



Sunderland Safeguarding Adults Board Newsletter



[Sunderland Safeguarding Adults Board](#) is a multi-agency partnership providing strategic leadership for adult safeguarding across the City of Sunderland to promote the welfare of adults at risk of abuse and neglect, and is responsible for ensuring the effectiveness of what partner agencies do to support this. Follow us on Twitter: [@SunderlandSAB](#)

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Who Should Read this Newsletter?

Everyone with an interest in safeguarding adults, enabling them to live their lives free from abuse and neglect, to access and receive appropriate care. We hope this newsletter is a useful resource for you to receive information regarding safeguarding adults, keeping you up-to-date, sharing good practice and important information. Please feel free to share this newsletter across your organisation.

Safeguarding Adults Threshold Guidance Tool



A refreshed Safeguarding Adults Threshold Guidance Tool, successfully trialled by Sunderland City Council's Safeguarding Adults Team, has been rolled out for use across all agencies working with adults at risk across Sunderland. The guidance is available for download from [SSAB's website](#), and seeks to support practitioners, partners and providers, working within the adult sector, to report and respond to concerns at the appropriate level and to have a consistency of approach across all agencies.

The guidance is not a substitute for professional judgement but should be used to assist decision making and support professional judgement. The guidance is available to help determine a consistent approach to identifying what concerns may require a response under the safeguarding process, and to support decision-making when alternative processes should be used.

All organisations working within the adult health, care and support sector are encouraged to ensure their workers are aware of the refreshed Safeguarding Adults Threshold Guidance Tool, and use it to support their decision making in relation to any safeguarding adult concerns.

Sunderland Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report 2021-2022: Easy Read

The Board's [Annual Report](#), looking back over the challenges and achievements of 2021-2022 is available to read on our [website](#). The purpose of the report is to allow a wider audience to get an overview of the main work areas of SSAB and includes contributions from the statutory partners, demonstrating their key safeguarding activities and focus for the period. An easy read version of the report has recently been published and is available [here](#).

Save the Date! Think Family Safeguarding Conference 2023

Sunderland Safeguarding Adults Board is pleased to be collaborating with Sunderland Safeguarding Children's Partnership, South Tyneside and Sunderland NHS Foundation Trust, Sunderland and South Tyneside Integrated Care Providers and South Tyneside Safeguarding Children and Adults Partnership to deliver a free Think Family conference on Wednesday 20th September 2023.

The final programme will be confirmed at a later date, however the range of topics to be covered (which may be subject to change) include:

- Fire prevention and learning from recent cases
- Self-neglect
- Learning from South Tyneside and Sunderland Safeguarding Adults Reviews on mental capacity and executive functioning
- Suicide in relation to young people
- Exploitation relating to criminal activity and knife crime

Further information regarding the confirmed programme and booking information will be circulated in due course.



Subject: 'Save the Date – 20th September 2023 – Safeguarding Conference 'Think Family'

Dear Colleagues,

You are requested to save the date of **20th September 2023** for the joint collaborative conference held by South Tyneside and Sunderland NHS Foundation Trust, South Tyneside and Sunderland Integrated Care Providers, South Tyneside Safeguarding Adults and Children Partnership, Sunderland Safeguarding Adults Board and Sunderland Safeguarding Children Partnership.

To be held at **Rainton Meadows Arena, Mercantile Road, Houghton le Spring, DH4 5PH from 8.30am until 4.30pm.**

The final programme is yet to be confirmed; however the range of topics to be covered at the conference (which may be subject to change) is set out below:

- Fire prevention and learning from recent cases
- Self-Neglect and learning from South Tyneside and Sunderland Safeguarding Adult reviews around Mental Capacity and executive functioning
- Suicide in relation to young people
- Exploitation relating to criminal activity and knife crime

Please note places are limited and will be allocated on a first-come first-served basis.

Further information regarding the programme and booking information will be circulated in due course.

Focus On: Self-Neglect

Self-neglect covers a wide range of behaviour including where an adult neglects to care for their personal hygiene, health or surroundings, and includes behaviour such as hoarding. Adults who self-neglect are more likely to live alone, be an older person, experience mental ill-health, have alcohol or drug problems and have a history of poor personal hygiene or living conditions.

