working with the Council's Domestic Abuse Lead to ensure that we support those who have experienced domestic abuse and sexual violence.
- Involvement in the strategic and operational MARAC (multi-agency risk assessment conference) meetings.
- Involvement in MATAAC (Multi-Agency Tasking and Coordination) and MAPPA (Multi-agency public protection arrangements) meetings.
- Holding our High Risk Adults Panel (HRAP). This is our multi agency high risk panel which brings together partner agencies every month.
- Holding a Sexual Exploitation Panel (SEP) fortnightly, focussing on those who are at the highest risk of sexual exploitation in Middlesbrough.
- Being involved in the Cleveland Anti-Slavery Network and holding our own quarterly multi agency meetings to review our work relating to Modern Slavery, Human Trafficking and Sexual Exploitation.
- Being involved the VEMT practitioners group and looking at transition arrangements into adult safeguarding.
- Meeting regularly with the Police to promote joint working and good practice.
- Attending community-based drop ins to increase engagement with the team.
- Supporting providers when managing multiple safeguarding enquiries using our 'In the Spotlight' approach.

Most importantly Middlesbrough is committed to person centred safeguarding practice. We do this by:

- Ensuring that adults are at the centre of our safeguarding enquiry process.
- Responding in a way which recognises the trauma that individuals have experienced.

- Ensuring that we listen to the person’s wishes and feelings.
- Working with the person’s support network – this may be family, friends or advocates.
- Working closely with our partner agencies to produce robust and holistic safety plans in order to achieve the best outcomes for the adult.

| Version control | Author | Date | Changes | Review date |
|------------------------|---------------|--------------|---|--------------------|
| V1 | Ruth Musicka | October 2020 | First draft to DMT | October 2023 |
| V2 | Ruth Musicka | April 2021 | Update to the safeguarding system section | October 2023 |

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| V3 | Ruth Musicka | February 2024 | Document review | October 2026 |
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