



# **Safeguarding Adult Collection (SAC) 2023-24 Overview Summary**

This report summarises the key findings from this year's Safeguarding Adults Collection (SAC) for Luton Council during the financial year of 2023-24.

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# Safeguarding Adults Collection – 2023-24

- Each year Luton Council (as an CASSR) is required to provide data to NHS Digital relating to Safeguarding Activity undertaken.
- This is made up of Mandatory and voluntary data items. Only mandatory tables are completed.
- The collection comprises of 13 mandatory tables.
- Data collected includes numbers of concerns and enquiries.
- Client Demographics.
- Alleged perpetrator information and the location of suspected abuse.
- Enquiry Outcomes and the client's mental capacity.
- This year separate SAC totals provided by \*ELFT were used in conjunction with data taken from LAS.

**\* ELFT complete their allocated s.42 enquiries on RIO, LAS is currently only used for administrative allocation and closure of these enquiries, which therefore cannot generate all mandatory SAC fields. The relevant ELFT data for these fields is provided to Business Intelligent directly by ELFT.**

# SG1: Count of individuals

**Table 1: Overall numbers of Concerns and Enquiries including ASC Safeguarding & ELFT, with historic data.**

	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24
<b>Total number of concerns</b>	4640	4266	4578	3967	3656
<b>Concerns raised for individuals</b>	3031	2744	2907	2976	2790
<b>Total number of enquires</b>					
	509	473	341	355	406
<b>Enquiries commenced for individuals</b>	442	411	314	329	350
<b>Conversion Rate %</b>					
	11%	11%	7%	9%	10%

**Table 2: Breakdown of total numbers separated for ASC safeguarding and ELFT.**

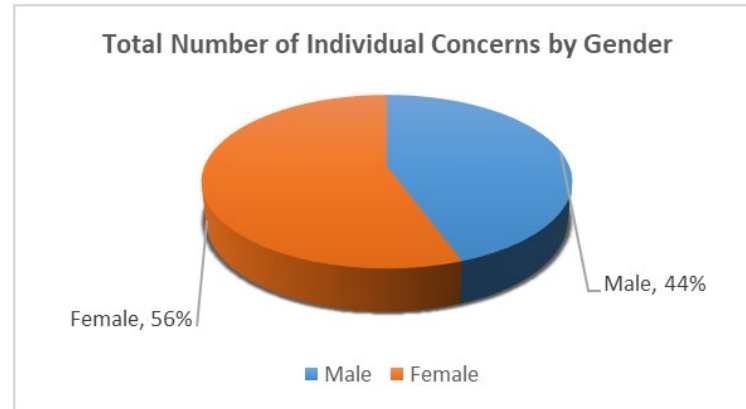
	ASC Safeguarding	ELFT
<b>Total number of concerns</b>	2956	700
<b>Concerns raised for individuals</b>	2090	700
<b>Total number of enquires</b>		
	341	65
<b>Enquiries commenced for individuals</b>	285	65
<b>Conversion Rate %</b>		
	13.6%	9.3%

## Commentary:

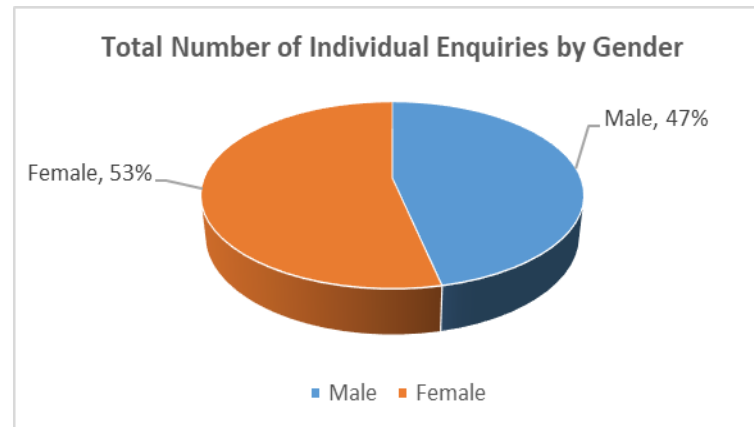
- Overall reduction in Table 1 is attributed to a more robust initial review process directing 'concerns' not evidencing safeguarding to more appropriate pathways before formal logging as 'safeguarding'.
- At 10% the conversion rate is consistent but remains low. Luton's current process does not count MASH enquiries – often considerable - as a reportable 'conversion'.
- There is not a nationally mandated process, but many LA's count any post triage work as an enquiry, thus a higher conversion rate. Review of Luton's safeguarding process is in train and implementation would likely increase the reported conversion rate.

