

# Safeguarding Adults Strategy

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## Context

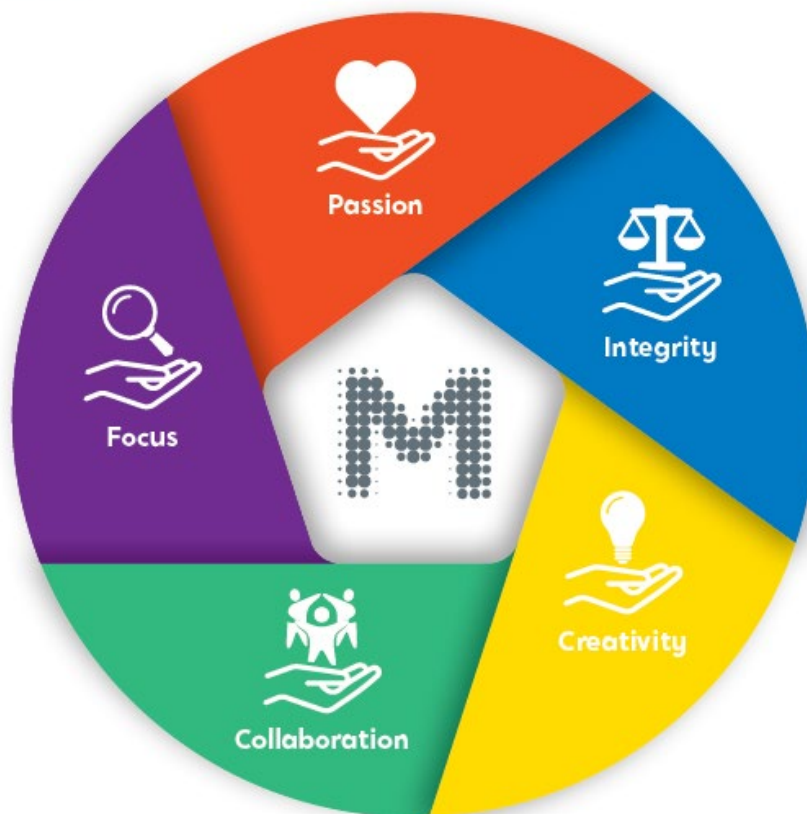
### Middlesbrough's Strategic Plan 2020-2023






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



 <b>Passion</b> We believe in Middlesbrough and are proud to work for the town	 <b>Integrity</b> We are open and transparent and treat everyone with respect	 <b>Creativity</b> We have the courage to try new ideas and new ways of working	 <b>Collaboration</b> We work with others to make Middlesbrough better	 <b>Focus</b> 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 June 2020).

Principle	What does this mean?
<b>Empowerment</b>	We support and encourage people to make their own decisions. This is also about informed consent
<b>Prevention</b>	It is better to take action before harm occurs.
<b>Proportionality</b>	The least intrusive response appropriate to the risk presented
<b>Protection</b>	Support and representation for those in greatest need
<b>Partnership</b>	Local solutions through services working with their communities. Communities have a part to play in preventing, detecting and reporting neglect and abuse
<b>Accountability</b>	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 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 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.
- Holding our Team Around the Individual Panel. This is our multi agency high risk panel which brings together partner agencies every month.
- 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 in the strategic VEMT group and looking at transition arrangements into adult safeguarding.
- Meeting regularly with the Police to promote joint working and good practice.

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.
- 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.

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