Three recognised forms of self-neglect include:

Lack of self-care: this may include neglecting personal hygiene, nutrition and hydration or health (e.g. non-attendance at medical appointments)

Lack of care of one's environment: This may result in unpleasant or dirty home conditions, and increased risk of fire due to hoarding

Refusal of services that could alleviate these issues

Hoarding is distinct to the act of collecting and is different from people whose property is generally cluttered and messy. There are three types:

Inanimate objects: most common, could consist of one type of object or a collection of a mixture of objects

Animal hoarding: obsessive collecting of animals, often with an inability to provide minimal standards of care

Data hoarding: a new phenomenon of hoarding. Could present with the storage of data collection equipment, a need to store copies of emails and other information in electronic format

Signs of possible self-neglect include:

- Not enough food, or food is unsafe for consumption
- Home is filthy, odorous, hazardous or unsafe
- Major repairs/maintenance to the home required
- Presence of human or animal faeces
- Accumulation of possessions
- A large number of pets and/or abuse or neglect of pets

The adult may:

- Have dirty hair, nails and skin
- Smell of urine and/or faeces
- Have rashes or pressure ulcers
- Have poor diet and/or hydration
- Show increased confusion, disorientation or dementia
- Have deteriorating health
- Be isolated

What to do

One of the first consideration should be whether the person has mental capacity to understand the risks associated with the actions/lack of actions. Any action proposed must be with the person's consent, where they have mental capacity, unless there is a risk to others (such as a fire risk due to hoarding, or public health concerns).

In most cases early intervention and preventative actions can result in positive outcomes. consideration should be given to:

- Positively engaging the person from the beginning of your involvement
- Obtaining informed consent
- Carry out a mental capacity assessment where appropriate
- Use descriptive 'plain English' when recording information
- Don't close a case because the person simply refuses an assessment

Raising a Safeguarding Concern

Responding to self-neglect depends upon the level of risk/harm posed to the person and/or others, and whether the person is able to protect themselves and determine their own action.

Workers and volunteers should refer to the [threshold guidance](#) to determine whether a safeguarding concern should be raised.

Self-Neglect Resources

- **Training:** SSAB offers both trainer-led and e-learning courses on a range of safeguarding topics, including self-neglect. For further information on accessing the training visit [SSAB's website](#)
- **7 minute briefings:** a range of 7 minute briefings are available on [SSAB's website](#), including a suite of briefings focussing on aspects of self-neglect
- **Animation:** [What to do about Self-Neglect](#) is an animation produced by the North East ADASS (Association of Directors of Adult Social Services) Safeguarding Network (of which SSAB is a member)
- **Self-Neglect Guidance:** SSAB has produced a [guidance document](#) for people supporting adults with care and support needs who are at risk of harm as a result of self-neglect and/or hoarding
- **Safeguarding Adults Multi-Agency Procedures:** These procedures have been produced by SSAB to guide and inform the practice of all individuals within all organisations working in partnership to safeguard adults at risk and are available to access from [SSAB's website](#)
- **Webinar videos:** North East ADASS hosted a webinar on behalf of the regional Safeguarding Network in Safeguarding Adults Week 2022. The video presentations from this webinar covered Self-Neglect related topics such as substance misuse, homelessness and hoarding. You can view them on [North East ADASS's YouTube page](#)

Fire Safety and Safeguarding Adults

Tyne & Wear Fire and Rescue Service (TWFRS) has recently flagged a concerning rise in fire deaths across the North East. Many of these involved one or more of the following themes:

- older, vulnerable people with health conditions that made their mobility restricted, reducing their chances of escaping in the event of a fire

- smoking
- use of emollients (skin creams that can be highly flammable)
- self-neglect

TWFRS has some excellent fire safety tips [on their website](#) and people can see if they are eligible for a free [Safe & Well check](#). This involves a uniformed member of TWFRS staff visiting the person's home and carrying out a risk assessment. They will then:

- give you detailed safety advice specific to you and your home
- fit smoke alarms and issue protective equipment if necessary
- offer you the opportunity to ask any questions

Safe and Well checks normally take around 30 to 45 minutes, but this can vary depending on your circumstances.

Professionals can also refer an individual (with consent) for a Safe and Well check - the referral form for this is available on the Key Documents page of the [SSAB website](#), under the 'Forms and Guidance' heading.

Locally, SSAB published the 'Alan' SAR in 2021 and the report can be viewed on the Learning Resources page of the [SSAB website](#). It was a fire death involving smoking as well as other complex factors such as alcohol misuse, brain injury and mental capacity issues, and raises important learning points about considering the impact of mental capacity and executive functioning on decision-making ability. If you're not familiar with the learning from this case, please read, and share the report with anyone else who you think would benefit, such as colleagues or people in your networks.