# SG1: Client Demographics

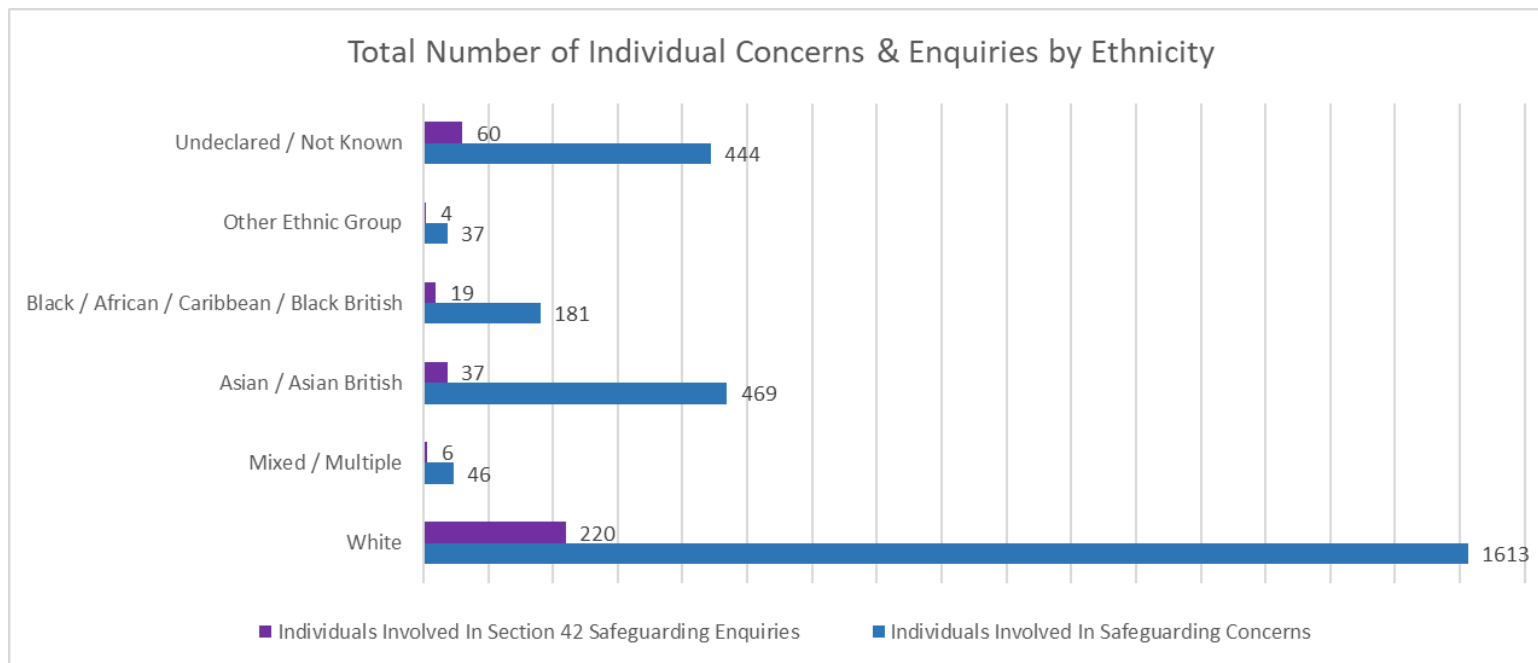
- This split is consistent with the older age group of those typically subject to safeguarding. The slight increase in males does not prompt query.



- The gender split for enquiries is similar demonstrating regularity of approach. The slight uptick in males this is consistent with own home being the dominant setting for concerns, rather than care settings which tend to have prevailing female populations.



