



# Sunderland Safeguarding Adults Board Newsletter August 2024



[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

## Issue 20 | Summer 2024

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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.

## Publication of the 'Joseph' Safeguarding Adult Review (SAR): Report and Resources

On 18th July 2024, the executive summary of the 'Joseph' (pseudonym) Safeguarding Adult Review (SAR) report was published, along with some useful resources in the form of two 7-minute briefings. Joseph was a 20-year old man with a learning disability, Prader-Willi Syndrome, obesity, hyperventilation syndrome, Type 2 diabetes and behaviour that challenged. He sadly died following a hospital admission for an infection. The SAR was conducted by SSAB to look at how agencies had worked together to support Joseph, what was good practice, and what learning could be taken from the case to make improvements for other people with similar issues in future. As Joseph was placed in Sunderland from another local authority in Teesside, the recommendations made in the report also apply to the Teeswide Safeguarding Adults Board and its partners, including the North East & North Cumbria Integrated Care Board (NENC ICB).

### Lessons Learnt & Key Themes:

- Understanding of Prader-Willi Syndrome (PWS)
- Mental capacity assessments
- Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards (DoLS)
- Use of hospital passports
- Support for and involvement of parents/guardians/informal carers
- Action planning and referral tracking
- Commissioning of placements for people with PWS
- Awareness of Self-Neglect
- Case management

### Further Reading:

The Joseph SAR Executive Summary report is available to read on the SSAB website [here](#). There is also a [7-minute briefing](#) summarising the case. As part of the recommendations from the SAR, SSAB has also produced a [7-minute briefing on PWS and Mental Capacity](#).

## Sunderland City Council's Adult Services Prevention Strategy

Sunderland City Council's Adult Services has recently produced and launched their Prevention Strategy. In it, they note that local authorities have a duty under the Care Act 2014 to provide services that will contribute towards preventing, reducing or delaying the need for care and/or support.

As part of Sunderland City Council's strategy for achieving the council's vision and meeting the requirements of the Care Act, Sunderland's Adult Services has committed to delivering a relentless focus on a preventative approach using existing and developing new community assets, whilst embedding a culture that embraces the positive outcomes that technology can bring.

CQC also recognises the importance of moving from a reactive to a preventative care model in order to ensure people are enabled to have longer, more fulfilling and independent lives. The promotion of wellbeing and independence is central to the city's ambition to enable people to live healthier, independent lives for longer, remaining in their own home and actively engaging in their community.

Adult Services will continue to work in partnership with other organisations and communities to empower Sunderland's residents to retain their independence and consider residents who may or may not have eligible social care needs and their carers, in the continuous development of a local approach to prevention. The Prevention Strategy sets out the progress made towards embedding preventative approaches in Adult Services' ways of working and how they will accelerate this in the next two years.

SSAB notes that the Adult Services Prevention Strategy aligns with SSAB's commitment to prevention of harm, abuse and neglect and increasing the independence and safety of individuals who are at risk of these occurring. The strategy can be viewed on the Council's website [here](#).

## Safe and Found Online: The Digital Information Bank committed to Safeguarding Vulnerable People

As one of SSAB's statutory partners, Northumbria Police is currently raising the profile of Safe and Found Online. It incorporates Herbert Protocol questions into an online format for easy retrieval in a missing adult situation (the Herbert Protocol is a national scheme introduced by the police in partnership with other agencies which encourages carers and family members to record useful information which could be used in the event of a vulnerable person with Alzheimer's or Dementia going missing. You can find out more about this on [Northumbria Police's website](#)).

Previously, this information was stored on a paper form completed by the family or the care home of the Alzheimer's or dementia patient. This could lead to delays in finding and accessing the information if the form couldn't easily be located.

Whilst the preference is to ensure all relevant information is stored online, the paper form option will still be available so that people without the use of a computer can still access it. To download a copy of the Herbert Protocol form, visit: [Herbert Protocol form \(northumbria.police.uk\)](#). Physical copies of the form can also be obtained at any police station front office.

Safe and Found Online is free of charge. It combines a website and a mobile phone app with a single online secure profile which can be updated easily and accurately. It incorporates an optional GPS app, recording both current and historic data. With pre-agreed permission, if the person profiled is

reported missing, it allows police to have instant access to life-saving information. It has the option for a carer to complete the profile information, when the individual themselves lacks capacity, e.g. if they have dementia. Photos of the individual can also be included on the Safe and Found Online profile, as well as information about medical conditions.

