



**East Sussex Safeguarding Adults Board
Annual Report
April 2019 to March 2020**

“Our vision is for all agencies to work together effectively to enable the citizens of East Sussex to live free from abuse and neglect, and to promote widely the message that safeguarding is everybody’s business”



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The East Sussex Safeguarding Adults Board gratefully acknowledges Hampshire and West Sussex Safeguarding Adults Boards for providing this annual report format.

Foreword by Graham Bartlett, East Sussex SAB Independent Chair



I am pleased to introduce the East Sussex Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report 2019-20. The Safeguarding Adults Board (SAB) provides strategic leadership, ensuring adults at risk of abuse or neglect are effectively safeguarded. As Independent Chair, I support and challenge SAB partners and agencies in East Sussex to work collaboratively for the benefit of adults with care and support needs and foster continuous improvement.

The last few months of the year provided challenges beyond anyone's expectations. Covid-19 threw the whole world into turmoil and, whilst we had ten months of relative normality before the pandemic struck, it is difficult to reflect on 2019-20 without its impact being reported upon. How it will transform the safeguarding system and partners and how the SAB will assure that those at risk are adequately safeguarded will only start to emerge over the next year or so. What we know already though is that it affected the most vulnerable disproportionately and that our workforce showed itself to be as phenomenally flexible, innovative and selfless as we knew they were.

We have continued to make significant progress against the priorities in our Strategic Plan 2018-21 and I would like to acknowledge the hard work and commitment shown by all our partner agencies to achieve these aims. Highlights include the agency self-assessment process, culminating in a pan-Sussex challenge event where significant introspection and learning took place and a robust action plan was developed.

We participated in a University of Sussex research project to explore how learning from Safeguarding Adults Reviews (SARs) involving self-neglect can be embedded into practice and how organisational change can be effected. The learning from this is starting to be embedded.

We published the 'Adult B' SAR this year and will complete another during 2020–21.

During the coming year we have an equally busy workplan. As well as developing new strands related to Covid-19, we will continue to develop our re-formed Safeguarding Community Network, enhance our reach into those who access safeguarding services and those who care for them, strengthen our affiliation with the community and voluntary sector and look for opportunities to share arrangements and good practice with neighbouring SABs and at a national level.

I hope you find this report interesting and are assured of the commitment of the East Sussex SAB to continual improvement and decisive action when things go wrong.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'G. Bartlett'.

Graham Bartlett

Independent Chair, East Sussex Safeguarding Adults Board

Comments by Healthwatch



Healthwatch has continued to work in partnership with the East Sussex SAB over the past year. Our focus is to ensure that the needs, experiences and concerns of people who use health and social care services are understood by those who commission and deliver them. The East Sussex SAB provides excellent leadership, coordination and partnership which supports this work to promote high standards and seek assurance from partner agencies where required.

As Chair of the Safeguarding Community Network (SCN), I have been encouraged by the progress made in 2019 – 20. A key goal for the network over this last year has been to expand representation at the SCN from the Voluntary and Community Sector and we have welcomed six new members to the group from a range of services, including from homelessness and veterans' charities, as well as family support and education services. A priority for the next year will be to consider ways in which the SCN can have broader engagement with adults and carers, and support work to gather feedback from adults and carers on their experiences of safeguarding interventions.

The outbreak of COVID-19 has brought into sharp focus the importance of communicating with the public as well as capturing people's views and experiences of health and social care services at this time. Healthwatch will work closely with the SAB over the forthcoming months to understand the impacts of the pandemic and engage with partner agencies and the local community in setting future priorities.

Elizabeth Mackie

Volunteer & Community Liaison Manager, Healthwatch East Sussex

About us

The East Sussex Safeguarding Adults Board (SAB) is a multi-agency statutory partnership which provides leadership and strategic oversight of adult safeguarding work across East Sussex. The Board is made up of senior representatives from a range of organisations. Our core membership, as specified in the Care Act 2014, includes East Sussex County Council, NHS East Sussex Clinical Commissioning Group and Sussex Police. Additional key community and voluntary agencies and lay members are represented on the Board to reflect that safeguarding activity and interventions can only be effective where there is collaboration and shared commitment.

The East Sussex SAB is led by our Independent Chair, Graham Bartlett, supported by a SAB Development Manager, Quality Assurance and Learning Development Officer and Administrator.

Under the Care Act 2014, we are required to:

- Develop and publish a [Strategic Plan](#) setting out how we will meet our objectives and how our partner agencies will contribute to this.
- Publish an annual report detailing how effective our work has been.
- Arrange for Safeguarding Adults Reviews (SARs) to be undertaken when the criteria are considered to have been met.

The overarching purpose of the East Sussex SAB is to help and safeguard adults with care and support needs from abuse, neglect and exploitation. We do this by:

- Gaining assurance that local safeguarding arrangements are in place as defined by the Care Act and its statutory guidance.
- Gaining assurance that the principles of Making Safeguarding Personal are central to safeguarding, and practice is person-centred and outcome-focused.
- Working collaboratively to prevent abuse and neglect, where possible.
- Ensuring partner agencies are effective when abuse and neglect has occurred, and give timely and proportionate responses.
- Striving for continuous improvement in safeguarding practice, and supporting partner agencies to embed learning from local and national SARs, other learning reviews and multi-agency audits.

Our vision and our aims

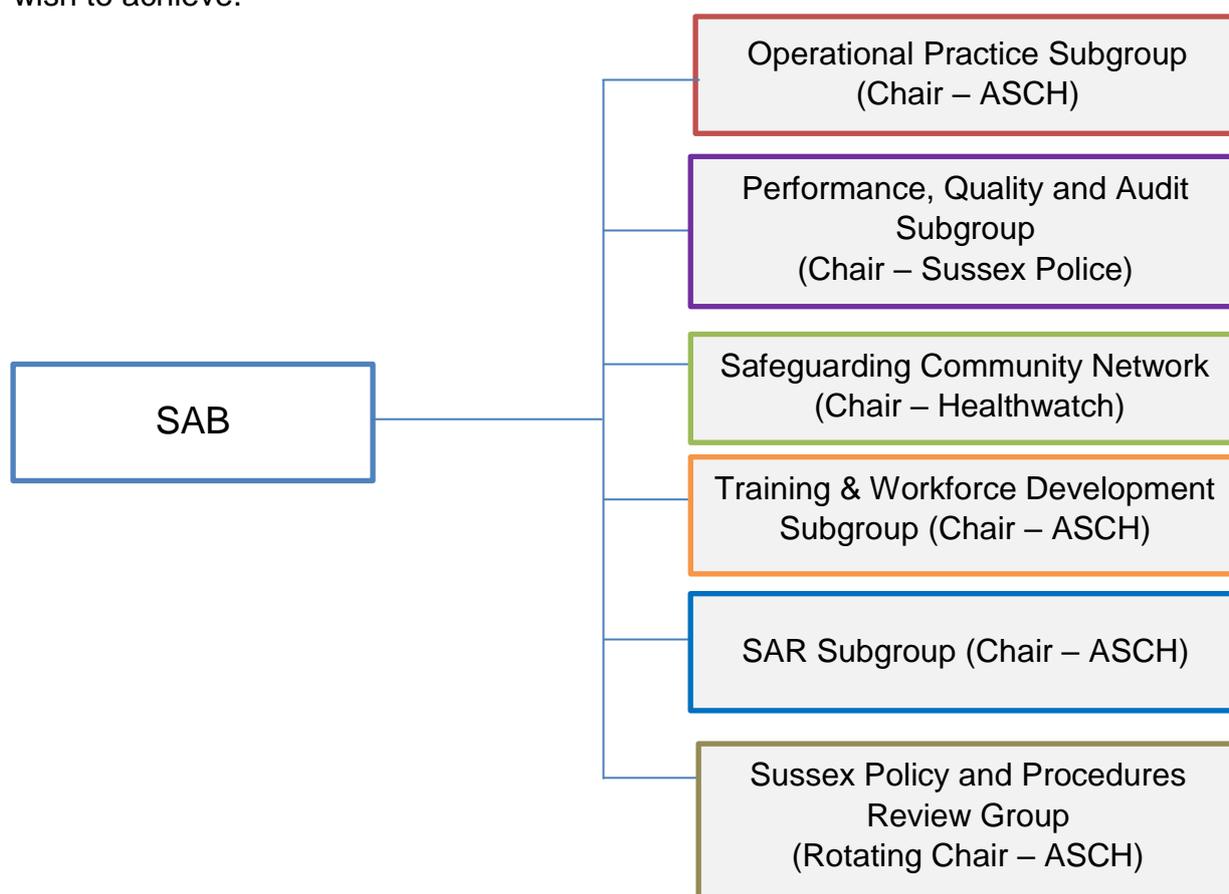
Our vision is for all agencies to work together effectively to enable the citizens of East Sussex to live free from abuse and neglect, and to promote widely the message that safeguarding is everybody's business.

To achieve this vision, the aims and functions of the Board are to:

- Actively promote collaboration between organisations.
- Work together on prevention strategies.
- Safeguard adults in a way that supports them in making choices and having control about how they want to live.
- Ensure that the views, wishes and desired outcomes of adults and their carers or family are considered in the delivery of safeguarding services.
- Oversee the co-ordination of adult safeguarding activity in East Sussex.
- Develop and co-ordinate multi-agency safeguarding training, which meets local needs.
- Conduct multi-agency audits and monitor performance in relation to safeguarding activity.
- Raise public and professional awareness of adult safeguarding issues.
- Provide information and support in accessible ways to help people understand the different types of abuse, neglect and exploitation, how to stay safe, and how to raise a concern about the safety or wellbeing of an adult.

Our subgroups

The East Sussex SAB meets four times a year. The Board is supported by a range of subgroups that are crucial in ensuring that the priorities set out in the SAB Strategic Plan are delivered. Each subgroup has a work plan which details the areas of focus for the financial year, and are regularly updated with specific actions and timescales. These subgroups ensure that the work of the Board really makes a difference to local safeguarding practice and to the outcomes adults and their carers wish to achieve.



Operational Practice Subgroup This group co-ordinates local safeguarding work and ensures the priorities of the SAB are put into place operationally. The group has a particular focus on ensuring that all contact with adults with care and support needs is based on shared responsibilities for responding to abuse and neglect, and that the principles of Making Safeguarding Personal are embedded in safeguarding practice.

Performance, Quality & Audit Subgroup This group establishes effective systems for monitoring, reporting and evaluating performance across agencies, and links annual reporting to improvement planning. The group highlights staffing groups or service areas that require further awareness or training.

Safeguarding Community Network This group brings together representatives from the community and organisations who support people with disabilities, mental ill health and learning disabilities, together with older people and carers. The group enables two-way communication and exchange of information between the SAB and

clients and carers to improve safeguarding experiences and inform policy development.

Training & Workforce Development Subgroup This group is responsible for delivering the objectives of the Sussex Learning and Development Strategy, and overseeing multi-agency training developments and delivery in key safeguarding matters.

Safeguarding Adults Review (SAR) Subgroup This group consists of the statutory partners of the East Sussex SAB. It meets monthly with the purpose of considering cases that may require a SAR and makes recommendations to the SAB Independent Chair.

Sussex Policy and Procedures Review Group This group consists of the statutory partners of the three SABs across Sussex (including Brighton and Hove and West Sussex). Its purpose is to review and update the safeguarding procedures in line with any policy and legal updates.

In addition to the subgroups outlined above, the SAB also coordinates a Mental Capacity Multi-Agency Forum, which brings together champions for mental capacity across partner agencies. These meetings take place on a quarterly basis, with the aim of raising awareness, sharing good practice, and ensuring an effective response to mental capacity, within and between, agencies and professionals, who have responsibility for practice under the Mental Capacity Act.

Links to other partnerships

The Board has formal links with a number of other strategic partnerships in East Sussex, including the Health and Wellbeing Board, Safer Communities Partnership, East Sussex Safeguarding Children Partnership, Children and Young People's Trust.

Following the changes to the multi-agency arrangements for safeguarding children in response to the Children and Social Work Act 2017 (which came into effect in September 2019), work has commenced to develop an updated Partnership Protocol. Progress on this has been delayed due to the impact of the coronavirus pandemic, and it is anticipated that the new protocol will now be ready to be launched in the autumn of 2020. The revised protocol will also reflect changes in other partnerships, and include specific examples of joined-up practice with overlapping themes, including modern slavery and domestic abuse.

The SAB and its Independent Chair also maintain regular liaison with Sussex-wide and national networks and forums, including participation in the South East Regional SAB Network, National SAB Managers Forum and National Chairs Network. In addition, our Independent Chair also chairs a neighbouring SAB, which supports appropriate collaboration regarding shared themes and priorities.

