

Kent and Medway Safeguarding Adults Annual Report 2023-2024 – Appendix 1 – Safeguarding Data

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Medway Council Data

1. Background to the data

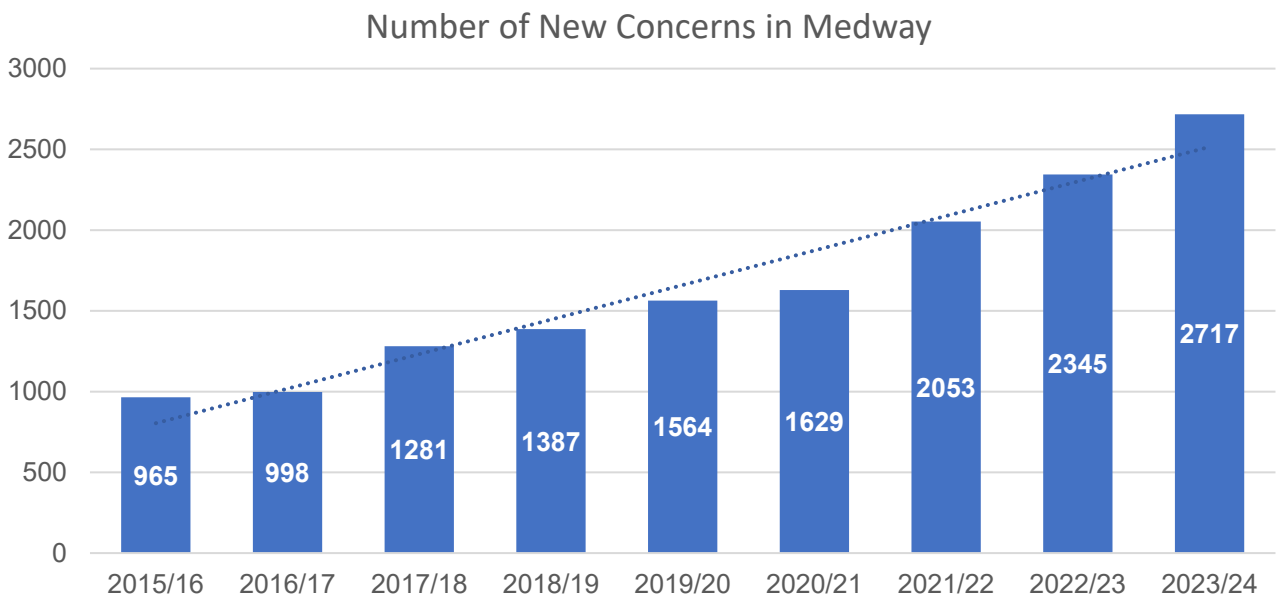
The data in this report is extracted from Medway’s electronic monitoring system – MOSAIC.

The data has been submitted to NHS Digital as part of the annual statutory return for safeguarding adults the SAC (Safeguarding Adults Collection).

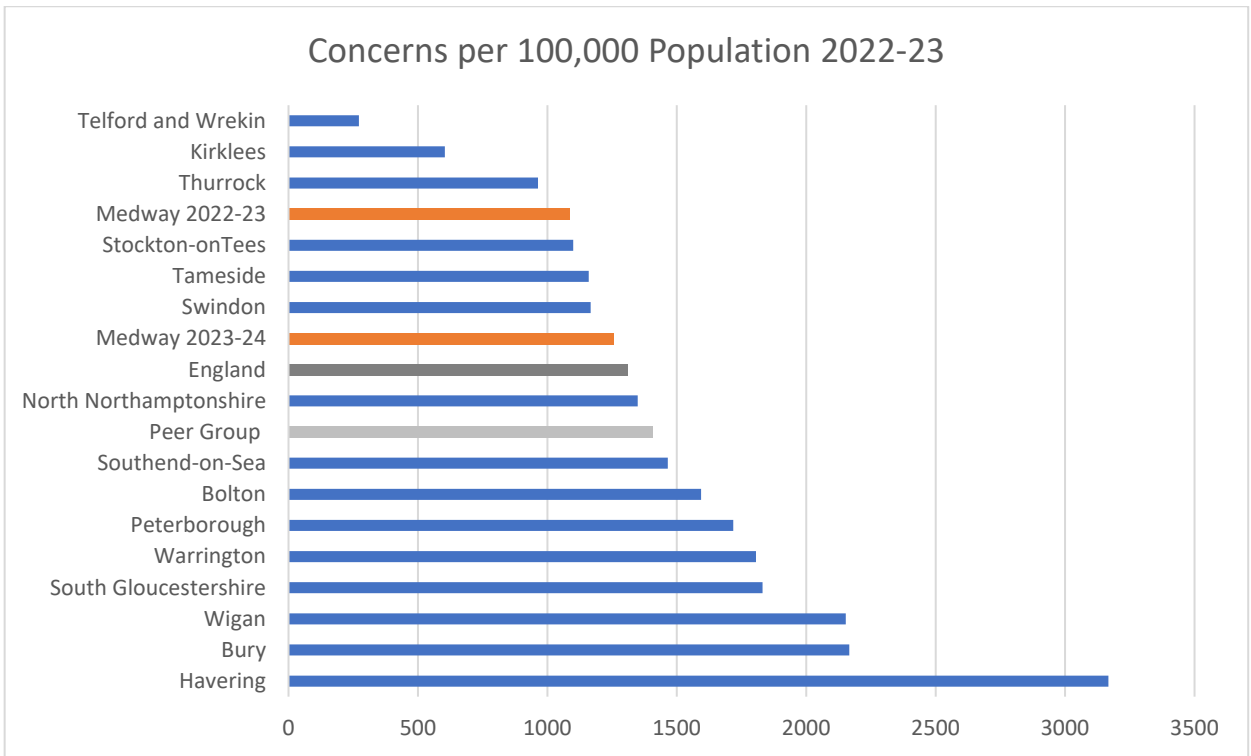
2. New Safeguarding Concerns and Enquiries

2.1 New Concerns

The following section looks at the number of new concerns and enquiries raised in 2023-24 and the demographics of individuals subject to a new safeguarding enquiry. The analysis covers annual trends and comparisons with other local authorities in Medway’s CIPFA (nearest neighbour model) comparator group.

