



Safeguarding Adult Collection (SAC) 2024-25 Overview Summary

This report summarises the key findings from this year's Safeguarding Adults Collection (SAC) for Luton Council during the financial year of 2024-25.

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Safeguarding Adults Collection (SAC) – 2024-25

- Each year Luton Council (as an CASSR) is required to provide data to NHS Digital relating to Safeguarding Activity. The 2024-25 submission timeframes were successfully met.
- There are 13 mandatory tables in the collection, how they are reported, and terminology is fully prescribed.
- Much of the focus is on 'enquiries'. It should be noted, for the purposes of the SAC, only enquiries reportable from the current case management system can be included. Therefore, the data does not take account of MASH procedure changes implemented by Adult Social Care (ASC) during the year.
- 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 for 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.

Concerns & Enquiries Raised in the year (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	2024-25
Total number of concerns	4640	4266	4578	3967	3656	3749
Concerns raised for individuals	3031	2744	2907	2976	2790	2851
Total number of enquires	509	473	341	355	406	411
Enquiries commenced for individuals	442	411	314	329	350	389
Conversion Rate %	11%	11%	7%	9%	11%	11%

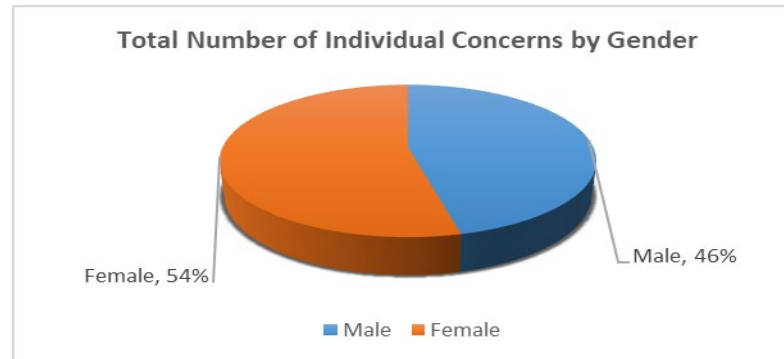
Table 2: Breakdown of total numbers separated for ASC safeguarding and ELFT.

	ASC Safeguarding	ELFT
Total number of concerns	3202	547
Concerns raised for individuals	2304	547
Total number of enquires	356	55
Enquiries commenced for individuals	334	55
Conversion Rate %	11.1%	10.1%

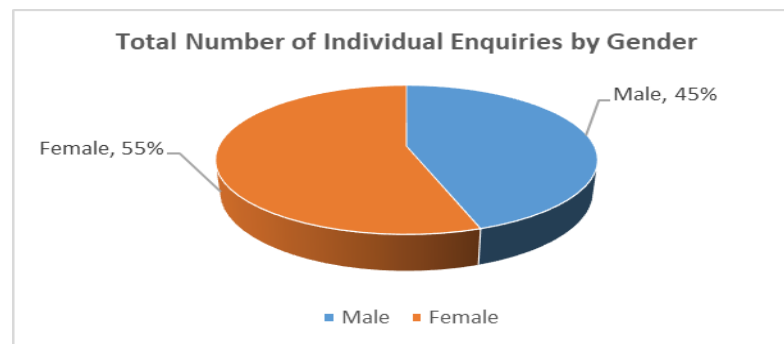
- Increase in concerns anticipated due to audit informed process change to formally record all 'concerns' as 'safeguarding' on receipt to better inform work-flow and enable development of the local system's understanding of safeguarding to be tested. Minimal increase is testament to the achievement of outreach, guidance and joint working initiatives implemented over the past two years.
- New procedure demonstrating accountability for s.42 enquiries undertaken by MASH was implemented in February. New Power BI reporting evidences post 'conversion' at around 37%. The 11% here reflects the reporting functionality of the current case management system so should be read in tandem. Completion of case management change will finalise imminently.

Client Demographics (Gender)

- The number of males has continued its pattern of slight year-on-year growth (2% increase from 2024-25). 'Self Neglect' is a concern type frequently raised for males and has also sustained a moderate upward trajectory.