SSAB partner agencies are being asked to promote Safe and Found Online and the Herbert Protocol, and to encourage any service users/patients who would benefit from it, to register.

To register for Safe and Found Online, go to <https://safeandfoundonline.co.uk/register.php>

To report a person who has gone missing, always call 999.

Further reading: a [Northumbria Police news article from July 2024](#) provides more information about the launch of Safe and Found Online and how it works.

## The Forcer Protocol: Missing Adults who are Armed Forces Veterans

The Forcer Protocol is named after Alan Forcer, an individual who served in the armed forces who went missing and died. Cleveland Police were issued with recommendations following a Coroner's Inquest into the incident, and the Forcer Protocol is the outcome. The protocol is incorporated into the [Safe and Found Online service](#) (see above article) to help with risk assessments and missing from home enquiries relating to veterans of the armed forces (including reservists). It is a tool used by the police to ensure key information is available to them when they are searching for service veterans who have gone missing.

Service veterans, their informal and professional carers, family members and friends can complete the form which records vital information in relation to the veteran in case they go missing. It can be amended as many times as needed which will make sure police have the most up to date information about the missing person. More information can be found on the Northumbria Police website [here](#).

The Forcer Protocol was launched on 29th July 2024 via the [Safe and Found Online](#) platform and SSAB partner agencies are being asked to promote this platform and the Forcer Protocol, and to encourage any service users/patients who would benefit from it, to register.

Some relevant statistics:

- The British Journal of Psychiatry has the figure of 6% as an overall rate of probable PTSD (post traumatic stress disorder) among current and ex-serving military personnel
- The research department Combat Stress found 66% of veterans still met the criteria for PTSD at the end of their standard treatment
- The University of Manchester studied risk of suicide in veterans and found that for those aged 25 or under, they had a 2 - 4 times higher risk of suicide than the general population.

## Introduction to Rise Northeast, a charity focusing on using physical activity to create a better quality of life in communities

Rise Northeast's vision is to create a higher quality of life for communities that need it the most in Northumberland and Tyne & wear, using the power of physical activity.

They:

- Work with a wide range of partners to highlight how physical activity and movement can be introduced to help them achieve their aims and the common goal of tackling inequalities across our region.
- Know that being active and moving more has a positive impact for individuals and communities. It brings people together, raises aspirations, improves educational attainment, improves health and supports greener travel.
- Work with partners to collaborate around many of the big issues that are facing our communities today, and collectively effect long-term system change in order to positively impact more lives across Northumberland and Tyne & Wear.

Richard Steele is the Sport Welfare Manager working for your Active Partnership 'Rise Northeast'. His role is to provide help/support to clubs in the South of the Tyne area (Gateshead, South Tyneside, and Sunderland). His role has been developed as part of the national network of Sport Welfare Officers, funded by Sport England as one of their commitments in the policy response to the [Whyte review](#). The main aim of this role is to develop and work in partnership with a range of organisations within and beyond sport to contribute towards effective welfare practices and safer, more inclusive club environments for all participants. The ways in which he can offer support to sports clubs/physical activity providers include:

- Help develop basic safeguarding and welfare policies and procedures
- Signposting clubs to appropriate advice, guidance and learning opportunities
- Supporting National Governing bodies and club welfare officers to create an effective welfare and safeguarding culture within organisations
- Facilitate local training opportunities and events in terms of welfare and safeguarding
- Create a network so that volunteers and staff feel better connected and informed about safeguarding and welfare practices across a wide range of sports
- Recognise, develop, and share best practice in relation to safer club environments so that clubs can refine their own practices
- Raise awareness of all round welfare and safeguarding (e.g. mental health, exploitation awareness, gambling and gaming addictions, anti-bullying, improved inclusion, diversity, and equality) for both young people and adults.

Please reach out if there's anything Richard can help/support with; he looks forward to working with you.

Contact details: Richard Steele, Sport Welfare Manager, Rise Northeast Email: [richard.steele@wearerise.co.uk](mailto:richard.steele@wearerise.co.uk) Mobile: 07526 511841 Website: <https://www.wearerise.co.uk/>



*1 - Richard Steele*

## Sunderland Safeguarding Learning Week 2024

SSAB participates in National Safeguarding Adults Week and in 2024 this is 18th – 22nd November. Locally it is used to highlight Sunderland’s Safeguarding Adults Awareness Campaign, coordinated by SSAB.

