

# Safeguarding Annual Report 2025-2026

For the period 1 April 2025 – 31 March 2026

# Safeguarding 2025/26 at a glance...



**94** Adult  
safeguarding  
referrals raised



**89** Child  
safeguarding  
referrals



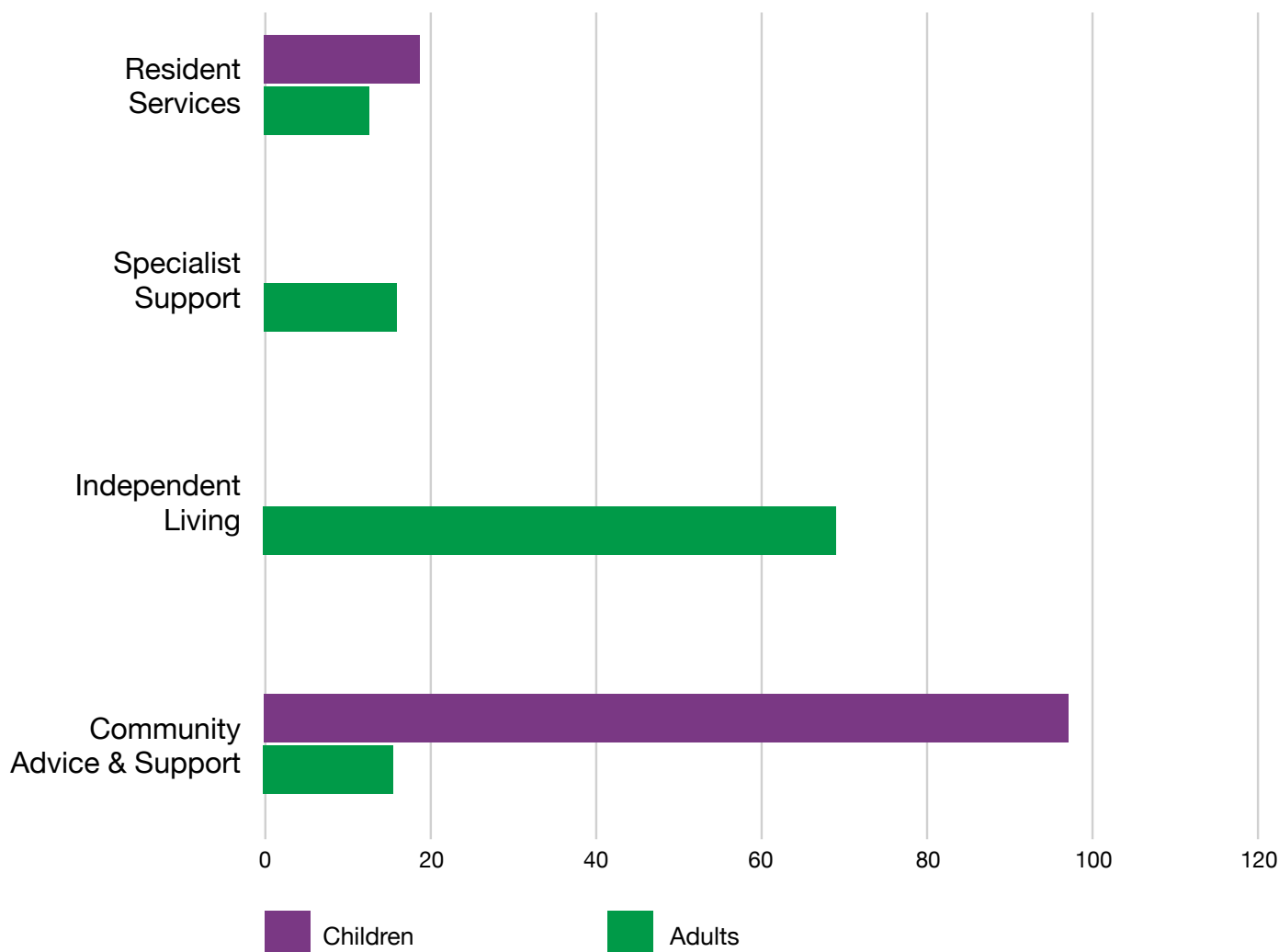
**185**  
information  
sharing requests  
completed



**88** Prevent  
intelligence  
checks  
undertaken

# Safeguarding at a glance...

Number of safeguarding referrals submitted across council services in 2025/26



## What the data tells us...

Adult safeguarding concerns are heavily concentrated in independent living, reflecting an increase in vulnerable residents with complex support needs.