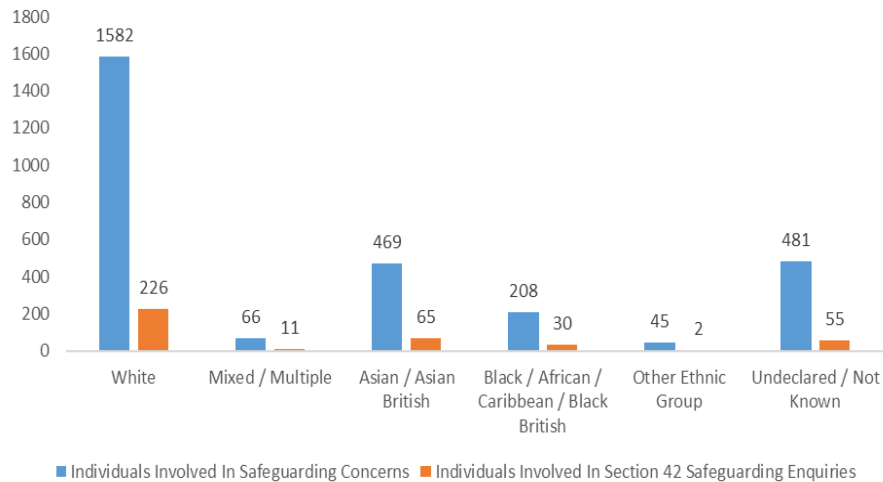


- The gender split for enquiries shows minimal reversal on the previous year's increase for male (2% decline). There has been similar percentage increase for concluded enquires relating to domestic abuse, a category that continues to consistently evidence a prevailing female 'adult at risk' cohort.

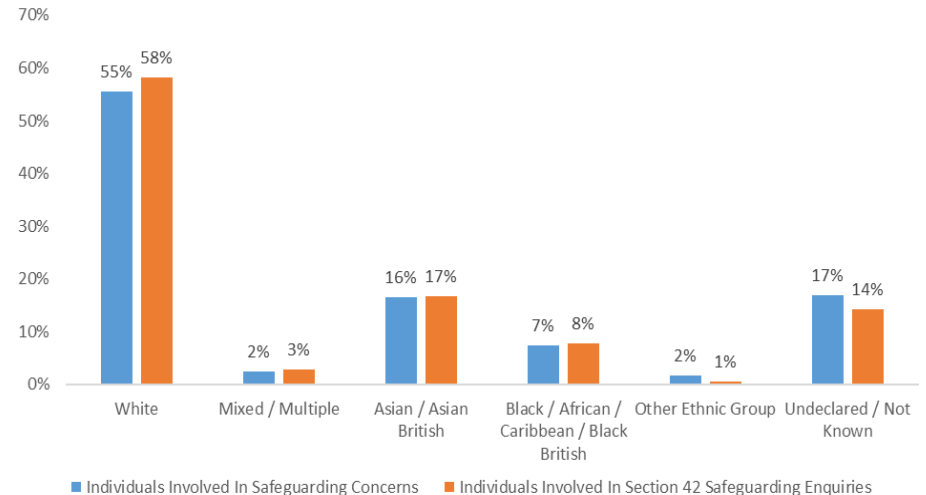


Client Demographics (Ethnicity)

