Barnsley Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report 2025 / 2026

Overview from the Independent Chair – Vanessa Rolfe

This has been my second year as Independent Chair of the Barnsley Safeguarding Adults Board, and it has been defined by strong partnership working and a shared commitment to improving outcomes for adults at risk.

The year began with partners preparing for the CQC inspection of Adult Social Care. While the outcome is Requires Improvement, the process has strengthened our collective focus on improving safeguarding practice across Barnsley.

Throughout the year, we have hosted several multi-agency learning events designed to share good practice, identify gaps in knowledge and create clear actions for improvement. Much of this work has focused on mental capacity, self-neglect and ensuring that our responses remain person-centred, proportionate and effective.

I continue to meet regularly with my Chair colleagues across South Yorkshire, the wider region and the national network. These forums provide invaluable opportunities to share learning, build consistency and contribute to discussions on national safeguarding challenges.

A particularly powerful moment for the Board—and for me personally—was welcoming a local community member who bravely shared their lived experience of homelessness. Their insight brought to life the realities faced by people who are rough sleeping and reinforced the importance of ensuring that lived experience informs policy, practice and system change. The Board has committed to strengthening collaborative working to better support people who are homeless and to prevent further deaths linked to vulnerable living.

Our joint work with the Children's Partnership and Barnsley Safer Partnership has progressed, with a clear focus on transitional safeguarding for young people moving into adulthood. This will remain a priority over the next six months, supported by a planned workshop and CVS volunteers.

Following a review of resilience and processes, we are piloting the amalgamation of three subgroups into a new Safeguarding Operational Group to strengthen oversight of performance, quality, data and training. The SAR Subgroup will continue its vital work. I would like to extend my sincere thanks to all past and present subgroup chairs for their leadership, commitment and accountability to the Board.

Finally, I want to thank every Board member for their dedication, professionalism and continued service to the people of Barnsley. Your contribution ensures that adults with care and support needs are safeguarded, heard and supported. Over the next twelve months, we remain committed to delivering our strategic plan and strengthening our collective efforts to keep people in Barnsley safe.

BSAB annual report 2025 - 2026

Our ambitions from 2024 - 2025

- Work closely with other Boards to improve the support we can give to adults at risk of or experiencing exploitation, including home takeovers
- Support adults who are insecurely housed or homeless to stay safe and well
- Work with the Barnsley Safeguarding Children's Partnership to increase the support that's available to young adults between the ages of 16 and 20
- Strive to be the best by engaging with learning and research opportunities

Our achievements

Worked with Barnsley Safeguarding Partnership to agree and implement an Exploitation strategy and reporting framework to protect adults from exploitation including home takeovers, and mate crime

Agreed a research project to start in 2026 to test the impact of our policies and toolkits on practice.

Delivered with South Yorkshire safeguarding boards two learning events on safeguarding and homelessness. Commenced and completed a thematic review in the deaths of homeless adults in Barnsley.

Our achievements

Promoted stigma training to encourage workers and volunteers to be aware of unconscious bias that might impact on their work with adults with multiple vulnerabilities.

Continuing to collaborate with Barnsley Safeguarding Children's Partnership to improve transitional safeguarding and share learning from reviews.

Established regular adult and children's safeguarding meetings and training for the Voluntary and Community services.

Our achievements

The four South Yorkshire Safeguarding Adults Boards have updated the Regional Safeguarding Adults Principles guidance.

Board members engaged in a development session to increase their knowledge of homelessness and local statistics.

The Board partners supported adoption of “Ask the Question” to identify adults who are living with undisclosed sexual trauma.

Our Priorities 2025 - 2028

Priority one: Hold each other to account for the quality of safeguarding and the services provided by all organisations working with adults in Barnsley

Priority two: Ensure that adults who are homeless, rough sleeping or insecurely housed are effectively safeguarded

Priority three: We will work in partnership with the Barnsley Children's Safeguarding Partnership and the Safer Barnsley Partnership to reduce the risk of harm and abuse to all residents in Barnsley.