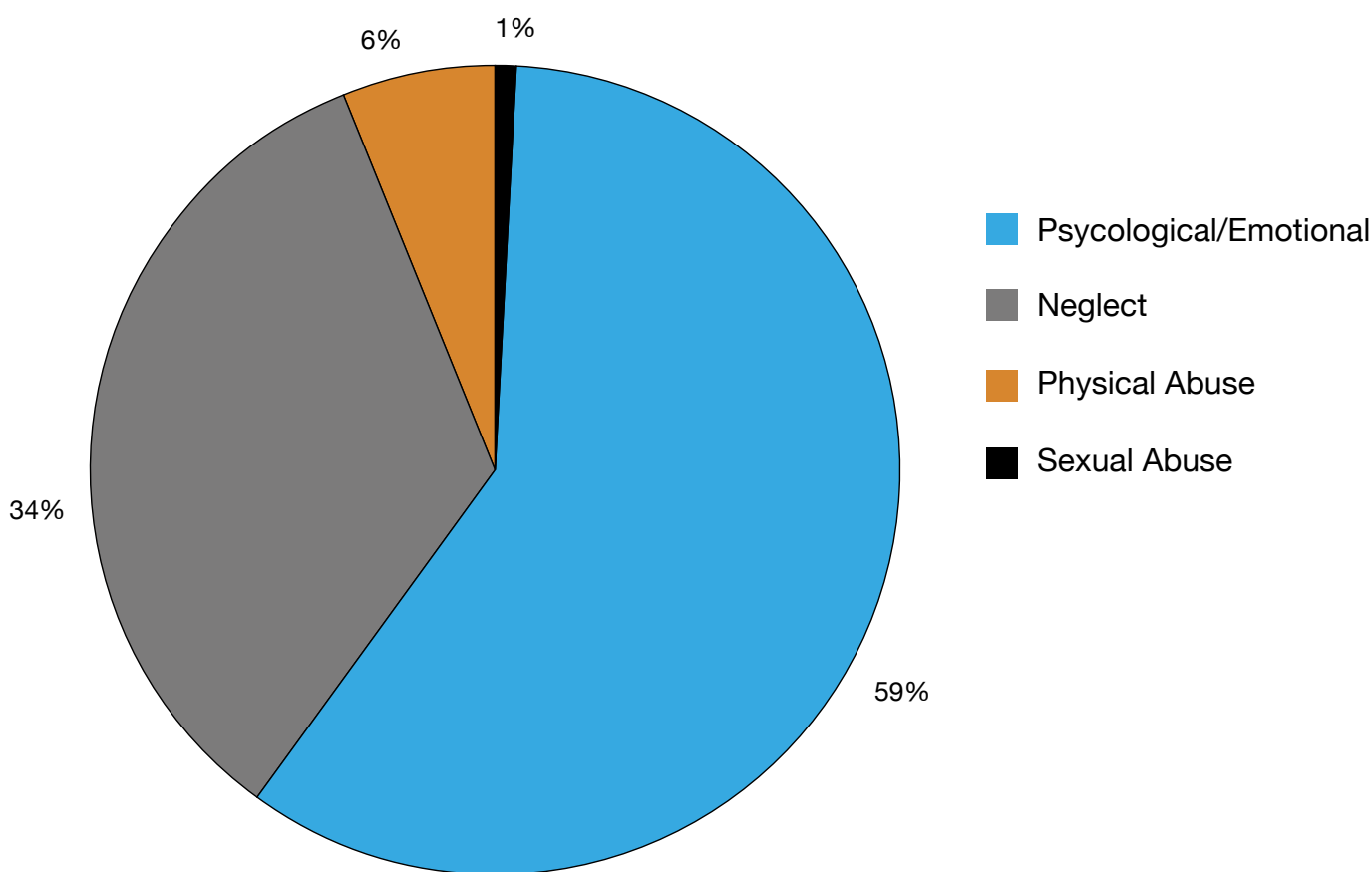
Child safeguarding concerns are frequently identified within front-line crisis intervention services such as SADA, Housing Options and Temporary Accommodation.

**Key takeaway:** Council services with the most contact are identifying concerns early, which indicates effective safeguarding understanding rather than increased risk.

# Safeguarding Children-Key Themes

Domestic abuse is linked to 67% of the total number of child safeguarding referrals.