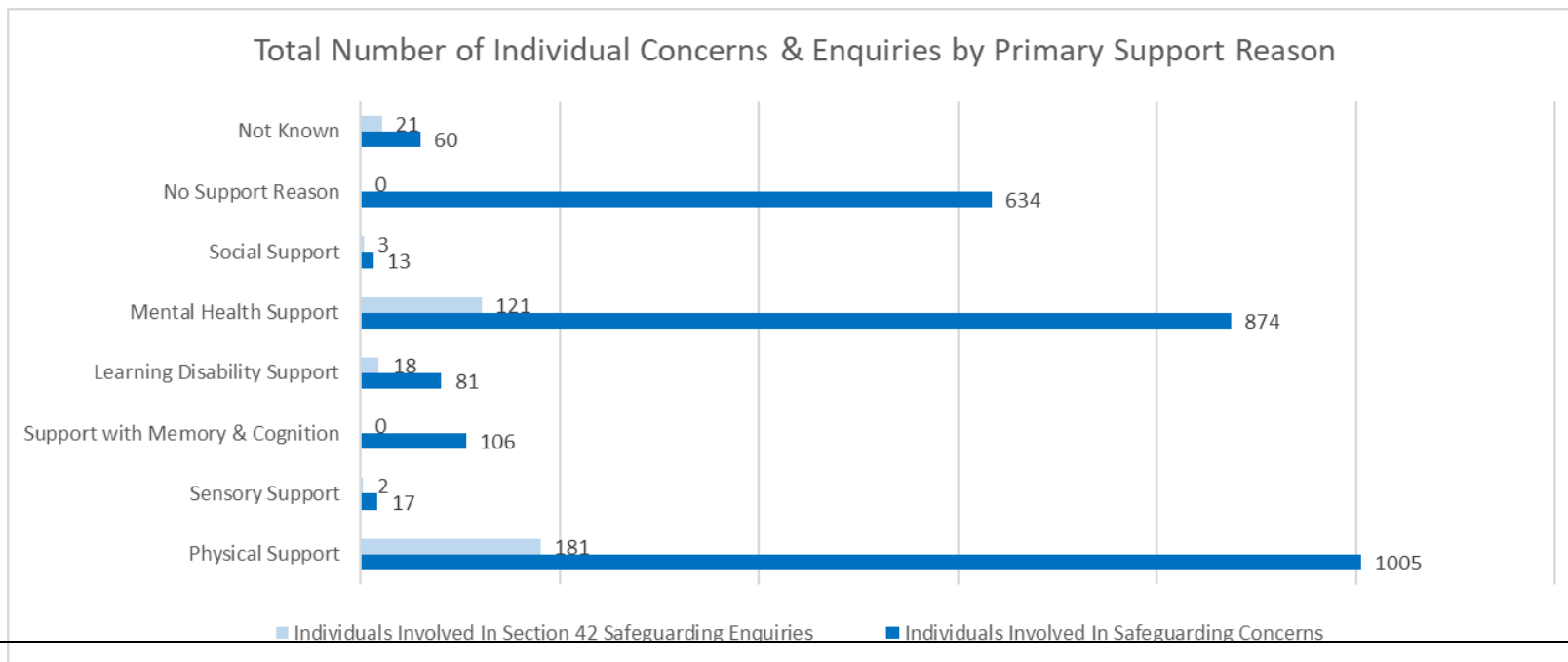
# SG1: Client Demographics Ethnicity



## Commentary:

- The white British cohort is consistent with 2022-23 and previous reporting years.
- Whilst it differs from the demographic of Luton's broader population, it is far more consistent with ASC client data. That the majority of safeguarding concerns are raised by Providers is further pertinent to this.
- The number with ethnic background as not disclosed, remains too high. Ideally this should be captured at point of referral, however, currently many referrals do not. Further partnership work is required to identify what is driving this issue and implementation of an improvement plan.