For 2024, we are again going to be teaming up with Sunderland Safeguarding Children Partnership (SSCP) to deliver 'Safeguarding Learning Week', a timetable of events (some online, some in person) aimed at professionals, on a range of safeguarding themes. Events will include webinars, briefings and learning opportunities. Some of these events will be delivered by our Board/Partnership member organisations, and some will be for the whole region, not just Sunderland. The event timetable will be published nearer the time – as the week approaches, please keep checking back to the [Safeguarding Week webpage](#) on the SSAB website for more information on how to sign up for events!

Feedback from participants in the week we ran in 2023 was broadly positive, with increases in learning and knowledge and intentions to positively change practice as a result being highlighted.

**#SafeguardingLearningWeek**

**#SafeguardingSunderlandTogether**

**#NationalSafeguardingWeek**

**#SafeguardingIsEverybodysBusiness**

The Ann Craft Trust coordinates National Safeguarding Adults Week. The theme for Safeguarding Adults Week 2024 is 'Working in Partnership'. Each day, there will be a focus on a specific topic to facilitate conversations around the theme:

- Monday – Look, Listen, Ask – Developing Professional Curiosity
- Tuesday – Working in Partnership – how to work effectively with the people you support
- Wednesday – Establishing Professional Boundaries

- Thursday – Recognising Exploitation: The Ladder of Criminality
- Friday – Professional and Organisational Learning

Resources from previous National Safeguarding Adults Weeks and more information about the themes for 2024 can be found on the Ann Craft Trust website: [Ann Craft Trust – Safeguarding Adults Week 2024](https://www.anncrafttrust.org/working-in-partnership)

If your agency would like to participate in delivering a webinar, in-person session or briefing on one of the above themes or a related safeguarding topic, and is happy to open your session up to multi-agency attendees, please contact the SSAB Business Unit via email: [strategic.safeguarding@sunderland.gov.uk](mailto:strategic.safeguarding@sunderland.gov.uk) by Friday 27th September 2024 and we'd be pleased to hear your ideas.



## New SSAB Posters for Public and Professionals

SSAB's posters were previously last updated in 2022. We have now refreshed these two posters for 2024 in order to enable our two main audiences, public and professionals, to more easily get in contact to report a concern - incorporating the use of QR codes and simplified weblinks to modernise the ways in which people can engage when they need to.

This follows on from some work in the Quality Assurance Sub Committee on behalf of SSAB, with actions identified to continue to undertake proactive safeguarding adults awareness raising activity with the public and professionals.

Agencies reading this are requested to take action in the following ways:

- Replace any older design SSAB posters displayed in your buildings and on your website as soon as possible with the new designs (they can also be [downloaded from the SSAB website here](#))
- Promote and share the new posters with your staff, colleagues and networks
- Promote and share the new posters via your social media channels



SUNDERLAND  
SAFEGUARDING  
ADULTS BOARD

# Adult Abuse



**Recognise it. Report it. Stop it.**

Abuse **can** and **does** happen to adults.

[www.sunderlandsab.org.uk](http://www.sunderlandsab.org.uk)

Worried about someone?

If you're worried about your safety or someone else's, scan this QR code to complete the online reporting form:



Or call 0191 520 5552

Or visit [www.sunderland.gov.uk/report-it](http://www.sunderland.gov.uk/report-it) and click 'safeguarding concern'



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SAFEGUARDING  
ADULTS BOARD

# Adult Abuse



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[www.sunderlandsab.org.uk](http://www.sunderlandsab.org.uk)

Are you a professional needing to report a Safeguarding Concern (SAC)?

Scan this QR code to access the guidance and submit a SAC, or visit [www.sunderland.gov.uk/report-it](http://www.sunderland.gov.uk/report-it) and click 'safeguarding concern'.





## Focus On: Organisational Abuse

Organisational Abuse is defined in the Care and Support Statutory Guidance as "including neglect and poor care practice within an institution or specific care setting such as a hospital or care home, for example, or in relation to care provided in one's own home. This may range from one off incidents to on-going ill-treatment. It can be through neglect or poor professional practice as a result of the structure, policies, processes and practices within an organisation".

Organisational abuse can include a range of issues and can be viewed in terms of low level, significant level and critical level incidents.