Priority four: We will work with adults in Barnsley to improve our safeguarding response.

Priority one achievements - Hold each other to account for the quality of safeguarding and the services provided by all organisations working with adults in Barnsley

Held an annual assurance event to test that the learning from reviews has been embedded into practice and agreed actions to address gaps.

A development event was held to support the Board to agree its strategic aims and explore how we safeguard marginalised groups.. Examples of good practice shared.

Received quarterly data from all BSAB partners evidencing what they are doing to support staff to safeguard adults in Barnsley, including training, involvement in reviews and action taken against staff who have harmed adults (People in Positions of Trust).

Received independent inspections of our partners by CQC, Home Office and HMIC; and agreed that we would be updated on actions to address any improvement areas.

Priority two achievements: Ensure that adults who are homeless, rough sleeping or insecurely housed are effectively safeguarded

To frame the Board's focus on homelessness, we invited a man with lived experience to share his story of recovery. His honesty and insight created a reflective, compassionate starting point for the discussion. An action plan will be delivered in 2026 based on the recommendations of the thematic review.

Data is regularly received about the number of homeless adults and how many are referred into safeguarding. Commitment to audit the impact of safeguarding in 2026/2027.

The head of Service for Homelessness, Drug and Alcohol and Domestic Abuse services has joined the Board to help us deliver improvements across both boards

Led the delivery of a series of regional conferences to explore safeguarding and homelessness. A South Yorkshire wide event is planned for July 2026 to share the findings from our local review.

Priority three achievements : We will work in partnership with the Barnsley Children's Safeguarding Partnership and the Safer Barnsley Partnership to reduce the risk of harm and abuse to all residents in Barnsley.

Joint training and support agreed and embedded for voluntary and community organisations in Barnsley.

The board manager attends and contributes to the Drug and Alcohol Death review panel to help embed joint learning across Barnsley.

Information from reviews is shared with the Learning Disability partnership, as this group are particularly vulnerable to mate and hate crimes.

The Barnsley Safeguarding Adults Board and Barnsley Safer Children's Partnership is being expanded to include Barnsley Safer Partnership.

Priority four: We will work with adults in Barnsley to improve our safeguarding response.

We increased the number of referrals from members of the public, including adults experiencing harm. We continue to explore what helped them feel able to make these referrals and will commit to do more of these.

We continued to support the work of our safeguarding champions who offer help and advice to adults across Barnsley on staying safe.

Building links to support and share good practice with involvement and engagement groups working across Barnsley, and the National Safeguarding Adults Board Managers' Involvement Practice Group.

Reviewed training materials based on insights from people with lived experience of abuse, ensuring their voices shape the contnt.

Work still to do

Improve our community engagement and involvement of people with lived experience of abuse.

Increasing our confidence in our ability to support young adults into adulthood (transitions), adults struggling with homelessness and adults struggling with addiction and substance misuse.