Board membership

Partners of the East Sussex SAB are:

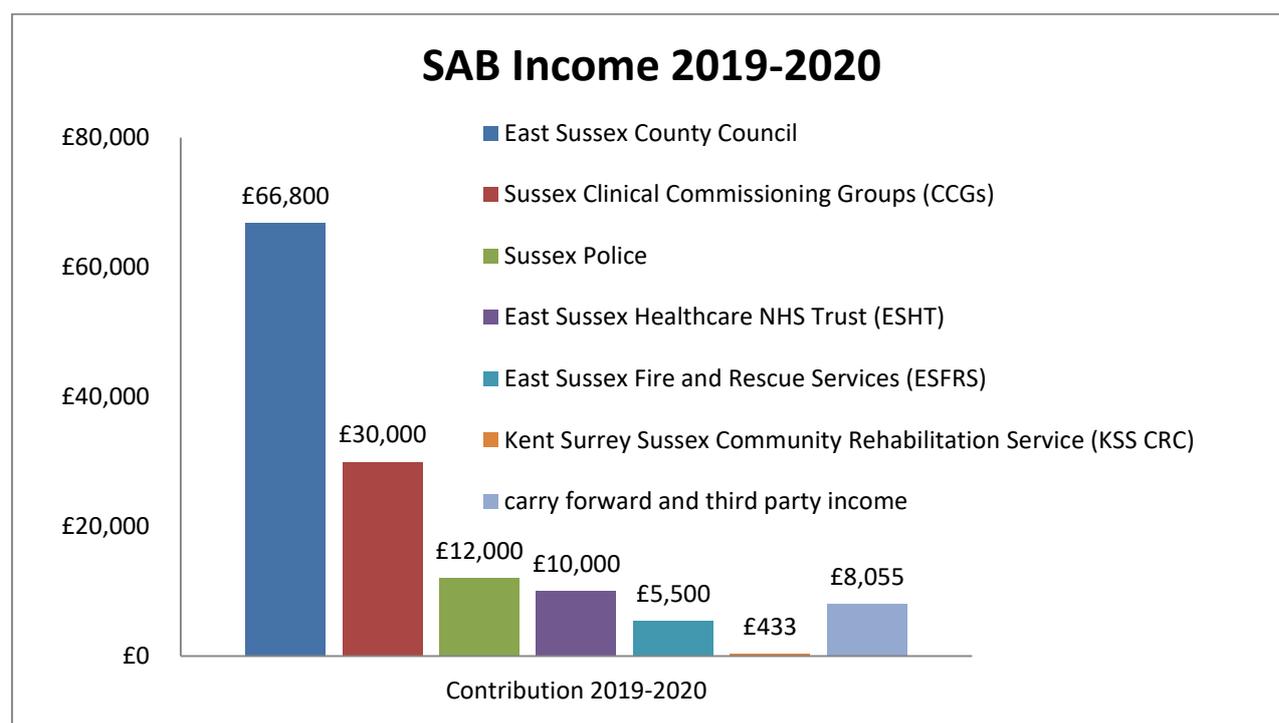
- East Sussex Adult Social Care & Health (ASCH)
- NHS East Sussex Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG)
- Sussex Police
- Care for the Carers
- Care Quality Commission (CQC)
- Change, Grow, Live (CGL)
- District and borough council representation
- East Sussex Fire and Rescue Service (ESFRS)
- East Sussex Healthcare NHS Trust (ESHT)
- East Sussex Safeguarding Children Partnership (ESSCP)
- Healthwatch
- HMP Lewes
- Homecare representatives
- Kent, Surrey, Sussex Community Rehabilitation Company (KSS CRC)
- Lay members
- National Probation Service (NPS)
- NHS England
- Registered Care Association (RCA)
- South East Coast Ambulance Service NHS Foundation Trust (SECAmb)
- Sussex Community NHS Foundation Trust (SCFT)
- Sussex Partnership NHS Foundation Trust (SPFT)
- Trading Standards
- Voluntary and community sector representation

SAB budget

The SAB budget is pooled and partner agencies contribute to the running of the Board, not just financially but by offering to chair meetings and SAR Panels, provide use of buildings and facilities, and co-deliver training.

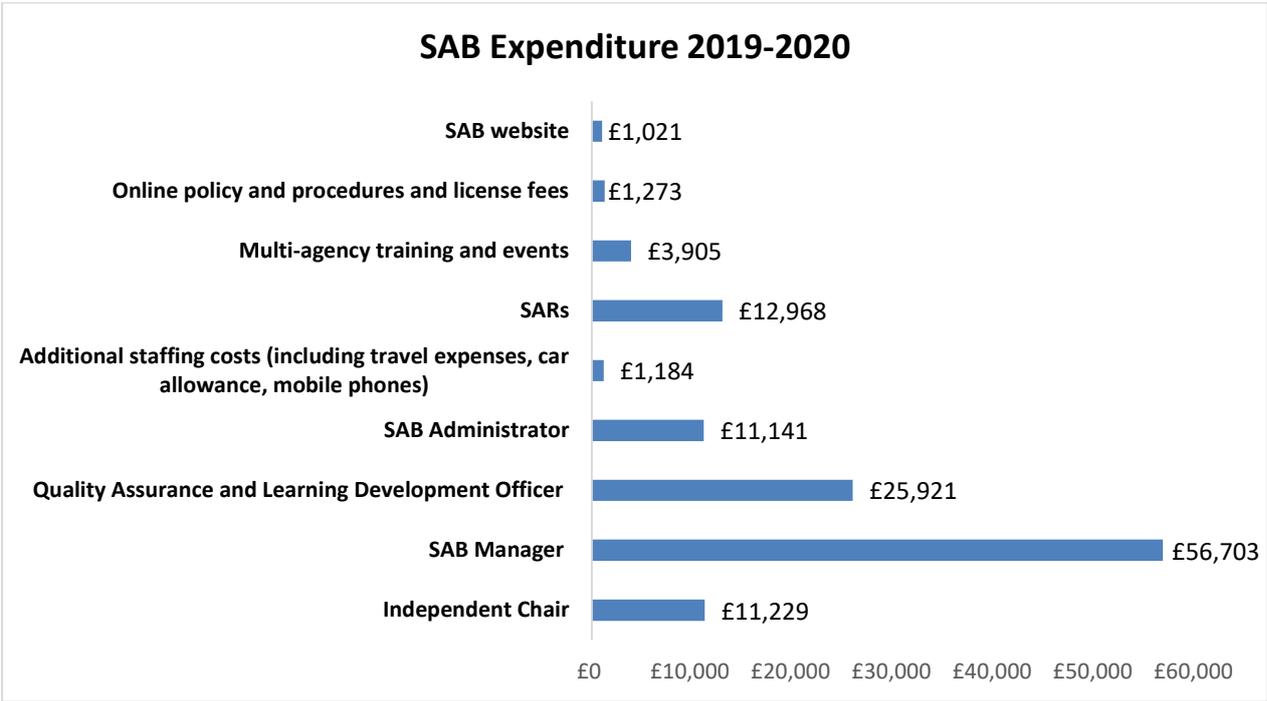
Income

The SAB budget for 2019 – 20 consisted of financial contributions from the following SAB partners:



The data above incorporates additional contributions that were made by several agencies towards the end of 2019 to adopt a proposal to make the Quality Assurance and Learning Development Officer a permanent post within the SAB team. The Board also carried forward £8,055 from East Sussex County Council and third-party income from 2018 – 19 into 2019 – 20, bringing the **total income to £132,788**.

Expenditure



The current forecast for the 2020 – 21 budget estimates that the Board will face a shortfall due to projected increases in SAR activity, costs relating to the SAB website upgrade and SAB conference, and rises in year-on-year staffing costs. A review and negotiation of contributions will be taken forward at the start of the 2020 – 21 financial year.

Key learning and achievements 2019 – 2020

Strategic aim 1: Accountability and leadership

Strategic objectives	What we have achieved	Focus for 2020 – 21
<p>Objective one Ensure that robust mechanisms are in place so that partners are held to account for their safeguarding practice.</p>	<p>Sussex-wide peer challenge event In accordance with our two-year cycle for undertaking the self-assessment process, a Sussex-wide peer challenge event was held on 9th July 2019. The event was hosted by Brighton & Hove SAB, and jointly chaired by Graham Bartlett, Independent Chair of both Brighton & Hove and East Sussex SABs, and Annie Callanan, Independent Chair of the West Sussex SAB. The event was well-received and attended by over 35 representatives from agencies across Sussex. Several areas for development and improvement were identified. Considerable progress towards these has been made by partner agencies over the course of the year, including updating safeguarding policy documents and reviewing internal safeguarding training courses. The event highlighted that there appears to be a gap in suitable safeguarding training for senior managers. A survey was sent out to SAB representatives towards the end of 2019 to evaluate what areas should be included in the training package.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of multi-agency safeguarding training for strategic managers. • Develop and update the self-assessment process for 2021, responding to feedback received on the 2019 process, to ensure consistent and robust scrutiny. • Oversee and monitor the remaining actions on the safeguarding assurance action plans and obtain updates from relevant agencies.

Strategic objectives	What we have achieved	Focus for 2020 – 21
<p>Objective one (cont.)</p>	<p>Managing allegations against people in positions of trust</p> <p>In line with Care Act 2014 requirements, a framework and process has been established for how allegations against people in positions of trust, working with adults with care and support needs, should be responded to, in order to promote an individual’s suitability to work with adults.</p> <p>The East Sussex SAB receives annual updates and assurance from the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) in relation to the people in positions of trust arrangements across the local health and social care system.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The SAB will continue to monitor the LADO’s activity in 2020 – 21, and ensure there is clarity on the response to allegations about people in a position of trust.
<p>Objective two</p> <p>Ensure the SAB provides strategic leadership to embed the principles of safeguarding and contribute to the prevention of abuse and neglect.</p>	<p>Information Sharing Guide and Protocol</p> <p>A common theme identified in reviews, case file audits and multi-agency audits has been the importance of effective communication when safeguarding adults who are at risk of, or experiencing, abuse or neglect.</p> <p>The updated East Sussex SAB Information Sharing Guide and Protocol was published in March 2020, including specific guidance on sharing safeguarding information between partner agencies, good practice principles on managing safeguarding meetings and discussions, record keeping and data quality.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Pan-Sussex version of the Information Sharing Guide and Protocol will be published in the summer of 2020, drawn from the East Sussex version referred to.

Strategic objectives	What we have achieved	Focus for 2020 – 21
<p>Objective three</p> <p>Develop arrangements with other Boards to be responsive and adapt to emerging safeguarding themes. Currently, these include domestic abuse, modern slavery, cuckooing, exploitation and abuse of those transitioning from children’s to adults services, and safeguarding rough sleepers.</p>	<p>Modern slavery</p> <p>The East Sussex SAB has continued to work in collaboration with the East Sussex Safer Communities Partnership, Adult Social Care & Health (ASCH), Sussex Police and NHS colleagues to develop our pathways and processes for responding to concerns about modern slavery. This is a priority given the severe and long-term impact that modern slavery can have on victims, and the need for a multi-agency response to tackle it effectively.</p> <p>Progress has been made in supporting First Responder organisations to strengthen their ability to respond to modern slavery and human trafficking, in line with the Modern Slavery Act 2015, through SAB multi-agency training, and the development of a Single Point of Contact (SPOC) network of practitioners with skill and knowledge in this area of practice.</p> <p>Over 2019, ASCH has developed a modern slavery toolkit to support practitioners in responding to concerns involving suspected modern slavery, and a central email inbox has been implemented to collate all local authority referrals made into the National Referral Mechanism.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Further expansion of the SPOC network within partner agencies to ensure a range of staff across different settings develop the necessary level of skill and knowledge in relation to modern slavery. • In response to the coronavirus pandemic, during which time face-to-face training was not possible, a review of all training programmes, including modern slavery, will take place. This will consider other ways in which workforce development can be supported, such as via webinars. • In collaboration with the Safer Communities Partnership and East Sussex Safeguarding Children Partnership (ESSCP), the East Sussex SAB will produce e-newsletters for the SPOC network. • The SAB multi-agency audit on modern slavery, carried out in 2018, identified the need for a follow-up audit of cases. The purpose being to evaluate the impact on practice of training, the referral pathway and associated guidance. The audit is being undertaken by ASCH, and the learning is due to be shared through the PQA subgroup in August 2020.

Strategic objectives	What we have achieved	Focus for 2020 – 21
<p>Objective three (cont.)</p>	<p>Domestic abuse</p> <p>The Joint Domestic and Sexual Violence and Abuse and Violence against Women and Girls (VAWG) Unit for Brighton & Hove and East Sussex has led a comprehensive stakeholder engagement programme to review existing strategies in relation to domestic and sexual violence and abuse. This has informed the development of partnership activity and planned recommissioning.</p> <p>The commissioning of domestic violence services was planned to commence in March 2020 with new services to be in place by October 2020. However, due to revised national procurement guidance in response to COVID-19 and the increased pressure on services, the re-commission has been delayed by six months, with new services planned to be in place for April 2021.</p> <p>Work has also commenced to redesign the MARAC process to respond to year-on-year increases in referrals and complexity of cases. A MARAC Hub pilot was delivered from January to March 2020. Early evaluation findings and feedback from partner agencies highlighted improvements to the working model introduced by the Hub. A full evaluation with partners will be completed later in 2020 – 21 to determine next steps.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The delivery plan for the partnership strategy will be finalised in the summer of 2020, alongside service specifications for specialist domestic and sexual violence and abuse services. • A full evaluation, with partners, of the MARAC Hub will be completed later in 2020 – 21 to determine next steps.

Strategic objectives	What we have achieved	Focus for 2020 – 21
<p>Objective four</p> <p>Ensure flexible links are in place with all relevant agencies and sectors in order to provide strategic leadership to embed safeguarding principles.</p>	<p>SAB Development Day</p> <p>A SAB Development Day was held on 9th March 2020 to consider how we can build on existing mechanisms to support the work of the Board, and to consider areas of focus for our next Strategic Plan 2021 – 24.</p> <p>SAB members undertook a survey before the event to provide their views on the performance and effectiveness of the SAB. An evaluation of the responses reflected positive views about the strength of the leadership provided by the Independent Chair and subgroup chairs, and that the SAB has a clear set of aims and objectives. The responses in the survey also noted the challenges of ensuring adequate financial resourcing of the SAB.</p> <p>Links with the voluntary and community sector</p> <p>Discussions have taken place around how the Board can build better links with the voluntary and community sector (VCS) in order to collaborate effectively over the safeguarding agenda. This has led to work being taken forward through the Safeguarding Community Network (SCN) to expand membership within the VCS. Following an advert which was circulated through various VCS networks last year, six new members have joined the SCN.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The contributions from the SAB Development Day will inform the priorities to be included in our next Strategic Plan. • We will continue to support the links between the SAB and the VCS.