Low level organisational abuse risks/issues are isolated incidents with no impact or short-term impact on the adult at risk. They are unintended or ill-informed, with poor or bad practice, but not illegal, and are very unlikely to recur. Low level organisational abuse risks include:

- Lack of stimulation/ opportunities for people to engage in social and leisure activities
- Service users not given sufficient voice or involve in the running of the service
- Denial of individuality and opportunities for service user to make informed choice and take responsible risks
- Care-planning documentation not person-centred
- Poor record keeping
- Mental capacity not evidenced, considered, or assessed
- Poor infection control practices
- Lack of transparency
- Few or no safeguarding concerns are reported, and the provider is not engaged within other forums where best practice and learning is shared
- Lack of leadership and supervision
- A run down or overcrowded service-setting.
- Lack of dignity, basic care
- Service design or environmental factors.

Significant level organisational abuse risks/issues are repeated incidents with some impact but not long-lasting. Their intent is opportunistic or serious unprofessional response and can count as a criminal act. Significant level organisational abuse is unlikely to recur if significant changes are made, e.g., training, supervision, support. Examples of significant level organisational abuse:

- Rigid/inflexible routines
- Service user's dignity is undermined e.g. lack of privacy during support with intimate care needs, sharing under-clothing
- Bad/poor practice not being reported and going unchecked
- Unsafe and unhygienic living environments

- Incidents of abuse or neglect not reported
- A sudden increase in safeguarding concerns
- Frequent unexplained decline in service users' health and wellbeing
- Mismanagement of safeguarding concerns
- Mental capacity not evidenced, considered, or assessed
- Multiple hospital admissions leading to safeguarding enquiries
- Overuse of restrictive practices
- Misuse of residents' money
- Provider fails to improve in response to reviews, inspections, and audits
- Abusive and disrespectful attitudes
- Unclear roles and responsibilities within the organisation, regarding the safeguarding lead (s) and nominated individual
- Adult at risk sustains significant harm and evidence of neglect and acts of omission
- Denying adult at risk access to professional support and services such as advocacy
- Incidents of abuse or neglect not reported
- A sudden increase in safeguarding concerns
- Frequent unexplained decline in service users' health and wellbeing
- Mental capacity not evidenced, considered, or assessed
- Multiple hospital admissions leading to safeguarding enquiries
- Overuse of restrictive practices
- Misuse of residents' money
- The provider fails to improve in response to reviews, inspections, and audits.

Critical level organisational abuse risks/issues are repeated incidents which have continued for a significant period and have a serious long-lasting impact. Their intent is planned and deliberately malicious, and counts as a serious criminal act. Unless stopped altogether, these issues are likely to recur even if changes are made or more support provided. Examples of critical level organisational abuse:

- Staff misusing their position of power over service users
- Over-medication and/or inappropriate restraint used to manage behaviour
- Widespread consistent ill-treatment
- Adult at risk experiences significant harms or dies, and neglect or acts of omission are evident
- Lack of access (see also [CQC identifying closed cultures and responding](#))

- Whistleblowing/complaints
- Lack of leadership and supervision
- Concerns regarding culture: evidence of negativity, conflict, mistrust which is impacting on the delivery of the service
- Intentionally or knowingly failing to adhere to Mental Capacity Act
- Punitive responses to challenging behaviours
- Failure to refer disclosure of abuse
- Recurrent incidents of ill treatment by care provider to more than one service user over a period
- Service design where group of adults living together are incompatible and harm occurs.

An Organisational Abuse Good Practice Toolkit has been developed by North East ADASS Safeguarding Network, of which SSAB is a member. It was developed following a regional benchmarking activity and survey completed by each area in the Network, to identify what was needed to support more consistent practice relating to organisational abuse processes.

The aim of this document is to illustrate a set of principles and support for local authorities as the lead agency for dealing with concerns relating to organisational abuse for both commissioned and non-commissioned providers. It aims to set out a range of practice tips to inform and support a consistent and coordinated approach to addressing organisational abuse concerns and/or significant quality concerns about a service provider, inclusive of communication and information sharing minimum standards and consideration to parallel processes.

ADASS North East agreed to develop a regional tool to support a shared understanding of 'what constitutes an organisational abuse enquiry'. It is recognised that each local authority will have their own internal mechanisms and structures in responding to organisational abuse, this tool aims to inform and support existing mechanisms rather than replace. It is not prescriptive nor mandated but can be viewed as a helpful resource to support practice related to organisational abuse processes and/or individual local authority policies. Other agencies are of course welcome to use this toolkit to think about organisational abuse issues and how to address them in partnership with the Local Authority.