## CATEGORIES OF ABUSE FROM CHILD REFERRALS



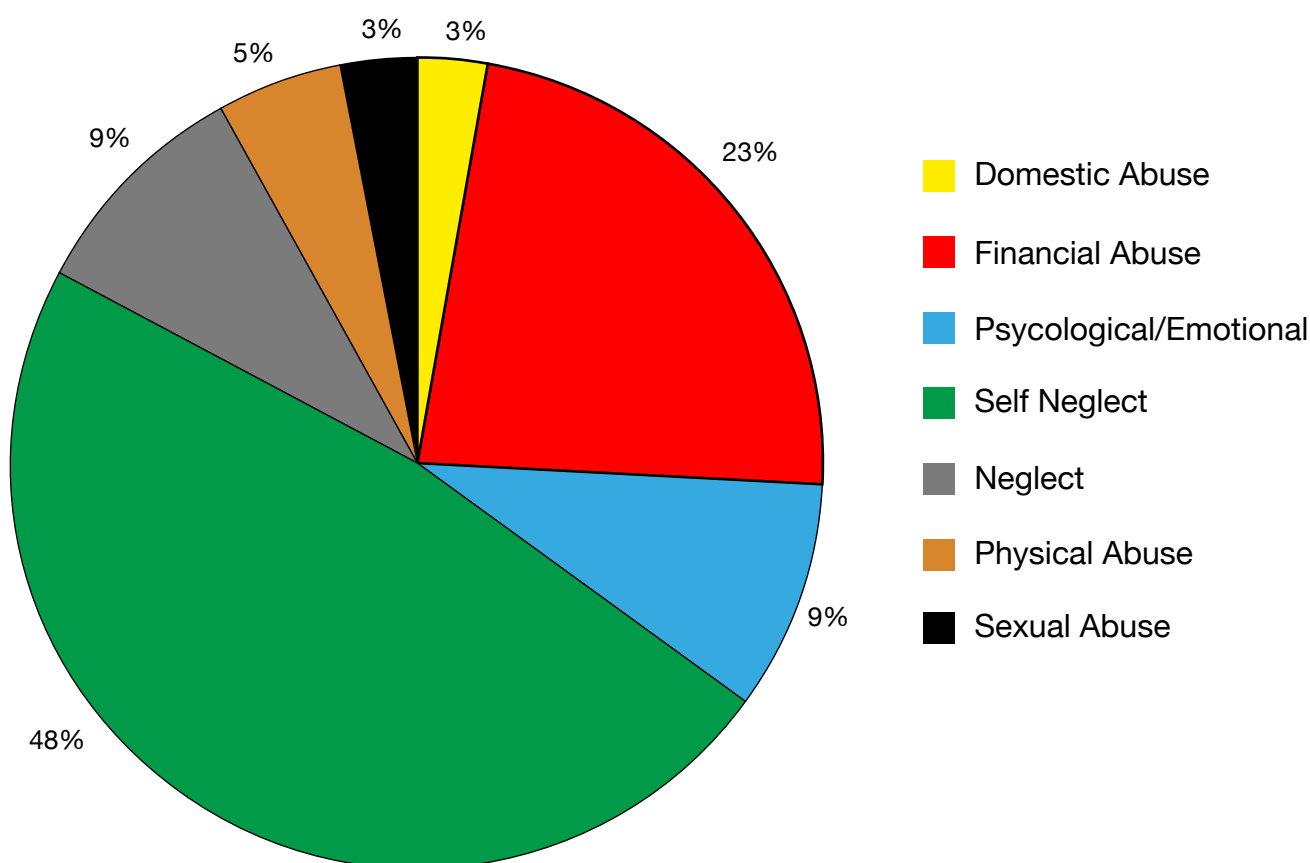
### What the data tells us

Psychological/ emotional harm and neglect account for 93% of referrals, suggesting children are suffering sustained abuse rather than isolated incidents.

**Key takeaway:** Child safeguarding concerns are primarily about cumulative harm reinforcing the importance of early identification and timely escalation.

# Safeguarding Adults-Key Themes

## CATEGORIES OF ABUSE FROM ADULT REFERRALS



### What the data tells us

Self-neglect significantly outnumbers other forms of abuse representing almost half of the referrals submitted.

Financial abuse emerges as the second most common concern indicating risk is linked to mental capacity issues, and increased support needs leaving residents more vulnerable to exploitation.

**Key takeaway:** Adult safeguarding concerns typically involve complex, often overlapping risks requiring professional curiosity, strong partnership working and long-term support across services.

# Partnership Working

# 51

Child Safeguarding cases were closed between April 2025 - March 2026 following successful intervention.