Strategic aim 2: Policies and procedures

Strategic objectives	What we have achieved	Focus for 2020 – 21
<p>Objective one Ensure that safeguarding arrangements are in place under the Care Act 2014, with appropriate feedback and review arrangements.</p>	<p>Lead Enquiry Officer (LEO) role The LEO has responsibility for co-ordinating decision making and ensuring that enquiry actions are carried out in accordance with Care Act duties and safeguarding procedures. Following a pilot earlier last year, Adult Social Care & Health (ASCH) implemented the LEO role across operational teams in October 2019 taking over from the previous roles of Enquiry Officer and Enquiry Manager.</p> <p>South East ADASS Peer Review Work has been completed in ASCH to fulfil recommendations that were made as part of the South East ADASS Peer Review, which took place in 2018. This has included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhancing the safeguarding recording system in ASCH by developing a more streamlined and outcomes-focused system for recording concerns and enquiries. • Implementing an online safeguarding referral form in February 2020. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A full review and update of the Sussex Safeguarding Adults Policy and Procedures is scheduled to take place in the autumn of 2020. Revised content will include more detailed information about consent where there are issues of coercion and control, and a section covering the transition of children and young people to adult services. • Evaluation of the impact on practice of the self-neglect procedures and the Multi-Agency Mental Capacity Act Policy and Procedures.

Strategic objectives	What we have achieved	Focus for 2020 – 21
<p>Objective two</p> <p>To raise awareness of the SAR Protocol and ensure threshold decision making is consistent across Sussex.</p>	<p>Sussex Safeguarding Adults Review (SAR) Protocol</p> <p>Work commenced in 2019 to review and update the Sussex SAR Protocol with colleagues from the Brighton & Hove and West Sussex SABs.</p> <p>SCIE Learning Together Programme</p> <p>In June 2019, the three Sussex SABs and Surrey SAB jointly commissioned the Social Care Institute for Excellence (SCIE) Learning Together Programme. This was delivered to statutory partners of the SABs with the aim of improving knowledge of the SAR approach. One of the course attendees was able to support work in relation to a SAR in East Sussex later in 2019 as a means of starting the process of gaining accreditation as a SAR reviewer.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The revised Sussex SAR Protocol is due to be launched in August 2020. • Further work will take place between the three Sussex SABs to develop a shared and consistent approach to contracting SAR reviewers.

Strategic aim 3: Performance, quality and audit, and organisational learning

Strategic objectives	What we have achieved	Focus for 2020 – 21
<p>Objective one Ensure that learning from reviews is effectively embedded into practice, and to facilitate organisational change across agencies.</p>	<p>University of Sussex research project The SAB participated in a research project by the University of Sussex which began in 2018. This explored how learning from SARs involving self-neglect can be embedded into practice, and how organisational change can best be facilitated. The project brought together social work academics and researchers, and members of six SABs from across the country.</p> <p>As part of this research project, in June 2019 members of the East Sussex SAB co-facilitated a focus group with Dr David Orr from the University of Sussex. The group considered the impact of the self-neglect procedures on frontline practice. It was attended by a range of staff from different agencies and sectors. The SAB has published a learning briefing which summarises the main findings and learning from the project report.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The East Sussex SAB is developing an action plan to ensure the findings from this research inform future developments in procedures and practice.
<p>Objective one (cont.)</p>	<p>Learning briefings The SAB has published a range of briefings and action plans over the course of 2019 – 20, in relation to our SARs and multi-agency audits, to raise awareness of the learning and to promote reflective discussions amongst front-line services.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We will continue to produce learning briefings and action plans, and consider ways in which these can be disseminated more broadly with our partner organisations to share relevant learning and celebrate success.

Strategic objectives	What we have achieved	Focus for 2020 – 21
<p>Objective two</p> <p>Ensure the SAB has robust multi-agency data to shape training and practice, and effect change where required.</p>	<p>Multi-agency data set report</p> <p>Our Quality Assurance and Learning Development Officer has continued to develop an improved multi-agency data set report over 2019 – 20. This is essential in demonstrating the effectiveness of safeguarding arrangements.</p> <p>Partner agencies contributing to the data set report include Adult Social Care & Health, Sussex Police, Sussex Partnership NHS Foundation Trust, Sussex Community NHS Foundation Trust, South East Coast NHS Ambulance Service, East Sussex Healthcare NHS Trust and East Sussex Fire and Rescue Service.</p> <p>A summary of safeguarding data for 2019 – 2020 is set out under ‘Our data’.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The multi-agency data set report will continue to be produced twice a year. This will strengthen the role of partner agencies in providing data to the SAB to determine strategic priorities.
<p>Objective three</p> <p>Carry out quality assurance activity to test effectiveness of, and adherence to, safeguarding adults policies and procedures.</p>	<p>Multi-agency themed audits</p> <p>Our Quality Assurance and Learning Development Officer leads on the co-ordination of two multi-agency themed audits per year. During 2019 – 20, audits have been completed in relation to young people at risk of exploitation, and multi-agency involvement in safeguarding.</p> <p>Details regarding the findings from these audits are set out under ‘Our Learning’.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Performance, Quality & Audit Subgroup work plan for 2020 – 21 includes an action to develop an audit planner setting out agreed priorities for audit activity over the year.

Strategic aim 4: Prevention, engagement and Making Safeguarding Personal

Strategic objectives	What we have achieved	Focus for 2020 – 21
<p>Objective one</p> <p>Produce information and reports for the local community that are easily accessible and raise awareness of adult safeguarding and how concerns can be raised.</p>	<p>Making Safeguarding Personal leaflet</p> <p>An easy read version of the Making Safeguarding Personal leaflet was developed by members of the East Sussex Learning Disability Partnership Board and the Safeguarding Community Network.</p> <p>Twitter</p> <p>The SAB has further developed its use of Twitter to support the public in understanding the role of the SAB, and to promote broader community engagement.</p> <p>SAB newsletter</p> <p>The East Sussex SAB published the first edition of its newsletter in February 2020, with the aim of sharing news about the work of the Board, disseminating relevant learning and information, and to raise awareness for those who have an interest in adult safeguarding issues.</p> <p>SAB website</p> <p>Work commenced in 2020 to develop a new East Sussex SAB website which will have improved accessibility, navigation and updated content.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review all safeguarding leaflets to ensure compliance with accessibility standards. • Review and update the Making Safeguarding Personal leaflet to include content on the importance of practitioners being able to have direct personal contact with adults where there are concerns about safety and risk. • The Safeguarding Community Network will update their Communication Strategy to improve people’s understanding of, and engagement in, work relating to safeguarding adults. • The East Sussex SAB will produce newsletters on a quarterly basis, and look at ways of expanding its distribution to a wider audience of professionals and members of the public. • The new East Sussex SAB website will be launched in August 2020.

Strategic objectives	What we have achieved	Focus for 2020 – 21
<p>Objective two</p> <p>Involve adults and carers in shaping the work of the SAB and safeguarding responses.</p>	<p>Video about overcoming abuse</p> <p>The short film Ben’s safeguarding story: overcoming abuse, created by a member of the Safeguarding Community Network, launched early in 2019 has been utilised as a training resource by a number of partner agencies, and other SABs, including it being presented at the West Sussex SAB’s safeguarding conference in November 2019.</p> <p>Click here to view the video about overcoming abuse.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Safeguarding Community Network (SCN) will consider the development of other video resources to raise public awareness of safeguarding issues. • The SCN will review its terms of reference and accessibility to include wider representation from adults and carers.
<p>Objective three</p> <p>Ensure adults are consulted in the process of helping them to stay safe, and agreeing goals to achieve.</p>	<p>Adult feedback on safeguarding interventions</p> <p>The Safeguarding Development Team in Adult Social Care & Health (ASCH) remains committed to promoting greater opportunities for adults who have been involved in safeguarding enquiries to provide feedback on their experience.</p> <p>A number of changes have been made to ASCH’s recording system to capture feedback more effectively, including changing the format of the feedback questionnaire to make the language more accessible, and increasing the options available for adults to provide feedback.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Safeguarding Development Team will work with the Safeguarding Community Network to consider how other agencies outside of ASCH may be able to support the process of gathering feedback, and to increase the numbers of adults who provide information about their experience of being involved in a safeguarding intervention.

Strategic aim 5: Integration, and training and workforce development

Strategic objectives	What we have achieved	Focus for 2020 – 21
<p>Objective one</p> <p>Ensure the training strategy includes mechanisms to review the impact and effectiveness of training.</p>	<p>Learning and development strategy</p> <p>The Pan Sussex Learning and Development Strategy 2019 – 22 provides an overarching framework for adult safeguarding training and workforce development across Sussex. The strategy seeks to create shared learning opportunities and analysis of outcomes from SARs and multi-agency audits.</p> <p>The focus for 2019 – 22 will be on the following areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Managing high risk cases. • Staff confidence and resilience. • Communication and co-ordination between agencies. • Working with families. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work is planned over the next year to review and strengthen the strategy, and develop more effective mechanisms for sharing learning and training opportunities.
<p>Objective two</p> <p>Ensure the workforce is equipped to support adults appropriately where abuse and or neglect is suspected.</p>	<p>Multi-agency safeguarding training</p> <p>The SAB continues to deliver a comprehensive range of multi-agency safeguarding training. This has continued to evolve over 2019 – 20 in response to learning identified from SARs and multi-agency audits.</p> <p>Details of training provided is covered in this report, under ‘Our training and development’.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As a recommendation in the Adult B SAR action plan, the SAB will hold a conference to highlight key areas of learning, including professional curiosity, trauma-informed practice and managing complex cases. The conference was originally planned to take place in the autumn of 2020 but has been delayed due to coronavirus. It is now planned to take place early in 2021.

Our priorities 2020 – 2021

In addition to the areas of focus for 2020 – 21 outlined above, the East Sussex SAB has identified a number of other priorities to work towards over the next year.

These include:

- Building greater opportunities to share relevant learning for SABs in relation to Domestic Homicide Reviews (DHRs) and the Learning Disabilities Mortality Review (LeDeR) Programme.

This will be achieved by enhancing links between the SAR Subgroup and these service areas, sharing published reviews and learning briefings, and utilising opportunities for shared learning events and conferences.

- Evaluating the impact of the [Financial Abuse Strategy 2017 – 20](#), including consideration of new emerging scam activity which has arisen as a direct result of coronavirus.
- Continuing to follow-up actions from a multi-agency audit considering young people at risk of exploitation.
This will include looking at how to strengthen mechanisms across children's and adult services to identify risks and support this cohort of people, and assessing whether there are any gaps in provision within transition cases.
- Making links with the Rough Sleepers Project Co-ordinator to ensure the safeguarding needs of rough sleepers are met.

Impact of coronavirus on safeguarding adults

The outbreak of Covid-19 in March 2020 led to unprecedented challenges for the whole country, but also created a number of specific issues for safeguarding adults, including concerns relating to:

- An increase in Covid-19 related scams.
- A reduction in the number of safeguarding concerns being raised with the local authority during the lockdown period.
- An increase in instances of domestic abuse, along with a reduction in formal reports to the police.
- The impact on people's mental health and an anticipated increase in suicides.
- The impact upon the workforce.

- A national increase in deaths of adults with learning disabilities during the pandemic and more widely within the residential and nursing home sector.

Over the next year, the East Sussex SAB will ensure any lessons relating to safeguarding adults during the Covid-19 crisis are learnt. The SAB will consider what work is required to understand the nature of the impact of Covid-19 and lockdown on safeguarding activity. The SAB will also continue to consider any formal guidance released by the government in relevant areas.

It is anticipated that SABs may experience a rise in SAR referrals relating to Covid-19, and consideration is being given as to how SABs can manage this activity in a proportionate way, joining up with other Boards where possible around shared themes and areas of learning.

Our training and development

SAB multi-agency training programme

As practitioners in the field of safeguarding are dealing with increasingly complex and challenging cases, the benefits of multi-agency training are significant, and create opportunities for increased collaboration and partnership, along with improved understanding of different roles and responsibilities.

The SAB has continued to work closely with colleagues from the Training and Workforce Development Subgroup to develop and deliver multi-agency training opportunities across the networks of the SAB and the East Sussex Safeguarding Children Partnership (ESSCP). The content of our training programme is linked to our priorities and has evolved to respond to the learning stemming from multi-agency audits and Safeguarding Adults Reviews (SARs). Over this last year our training has included the following workshops:

- Modern slavery and human trafficking.
- Adopting a whole family approach to domestic abuse and promoting safety.
- Mental Capacity Act 2005: A multi-agency approach to complex cases.
- Self-neglect.
- Coercion and control.

Adult Social Care & Health (ASCH) runs additional safeguarding training, including e-learning and face-to-face courses, which all SAB agencies can access. All our courses can be booked via the [East Sussex Learning Portal](#).

The SAB and ASCH safeguarding training programme remains popular and, in this financial year, over 1,500 representatives from 22 different agencies have accessed the training.

With the outbreak of coronavirus in March 2020, all face-to-face training was postponed. During the early stages of the next financial year, the SAB will be looking at new ways in which training can be delivered.

Great to have a representative from the police and RISE.

I learnt about the importance of a multi-agency approach in complex cases.

Brilliant case studies and discussion time.

I have gained a lot of information about the subject that I can share with my colleagues.

Our learning

Safeguarding Adults Reviews (SARs)

SABs have a statutory duty under the Care Act to undertake Safeguarding Adults Reviews (SARs). This is when:

- An adult dies as a result of abuse or neglect (including death by suicide), whether known or suspected, and there is concern that partner agencies could have worked more effectively to protect the adult.
- An adult is still alive but has experienced serious abuse or neglect, and there is concern that partner agencies could have worked more effectively to protect the adult.

SABs can undertake reviews in any other circumstance where an adult has care and support needs.

The purpose of having a SAR is to consider any lessons to be learnt from the circumstances of the case regarding:

- the ways in which professionals and agencies work together to safeguard adults,
- review the effectiveness of procedures, and
- highlight good practice.