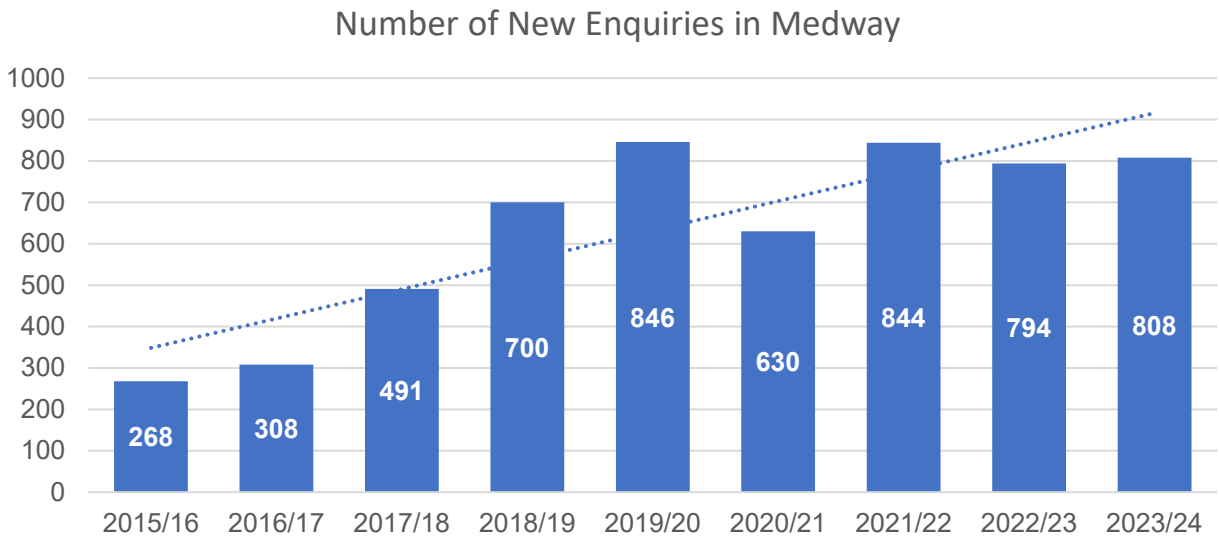


The number of safeguarding concerns raised in 2023/24 was 15.8% higher than in 2022/23 and has increased by 73.7% over the last 5 years.



In 2022-23 Medway ranked 4th lowest out of the sixteen local authorities in the Peer Group for new concerns per 100,000 population. This was 17% below the figure seen nationally. The provisional 2023-24 figure for Medway is 1,258 closing the gap to national 2022-23 to 4%.

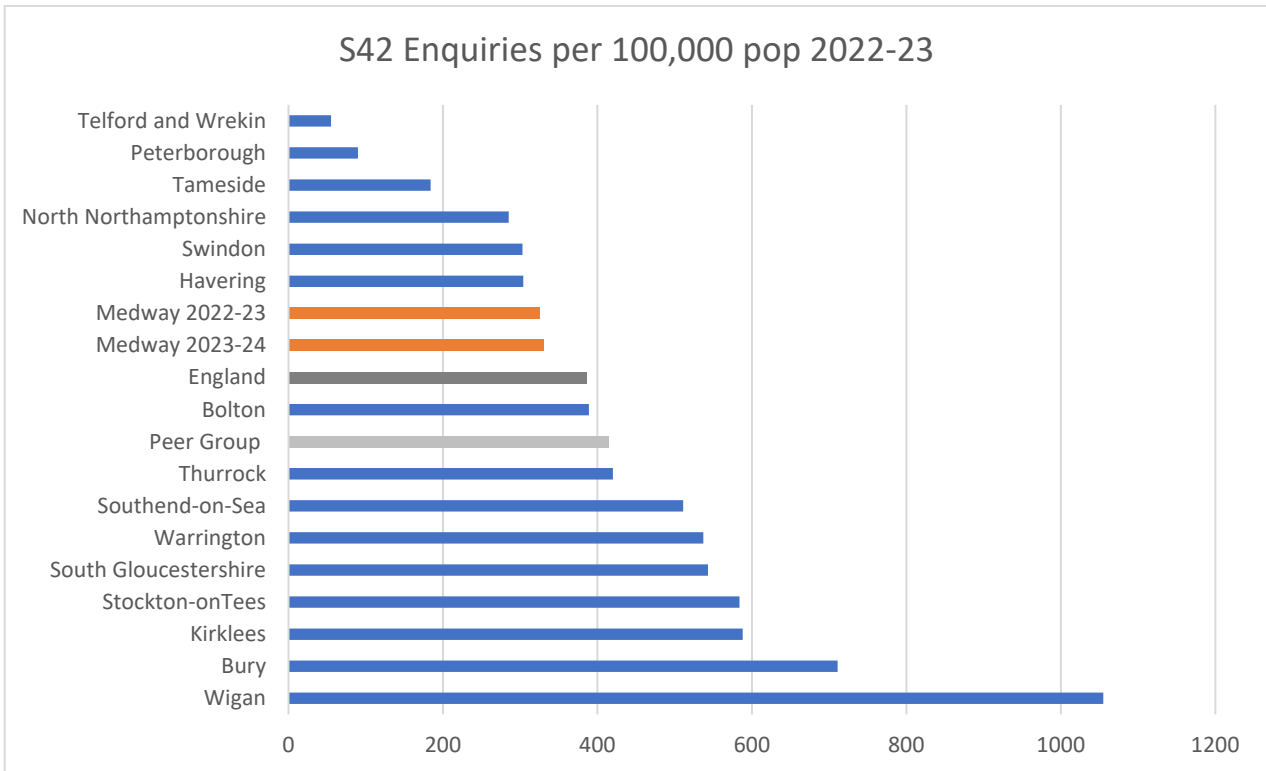
2.2 New Enquiries



There has been a 1.7% increase in the number of new safeguarding enquiries raised compared to 2022/23. At 808, it is 4.5% below the 2019/20 peak of 846.

New Enquiries	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022-23	2022-23
Section 42	262	281	408	627	727	501	724	704	715
Other	6	27	83	73	119	129	120	90	93
Total	268	308	491	700	846	630	844	794	808
% Section 42	97.8%	91.2%	83.1%	89.6%	85.8%	79.5%	85.8%	88.7%	88.5%

The proportion of new enquiries that were Section 42 has remained consistent with 2022/23.



The number of new Section 42 enquiries per 100,000 sees Medway ranked 7th lowest within the peer group; 16% below the national figure. The provisional 2023-24 figure for Medway is 331 closing the gap to national 2022-23 slightly to 14.5%.

2.3 Demographics of Adults at Risk

This section looks at the demographics of individuals subject to a new safeguarding enquiry in 2023-24.

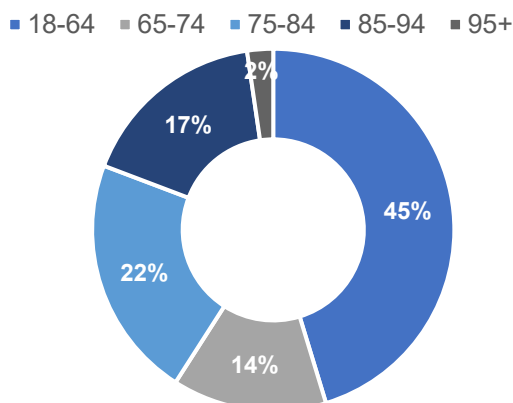
Gender

In 2023-24



There has been a consistent proportional split across genders in past reporting years. This year there were a number of unknown genders at 4%

Age Group



45% of individuals subject of a new safeguarding enquiry were aged between 18-64 years. 55% were 65+ with the larger proportions of individuals within the 75-84 and 85-94 age groups jointly accounting for 39% of the total number of individuals.

Ethnicity

Ethnicity	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24
White	89.5%	86.4%	84.3%	83.8%	82.0%
Mixed / Multiple	0.5%	0.9%	1.0%	1.1%	1.0%
Asian / Asian British	2.5%	1.9%	1.7%	2.1%	2.3%
Black / African / Caribbean / Black British	1.1%	1.7%	1.5%	1.9%	1.6%
Other Ethnic Group	0.5%	0.9%	0.6%	1.0%	1.4%
Refused	0.1%	0.0%	0.3%	0.0%	0.1%
Undeclared / Not Known	5.7%	8.2%	10.5%	10.1%	11.6%

The proportional split across ethnic groups for individuals subject to a new enquiry has seen those who are white decrease by 7 percentage points since 2019-20, offset by a 1.7 percentage point increase in non-white ethnic groups and a 5.9 percentage point increase in not known.