The toolkit is in 5 key sections:

- **Introduction and purpose**
- **Definition and core messages:** What is organisational abuse – Care Act legislation, core messages, case studies, reporting, responding and recording, wider learning and Safeguarding Adults Reviews, variations in language, pathways or processes, locations of organisational abuse/types of provision.
- **Developing a common understanding of Organisational abuse:** Core principles for good practice, applying Care and Support guidance to provide greater consistency and links to NHS Digital/SAC guidance and individual S42 enquiries, closed cultures and secure settings, cross boundary and out of area guidance, interface with commissioning, complaints and CQC, making Safeguarding Personal, and outcomes for individuals.

- **Key issues to improve consistency in reporting and responding to Organisational abuse:** Roles and responsibilities of other agencies/services, Out of area/placing authorities and their role in organisational abuse enquiries, provider principles and requirements, sharing good practice examples, tools to support decision making.
- **Further information:** Appendices, additional resources.

You can view and download the toolkit from SSAB website's [Learning Resources](#) page. Please take some time to read it and promote it within your organisation and networks where applicable.

Other related resources available on the SSAB website:

- [ADASS Safeguarding People in Closed Environments Checklist](#) This tool is aimed at both senior managers and front-line practitioners. It is based on a review of evidence from serious case reviews & other research about what to look out for when reviewing placements or 'closed' environments where people may be experiencing abuse.
- [SSAB Presentation: Creating Safer Cultures in Health & Care Settings](#) This presentation can be used with your staff as a training and/or discussion tool to promote the creating of safer cultures in a range of health and care settings.
- [SSAB Professional Curiosity Guidance](#) This guidance document is to support professionals to use professional curiosity when working with individuals at risk of abuse and/or neglect or who have complex issues. Professional curiosity is the capacity and communication skill to explore and understand what is happening with an individual and/or within a family.

## SSAB's Training Offer

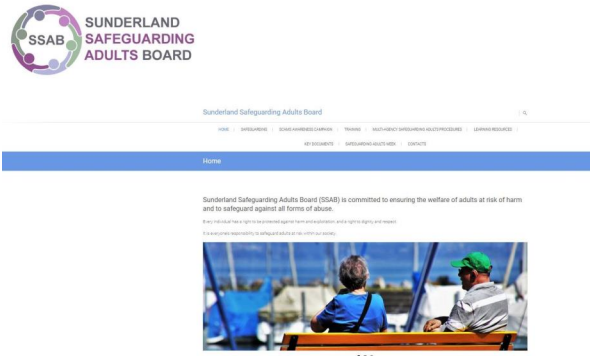


SSAB's training offer consists of both e-learning and trainer-led training courses. All details of the SSAB's training offer are available on the [Training](#) page of the SSAB website. This includes:

- E-learning - there are a large number of courses on a range of safeguarding topics, these are FREE to do - the links on the Training page will take you to SSAB's area on the Virtual College website (SSAB's commissioned e-learning provider) to either register, or log-in if already previously registered.
- Trainer-led training - SSAB offers 5 courses: Raising a Safeguarding Adults Concern; Multi-Agency Roles in the Safeguarding Adults Process; MCA & DoLS; How to Assess Mental Capacity; Self-Neglect & Hoarding. Courses are offered via a hybrid model, so attendees can choose to sign up for either online delivery or in-person delivery. Sign up is via a nomination form which is on the [Training](#) page. Trainer-led training is FREE to NHS and Council staff (due to contributions to the SSAB budget) and £20 per person per course for everyone else. To

read about the course content for these 5 courses, see the [Training](#) page on the SSAB website for clickable links to the course outlines documents.

## Sunderland Safeguarding Adults Board Website



Have you had a look at what's on offer yet? The [SSAB website](#) has a range of resources to support safeguarding adults practice and is regularly updated. As well as providing links to access multi-agency [training](#), the website also hosts:

- New-look [multi-agency safeguarding adults procedures](#)
- Learning resources, including published Safeguarding Adults Reviews, 7 Minute Briefings on a range of topics, self-neglect resources
- Key documents: publications, newsletters, forms, guidance, SSAB Annual Reports, Complex Adults Risk Management (CARM) documentation
- Safeguarding adults campaigns information

## 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.*

### [STSFT Mental Capacity Act & Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards \(DoLS\) podcasts](#)

South Tyneside and Sunderland NHS Foundation Trust (STSFT) has produced a series of podcasts on the subject of the Mental Capacity Act and Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards (DoLS) which a range of practitioners may find useful. These can be accessed using the links below (goes to YouTube):