The purpose of a SAR is to determine what the agencies involved in the case might have done differently that could have prevented harm or death. It is not an enquiry into how a person died, nor is it to apportion blame; but to learn from such situations, and to ensure that any learning is applied to future cases to reduce the likelihood of similar harm occurring again.

The [Sussex SAR Protocol](#) aims to ensure a consistent approach across Sussex to the process and practice of undertaking SARs that follow both statutory guidance and local policies.

During 2019 – 20, the East Sussex SAB considered four new SAR referrals involving a range of adults with differing care and support needs, including self-neglect, substance misuse and working with multiple complex needs. In addition, decisions regarding two referrals received in the previous year, 2018 – 19, were confirmed during 2019 – 20. In all six cases, decisions were made that the case did not meet the statutory criteria for carrying out a SAR under Section 44 of the Care Act, and the SAB was satisfied that appropriate learning had been identified through other mechanisms, such as Single Agency Reviews.

Whilst no new SARs were commissioned over this last year, work continued on the two SARs that commenced in 2018 – 19, and the SAB published the report for SAR Adult B in February 2020. Another SAR in relation to Adult C is due to be finalised later in 2020, and a summary of this review will be included in next year's annual report.

SAR – Adult B

This SAR was initiated in response to the death of a 94-year-old woman in September 2017, referred to in the report as Adult B.

The review evaluated multi-agency responses, and examined the support the professionals involved in the case had provided, to establish what lessons could be learnt.

Adult B died in hospital of natural causes but, when admitted, was found to have 26 unexplained injuries including a fractured nose and jaw, as well as old and new bruising to her face, arms and legs. She was diagnosed with sepsis and pneumonia shortly after her arrival in hospital and she died eight days later. The woman had been living firstly with her grand-daughter and then with her son and his family. They were providing most of her day-to-day care but with support from privately arranged care workers and community nurses.

The SAR was led by an Independent Reviewer and examined the following areas:

1. How effectively issues of Adult B's mental capacity and consent were addressed.
2. Whether the historical concerns were sufficiently considered when agencies responded to individual incidents – particularly in 2017.
3. Whether practitioners involved initially at the time of the 2017 injuries were sufficiently curious in their investigations of the injuries.
4. Whether assessments undertaken understood the family dynamics and whether there was consideration of disguised compliance by the wider family in these assessments.

This case highlighted that professionals can be too inclined to assess the needs and vulnerabilities of adults at face value. Systems do not always allow them to understand the full historical and current context. When this is coupled with a lack of curiosity, and a lack of confidence to challenge family members, it can leave vulnerable people at risk.

On the back of the review, the SAB made a number of recommendations for how private care providers, community nurses, GPs, police and adult social care services should improve how they work together. These included:

- ensuring clients are seen privately and personally away from their families, and

- better training for professionals working with complex cases, especially where there may be coercion and control.

The review also questioned whether the arrangements for investigating adults' deaths at the time, where abuse or neglect is suspected, were sufficient and asked for options to be scoped that reflect the procedures when a child dies.

An action plan has been developed to implement these recommendations, and progress will continue to be monitored through the SAR subgroup and reported to the Board over the next few months.

The [full report, action plan and learning briefing for the Adult B SAR](#) can be found on the East Sussex SAB website.

Serious Case Review – Child T

In June 2019, the East Sussex Safeguarding Children Partnership (ESSCP) published a Serious Case Review (SCR) in respect of a young man known as Child T. Child T died in hospital at the age of 18 years and 6 months. His death was associated with type 1 diabetes which he had developed as a child. The ESSCP commissioned the review to look at the lessons that could be learnt about the way agencies work together to safeguard children and vulnerable young adults.

The SCR identified important learning for the East Sussex SAB partner agencies, particularly concerning the areas of:

- self-neglect,
- mental capacity,
- inherent jurisdiction,
- coercion and control, and
- transitions between children's and adult services.

The East Sussex SAB developed its own action plan to respond to the learning in these areas, and good progress has been made in taking these actions forward over this last year. This has included reviewing multi-agency training programmes to include updated content on coercion and control. Work is planned later in 2020 to carry out a workforce survey to evaluate how well the self-neglect procedures are applied in practice.

The East Sussex SAB and ESSCP produced a joint [learning briefing](#) to summarise key learning in the case.

The full [Child T SCR report](#) can be viewed on the ESSCP website.

Multi-agency audits

During 2019 – 20, the East Sussex SAB undertook two multi-agency audits, focussing on:

- young people at risk of exploitation, and
- multi-agency involvement in the safeguarding process.

Young people at risk of exploitation

The focus of this audit was to assess the effectiveness of multi-agency safeguarding responses to young people (aged 16-25) who had been identified as being at risk of exploitation. The audit considered five cases where safeguarding concerns had been raised in the period 1st April 2018 – 31st March 2019, and there had been concerns about exploitation including sexual exploitation and criminal exploitation such as cuckooing, county drug lines or modern slavery. All the individuals involved were aged 16-25 and two were under 18 at the time of the safeguarding concern.

Specifically, the audit considered the following points:

- The timely identification of risk of exploitation.
- The effectiveness of multi-agency working to reduce risk.
- Making Safeguarding Personal and empowerment.
- How potential barriers to engagement were recognised and addressed.
- Information sharing between children's and adult services.

The audit group comprised representatives from Adult Social Care & Health (ASCH), Children's Services, Sussex Police, East Sussex NHS Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs), Sussex Partnership NHS Foundation Trust (SPFT), East Sussex Healthcare NHS Trust (ESHT), National Probation Service, Change, Grow, Live (CGL) and the Salvation Army Housing Association (SAHA).

The audit identified a number of strengths and examples of good practice as well as some areas for improvement.

What is working well?

- In many cases, professionals demonstrated effective multi-agency working and good practice in relation to information sharing and ensuring a timely response.
- Application of a Making Safeguarding Personal approach was evident in several cases
- Several cases reflected understanding of the impact childhood trauma can have in later life and of the importance of using trauma-informed practice.

- Professional curiosity was demonstrated in many cases, not making assumptions and triangulating information from different sources to gain a better understanding of an individual's situation.
- Good knowledge and application of the Care Act and Mental Capacity Act principles.

What can we improve?

Raising awareness of the different forms of exploitation that come under the abuse type of modern slavery, which can include cuckooing and county lines.

- Greater consistency of information sharing across agencies to support effective communication. This was particularly lacking in terms of communication with primary care.
- Greater understanding of how involvement in substance misuse and drug debt can increase risks of exploitation.
- The effectiveness of current processes to identify, manage and communicate risks for young people approaching their eighteenth birthday.
- Multi-agency involvement in developing safeguarding plans could be improved. The cases reviewed reflected that ASCH often does not clearly document which agencies it has informed or shared the safeguarding plan with.

An action plan is in place to address the areas for development, and this will be taken forward during 2020, with progress being monitored through the PQA subgroup.

A [learning briefing](#) has also been published to summarise the outcomes from this audit.

Multi-agency involvement in the safeguarding process

One of the recommendations from the Adult B SAR was that the SAB should:

‘Undertake a sample audit of general agency involvement in the safeguarding process, including invitation and attendance at safeguarding meetings and receipt of minutes of such meetings. This is to inform the development of robust mechanisms that ensure appropriate representation at safeguarding meetings, information sharing if attendance is not confirmed, and secure electronic communication’.

The purpose of the audit was to:

- Assess the effectiveness of multi-agency involvement and communication at key stages of the safeguarding enquiry process.

- Assess the effectiveness of current mechanisms to manage safeguarding meetings, including how agencies follow-up invitations and achieve clear outcomes.
- Assess compliance with existing policies, procedures and guidance.
- Identify gaps and areas for development.
- Identify examples of best practice with a view to sharing and replicating.
- Recommend actions or improvements to practice and procedures.

In view of mutually relevant themes, it was agreed that this audit would be conducted jointly between the Brighton & Hove and East Sussex SABs. An audit meeting took place in February 2020. The outbreak of the coronavirus pandemic in March has affected the SAB's ability to consult with partner agencies to finalise the report and develop an action plan, but there are plans to progress this later in 2020, and a summary will be provided in next year's annual report.

Learning from complaints

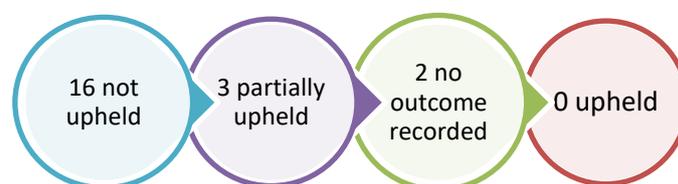
All complaints about our safeguarding processes are taken seriously, as they help us to learn and improve how we do things in the future.

The total number of complaints recorded for Adult Social Care & Health (ASCH) for 2019 – 20 was **427**. Of these **21** related directly to safeguarding, this is **5%** of the total complaints received.

In addition to these 21 complaints, there were **11** other complaints that have other primary classifications but appear to have a safeguarding element.

This compares to 18 complaints and four MP or councillor enquiries in 2018 – 19.

The 21 complaints received can be broken down as shown in this diagram:



As a result of a complaint about inter-familial abuse, ASCH took comprehensive action to improve Adult Social Care staff's knowledge and awareness of inter-familial domestic abuse, including:

- Arranging six additional two-day training sessions for ASCH staff on the whole family approach to domestic abuse.

- A further review of the domestic abuse training offer and action plan.
- Creating a register to track the staff who have completed domestic abuse training and those who need to attend.
- A review of the Sussex Safeguarding Adults Policy and Procedures to ensure they provide clear and robust guidance on safeguarding and domestic abuse.

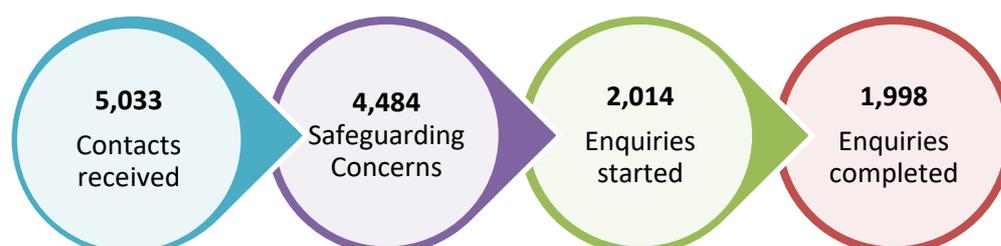
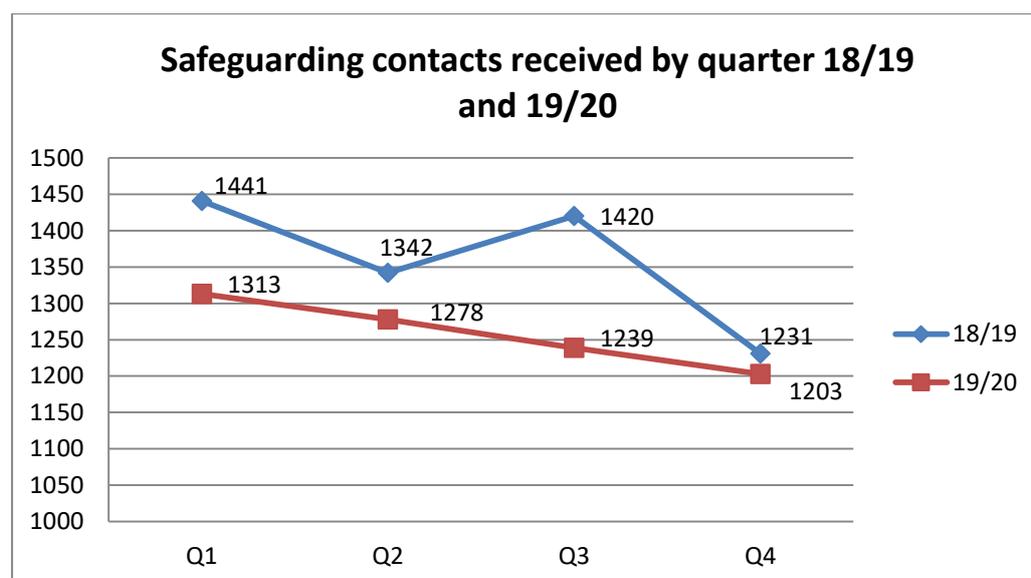
Our data

The Care Act 2014 sets out our statutory duties and responsibilities for safeguarding adults including the requirement to undertake enquiries under section 42 of the Act. Below is a summary of key safeguarding activity during 2019 – 2020 for both concerns raised and enquiries undertaken by East Sussex County Council Adult Social Care & Health (ASCH).

As a consequence of the Coronavirus pandemic and the subsequent pressures this has placed on local authorities, NHS Digital have extended the deadlines for the Safeguarding Adults Collection (SAC) 2019 – 20. As such the 2019 – 20 data included in this report may be subject to slight variations from what will be included in the final SAC return. Any additional updates will be added to this annual report as an addendum at a later date.

Analysing safeguarding data

The number of safeguarding contacts has decreased from **5,532** in 2018 – 19 to **5,033** in 2019 – 20, which is a change of 9.9%.

