



My Ref: FOI 6399
Enquiries to: Information Requests
E-Mail: informationrequests@barnsley.gov.uk

Dear Requester,

Re: Request for Information – Freedom of Information Act 2000

I wish to confirm that the council has completed its search for the information which you requested.

The information requested and our findings are as follows: -

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, I request the following information relating to safeguarding activity involving unpaid carers of people living with dementia. Please provide data for the most recent three financial years available.

1. Safeguarding concerns involving unpaid carers

a. Please provide the number of safeguarding concerns (alerts) recorded where the adult at risk was an unpaid / family carer. Please specify (where held) the number of these concerns where:

- the source of risk / harm was a person they provide care for
- and the person they care for has dementia

Answer:

	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	Total
Number of safeguarding concerns where the adult at risk was an unpaid/family carer	3	5	15	23
Of these, source of harm was the person they provide care for	1	1	3	5
Of these, the person cared for had dementia and was the source of harm	0	0	1	1

b. Please provide the number of safeguarding concerns (alerts) recorded where the concern was raised about an unpaid / family carer who was not considered an adult at risk. Please specify (where held) the number of these concerns where:

- the source of risk / harm was a person they provide care for
- and the person they care for has dementia

Answer:

	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	Total
Number of safeguarding concerns about an unpaid/family carer who was not considered an adult at risk	3	3	4	10
Of these, source of harm was the cared-for person	1	0	2	3

	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	Total
Of these, the cared-for person had dementia and was the source of harm	1	0	1	2

2. Outcomes of these concerns Of the concerns identified, please provide the following for concerns identified in Q1a and then repeat this for concerns identified in Q1b:

a. The number that progressed to a Section 42 safeguarding enquiry

Answer:

	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	Total
Q1a concerns progressing to Section 42 enquiry	1	1	8	10
Q1b concerns progressing to Section 42 enquiry	0	0	0	0

b. The number concluded as:

- substantiated
- partially substantiated
- not substantiated (if recorded)

Answer:

	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	Total
Substantiated	0	1	3	4
Partially substantiated	0	0	0	0
Not substantiated	1	0	4	5
Ongoing	0	0	1	1

c. The number that resulted in no further action following initial screening

Answer:

	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	Total
Q1a concerns resulting in No Further Action	1	0	0	1
Q1b concerns resulting in No Further Action	2	0	1	3

d. Any available data on cases identified in Questions 1a and 1b involving unpaid carers which resulted in:

- emergency respite
- emergency residential placement

Answer:

Q1a	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	Total
emergency respite	0	0	0	0

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Q1a	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	Total
emergency residential placement	0	0	1	1

Answer:

Q1b	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	Total
emergency respite	0	0	0	0
emergency residential placement	0	0	0	0

3. Carer support and circumstances (where recorded) For the cases identified in Question 1, please indicate (where held in structured data fields): Whether the unpaid carer was offered or received a Carer's Assessment under the Care Act 2014

Answer:

2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	Total
2 unique people	6 unique people	15 unique people	23 of 25 identified people

4. Data recording and alternative information (if exact data not held) If your safeguarding systems do not allow you to identify cases in the way described above, please provide:

a. A brief description of how carer status and relationships are recorded within safeguarding data systems

Answer	Within Adult Social Care's case management system, individuals identified as unpaid carers are assigned a carer icon. Relationships between individuals are recorded using relationship links, with unpaid carers recorded as an "Informal Carer".
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b. Whether dementia status of the cared-for person is recorded in a searchable/structured field

Answer	Information relating to the cared-for person's needs is recorded within their individual record under Health Status and Primary Need tabs in the ASC system. Dementia may also be recorded within the individual's record within the Service User Group field. Where the cared-for person is identified as the source of harm, they are linked to the safeguarding concern, enabling access to their individual record.
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c. Any closest available data or proxy measure (e.g. safeguarding cases involving carers where "risk from cared-for person" is recorded, even if dementia cannot be isolated)

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Answer	A proxy measure is not required, as the requested information has been identified through review of the relevant records for the purposes of this request.
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d. Does your local authority maintain any specific process, pathway, policy, or guidance relating to safeguarding concerns where the source of the risk is the person being cared for?

Answer	Barnsley Safeguarding Adults Board has published Self-Neglect and Hoarding Guidance, together with Decision Support Guidance for determining whether concerns meet the criteria for a Section 42 safeguarding enquiry under the Care Act 2014. The Decision Support Guidance includes circumstances where the potential source of harm is the person being cared for.
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e. During the last three years, has your local authority undertaken any audit, review, learning exercise, serious incident review or safeguarding adults review involving harm experienced by unpaid carers.

• If yes, are these publicly available?

Answer	No reviews have been undertaken during the last three years that were solely concerned with harm experienced by unpaid carers. However, issues relating to family carers being at risk, or their needs not being recognised or supported, have featured within a number of Safeguarding Adult Reviews. These include the reviews known as Harry (published in 2023), Tony and Brian. These reviews are publicly available and can be accessed via the Barnsley Safeguarding Adults Board's Safeguarding Adult Reviews (SARs) webpage.
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Clarifications -

- “Unpaid/family carer” refers to individuals providing care in a personal capacity (i.e. not employed or contracted)
- “Dementia” includes all recorded forms (e.g. Alzheimer’s disease, vascular dementia) • Please provide aggregate data only (no personal data required) Format Please provide the information in Excel or CSV format, where possible. Cost and scope To reduce burden and avoid exceeding the cost limit, please:
 - prioritise existing reports or structured data extracts
 - avoid manual case file review or free-text searching
- provide partial data where full extraction is not feasible If you estimate that responding would exceed the cost limit, I welcome advice and assistance to refine the request.

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If information is not held If the requested information is not held, please confirm this explicitly. If only partial information is available, please provide what is held. If any information is withheld, please specify the exemption(s) relied upon and explain why they apply. If it is helpful, a nil return or statement that such cases cannot be identified within your system would still be valuable.

If you have any queries about this letter, please contact Information Requests Via email.

Please remember to quote the reference number above in any future communications.

If you are unhappy with the way the Directorate has handled your request, you may ask for an internal review. Please clearly mark your correspondence 'Complaint' and address it to:

Barnsley MBC
Information Requests Team
PO Box 634
Barnsley
S70 9GG
email: informationrequests@barnsley.gov.uk

If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review, you have the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: -

Customer Services Team
Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF

Email: <http://www.ico.org.uk/foicomplaints>

Kind regards,

Information Requests Team, Barnsley MBC

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