SSAB Safeguarding Adults Training

SSAB offers a range of safeguarding adults training, which is available to all employees and volunteers working in health and/or social care settings, care homes and home care service providers, and the voluntary and community sector within Sunderland.

Trainer-Led Courses

Raising a Safeguarding Concern: suitable for workers who may receive an Alert from a member of staff. Typically for staff who act in a supervisory or managerial capacity and/or designated as having the Safeguarding Adults 'Responsible Person' role in their organisation

Multi-Agency Roles in the Safeguarding Process: suitable for workers whose role requires them to be involved in cross-agency or inter-professional safeguarding enquiries. Such staff would normally be responsible for attending and contributing to safeguarding meetings

Mental Capacity Act & Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards (DoLS): suitable for anyone working with or caring for adults who may lack mental capacity to make their own decisions, anyone working in adult registered care homes or hospital in-patient settings, and anyone working with individuals being cared for in the afore-mentioned settings

How to Assess Mental Capacity: suitable for 'frontline' staff working with adults who may lack capacity, and supporting decision making and safeguarding, such as Occupational Therapists, Social Workers, Nursing staff, Housing Officers, etc.

Self-Neglect & Hoarding: suitable for anyone who works directly with people within the community. Housing, Social Work, Police, Fire Service, Ambulance Service, Domiciliary Care, Occupational Therapists, Physiotherapists, Environmental Health, Health Care Staff, and General Practitioners would find this course particularly useful. It is beneficial to have a good understanding of the Mental Capacity Act before attending

Further details regarding training dates, a nomination form and contact details for the Learning and Skills Service are available on [SSAB's website](#).

E-Learning

SSAB's e-learning offers a range of safeguarding courses commissioned from Virtual College. To register visit the [SSAB website](#) and follow the link to complete the simple self-registration process. There are a wide range of e-learning courses available, the following in particular, are in line with SSAB's strategic priorities:

- Self-Neglect
- Understanding the importance of the Mental Capacity Act and Liberty Protection Safeguards
- Suicidal Thoughts
- Awareness of Domestic Violence and Abuse

Romance Fraud



I'm so glad you accepted my friend request. You look ~~really handsome~~ in your picture. *like someone I could easily scam*

Could you spot a romance fraudster?
Click here to find out how to report it

CrimeStoppers.
0800 555111
100% anonymous. Always.

1 - <https://crimestoppers-uk.org/keeping-safe/fraud/romance-fraud>

Romance fraud occurs when you think you've met the perfect partner online, but they are using a fake profile to form a relationship with you.

They gain your trust over a number of weeks or months and have you believe you are in a loving and caring relationship. However, the criminal's end goal is only ever to get your money or personal information.

Criminals are experts at impersonating people. They spend hours researching you for their scams, especially when committing romance fraud.

Stop and think: it could protect you and your money.

IF YOU HAVE ANY INFORMATION ABOUT THOSE BEHIND ROMANCE FRAUD SCAMS, CONTACT [CRIMESTOPPERS](#) 100% ANONYMOUSLY

How to spot the signs

- You've struck up a relationship with someone online and they declare their love for you quickly. Many fraudsters claim to be overseas because they work in the military or medical profession.
- They make up excuses as to why they can't video chat or meet in person, and will try to move your conversations off the platform you met on.
- When they ask for financial help, it'll be for a time-critical emergency, and the reason will be something that pulls at the heartstrings. They may get defensive if you decline to help.
- Their pictures are too perfect – they may have been stolen from an actor or model. [Reverse image search](#) can find photos that have been taken from somewhere else.
- They tell you to keep your relationship private and not to discuss anything with your friends and family.

How to protect yourself

- STOP: Take a moment to stop and think before parting with your money or information.
- CHALLENGE: Is this person really who they say they are? Could it be fake? It's OK to reject, refuse or ignore any requests for your financial or personal details. Criminals will try to rush or panic you.
- PROTECT: Contact your bank immediately if you think you've fallen for a scam and report it to [Action Fraud](#).

Are you a victim of romance fraud?

If you think you've been a victim of a scam, don't feel ashamed or embarrassed - you are not alone. Contact your bank immediately and report it to [Action Fraud](#) on 0300 123 2040 or via [actionfraud.police.uk](https://www.actionfraud.police.uk).

NEW GUIDE

Could you spot
a romance
fraudster?