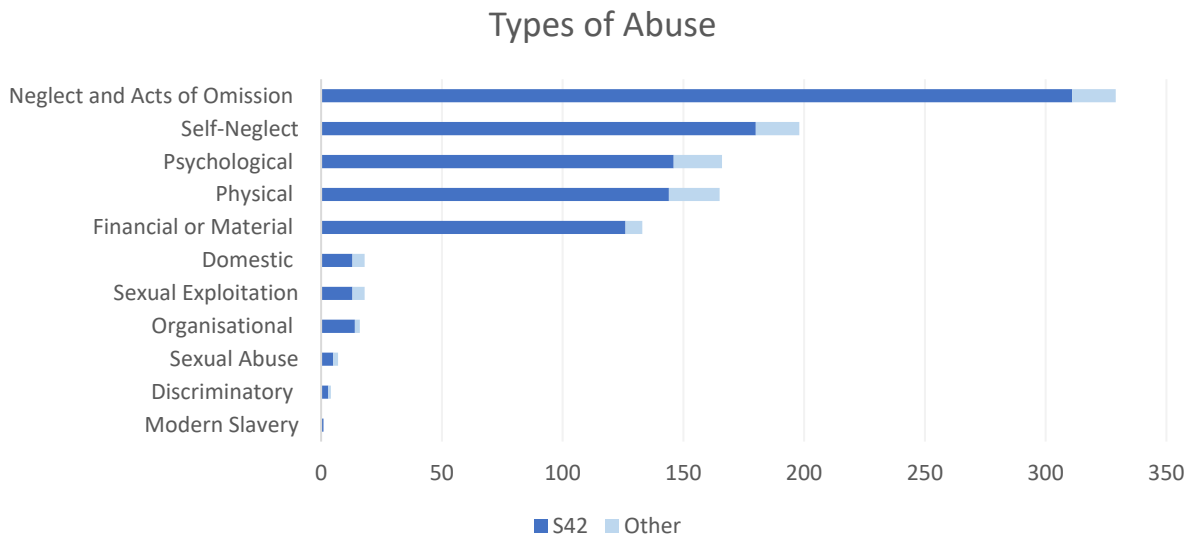
Primary Support Reason

Primary Support Reason	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24
Physical Support	42.6%	44.3%	45.3%	40.7%	44.3%
Sensory Support	0.3%	0.3%	1.0%	1.0%	1.0%
Support with Memory & Cognition	2.5%	2.9%	2.0%	1.7%	4.4%
Learning Disability Support	4.4%	8.2%	8.4%	7.5%	8.3%
Mental Health Support	1.4%	8.2%	7.2%	5.4%	8.9%
Social Support	1.4%	1.7%	2.6%	3.3%	12.6%
No Support Reason	43.5%	35.0%	33.5%	40.9%	20.6%
Not Known	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%

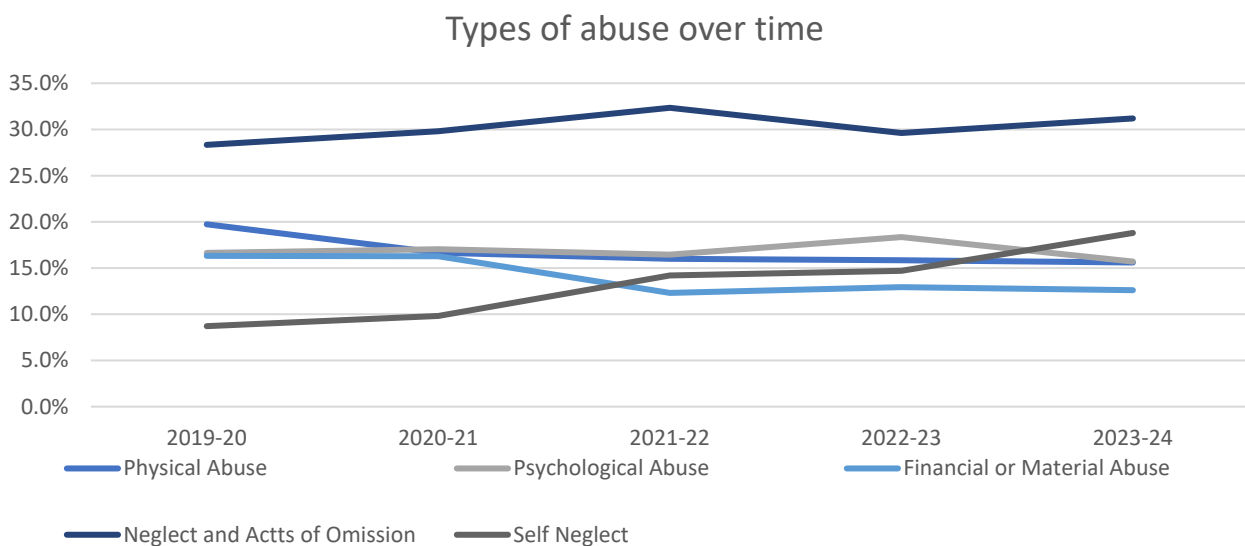
The most predominant primary support reason recorded in enquiries is physical support at 44.3%. The proportion without a support reason has halved this year, resulting in increases in most other Primary Support Reasons, particularly a 9.3 percentage point increase in social support.

3. Closed Enquires

3.1 Types and Location of Abuse



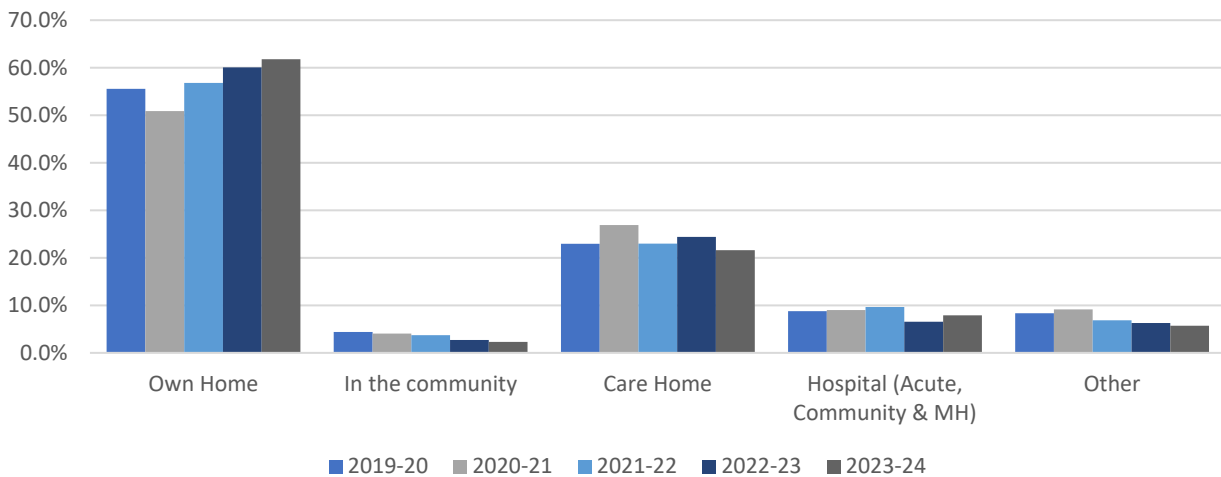
Neglect and acts of omission remains the most prevalent type of abuse recorded in 2023-24. At 31.2%, Medway is in line with the National 2022-23 proportion of 32% of risks.