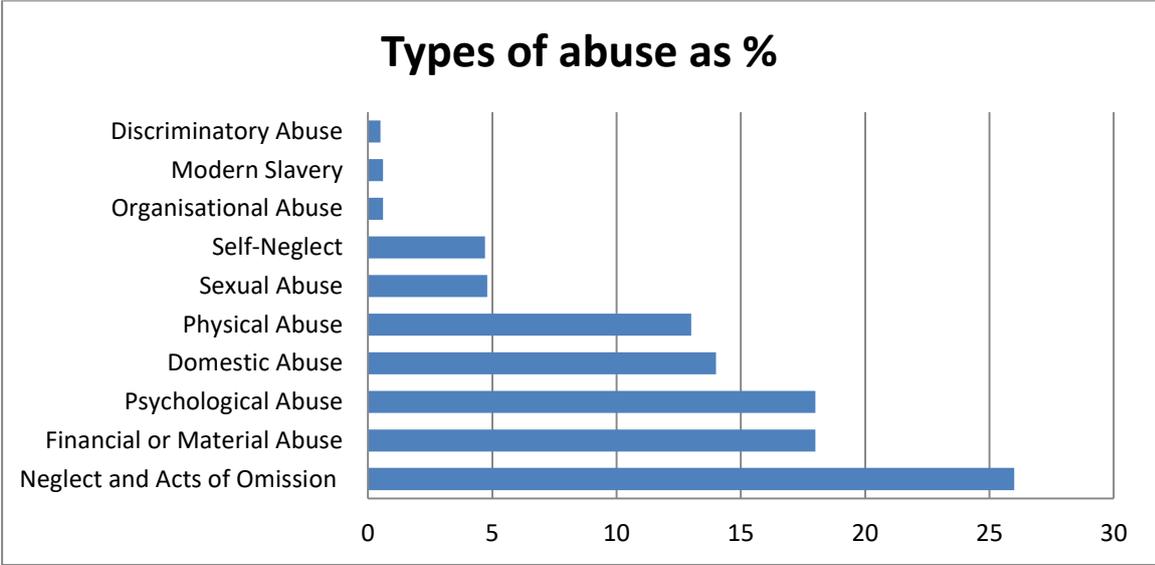


Of the total contacts received in 2019 – 20, **4,484 (86%)** were considered safeguarding concerns. The number of enquiries completed has increased by **69%**

when compared to 2018 – 19 (increasing from **1,185** to **1,998**). This increase can be attributed in part to changes made to the social care recording system in 2019 which has led to improvements in capturing safeguarding enquiries more accurately.

Note - The figure for completed enquiries is not a proportion of the figure given for enquiries started as some completed enquiries would result from concerns received prior to 2019 – 20, and correspondingly some enquiries started in 2019 – 20 would still be ongoing at the end of the financial year.

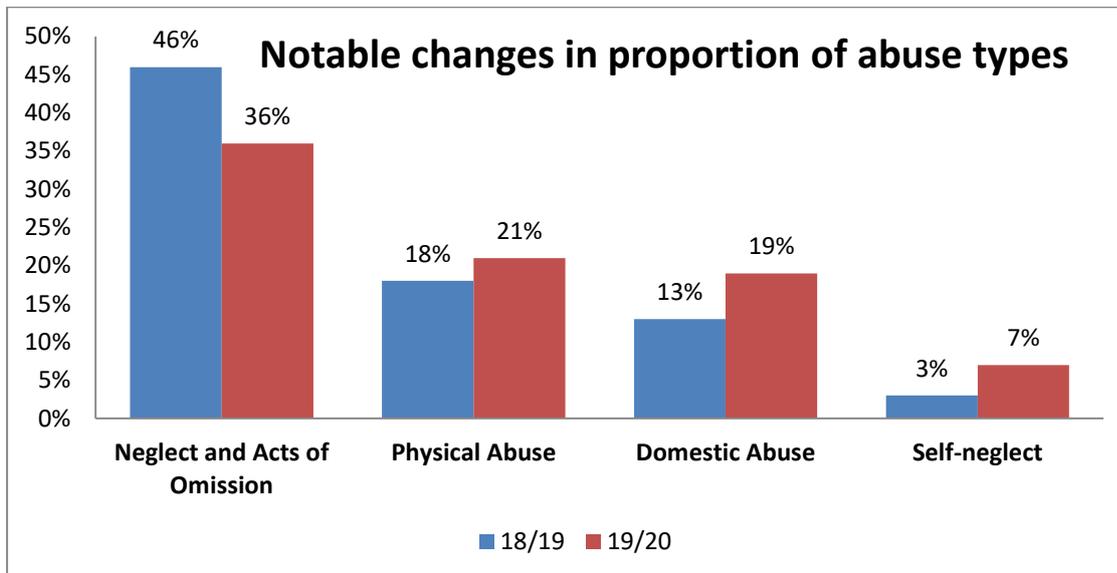
Types of abuse



In 2018 – 19, the most common form of abuse reported was neglect followed by psychological and then financial abuse. In 2019 – 20, neglect is still the most common type of abuse with **36%** of all enquiries undertaken comprising, at least in part, neglect.

Financial abuse is now the second most common form of abuse reported, followed by psychological abuse, accounting for **25.4%** and **25.0%** respectively of the enquiries completed.

Note - The total types of abuse will exceed the total completed enquiries as some enquiries involve multiple types of abuse.



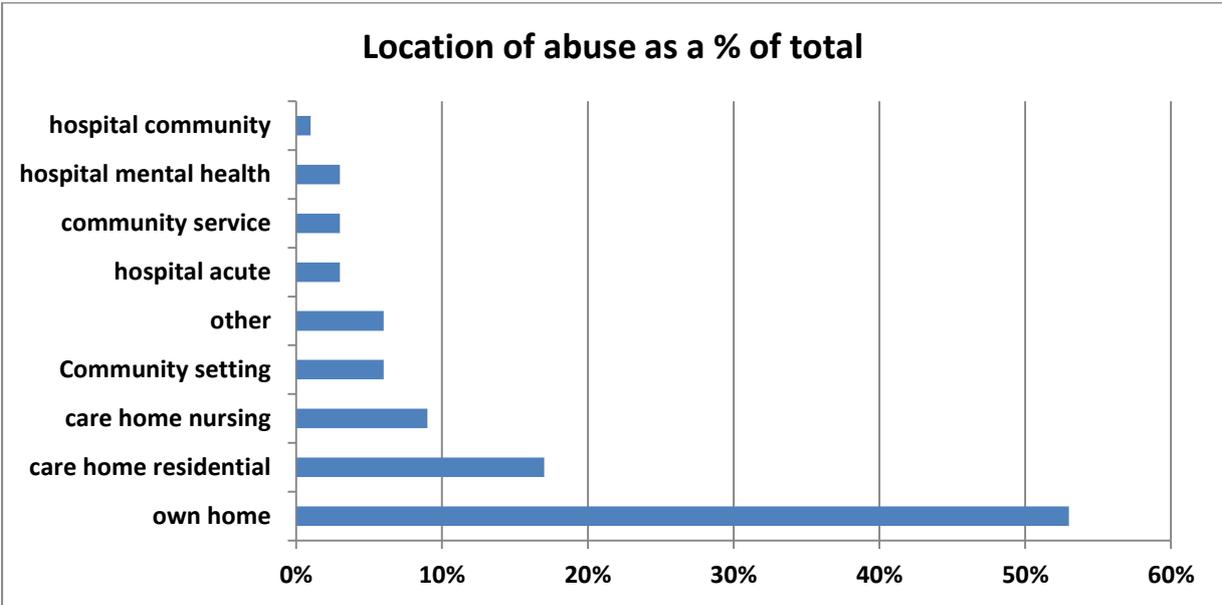
The most significant proportional differences since 2018 – 19 are:

- A 10% decrease in cases of neglect from 46% to 36%.
- A 6% increase in domestic abuse from 13% to 19%.
- A 4% increase in self-neglect cases from 3% to 7%.

This continues to evidence that supportive measures in relation to these specific areas of abuse are required to help work with individuals to manage the risk posed to them by others. East Sussex has a much older population profile than the country as a whole with 26% of the population being aged 65 plus¹. This means that there are an increased number of individuals who will have, or will develop, care and support needs.

¹ Data extracted from East Sussex in Figures, June 2020

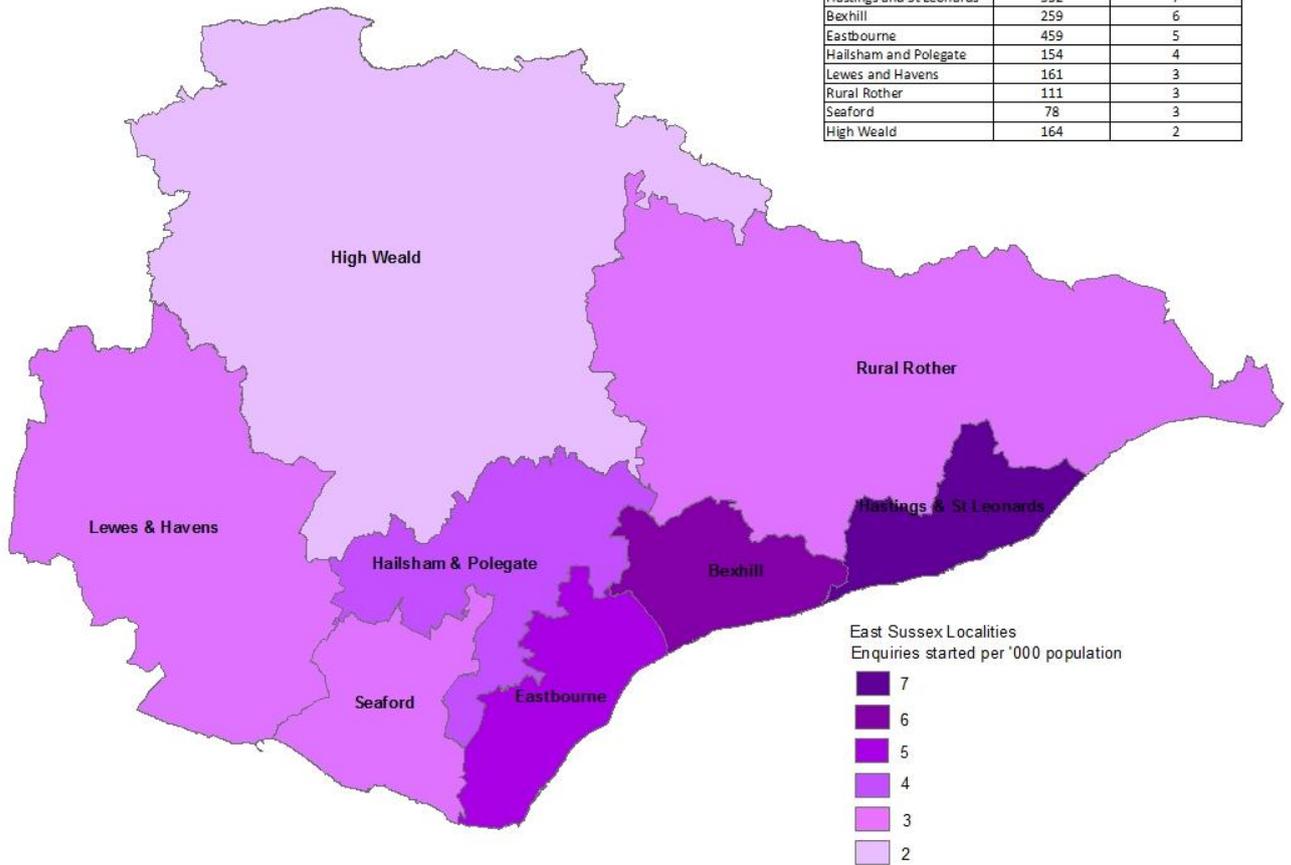
Locations of abuse



As in previous years, the most common reported location of abuse is in the adult at risk’s own home (**53%**). This is an increase from **43%** in 2018 – 19. The second most common location continues to be care homes, accounting for **26%**. This is a decrease from **36%** in 2018 – 19.

Abuse in residential homes has reduced from **22%** to **17%** of all reported abuse whilst cases in acute hospitals have decreased from **6%** to **3%** of all cases.

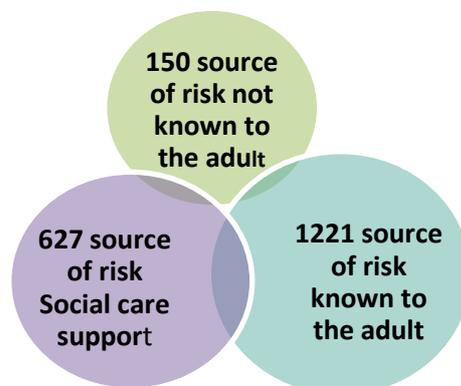
Locality	Total number of enquiries	Enquiries started per '000 population
Hastings and St Leonards	532	7
Bexhill	259	6
Eastbourne	459	5
Hailsham and Polegate	154	4
Lewes and Havens	161	3
Rural Rother	111	3
Seaford	78	3
High Weald	164	2



Source of risk

Of the 1,998 enquiries completed in this financial year, in **61%** of those enquiries, the source of risk was known to the adult (up from **50%** in 2018 – 19).

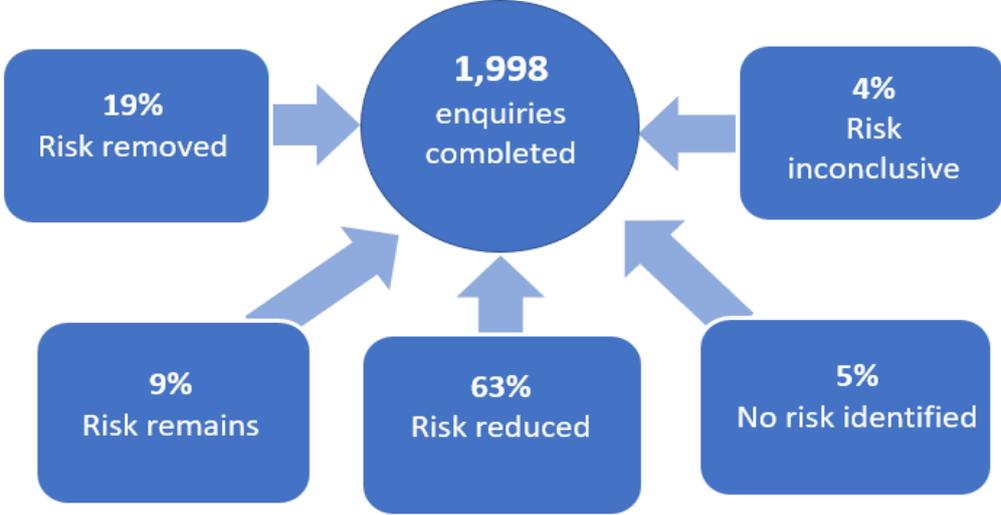
In **51%** of these cases, the source of the risk was either the adult's partner or another family member.



