

**ADULT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
25 FEBRUARY 2025**

**OVERVIEW OF ADULT SELF-NEGLECT REPORTED INTO DARLINGTON SAFEGUARDING
PARTNERSHIP 2020-2024**

SUMMARY REPORT

Purpose of the Report

1. To provide an overview of self-neglect including the local picture for the period 2020-2024 as reported into Darlington Safeguarding Partnership along with the trends, themes and key learning points.

Summary

2. Darlington Safeguarding Partnership is aware self-neglect continues to be a challenge with numbers of reported concerns highlighting a steady increase year on year, locally, regionally and nationally. A key priority for the Partnership is to ensure multi-agency partner agencies improve awareness and understanding of adult self-neglect to ensure early identification can be achieved and, wherever possible, prevent serious injury or death of adults at risk who appear to be self-neglecting.

Recommendation

3. It is recommended that:-
 - (a) Adults Scrutiny have an understanding of self-neglect and the key learning points identified by Darlington Safeguarding Partnership to date.
 - (b) To have assurance that the Safeguarding Partnership is effectively coordinating multi-agency safeguarding practice relating to self-neglect in Darlington for adults with care and support needs.

**Joss Harbron
Assistant Director - Adult Social Care**

Background Papers

DSP Self-Neglect Presentation

Amanda Hugill: Extension 6450

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| Council Plan | N/A |
| Addressing inequalities | This links to the core principle of addressing inequalities of all adults in Darlington. |
| Tackling Climate Change | This has been considered and will be supported through advice and information to individuals in relation to impact of hoarding, self neglect or smoking/fire risks. |
| Efficient and effective use of resources | Joint working across partners will ensure efficient and effective use of resources |
| Health and Wellbeing | The health and wellbeing of all adults in Darlington are a priority within this report. |
| S17 Crime and Disorder | Adults with care and support needs at risk of crime and disorder are a priority within this report. |
| Wards Affected | All |
| Groups Affected | All |
| Budget and Policy Framework | N/A |
| Key Decision | N/A |
| Urgent Decision | N/A |
| Impact on Looked After Children and Care Leavers | This report has no impact on Looked After Children or Care Leavers |

MAIN REPORT

Information and Analysis

4. This presentation will provide an overview of the local picture of adult self-neglect as reported into Darlington Safeguarding Partnership along with details of the definition and description of self-neglect.
5. It will focus on the Safeguarding Adult Review referrals and data reported into the Partnership relating to self-neglect, which highlight there has been an upward trend, locally, regionally and nationally. It will highlight the number of reviews it has undertaken where self-neglect was a feature (71%).
6. The presentation will cover the themes, trends and key learning points identified and what Darlington Safeguarding Partnership has done to respond to the learning to support those working with adults who self-neglect.

Outcome of Consultation

7. Not applicable.