Assessing the proportions of enquires related to the five main types of abuse over the past five years shows that neglect and acts of omission have always made up the the highest proportion for types of abuse.

Both physical and financial abuse have seen a decline in proportions since 2019-20, while Phychological has seen little change. Self neglect has seen an increase of 116% over the same period, with its rank rising from 4th to 2nd compared to 2022-23's order.

Location of risk



The most prevalent location of abuse in closed enquiries has been in the victims own home. In 2023-24 61.8% took place in the alleged victim's own home, continuing an upward trend which has seen an increase of 6.2 percentage points (11%) since 2019-20.

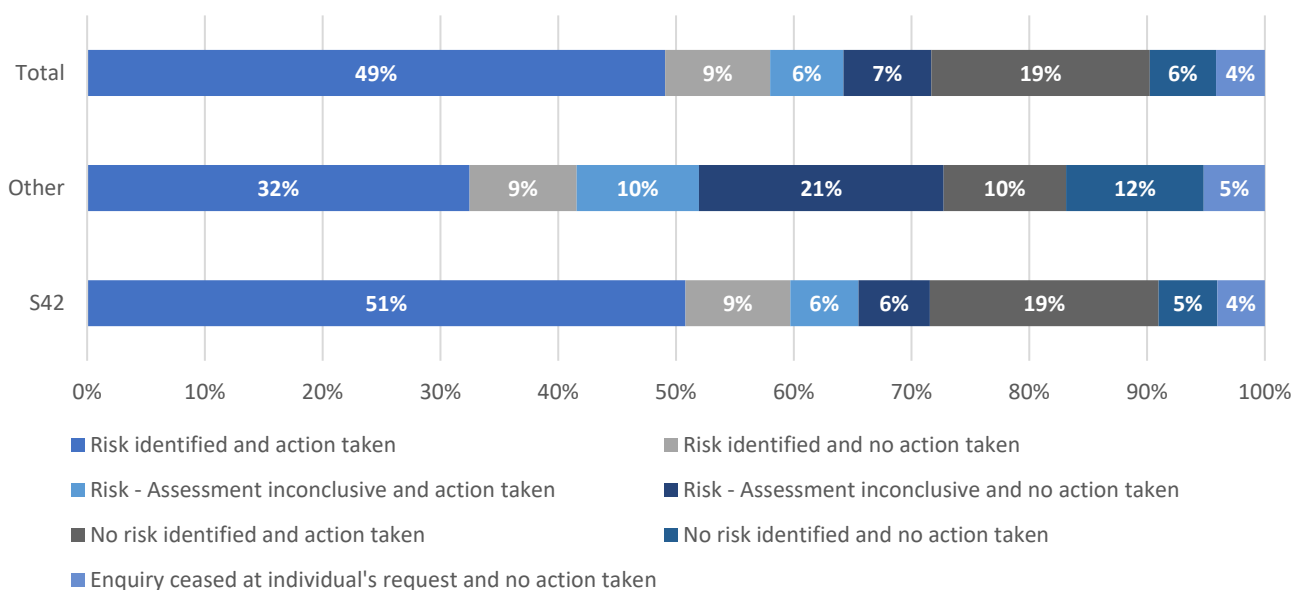
There has been some fluctuation in the proportions of safeguarding incidences in care homes over the last 5 years, averaging 24% of closed enquiries. 2023-24 saw its lowest proportion at 22%.

4. Outcomes of Closed Enquiries

The following section looks at the outcomes of closed enquiries, covering the identification of risk and actions taken, then where risk was identified whether the risk remained or was reduced or removed. There are cases where risk will legitimately remain after a safeguarding enquiry has been completed e.g. an individual may want to maintain contact with a family member who was identified as a source of risk.

4.1 Identification of Risk

Outcome of risk

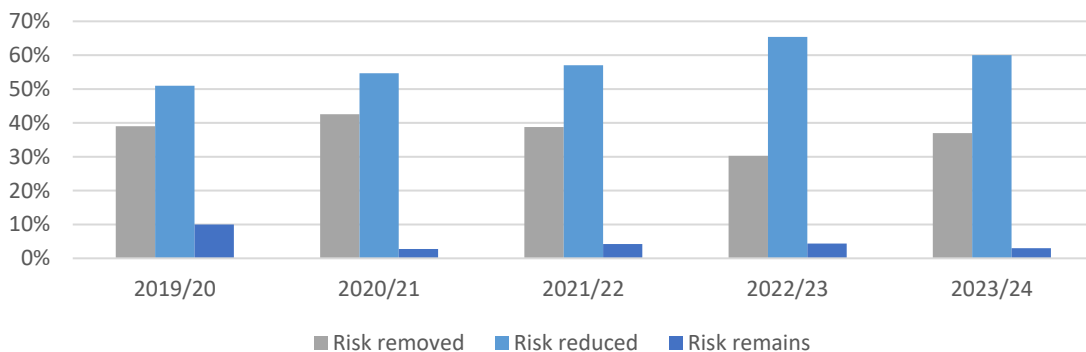


In 2023-24 58% of all closed Enquiries had a risk identified (substantiated), 5 percentage points higher than in 2022-23. 25% had no risk identified, 4 percentage points higher than in 2022-23. 74% had an action taken, whether a risk was identified or not, compared to 68% in 2022-23.

60% of s42 Enquiries had a risk identified compared to 40% of non-statutory. 31% of non-statutory Enquiries were inconclusive compared to 12% of s42 Enquiries.

4.2 Outcome

Outcome where risk identified



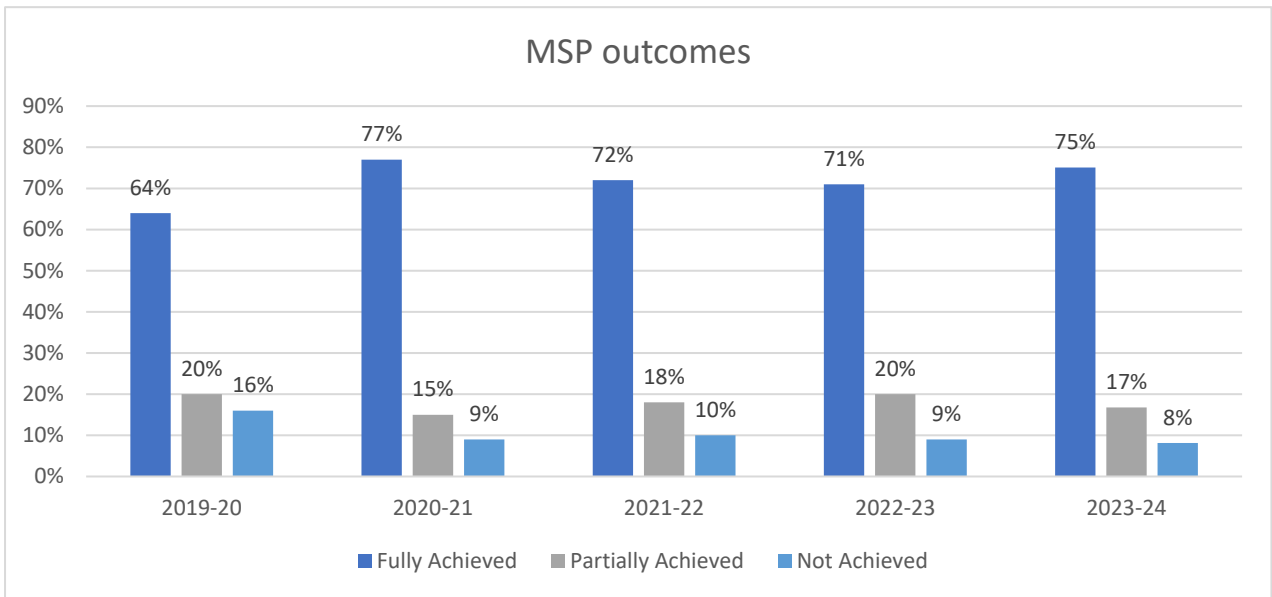
Where a risk was identified in a closed enquiry, 37% saw the risk removed, an increase from 30% in 2022-23, and in 60% of cases the risk was reduced, a decrease from 65%. In the remaining 3% of cases the risk remained.