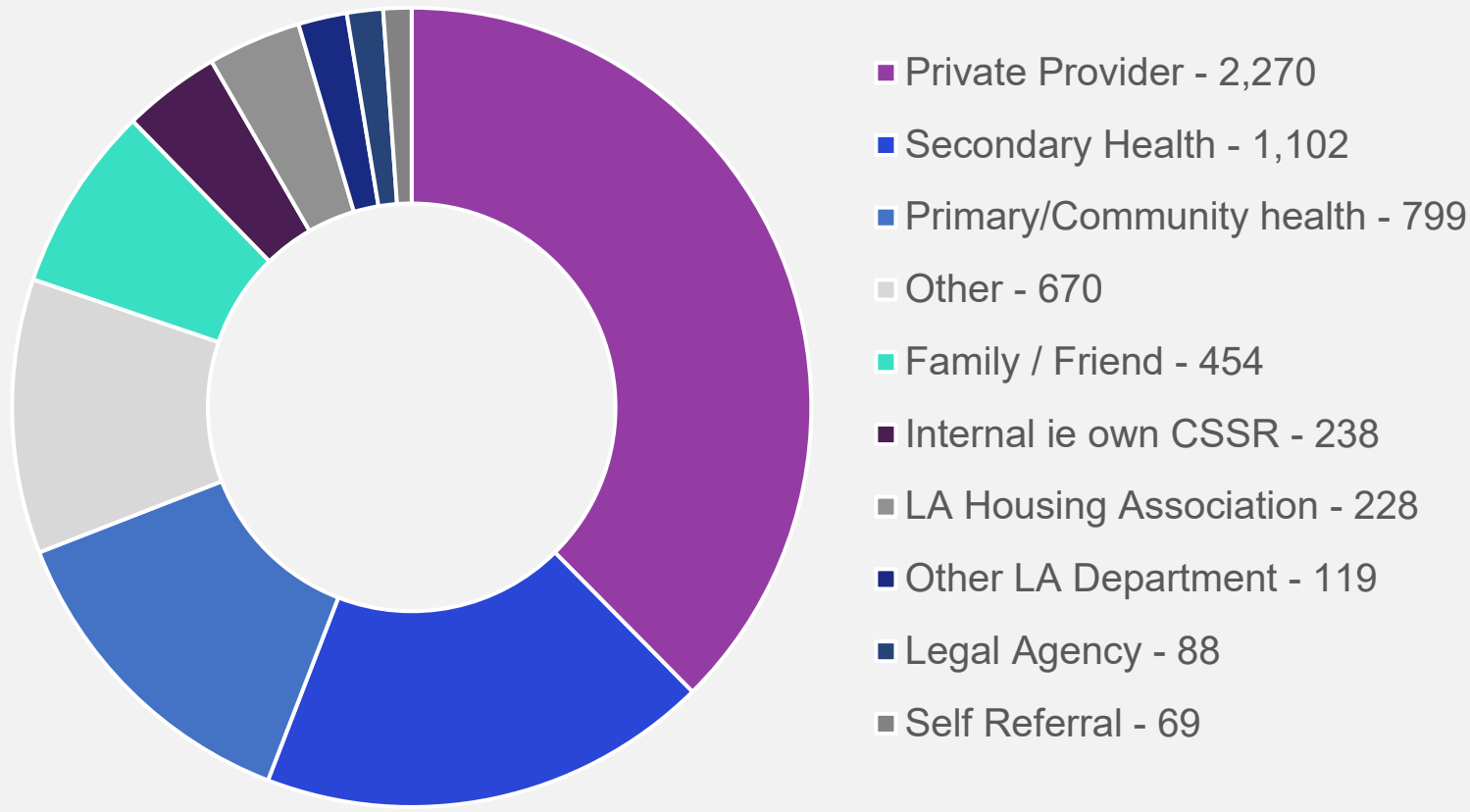
In 2026/2027 many of the partnerships guidance documents are due for review, renewal and amendment. The partnership will work collaboratively to ensure that they reflect best practice, are based on lessons learnt and feedback from customers.

There are changes across organisations within the Safeguarding Adults Board partnership, particularly effecting colleagues from the Integrated Care Board. We will need to ensure that the Board continues to develop to meet challenges created by these changes.

BSAB 2025/26
Safeguarding Overview

A **section 42 enquiry** relates to the duty of the Local Authority to make enquiries if an adult may be **at risk of abuse or neglect** and is unable protect themselves from the abuse or neglect**.** Many concerns can be closed once appropriate support is provided.