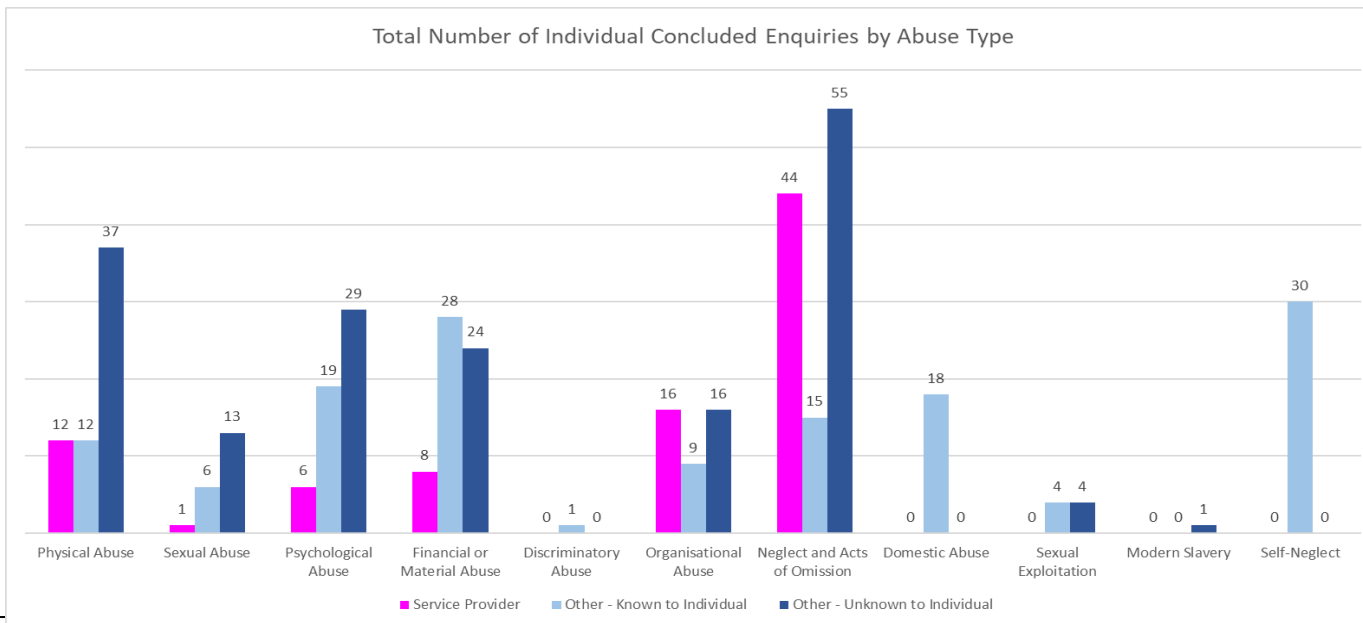
# SG1: Client Demographics Primary Support Reason



## Commentary:

- Physical support followed by Mental Health is consistent with the support needs of the wider ASC demographic.
- 'No Support Reason' is growing. Adults at risk of domestic abuse (DA), modern slavery and sexual exploitation are known to be commonly attributed to this group, but further scrutiny is required.
- A themed audit will be scheduled to improve understanding of abuse type correlation and the practice of category determination.
- Proposals to develop partnership safeguarding protocols DA and Sexual Exploitation are also in train.

# SG2A: Concluded Enquiries by Abuse Type and Source of Risk



## Commentary:

- Neglect and Acts of Omission is consistently the highest abuse type locally and nationally. It covers a broad spectrum from a medication error to broad systemic neglect, most frequently it relates to those delivering care such as providers.
- Providers generate the most safeguarding referrals; this would be expected as they support Adults with care and support needs and have requirement to work to formal safeguarding protocols.
- To improve holistic scrutiny and preventative support to this area, a safeguarding quality social worker role has been innovated to better facilitate joint working initiatives with the Quality Team and a proactive cycle of communication. The multi-agency safeguarding quality huddle has also been implemented.