4.3 Making Safeguarding Personal

Making Safeguarding Personal aims to put the person and their desired outcomes at the centre of safeguarding enquiries so safeguarding becomes a process completed with the alleged victim as opposed to something done to them.

For any safeguarding enquiry, an individual or their representative is asked what their desired outcome of the investigation would be. There has been an increase in the proportion of alleged victims being asked about their desired outcomes from 80% in 2022-23 to 85.6%. Of those asked 88.2% expressed a desired outcome up from 81% in 2022-23. Of those who expressed a desired outcome in 2023-24:





Over the past five years there has been a decline in the proportion of those who expressed a desired outcome not seeing them achieved and higher proportions of cases where the outcomes were fully achieved. In 2023-24 75.1% had their outcomes fully achieved up from 71.2% in 2022-23.

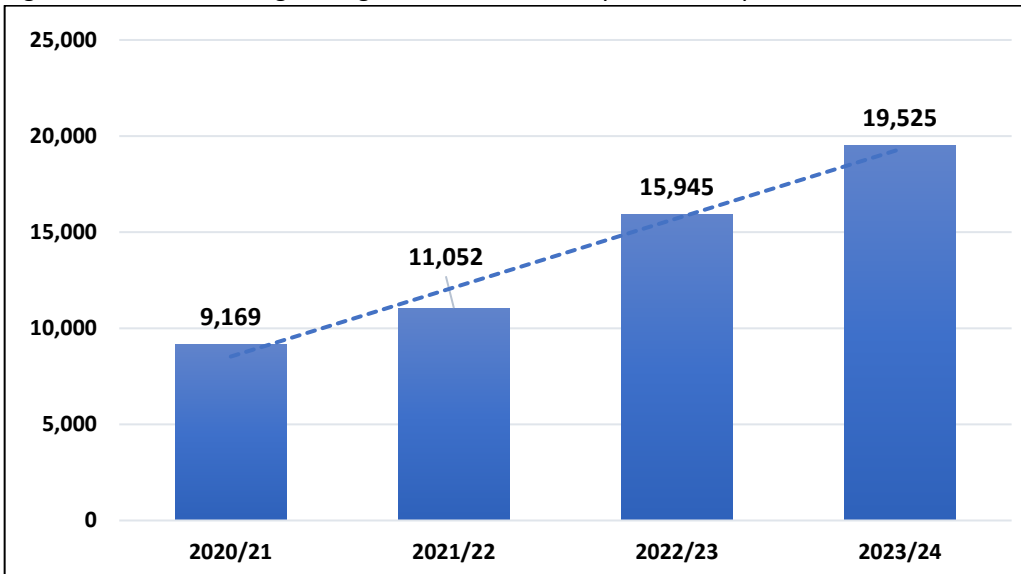
Kent County Council Data

Kent County Council Adult Social Care & Health Safeguarding Activity 2023/24:

5. Safeguarding Concerns –

In 2023/24, KCC received 19,525 Safeguarding Concerns, this was an increase of 22% on the previous year (as per Figure 1 below).

Figure 1: Number of Safeguarding Concerns Received by Kent County Council



National Safeguarding Adults Collection (SAC) – compared to the published figures, Kent has always consistently been below the National rate. However the Safeguarding Concerns received in Kent have been increasing since 2020/21 and for the first time, Kent is now above the National Rate (as illustrated in Figure 2 and 3 below).

At a national level, the number of Safeguarding Concerns have also seen a consistent increase (5% compared to 2022/23).

Figure 2: the rate per 100,000 of Safeguarding Concerns received by Kent and Nationally (source: NHS Digital)

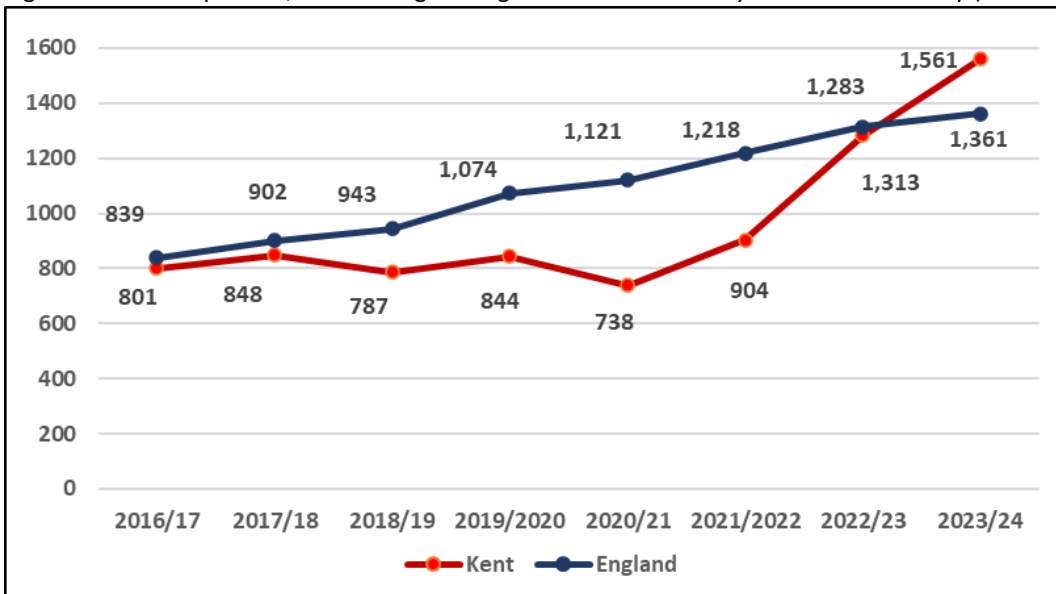
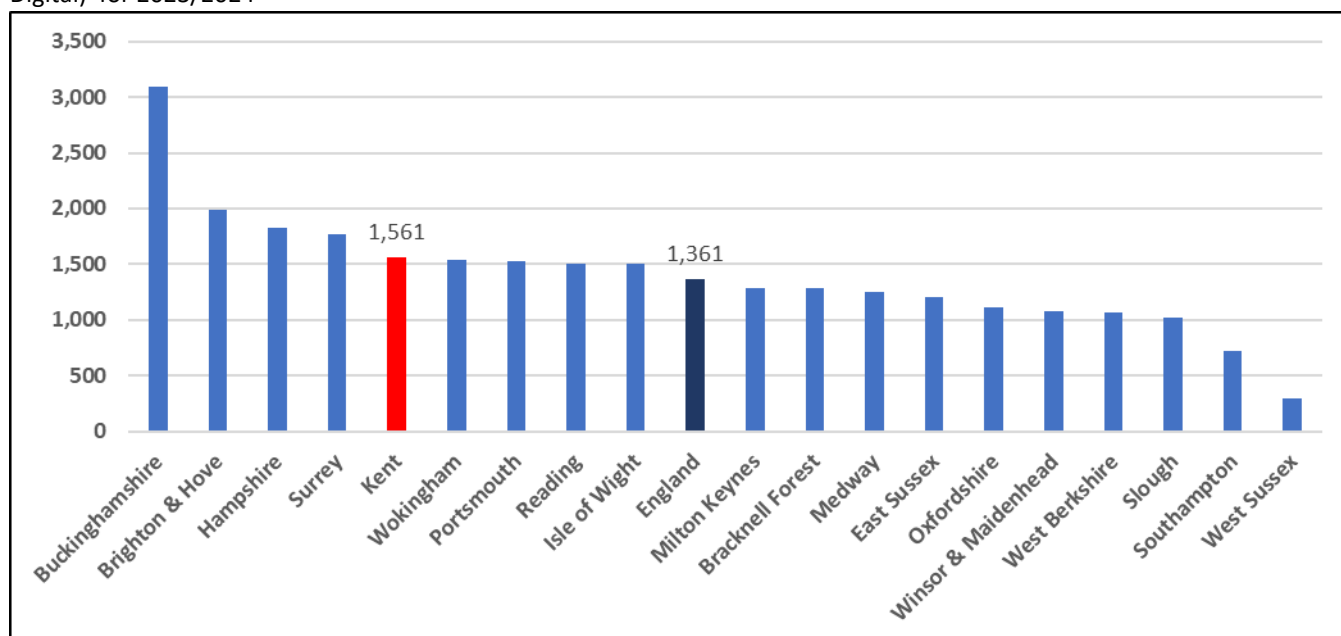