Total Number of Individual Concerns & Enquiries by Ethnicity



Ethnicity % for Total Concerns and Total S42

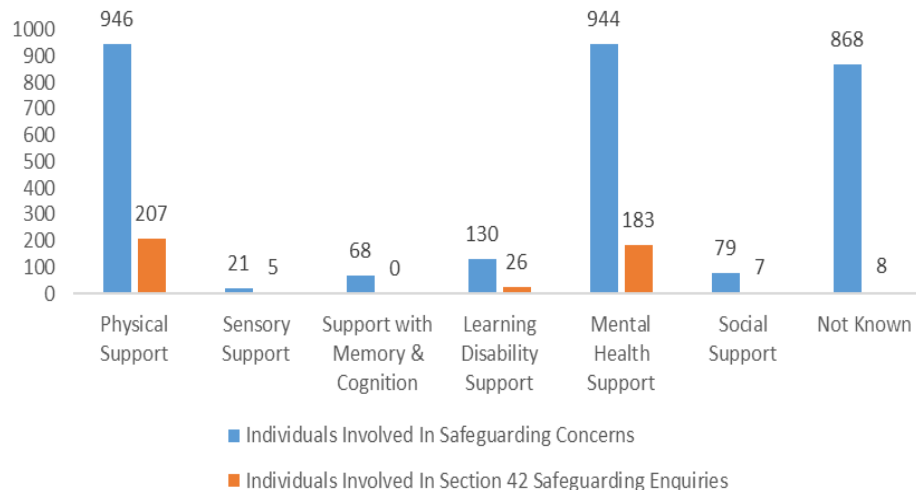


Commentary:

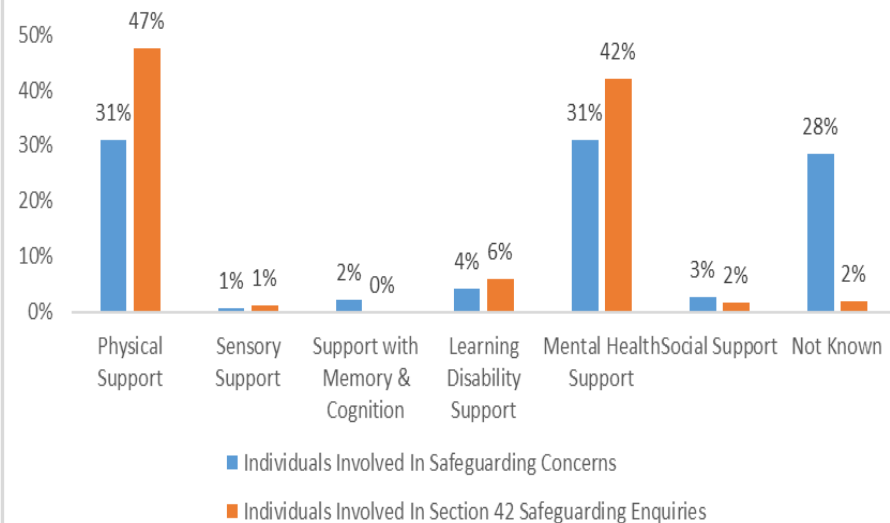
- White British as the dominant cohort is consistent with 2023-24 and previous reporting years.
- Whilst it differs from the demographic of Luton's broader population, it is far more consistent with ASC client data. The majority of safeguarding concerns are raised by Providers about adults in receipt of formal care provision, so this further inflates the white British demography.
- Ethnic background not known is too high, remaining a consistent area for improvement. Ideally it should be included at referral but is frequently not. A revised version of the pan-Bedfordshire referral form, with this information marked as mandatory, has been socialised. The partnership training plan includes this as an area for targeted development for delivery this financial year.

Client Demographics (Primary Support Reason)

Total Number of Individual Concerns & Enquiries by Primary Support Reason



PSR % for total concerns and total S42s



Commentary:

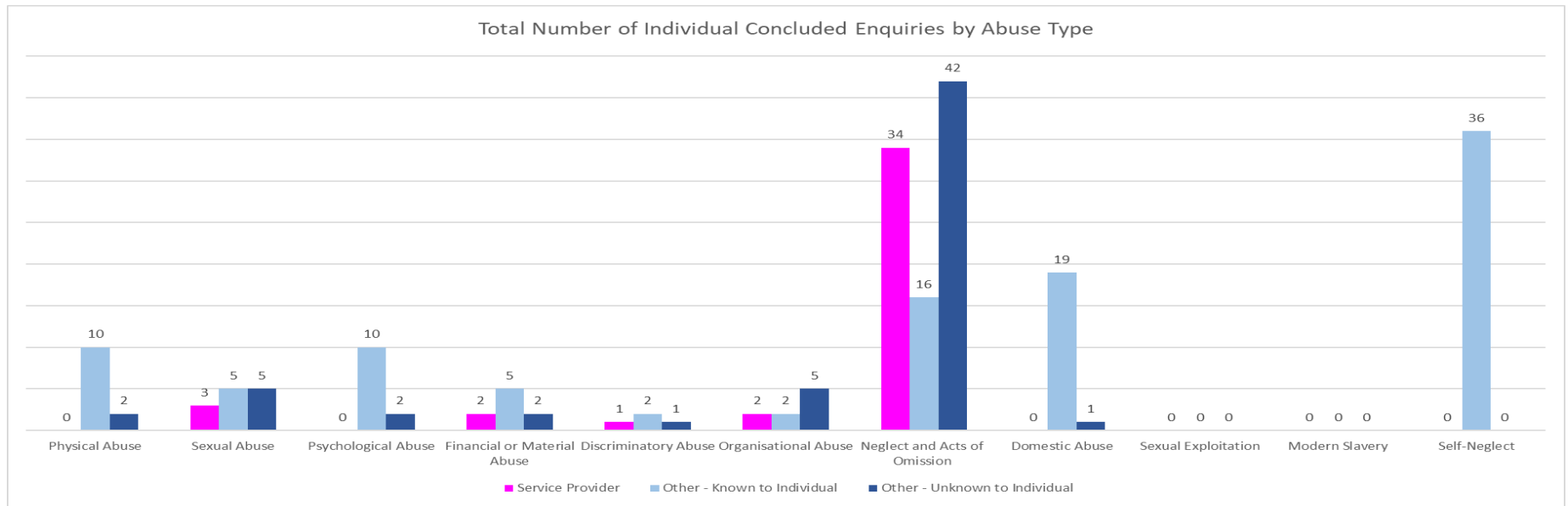
- Adults involved in a S42 Enquiry this year had a slight decrease in Physical Support and similar increase in Mental Health. This is consistent with the increase in Self Neglect referrals and, more broadly, as dominant primary support reasons, both align with the majority of referrals received from care home, domiciliary care and support living providers.
- There has been a significant increase in the 'Not Known' category in relation to concerns, though not at all for enquires. This would seem to correlate with the notable growth in concerns raised for domestic abuse. With these cohorts there is frequently not a known care & support need. However, additional interrogation of this will feature in the audit and assurance activity the local safeguarding partnership presently has in train for domestic abuse.

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

Alleged Abuse Type	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
Domestic Abuse	14	22	10	9	18	20
Sexual Exploitation	5	14	30	5	8	1
Modern Slavery	3	3	4	1	1	0
Self-Neglect	52	52	24	39	30	36

- Continued growth in Domestic Abuse is positive as there has long been disconnect between received concerns and data held by other partners such as the hospital and police. It should also be noted that the SAC data only reflects 'enquiries' reportable from the current case management system, so not those completed by MASH. A bespoke safeguarding pathway, aligning with Public Health's wider domestic abuse strategy workstream, is in development. We therefore anticipate further reportable growth in 2025-26.
- Luton published its 'Shared Understanding of Safeguarding' during 2024-25. This established a pathway for sexual exploitation to automatically undergo enquiries in MASH under s.42. This is to drive development of an imbalance in concerns received and local system intelligence. As this SAC data does not reflect MASH enquiries a quality assurance check was completed and established all received concerns were subject to an enquiry by MASH. It is expected therefore this will be an area of reportable growth in 2025-26.
- Tailor made and innovative resources/toolkit to support practitioners and families address self neglect, training and events were delivered throughout 2024-25. We would therefore expect numbers to increase alongside awareness.