In **8%** of cases, the source of risk was not known to the adult (down from **10%** in 2018 – 19) and in the remaining **31%** of cases, the source of risk was social care staff, a decrease from **42%** in the previous year.

Impact on risk

In 2019 – 20, in **84%** of enquiries there was an identified risk to the adult and action was taken. In **90%** of these cases, the risk was either reduced or removed completely. This is a slight decrease from **93%** in 2018 – 19.

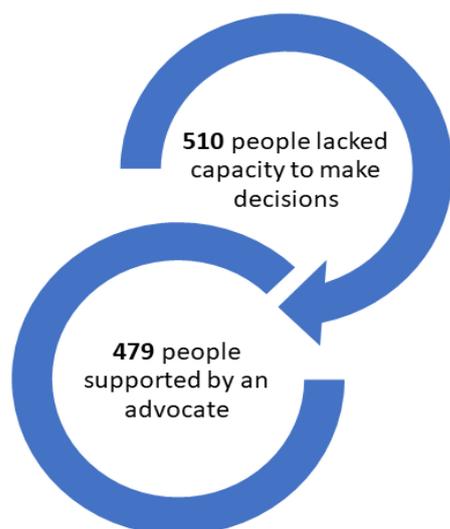


It should be acknowledged that it is unlikely that risk will be reduced or removed in 100% of cases, as individuals may exercise choice and control over the steps taken by authorities to mitigate the risk. A challenging aspect of safeguarding work is ensuring that the wishes of adults with capacity are respected when this results in risks remaining.

From safeguarding enquiries completed in which a risk was identified, the proportion of cases where risk remains has increased from **7%** to **10%**.

Support for adults at risk who lack capacity to make informed decisions

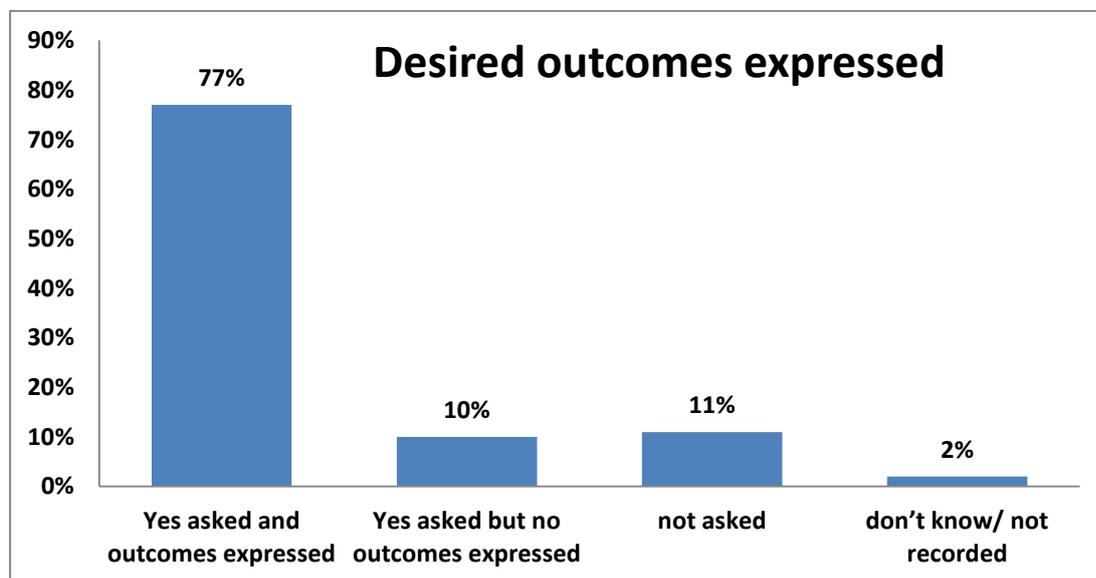
Making Safeguarding Personal is a key focus for the Board. We aspire that people are able to express their wishes wherever possible and that safeguarding work strives to support desired outcomes. This approach requires appropriate support to those who may lack the mental capacity to make safeguarding decisions for themselves. This support can be provided informally for example by a family member or friend, or through advocacy services. In East Sussex the advocacy services in 2019 – 20 were provided by POHWER.



In East Sussex, **93.9%** of all adults who lacked capacity received support, either by family or friends or via a referral to POHWER for advocacy support.

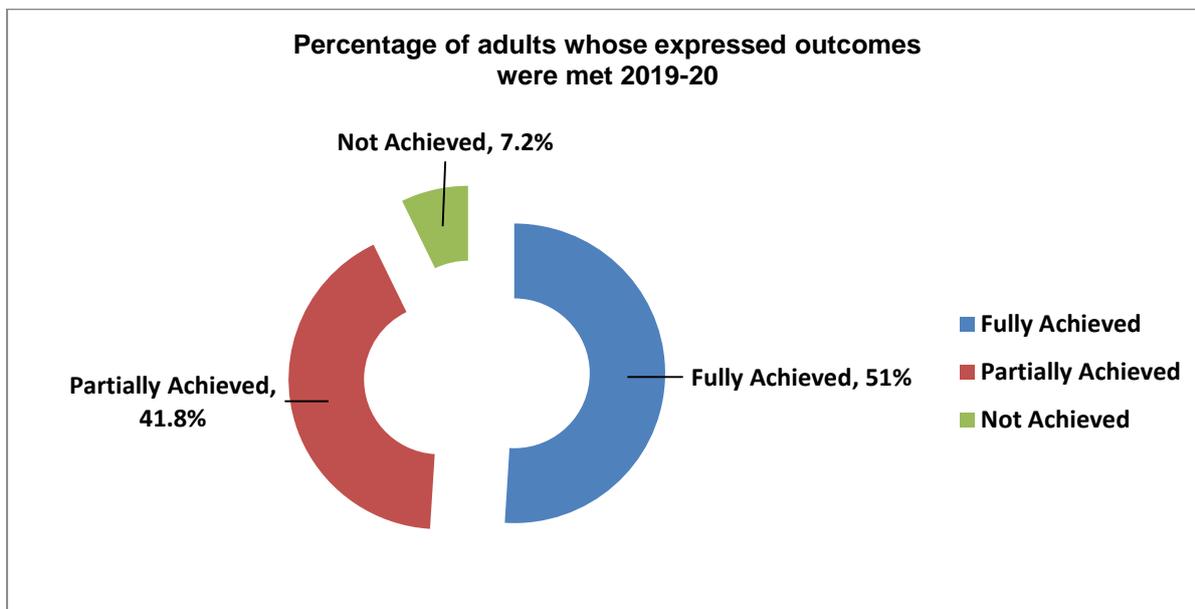
Outcomes achieved through safeguarding

In 2019 – 20, **87%** of adults were asked about their desired outcomes, a slight increase on **82%** in 2018 – 19.



A review of cases where outcomes were not asked found that these were all cases where the adult lacked capacity to make decisions in relation to the enquiry.

In 2019 – 20, of those who expressed a desire for specific outcomes, in **93%** of cases those outcomes were either fully or partially met. This is the same percentage as for 2018 – 19.



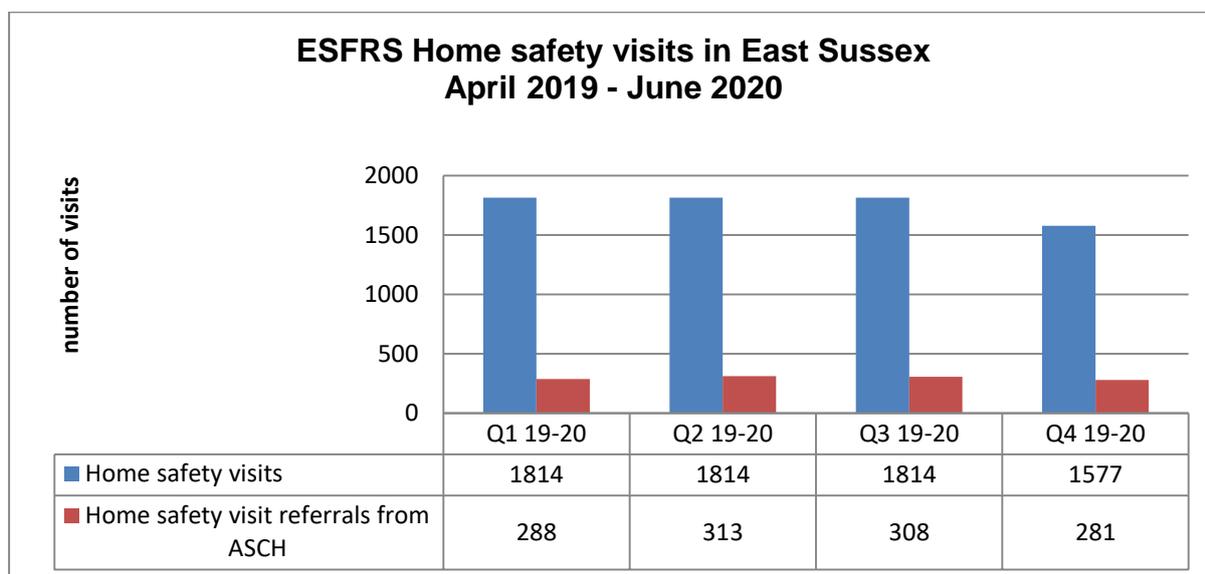
It is acknowledged that there will always be cases where outcomes will not have been achieved, for example, where desired outcomes are beyond the remit and control of the enquiry, or where the situation has changed from the initial desired outcomes that were recorded.

Safeguarding data from partner agencies

The SAB through the Performance Quality and Audit (PQA) subgroup monitors and evaluates safeguarding performance across partner agencies and ensures this links to service improvement. A multi-agency data set report is reviewed by the PQA subgroup twice a year. A summary of the data provided by some of the SAB partner agencies for 2019 - 20 is provided below.

East Sussex Fire and Rescue Service (ESFRS)

The chart below shows the number of home safety visits conducted by ESFRS in the last four quarters, including the number of visits conducted as a result of referrals from East Sussex ASCH. These visits are one element of the ESFRS targeted prevention work providing support to the most vulnerable members of the community who may be more at risk of having a fire in their home.



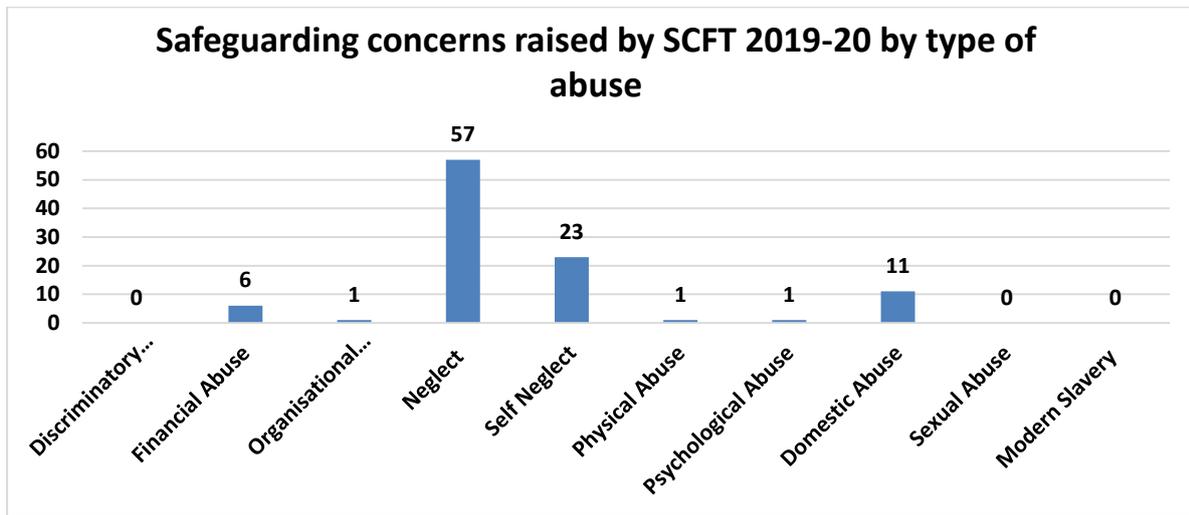
The reduction in number of home safety visits completed in the second half of the year is a part of an annual pattern of peaks and troughs and also a tendency for fewer visits to be completed during the festive season. This year the numbers of home safety visits towards the end of quarter 4 were further affected by the outbreak of Coronavirus.

In undertaking home safety visits ESFRS often identify safeguarding concerns, which they report to the local authority via a coming to notice (CTN) form. During 2019 – 20 there was a total of 313 CTNs raised with East Sussex ASCH, relating to a range of safeguarding and care and support issues, including self-neglect, hoarding, cuckooing, domestic abuse, financial abuse, substance misuse concerns, mental health concerns and fire risks, including unattended cooking and smoking.

Sussex Community NHS Foundation Trust (SCFT)

SCFT delivers adult community health services to the High Weald Lewes and Havens area of East Sussex. Professionals work in multi-disciplinary teams linking closely with health and social care partners. SCFT professionals might visit patients in a care home, a variety of healthcare settings or within the patient's own home. Their work includes supporting people with complex long-term health conditions, rehabilitation following hospital admission and assessing urgent health care needs.