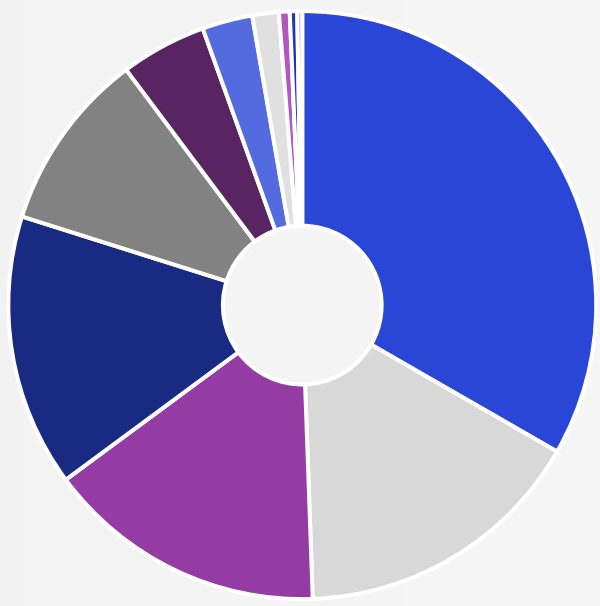
Concerns by Source Type



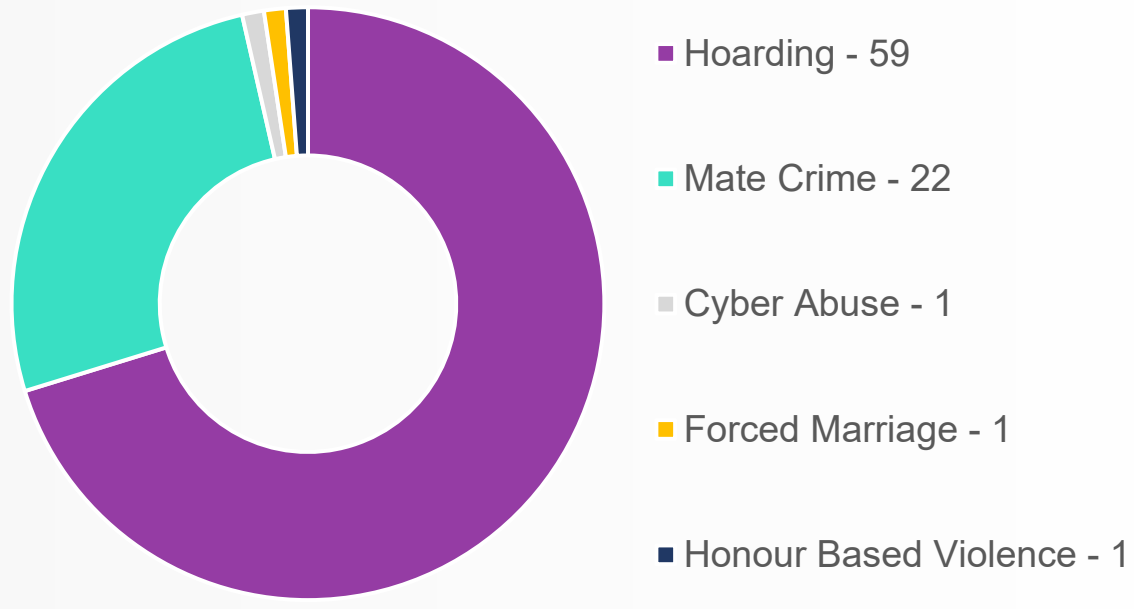
6,037 Concerns
1,870 Enquiries
1,125 S42's

Type of Abuse*

Primary Abuse Type



Secondary Abuse Type



*Alleged abuse types reported for 1,535 enquiries.

Enquiry Outcomes

89.8%
S42's where the risk was reduced or removed

31.2%
Of enquiries ended with individuals not providing feedback on whether they felt listened to.

67.7%
S42's resulting in the person feeling listened to

68.3%
S42's resulting in the person being satisfied with their outcome

59.7%
S42's resulting in the person feeling safer

7.3%
Of enquiries ended with individuals reporting they did not understand the process

Location of Abuse

5.5%
Hospital

58.3%
Own Home

9.2%
In the Community

22.9%
Care Home

4.1% in 'other' location

BARNSLEY SAFEGUARDING ADULTS BOARD

BARNSLEY Metropolitan Borough Council | 2030 Barnsley – the place of possibilities.