Concluded Enquiries (SG2A): Abuse Type and Source of Risk

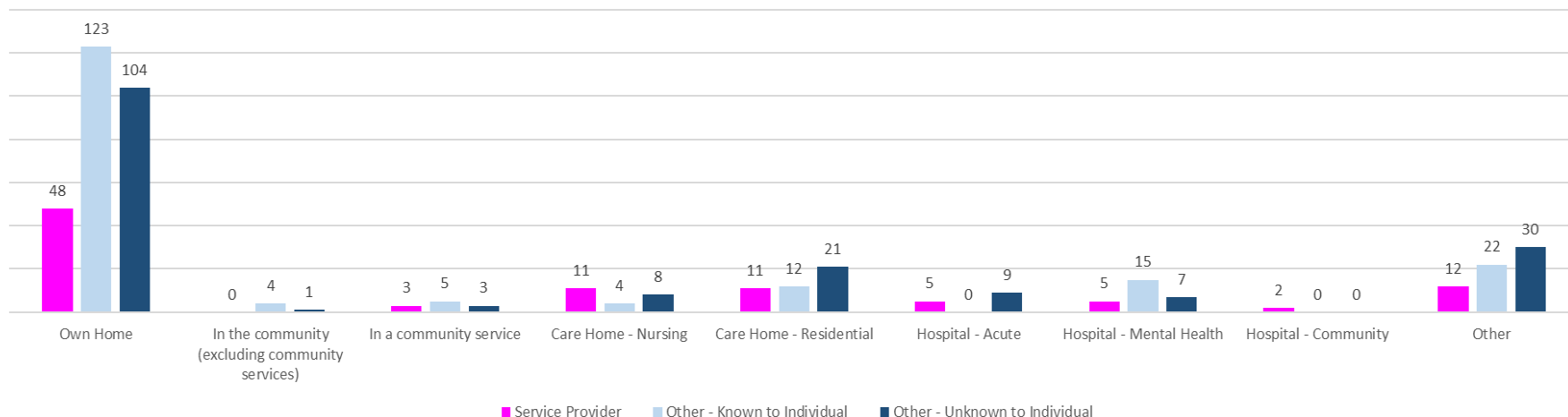


Commentary:

- Whilst Neglect and Acts of Omission remains the most cited alleged abuse type for concluded S42, there has been relative reduction in total numbers compared to the previous year (92 overall compared to 104, further set against an overall increase this year). A strategic safeguarding social worker, with a remit to proactively facilitate joint working with the ASC Provider Quality Team was established the year prior. With their role to support quality assurance and outreach for Provider Led Enquiries expanded in 2024-25. This is now evidencing sustained improvement in the data which is very positive.
- Domestic Abuse and Self Neglect at second and third demonstrates the affirmative impact of targeted safeguarding strategies progressed over the past two years.

Concluded Enquiries (SG2b) by Location.

Total Number of Individual Concluded Enquiries by Location



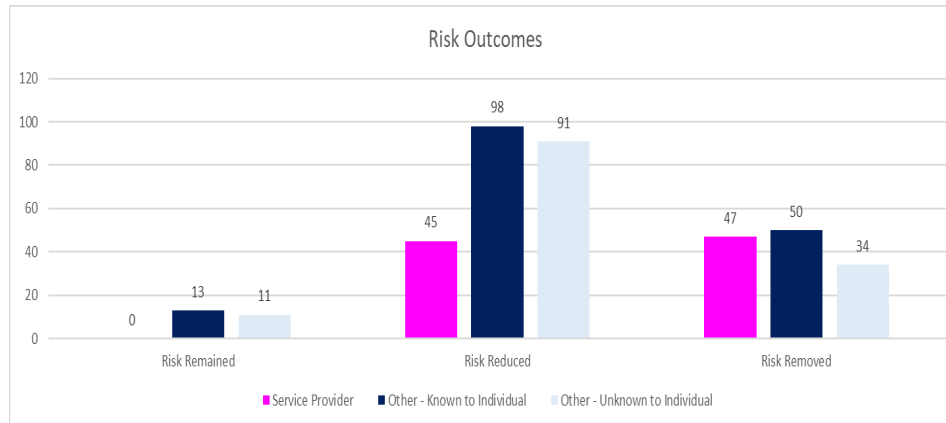
Commentary:

- A person's own home as most common location of alleged abuse. mirrors the previous year. There is further uptick but this correlates with the increases in Domestic Abuse and Self Neglect as abuse types. Luton's strength's based, person-centred ethos to support people to remain independent and in their communities also equates to more older people living in their own home than the regional and national average.
- The decline in care homes as a location is consistent with the decrease in the total number of referrals from social care providers – an outcome that quantitatively aligns with the embedding of the strategic social worker role as the year progressed.
- 'Other' is an area of growth noted as in need further interrogation to be picked up in the audit cycle.

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

Percentage of enquiries where risks reduced or removed

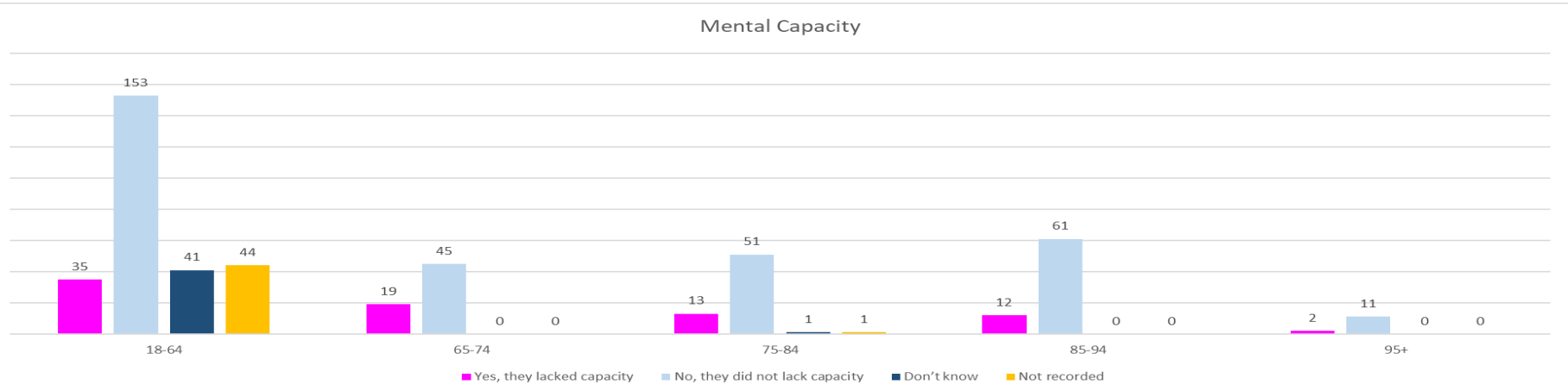
2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
98%	93%	90%	93%	94%



Commentary:

- Of the number of enquires completed, in 2024-25, 94% are recorded as risk reduced or removed. This builds on last year's improvement.
- The reduction of risk is fundamental to the work of safeguarding. There are several strands of work to support a cycle continual improvement.. This includes specialist safeguarding training across ASC with a focus on interventions and strategies for the reduction of risk, targeted audit activity and professional development to support understanding and professional confidence when assessing safeguarding outcomes and associated risks.
- There will be situations where it is not possible to reduce risk. Domestic Abuse can be an area or challenge and/or multiple vulnerabilities such as mental health, drug and alcohol abuse and homelessness.

Mental capacity (SG3a) and Safeguarding Adult Reviews (SG5a)



- 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. but attention is needed in relation to 'not recorded' in 18-64 age. In 2024-25 the roll out of shared MCA learning and resources was maintained, CPD events hosted and a multi-disciplinary workshop on executive capacity delivered. However, mental capacity remains a consistent theme identified for learning both locally and nationally and will remain an area of focus for both ASC and the Safeguarding Adults Board.
- Potentially this metric is a recording issue. A workshop to support Responsible Safeguarding Adult Managers (SAMs) to develop of quality check-list is in train and will incorporate this.

1 Safeguarding Adults Reviews (SARs) completed (metric is initiated in year) in this period