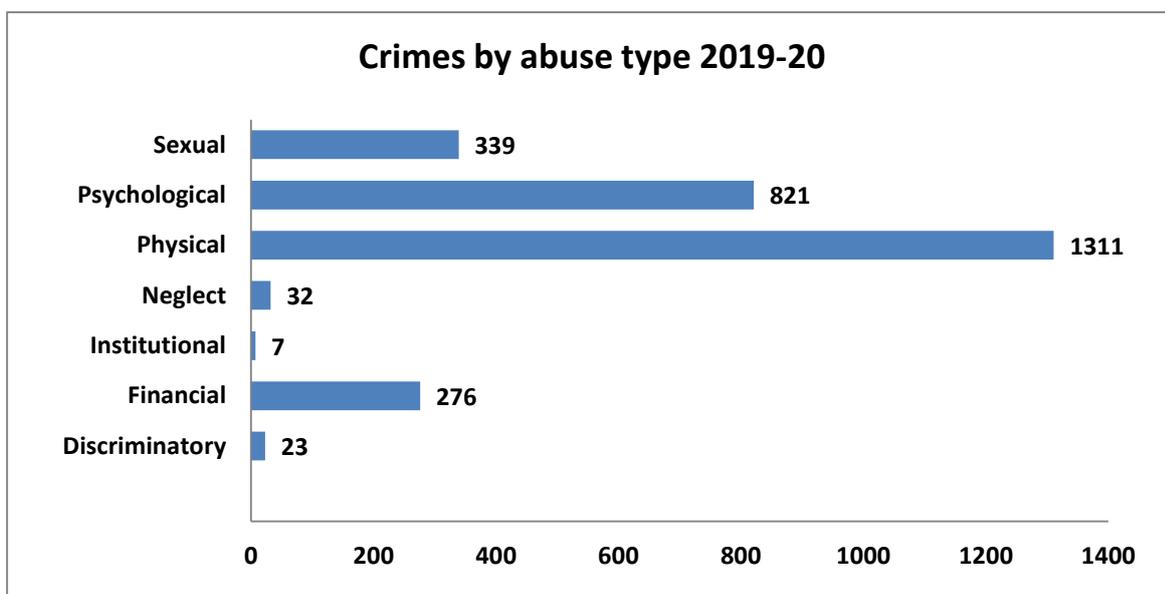
While supporting a patient with their health needs, professionals may identify a safeguarding concern and report this to the local authority. In 2019 – 20, the type of abuse most commonly reported by SCFT was neglect, followed by self-neglect and then domestic abuse.



These three types of abuse saw the largest increase in safeguarding concerns raised in 2019 – 20 upon the previous year. Concerns raised for neglect increased by 58%, concerns for self-neglect increased by 360% and concerns for domestic abuse increased by 450%. The increase in safeguarding concerns is influenced by a number of factors and is considered a positive change evidencing SCFT compliance of Care Act duty in relation to adult safeguarding concerns. In 2019 - 20 SCFT focussed on raising staff awareness and understanding of domestic abuse and the increase in this year's figures reflects an increase in recognition of this form of abuse. In 2019 – 20 there were no concerns raised for Discriminatory Abuse, Sexual Abuse or Modern Slavery.

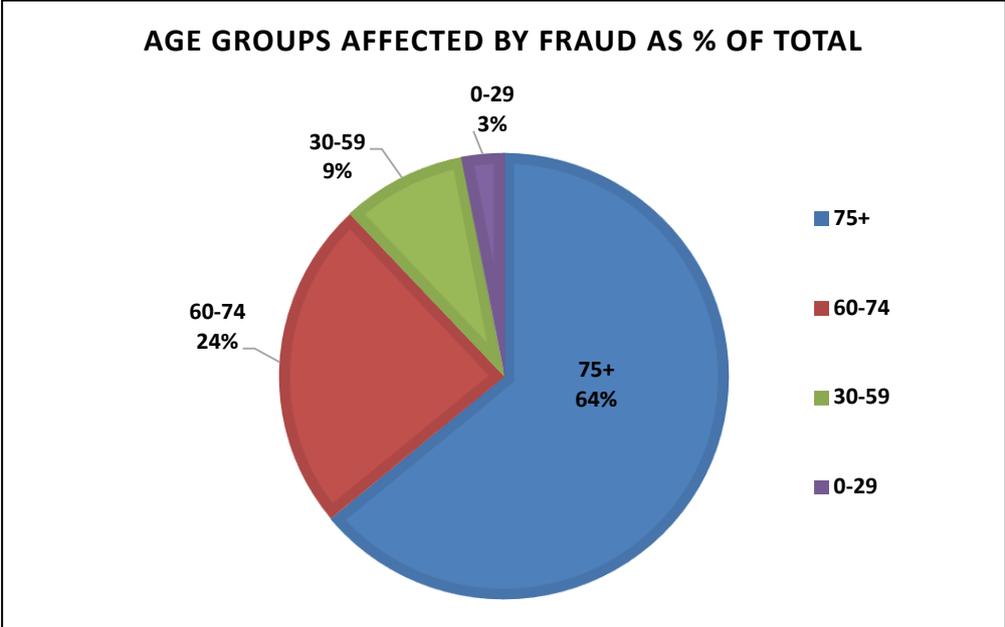
Sussex Police

The following chart shows the number of reported crimes per category of abuse, by each quarter. The overall numbers of crimes were lower in quarter 3 and quarter 4, but the ratio of abuse types has remained roughly stable through the year.



Operation Signature

Operation Signature is the operational response of Sussex Police, which identifies and supports vulnerable, and often elderly, victims of fraud of all types. The types of fraud include people that have been contacted by telephone, email, letter and on the doorstep. Two specialist Operation Signature case workers working across Sussex have supported 850 victims of fraud during 2019 – 20.

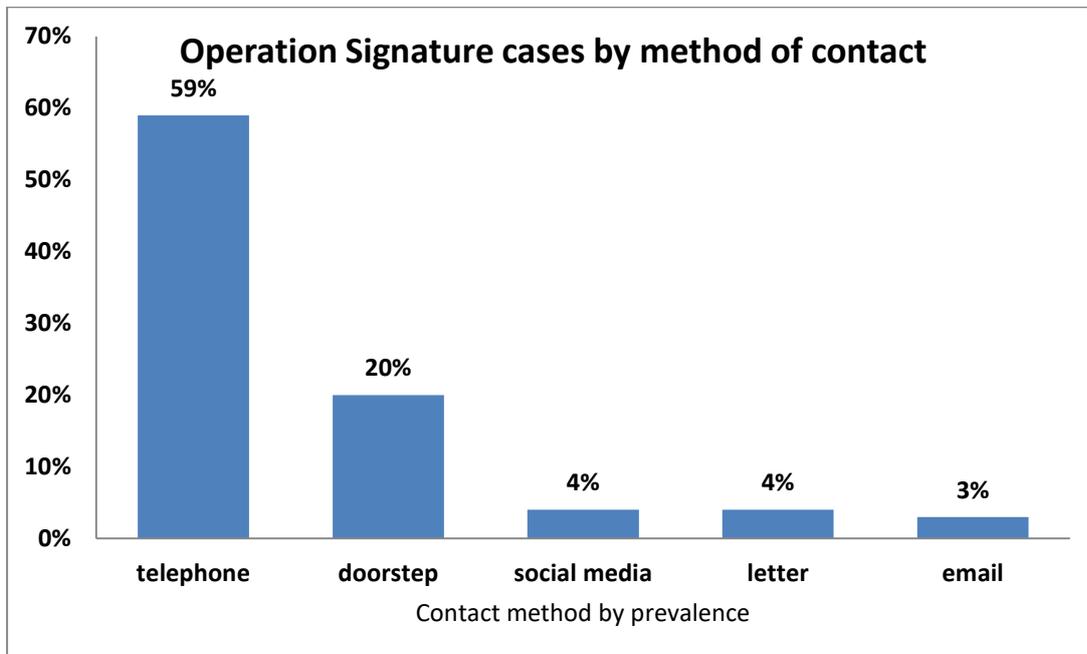


In East Sussex, the overwhelming majority of cases, **88%**, were elderly people: 24% of victims were 60 – 74 years old and **64%** of victims were over 75 years old.

In 2019 – 20, the number of identified cases in East Sussex was **791**, an increase of **43%** on the previous year's figures. **525** cases were in the Eastbourne, Lewes and Wealden area and **269** in the Hastings and Rother area².

In East Sussex **61%** of the cases identified by Operation Signature involved the criminals contacting victims by telephone, with **21%** being targeted by doorstep crime.

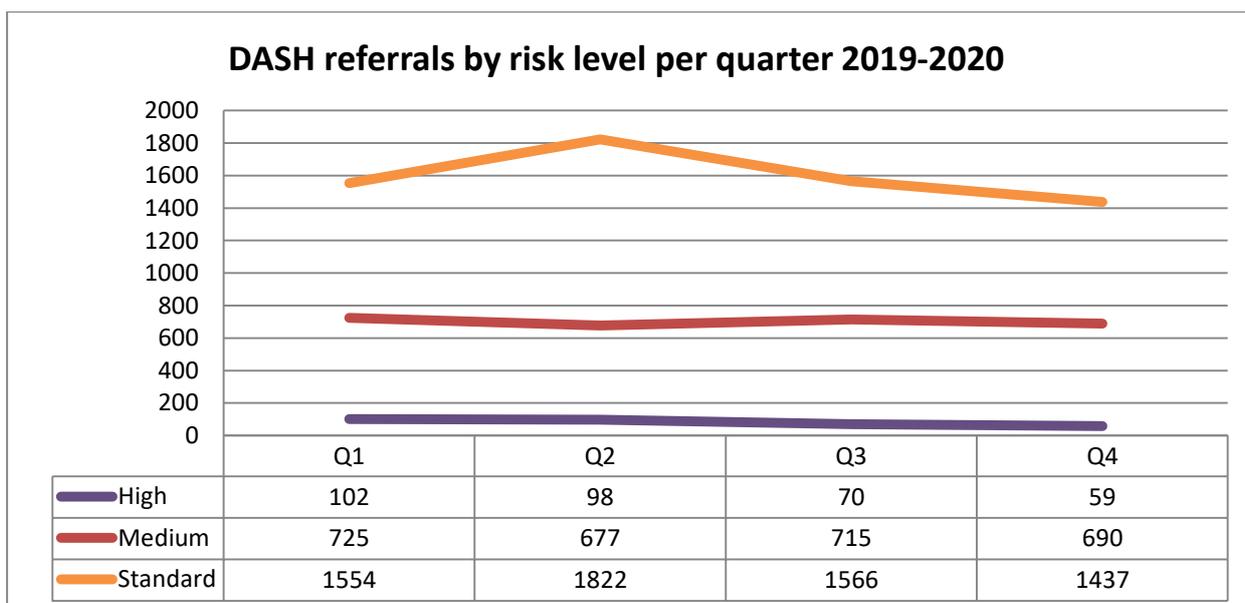
² Population figures extracted from East Sussex in Figures, June 2020



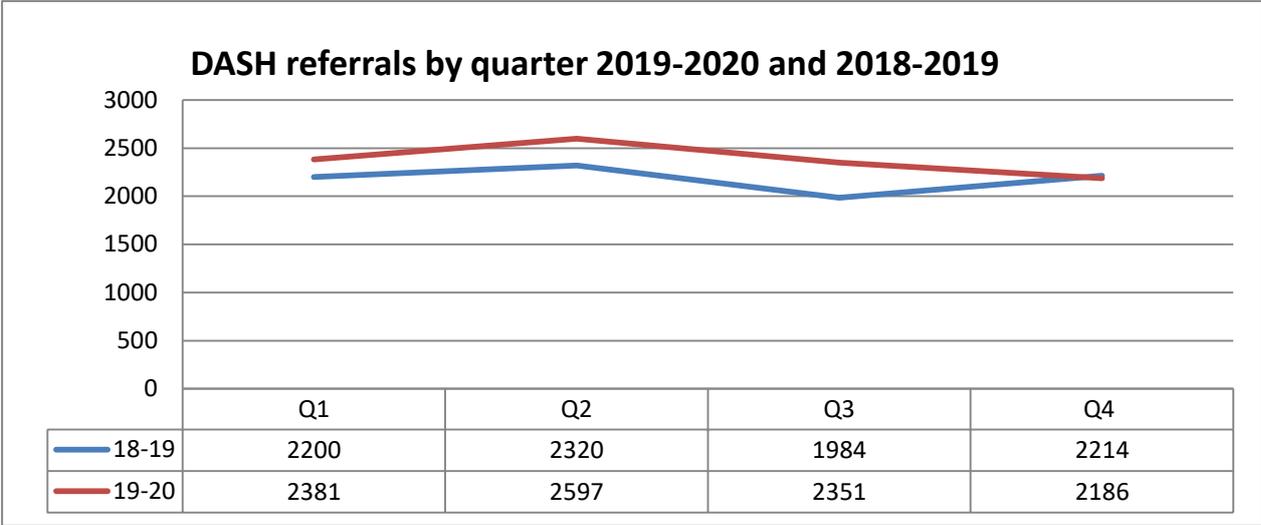
DASH Referrals

Incidents of Domestic Abuse are subject to a risk assessment using a Domestic Abuse, Stalking and Harassment (DASH) checklist. An officer, with the victim, assesses the level of risk using this checklist and will take initial steps to manage identified risks. Sussex Police Safeguarding Investigations Unit (SIU) refer all cases of domestic abuse involving an adult with care and support needs to Adult Social Care & Health (ASCH). This checklist provides information on whether the risk to an individual is high, medium or standard.

The chart below shows the number of DASH referrals made by Sussex Police to East Sussex ASCH for each quarter in 2019 - 20 by risk level.