Figure 3: the rate per 100,000 of Safeguarding Concerns received by Kent and South East Regions (source: NHS Digital) for 2023/2024



6. Primary Support Reason

In 2023/2024, Physical Support is the most prominent primary support reason for 44% of adults referred to Adult Social Care for a Safeguarding Concern (see Table 1 below).

40% of all adults referred to Adult Social Care for a Safeguarding Concern, have no support reason listed and this may be due to a lack of referral information and/or the adult is not known to Adult Social Care.

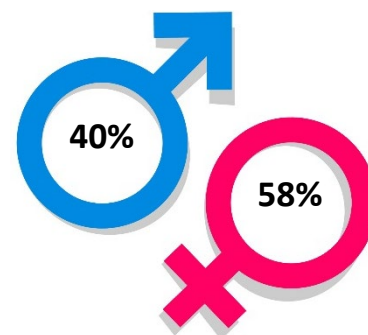
Table 1: Primary Support Reasons for those with a Safeguarding Concern in 2023/2024

Primary Support Reason	2023/24 figures	2023/24 Proportion	% change from 2022/23
Physical Support	4,941	44%	6%
Sensory Support	325	3%	1%
Support with Memory & Cognition	311	3%	0%
Learning Disability Support	1020	9%	1%
Mental Health Support	1,678	15%	1%
Social Support	274	2%	1%
No Support Reason	4,525	40%	7%

*Figures have been rounded up and down as appropriate therefore will not always total 100%

7. Breakdown of Females and Males with a Safeguarding Concern in 2023/24.

There has been no significant change when compared to last year's figures.



8. Safeguarding Concerns in relation to Age and Ethnicity

Tables 2 and 3 below show the majority of Safeguarding Concerns were for adults who identified as female, mainly aged over 65 years, and recorded as white ethnicity, however there was a large proportion where ethnicity was unknown or not provided by the adult.

The levels of unknown ethnicity across Safeguarding and other areas of Adult Social Care are currently being addressed by KCC's Data Integrity Officer who began extensive work in April 2024, to increase the recording of missing demographics and protected characteristics.

Table 2: Proportions of age band for those with a Safeguarding Concern for 2023/24

Age Band	Kent (Census 2021)	2023/24 Concerns Proportion	% change from 2022/23
18-64	74.2%	48%	1%
65-74	13.7%	12%	1%
75-84	8.7%	19%	0%
85-94	3.1%	18%	-1%
95+	0.3%	3%	-1%

Table 3: Proportion of ethnicity for those with a Safeguarding Concern 2023/2024.

Ethnicity	Kent (Census 2021)	2023/24 Concerns Proportion	% change from 2022/23
Asian / Asian British	3.8%	2%	-1%
Black / African / Caribbean / Black British	2%	2%	0%
Mixed / Multiple	1.1%	1%	0%
Other Ethnic Group	0%	1%	0%
White	90.9%	79%	2%
Not known / Refused	1.5%	16%	-1%

*figures have been rounded up and may not add up to 100%

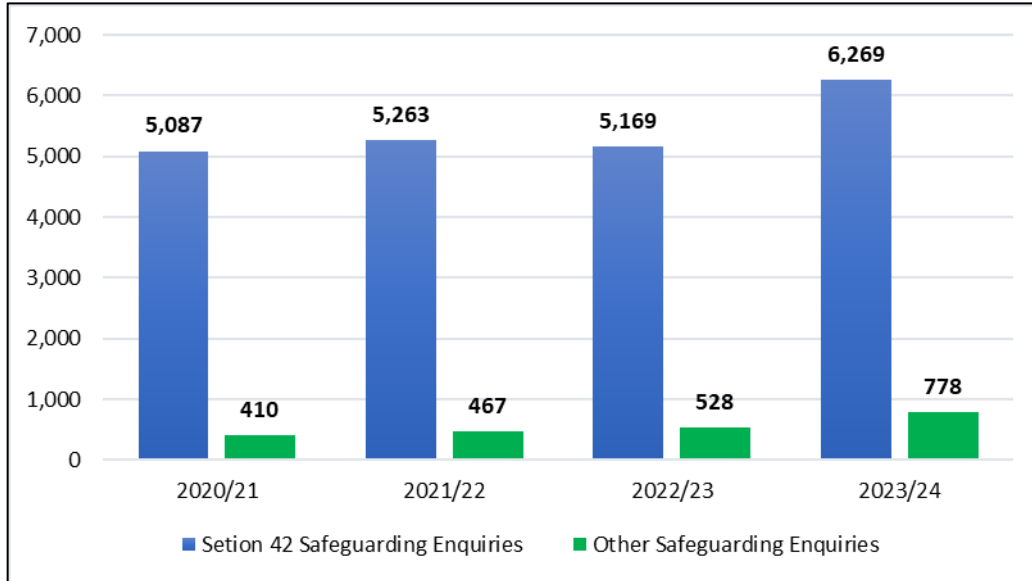
9. Conversions from Safeguarding Concerns to Safeguarding Enquiries

In 2023/24 the conversion rate from Concern to Enquiry was 36%, which remains the same as 2022/23. It is important to highlight that not all Safeguarding Concerns received will meet the Care Act 2014 Section 42 Safeguarding Enquiry criteria, and therefore may be more suitable for different response such as a Care Needs Assessment, or advice and guidance etc. Nationally, the conversion rate of Concern to Enquiry was 31% in 2023/24, which was a slight increase of 2% compared to 2022/23.