# SG2A: Concluded Enquiries by Abuse Type and Source of Risk.

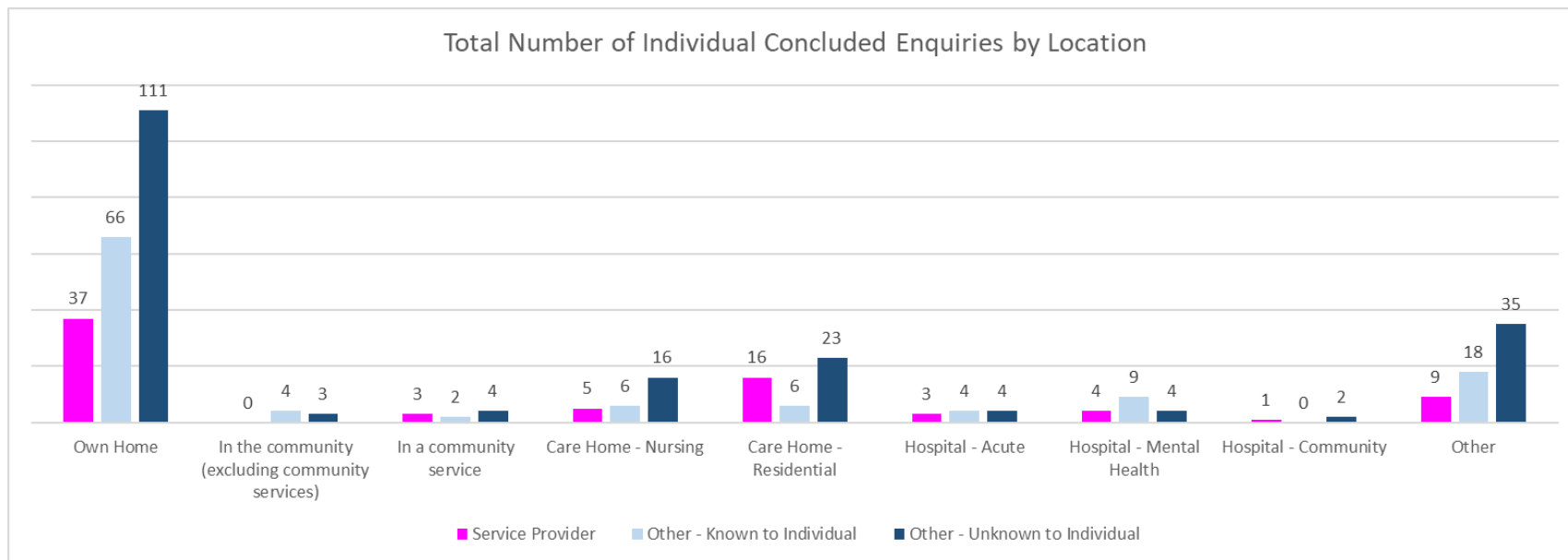
Alleged Abuse Type	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24
Domestic Abuse	14	22	10	9	18
Sexual Exploitation	5	14	30	5	8
Modern Slavery	3	3	4	1	1
Self-Neglect	52	52	24	39	30

## Commentary:

- The increase for Domestic Abuse (DA) and sexual exploitation is positive as local intelligence has long indicated these are both under reported safeguarding concerns.
- Outreach work, partnership approaches and staff awareness appear to be evidencing demonstrable improvement in reporting and referral management for DA. Further work is planned like the development of a partnership protocol specifically for DA safeguarding.
- Sexual Exploitation requires further targeted work, but initiatives show small dividends. Improved links with strategic work Public Health have led, dovetailed with direct work with Azalea, the primary charity supporting sexually exploited women in Luton are moving forward.
- Self-Neglect declining is also positive. A variety of initiatives have been facilitated, including training, raising awareness and creative social work interventions across Luton's safeguarding partnership.
- New pathways, such as Luton's place-based Hoarding Panel and Protocol and CASPA (Critical Adult Safeguarding Partnership Arrangements) have launched and embedded this reporting year.