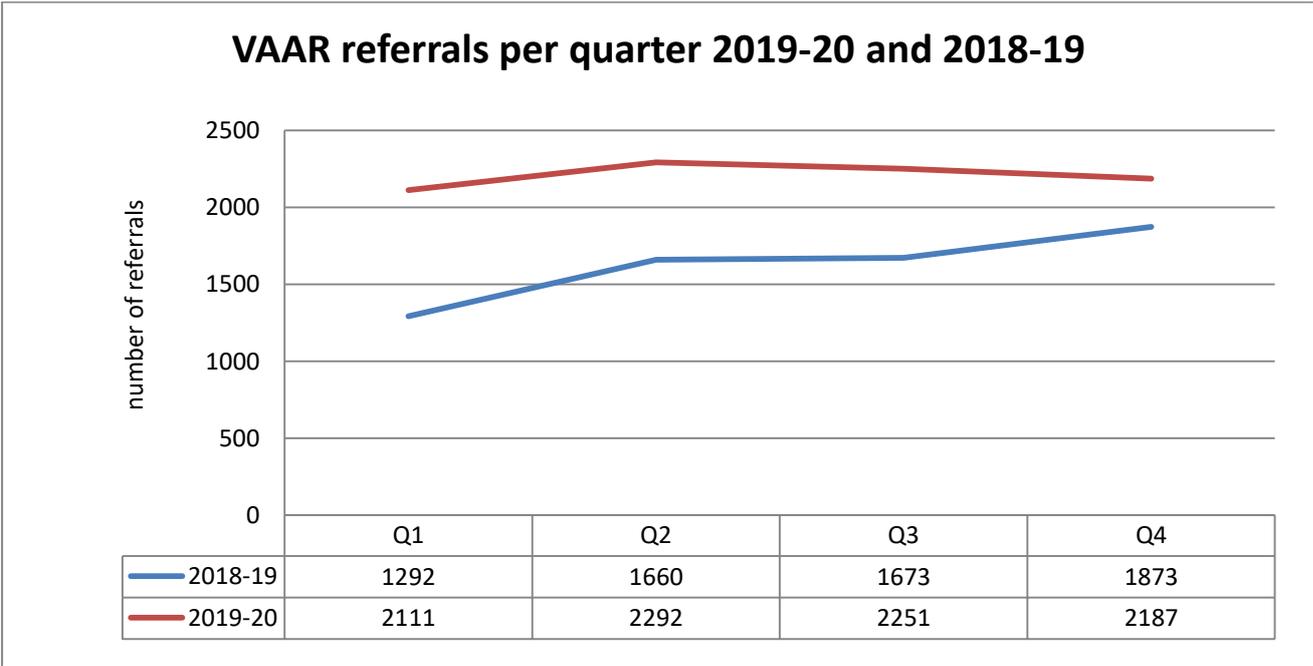
The number of standard level risk referrals increased in quarter two and then dropped back to the same level as in quarter one. By comparing the total number of DASH referrals during 2019 - 20 with the same data for 2018 -19, as shown in the chart below, we can see that in 2019 - 20 there has been an overall increase of 9%.



Vulnerable Adult at Risk (VAAR) referrals

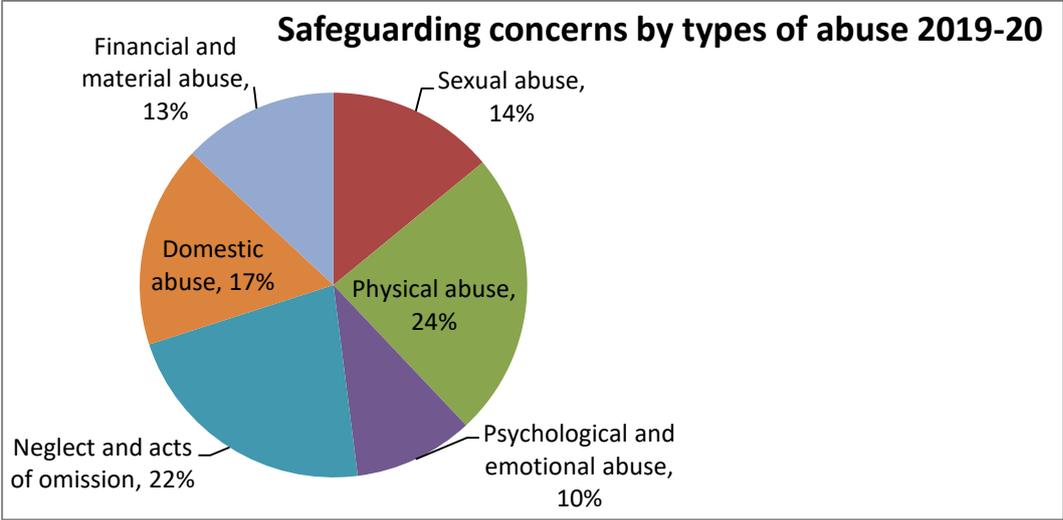
Sussex Police submit VAAR referrals to ASCH in relation to safeguarding adults concerns they identify.

The chart below shows the number of VAAR referrals made by Sussex Police by quarter for the year 2019 - 20, with comparison to the same data for the previous year. Overall there has been a 36% increase in the number of VAARs this year upon last year, with the biggest variation in quarter one of 2019-20 with a 63% increase upon figures for 2018-19.

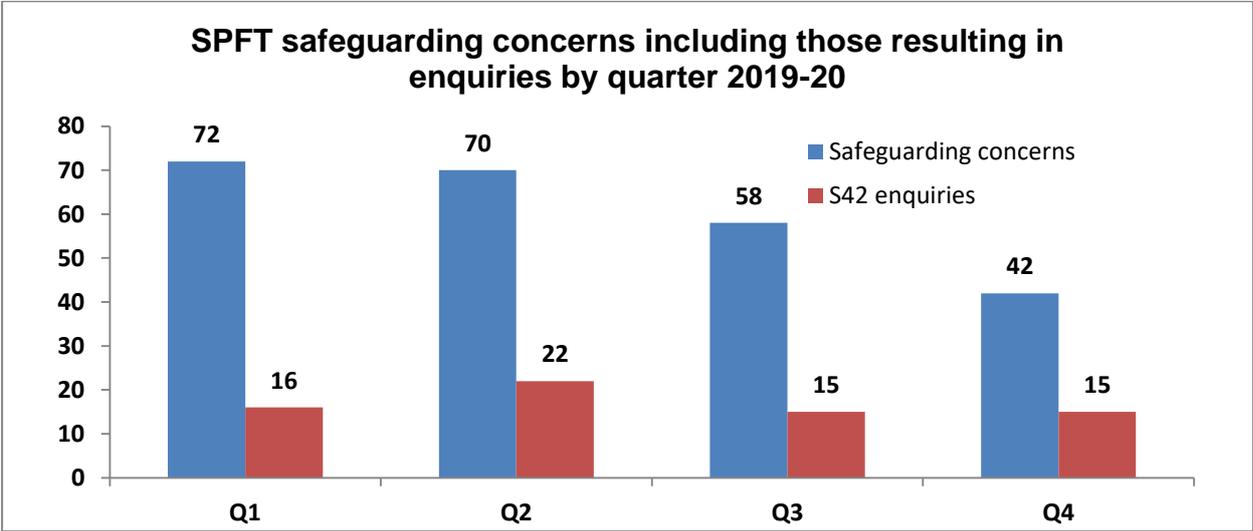


Sussex Partnership NHS Foundation Trust (SPFT)

The table below shows the number of concerns, by abuse type, that have been raised by SPFT staff (that the SPFT safeguarding team has been made aware of) through either email or incident reporting or by receiving information from mental health teams in ASCH.

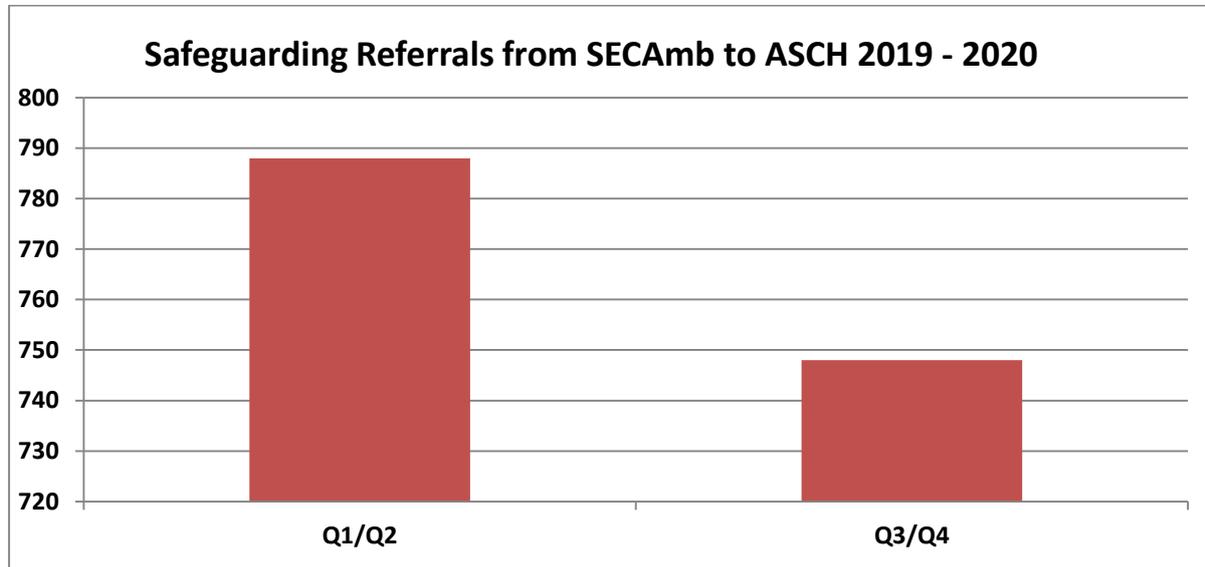


The following table shows the number of safeguarding concerns raised by SPFT over 2019 – 20, including those that progressed to a safeguarding enquiry.

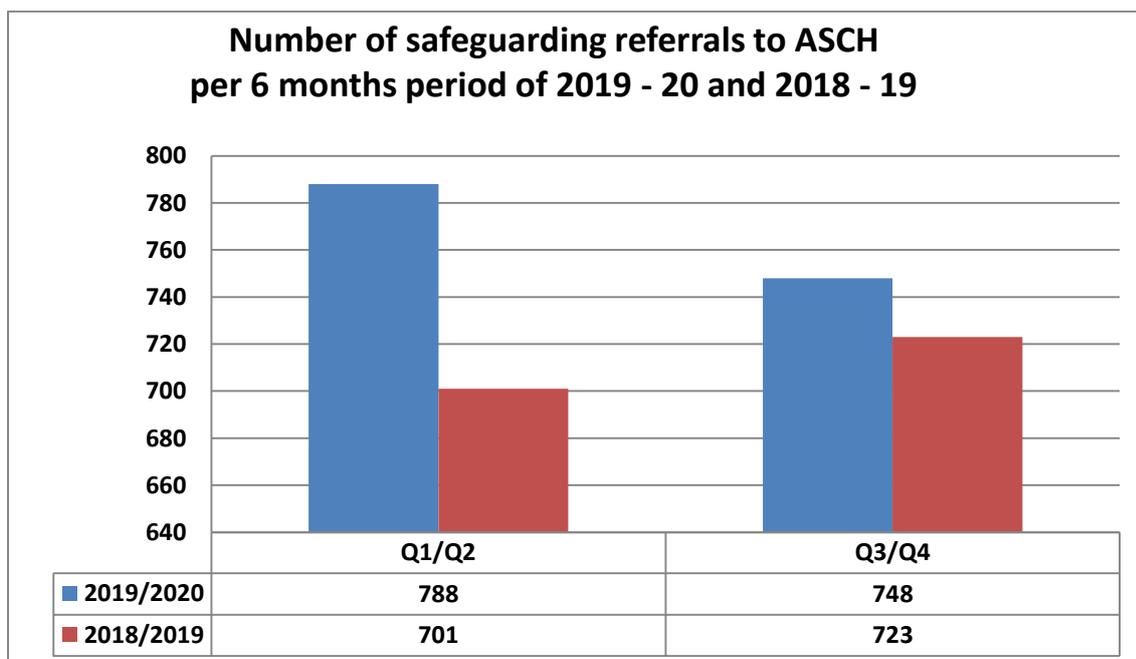


South East Coast NHS Ambulance Service (SECamb)

The chart below shows the number of safeguarding concerns raised by SECamb to ASCH during April to September 2019 compared to the second half of the year from October 2019 to March 2020. There was a decrease of 5% in the number of referrals that SECamb made over quarters three and four.



In comparing the data from SECamb for 2018 - 19 and 2019 - 20, there was a 12% increase in the number of safeguarding concerns raised to ASCH in the first half of 2019 - 20 compared to the same period in 2018 - 19. There was also another slight increase in safeguarding concerns being raised by SECamb during the second half of this year compared to the same period in 2018-2019.



The increase in safeguarding referrals is influenced by a range of factors. SECAMB have increased compliance rates for completion of safeguarding training, raised awareness across the organisation of the signs and symptoms of domestic abuse, leading to a 60% increase in referrals for domestic abuse across SECAMB. SECAMB have also improved how safeguarding risks are recorded and shared with key partner agencies. Other factors that may have influenced the rise in referrals are the fact that SECAMB increasingly are coming into contact with more patients and their families every year and an increased awareness across staff of the importance of multi-disciplinary working.

Reporting a safeguarding concern

No-one should have to live with abuse or neglect – it is always wrong, whatever the circumstances.

Anybody can raise a safeguarding concern for themselves or another person. Do not assume that someone else is doing something about the situation.

You can raise a concern in the following ways:

Phone: 0345 60 80 191 (8am to 8pm 7 days a week, including bank holidays)

Email: [Health and Social Care Connect](#)

Online: Via the form on the [East Sussex County Council website](#)

Contact the police on 101 or in an emergency 999

Find out more in our [safeguarding leaflet](#) and [easy read version safeguarding leaflet](#).