10. Safeguarding Enquiries Commenced

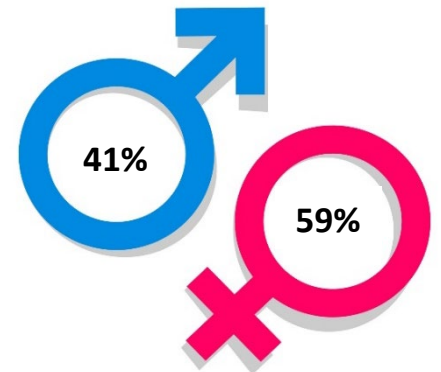
A total of 6,269 Enquiries were commenced in 2023/24 which was a 21% increase on the previous year. At a national level, the amount of Safeguarding Section 42 Enquiries increased by 2% compared to 2022/23 and the number of Safeguarding Enquiries classed as “other” such as Non-statutory Enquires, decreased by 13%.

Figure 4: Number of Safeguarding S42 and Other Enquiries Received



11. Breakdown of Females and Males with a Safeguarding Enquiry in 2023/24

The data for Safeguarding Section 42 Enquiries show that there was no change in gender or age difference when compared to last year figures. The split between males and females remains largely the same as 2022/23.



12. Safeguarding Enquiries in relation to Age and Ethnicity

Table 4 and 5 below show 55% of adults who were subject to a Safeguarding Enquiry were aged 65+.

The majority of people subject to a Safeguarding Enquiry, were recorded as White (83%) with a 2% increase in recorded ethnicity, compared to 2022/2023. 12% of people did not have a recorded ethnicity.

Nationally, in the majority Safeguarding Enquiries, the adult concerned identified as female, of white ethnicity, aged 85 or over. Also, in line with the Kent data, 12% of people did not have their ethnicity recorded.

Table 4: Proportion of age bands for those with an enquiry 23/24.

Age Band	Kent (Census 2021)	2023/24 Enquiries Proportion	% change from 2022/23
18-64	74.20%	45%	0%
65-74	13.70%	12%	1%
75-84	8.70%	21%	0%
85-94	3.10%	20%	0%
95+	0.30%	3%	-1%

Table 5: Proportion of ethnicity for those with an enquiry 2023/24.

Ethnicity	Kent (Census 2021)	2023/24 Enquiries Proportion	% change from 2022/23
Asian / Asian British	3.80%	2%	-1%
Black / African / Caribbean / Black British	2%	2%	0%
Mixed / Multiple	1.10%	1%	0%
Other Ethnic Group	0.70%	1%	0%
White	90.90%	83%	2%
Not known / Refused	1.50%	12%	-1%

*figures have been rounded up and may not add up to 100%

13. Primary Support Reason

The most common Primary Support Reason this year was Physical Support with 44%. This is also seen at a national level with 39% of people receiving physical support.

The proportion of people subject to a Safeguarding Enquiry who have a support reason of either Physical or Learning Disability have seen the highest increases of 2%, respectively, compared to last year (see Table 6 below).

Table 6: Proportion of Primary Support Reason for those with an enquiry 2023/24.

Primary Support Reason	2023/24 figures	2023/24 Proportion	% change from 2022/23
Physical Support	2324	44%	2%
Sensory Support	151	3%	0%
Support with Memory & Cognition	157	3%	0%
Learning Disability Support	621	12%	2%
Mental Health Support	722	14%	-1%
Social Support	95	2%	0%
No Support Reason	1182	23%	-2%

*figures have been rounded up and may not add up to 100%

14. Safeguarding Enquiries Concluded

In total 5,591 Safeguarding Enquiries were concluded in 2023/24. Out of these, 5,163 were classed as Statutory Section 42 Safeguarding Enquiries and 428 were recorded as other Safeguarding Enquiries.

Figure 5: the rate per 100,000 of Safeguarding Enquiries concluded by Kent and Nationally (source: NHS Digital)

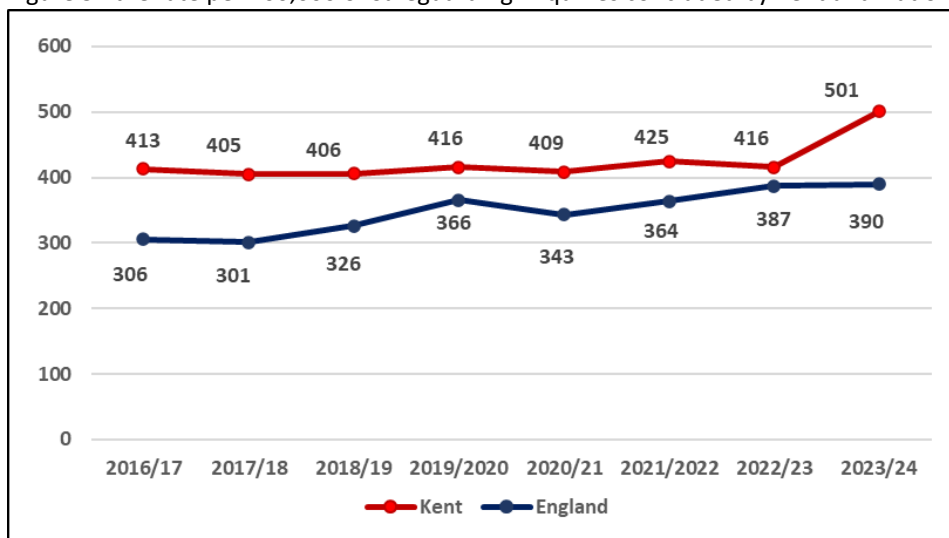
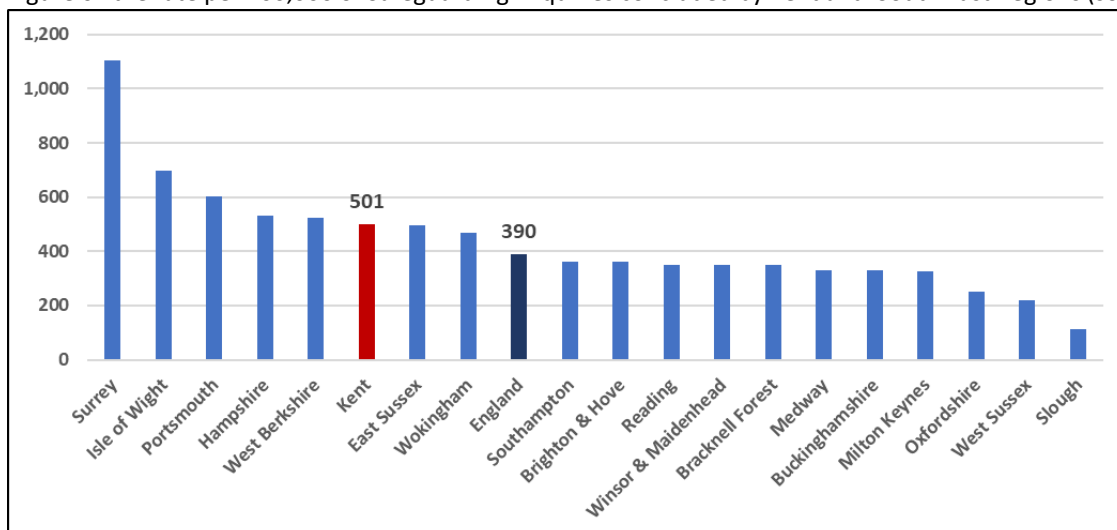