# 35

Adult Safeguarding cases were closed between April 2025 - March 2026 following successful intervention

# 88

checks were carried out for Police Prevent intelligence sharing, demonstrating safeguarding risk increasingly includes ideological and community level harm strongly impacting community cohesion.



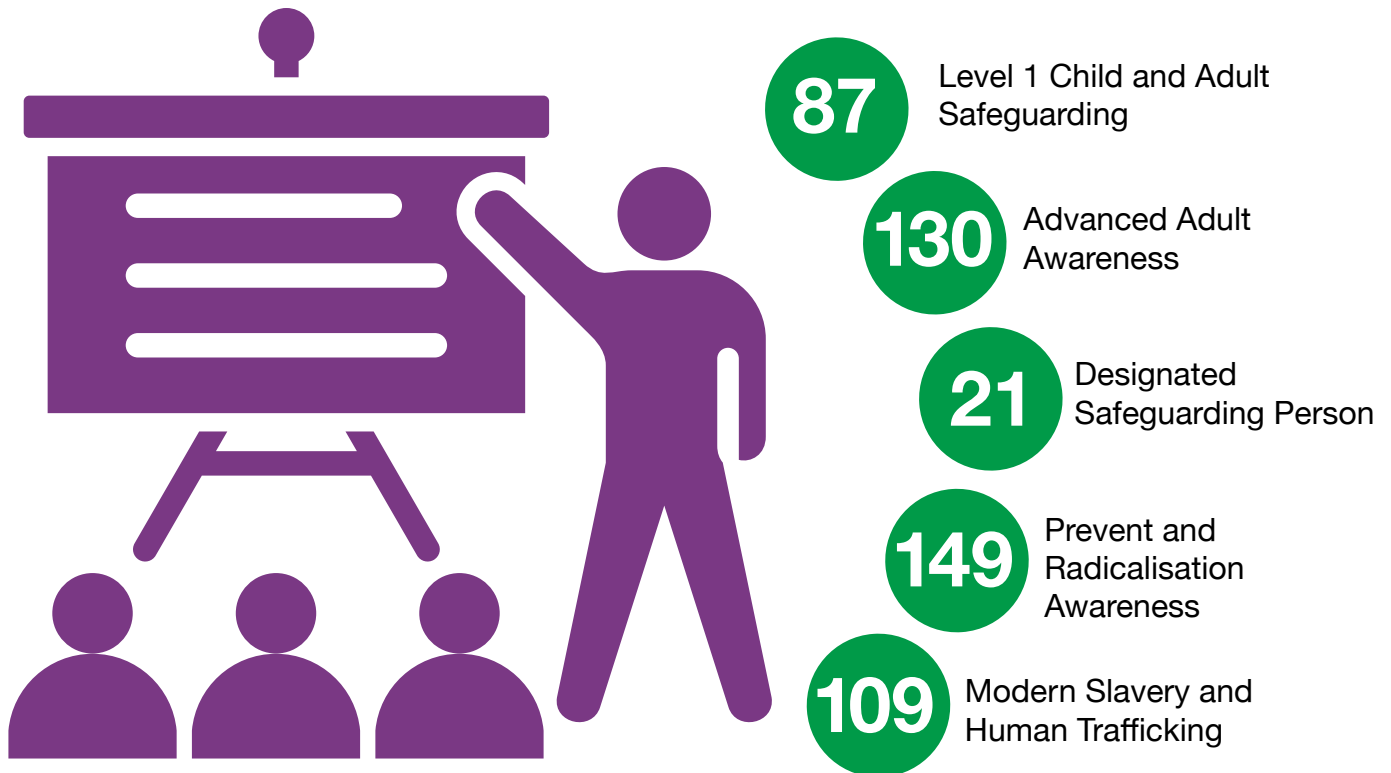
# 185

Information requests received from Herts County Council have been completed and responded to demonstrating SBC commitment to sharing information & working together with Children's Social Care.

# SBC

has a strong culture of cross-service and multi-agency partnership working. Groups such as the Multiple Needs Working Group (MNWG) demonstrate a clear commitment to information sharing and collaborative working to manage safeguarding risks and complex needs.

# Training Overview 2025-26



- Training coverage shows that we have a strong baseline of safeguarding awareness, with targeted development for higher risk roles
- The number of staff trained at advanced and DSP levels supports adequately distributed safeguarding support across the council
- Training levels reflect the reality of safeguarding demand within services and their complexity
- Ongoing and refresher training is essential due to the increasing complexities and nature of safeguarding risks
- Safeguarding training and awareness sessions delivered to councillors, Youth Mayor and parents