[MCA and DoLS: From the Inside \(youtube.com\)](#)

[MCA and DoLS: From a Elder Care Perspective \(youtube.com\)](#)

[MCA and DoLS: Interface with Mental Health \(youtube.com\)](#)

[MCA and DoLS: Provision of Advocacy \(youtube.com\)](#)

[MCA and DoLS: Advocacy in Relation to Young People \(youtube.com\)](#)

[MCA and DoLS: Staff Perspective \(youtube.com\)](#)

[MCA and DoLS: Delirium and Dementia \(youtube.com\)](#)

[MCA and DoLS: Safeguarding Adult Reviews \(youtube.com\)](#)

[MCA and DoLS: Communication Difficulties \(youtube.com\)](#)

## Local Government Association resources: Reducing Restrictive Practice and Closed Cultures

The Local Government Association (LGA) has produced two guides which social care staff and a range of other practitioners may find useful.

The aim of the [Reducing Restrictive Practice](#) guidance document is to provide a briefing for commissioners of social care services for people with a learning disability and autistic people, on the recognition of restrictive practices and the requirements for social care providers to work towards reducing their use of restrictive practices. It also explains the Care Quality Commission (CQC) requirements that when arranging training on the use of, and reduction in, restrictive practices, social care providers must use accredited trainers, and explains what this involves. It is relevant for services for all ages, where they are registered and inspected by CQC.

'Closed cultures' have been identified as a major risk to the wellbeing and human rights of people with care and support needs, who are unable to protect themselves from abuse or neglect, due to their care and support needs. The aim of the [Closed Cultures in Social Care: Guidance and Questions to Ask](#) document is to provide guidance for the council workforce on identifying where a 'closed culture' may exist, or there may be a risk of one developing, in social care services for people with a learning disability and autistic people. It's advice will also be useful for other agencies to think about closed cultures.

## Alcohol Change UK Blue Light Approach & Manual

In April 2024, the Office for National Statistics released the latest figures which showed that 10,048 people died from alcohol in 2022 in the UK. The number recorded in 2022 was 4.2% higher than in 2021 (9,641 deaths; 14.9 per 100,000) and **32.8%** higher than in 2019 (7,565 deaths; 11.8 per 100,000), the last pre-pandemic year.

Alcohol Change UK has the Blue Light approach, an initiative to develop alternative approaches and care pathways for drinkers who are not in contact with treatment services, but who have complex needs. It challenges the belief that only drinkers who show clear motivation to change can be helped, and sets out positive strategies that can be used with this client group.

Alcohol Change UK's Blue Light manual sets out these strategies in detail and offers a fundamental positive message that change is possible. It contains:

- Tools for understanding why individuals may not engage
- Risk assessment tools which are appropriate for drinkers
- Harm reduction techniques workers can use
- Advice on crucial nutritional approaches which can reduce alcohol-related harm
- Questions to help non-clinicians identify where individuals may be at risk of serious health problems

- Management frameworks
- Guidance on legal frameworks

The Blue Light approach is that, while staff working with individuals may not always be able to make someone change completely, we can help reduce harm and manage the risk they pose to themselves and others. For further information on the The Blue Light approach and to download the Blue Light Manual, visit the [Alcohol Change UK website](#).

### Research in Practice Webinar - Heads Together: Brain injury and social work

Research in Practice (RiP) is offering a free webinar delivered online via Teams, from 12.00 - 1.30pm on Monday 9th September 2024. In this webinar, the Heads Together research team, including members of their experts by experience governance group, will share findings and key messages from their research into social work and people who have an acquired brain injury.

The term 'acquired brain injury' refers to any injury to the brain that occurs after birth. This includes a physical blow (for example, as a result of accident, an assault or while participating in a sport), or a medical event (such as a stroke or a brain haemorrhage).

This webinar will provide an opportunity to explore the role of social work in supporting people who have an acquired brain injury, and to introduce the Brain Injury Social Work Platform which contains accessible resources to support effective social work education, practice and commissioning in this area. The intended audience is social workers, senior practitioners and the Principal Social Worker. [Click this link to the RiP website](#) to find out more and sign up to the webinar.

## 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 you are a member of the public and worried about your own safety or about the safety of someone else, you can call Sunderland City Council on 0191 520 5552. Alternatively, you can also visit the Sunderland City Council website and complete the member of public [online referral form](#).

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](mailto:strategic.safeguarding@sunderland.gov.uk)