# SG2B: Concluded Enquiries by Location.

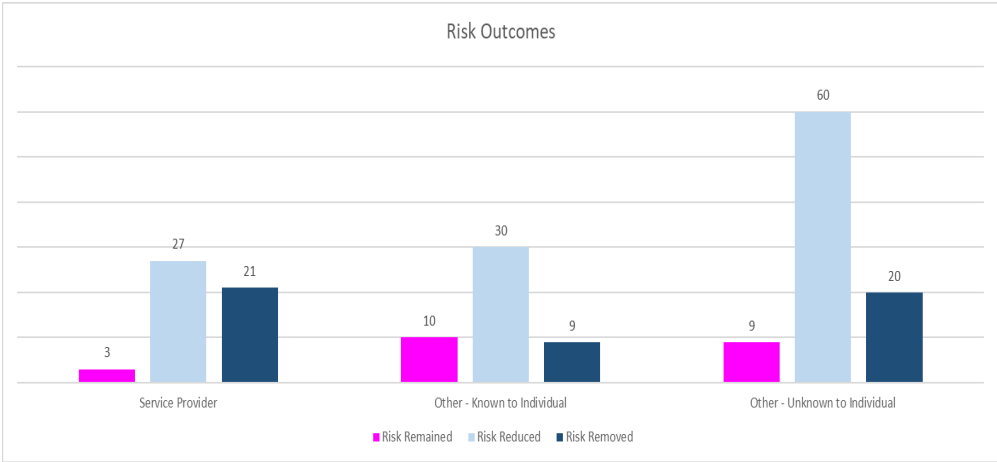


## Commentary:

- A person's own home being the most frequent location of alleged abuse mirrors the previous year and recent trends. But there is further increase in actual numbers.
- Quality & assurance strategies such as audit and improved joint working and communication channels with the Quality Team will enable further understanding of any significant emerging pattern. .
- Other location has also risen. This will require a further dive on how/which locations are being categorised as Other to further identify any potential trend behind this.

# SG2E: Where a risk was identified, what was the outcome?

Percentage of enquiries where risks reduced or removed			
2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24
98%	93%	90%	93%

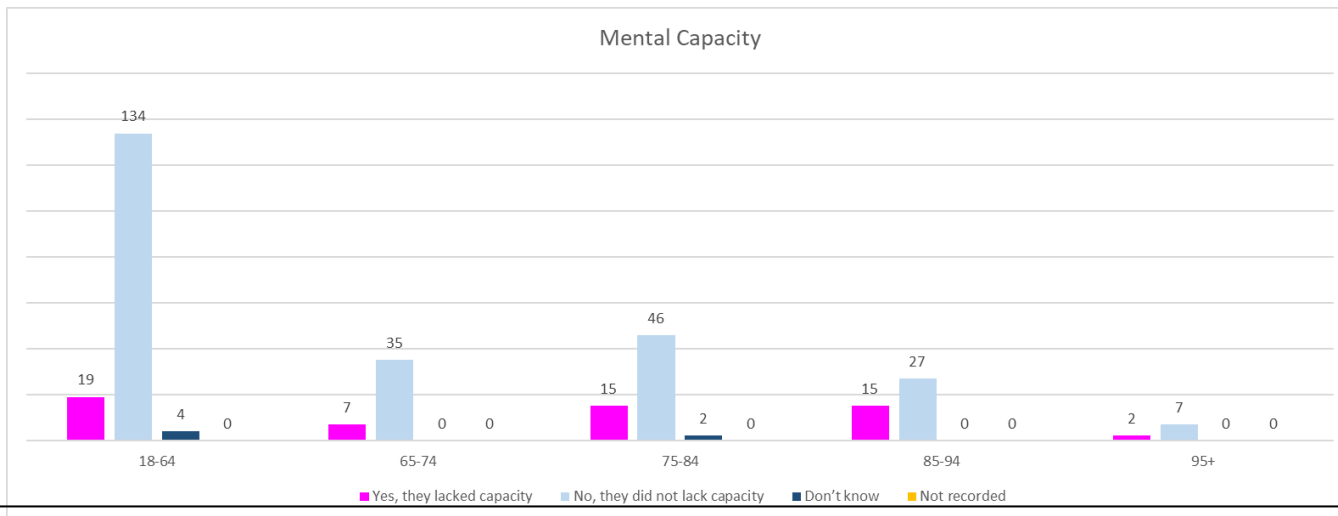


**Commentary:**

- In 2023-24 a 3% improvement from the previous year has been achieved.
- There are several strands of work in operation to promote continued improvement in this area including:
  - Bespoke Safeguarding Leadership training with a focus on risk reduction building professional confidence in determining safeguarding outcomes.
  - A dedicated ASC Safeguarding audit programme trialled this reporting year and business as usual for 2024/25
- It should also be acknowledged there will be situations/some adults where it is not possible to reduce the risk. This is frequently due to multiple vulnerabilities like trauma/mental health, drug and alcohol dependency, homelessness.

**93% of Enquiries with a risk identified had that risk reduced or removed.**

# SG3A: Mental capacity and SG5a Safeguarding Adult Reviews



## Commentary:

- This is divided into age groups as the data presented is reflective of the prescriptive reporting requirements mandated for the SAC.
- It is positive that, primarily, it has been reported that that mental capacity has been considered. However, this is area for continued development. There has been a recent roll out of shared MCA learning to support team level CPD and a multi-disciplinary workshop on executive capacity is being delivered shortly.

There were 1 Safeguarding Adults Reviews (SARs) completed in this period (published):

- 1 individual involved in SARs survived.