Figure 6: the rate per 100,000 of Safeguarding Enquiries concluded by Kent and South East Regions (source: NHS Digital)

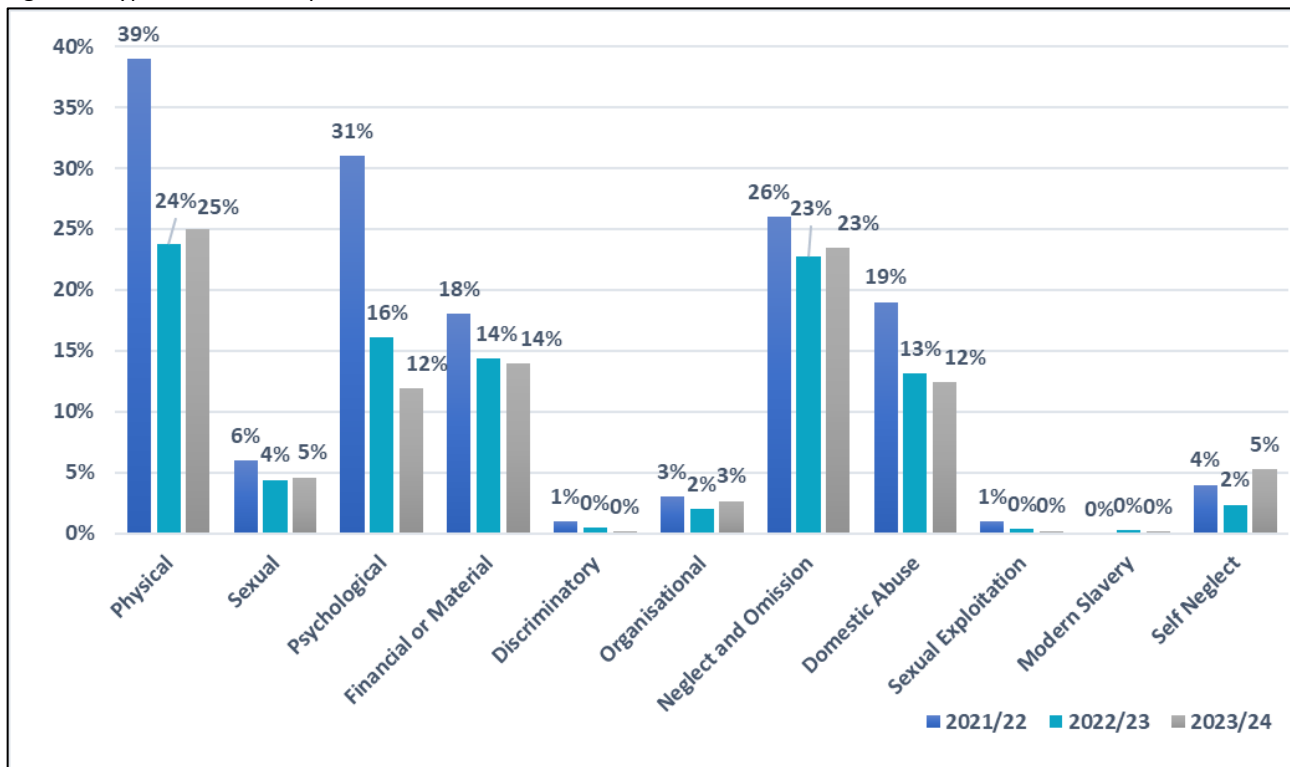


15. Types of Abuse in Safeguarding Enquiries

Physical abuse continues to be the main type of abuse identified for the person concerned, accounting for 25% of concluded Safeguarding Enquiries in Kent. Neglect and Omission follows closely with a proportion of 23%. The percentage of Enquiries categorised as Psychological fell by 4% when compared to 2022/23. The proportion of Safeguarding Enquiries concluded and categorised as Self-Neglect rose by 3%.

Nationally, Neglect and Acts of Omission is the main source of risk, followed by Physical Abuse. This is the same position as last year. There was a 0.4% increase for Neglect and Acts of Omission and a 3% decrease for Physical Abuse. The source of risk Nationally, with the highest increase is Self-Neglect, which has risen by 17%.

Figure 7: Type of risk for enquiries from 2021/22 to 2023/24 with KCC

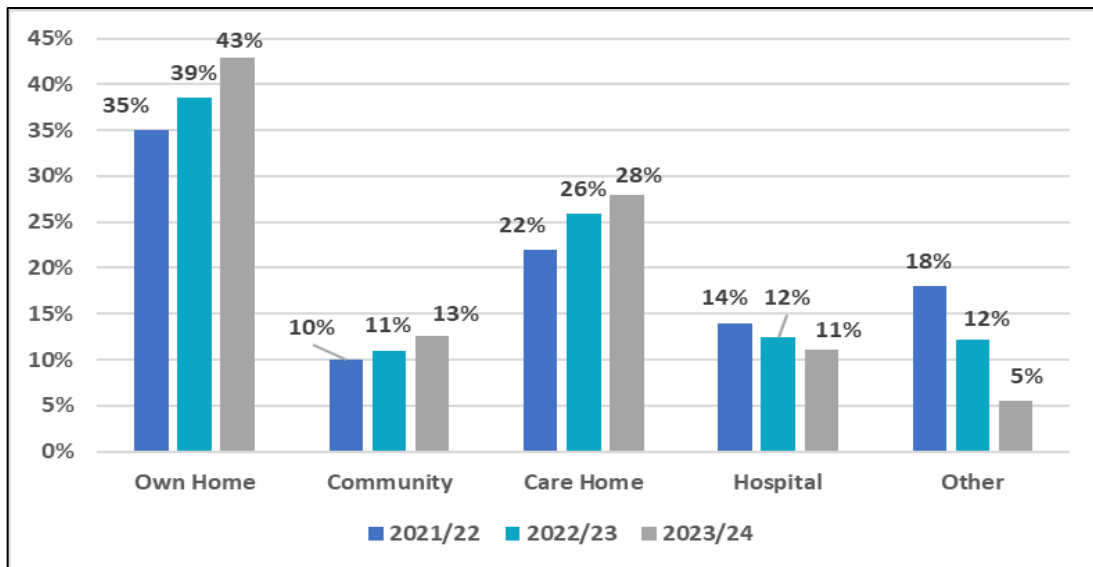


16. Location of abuse in Safeguarding Enquiries

As with previous years, Own Home (43%) was the most prevalent location of abuse, followed by Care Homes (28%).

At a national level, as with the Kent, the most common location of abuse was Own Home (46%), followed by Care Homes (32%). Decreases were seen in Nursing Homes (2%) and Mental Health (4%) hospitals.

Figure 8: Location of risk for enquiries from 2021/22 to 2023/24



17. Risk Assessment Outcomes

This measure in figure 9 below, sets out where a risk was identified and what action was taken.

In Kent, following the conclusion of a Safeguarding Enquiry, the level of risk that remains is assessed. In 2023/24, 28% noted the risk was removed, 61% noted the risk reduced (increase of 3% compared to 2022/23) and 11% noted the risk remained.

At a national level, 25% noted the risk removed (1% increase), 66% noted the risk reduced and 9% noted the risk remained (both figures are the same as the previous year).

Figure 9: Outcomes where the risk was identified 2021/22 to 2023/24

