



The Newcastle model to safeguarding adults at risk of home takeover

The model in Newcastle centres around use of the safeguarding adults process to safeguard victims, many of whom are adults with care and support needs and therefore meet safeguarding adults criteria. This ensures there is a multi-agency approach, using Care Act legislation. Adult Social Care co-ordinate safeguarding adult enquiries (Section 42 enquiries) and involve relevant partner agencies to share information and devise risk management plans. It is a well-respected, well-known process, which provides the multi-agency framework and governance for enquiries to be undertaken. Safeguarding adult enquiries in Newcastle can take different forms, ranging from telephone calls with the person at risk, through to much more in-depth enquiries involving multi-agency meetings. The process puts the adult(s) at risk at the centre of action taken, following Making Safeguarding Personal principles and understanding their views about the concerns and their strategies for protecting themselves from harm. Where an adult does not consent to information being shared or action being taken, using the safeguarding adults process allows further exploration of the circumstances where it is felt necessary and proportionate to do so. Those leading and involved in safeguarding adult enquiries are encouraged to consider actions which would disrupt the exploitation – considering the location and perpetrators. The approach covers all forms of exploitation, including home takeover.

Newcastle does not operate a separate or distinct process for safeguarding adult victims of home takeover as it is not felt that this is required. In the rare circumstances that an adult victim of a home takeover did not have care and support needs, the Local Authority would use its powers under Section 42 Care Act to undertake/cause others to undertake enquiries even when full criteria had not been met¹.

In addition to the use of standard safeguarding adults procedures Newcastle has:

¹ 'Other' safeguarding adults enquiries are reported within the SAC where an adult does not meet all of the Section 42 criteria but the council considers it necessary and proportionate to use its powers to make enquiries. [LGA/ADASS Framework: Making decisions on the duty to carry out safeguarding adult enquiries.](#)

- A Single Point of Contact Safeguarding Adults Manager within the Local Authority for all adult exploitation cases (including home takeover), they are supported by a Social Worker who has a dedicated role around adult exploitation. This ensures there is specialist expertise in this area, a consistent response and oversight of exploitation involving adults at risk.
- Dedicated exploitation roles within partner agencies – Exploitation Officers within Northumbria Police and an Exploitation Nurse within North East and North Cumbria ICB. Exploitation Officers within the Police use Exploitation Markers to flag victims. The Exploitation Nurse is key to raising awareness within health professions and organisations as well as assisting in meeting health-related need in safeguarding adult enquiries where exploitation is a factor.
- A weekly Police Force-Wide meeting between Police, Children’s and Adult Social Care to review the support in place and disruption tactics against cases with an Exploitation Marker. This facilitates timely information sharing and multi-agency working.
- Promoted the use of Northumbria Police’s Partnership Intelligence Form to share intelligence about exploitation (where there isn’t an apparent crime or specific safeguarding issue).
- Strong strategic and operational links between adult social care and community safety. Operationally, this often involves requesting use of CCTV/movement of CCTV to locations of concern to build up additional evidence/deter perpetrators. Anti-Social Behaviour legislation is actively explored to assist with disruption and targeting of perpetrators.
- Used community-based relationships and projects to raise awareness and take action around home takeover. Two examples: Safeguarding Newcastle Against Poverty (SNAP), a safeguarding project linked to food banks and community pantries, and Empowering People in Communities (EPIC), a project bringing communities together to help rebuild community spirit and take action to tackle anti-social behaviour. These two projects give the opportunity to raise awareness of home takeover and empower those in communities to identify it and report concerns.

The model has been the subject of academic research² recently. This identified that safeguarding adults procedures are effective if people (professionals, adults at risk/their families, and policy makers) have the right knowledge, skills, attitudes, values and beliefs.

² [Adults at risk of exploitation: putting the pieces of the jigsaw together](#), a 2-year realist evaluation (funded by NIHR Applied Research Collaboration North East North Cumbria. Quantitative analysis of 58 case records were conducted as well as a total of 60 qualitative interviews with adults at risk and their family members, professionals who have experience of working with adults at risk of exploitation and policy makers who have been responsible for ensuring policy and procedures are in place. From all this combined knowledge and experiences the analysis identifies what is needed and works effectively at an individual, operational, and strategic level to reduce risk for vulnerable adults.