2 - <https://crimestoppers-uk.org/getmedia/81014543-5933-4359-a319-b9a6b289ac96/Final-romance-fraud-e-booklet.pdf>

Romance Fraud E-Booklet

[Download the new romance fraud e-booklet](#), developed by Thames Valley Police's Economic Crime Unit alongside Dr Elisabeth Carter, Senior Lecturer in Criminology and Forensic Linguist at the University of Roehampton, and designed to demonstrate and combat the clever tactics used by romance fraudsters, with a view to empowering the knowledge of our communities.

On the Horizon

Safeguarding Adults Multi-Agency Procedures

Sunderland Safeguarding Adults Board are in the final stages of refreshing their multi-agency safeguarding adults procedures, making them more user-friendly and easier to navigate. The current version of the procedures is available on [SSAB's website](#), and will be replaced with the refreshed version in the coming months.

Safeguarding Adults Awareness-Raising Ad Campaign

SSAB will soon launch an awareness campaign on the topic of Adult Safeguarding with the message that safeguarding is everybody's business, and with a call to action on what to do if you are worried about someone, using a range of media platforms including:

- Press and online
- Radio
- Television
- Bus streetliners and passenger panels
- Bus shelter panels
- Petrol pumps

Look out for our ads across Sunderland!

Useful Resources

Please note, these links are being provided as a convenience and for informational purposes only; they do not constitute an endorsement or an approval by SSAB of any of the products, services or opinions of the Board or its representatives. SSAB bears no responsibility for the accuracy, legality or

content of the external site or for that of subsequent links. Please contact the external site for answers to questions regarding its content.

Exploring Complexity: Mental Capacity Assessment Video:

Adult social care practitioners need to be comfortable with assessing mental capacity in a range of complex circumstances and in working with people where they are found to lack capacity to make their own decisions.

This webinar, recorded in November 2021 with Alex Ruck Keene explores how relevant legislation fits with national policy, including the strengths based perspective, and professional ethics. Complex practice examples to support delegates to develop their skills in mental capacity assessment will be explored.

This recording is unlikely to meet the needs of people in newly qualified roles and is more suited to delegates who have experience in applying the Mental Capacity Act (MCA) 2005 in practice and aims to act as a refresher of the MCA principles and to support experienced practitioners consolidate their knowledge.

Click [here](#) to view.

Liberty Protection Safeguards (LPS): Information Animation

A short animation, produced for the NHS National Safeguarding Team, that gives information about the change from DoLS to LPS. It also describes the key differences between the 2 pieces of legislation.

Click [here](#) to view.

NWG Network: Safeguarding Podcasts

NWG have a number of podcasts available covering a range of current safeguarding topics, each with guest speakers and useful resources. Topics include:

- Safeguarding in Sports - who are the enablers?
- Northumberland's response to transitional safeguarding - the journey so far
- Busting homelessness law myths

Click [here](#) and follow the links to listen.

Enhance the UK - Sex and Relationship Resources for People with Disabilities

Anyone can experience physical, emotional or sexual abuse. But research shows that [disabled people may be more at risk of experiencing violence, bullying or controlling behaviour](#).

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) estimated that in the three years ending March 2018, 3.7% of disabled adults aged 16 to 59 years reported experiencing any sexual assault in the last year in England and Wales, compared with 1.9% of non-disabled adults.

In the same time period, disabled women were almost twice as likely to have experienced a sexual assault in the last year, at 5.7% compared to 3.0% for non-disabled women.

Due to a lack of healthy sex education, sometimes people may not understand that they are experiencing sexual violence. Abusers may use threats, coercion or gaslighting, which can make situations more confusing.

Understanding the role of consent is vital, although some disabilities can make it difficult to communicate feeling uncomfortable, or to withdraw consent.

It can also be much harder for disabled people to report abuse. They may face challenges in accessing services to make a report, or their abuser may remove communication tools they need to be able to get help.

It can be difficult to know where you can go to access help or report a sexual violence crime. There is also less awareness around where to find support groups or networks.

Enhance the UK aims to highlight this issue and raise awareness of where people can go to access help and the impact of sexual violence on disabled people.

To learn more about Enhance the UK's campaign and to access information, resources and advice, click [here](#).

Report a Concern

Everyone has a responsibility to safeguard children, young people and adults who may be at risk of abuse.

If you are worried about someone:

- In an emergency call 999
- If there is no immediate risk, call the police on 101

If you are a professional wishing to report a safeguarding concern regarding an adult, follow the link below to the on-line Portal for Providers and professionals: [Worried about someone? \(sunderland.gov.uk\)](#)

If your concern relates to a child, please call 0191 520 5560.

Future Articles

If you have an idea for an article for a future publication, please contact the Strategic Safeguarding Team: strategic.safeguarding@sunderland.gov.uk