



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](#)

Issue 14 | September 2022

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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.

Learning Week

[#SafeguardingSunderlandTogether](#)

Sunderland Safeguarding Adults Board are partnering with Sunderland Safeguarding Children's Partnership and the Safer Sunderland Partnership to deliver a week of conferences, workshops, talks and presentations from Monday 21st November - Friday 25th November 2022, coinciding with National Safeguarding Adults Week.

The theme for the week is The Power of One with professional curiosity and responding to trauma being the golden thread throughout the week's activities.

Daily themes will include:

- Exploitation
- Neglect
- Multi-Agency Partnership Working
- Recognising Abuse
- Domestic Abuse

A full timetable of events and details on how to book your place will be available in due course.



SSCP
SUNDERLAND
SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN
PARTNERSHIP

Sunderland
Partnership



**SUNDERLAND
SAFEGUARDING
ADULTS BOARD**

Save the Date—Sunderland Safeguarding Learning Week 2022

Monday 21st November—Friday 25th November

The Power of One—how to respond to contemporary safeguarding challenges

Sunderland Safeguarding Children Partnership and Adults Board are partnering with Safer Sunderland Partnership to bring you a week of conferences, workshops, talks, presentations and more.

This year's theme is 'The Power of One'. The events will endeavour to further ignite and utilise our passion as individual professionals whilst also working together in a multi-agency system [#safeguardingsunderlandtogether](#)

Professional curiosity and responding to trauma will be the golden thread.

Daily themes will include:

- Exploitation
- Neglect
- Multi-agency partnership working
- Recognising abuse
- Domestic abuse

The week will begin on Monday 21st November and will include an emotive interaction workshop from LadsLikeUs.co.uk, who will talk about their lived experience on a wide range of abuse. Lads Like Us believe that when trauma is acknowledged and addressed directly, it creates a better understanding to victims of why they have acted in the ways they have post abuse, and offers them a way into recovery which in turn will lead to healthier and happier families, safer communities and a reduction in antisocial behaviours and criminal activity.

A full timetable of events and details on how to book your place will be available soon.

If you and your service wish to contribute to learning week through one of the topics detailed above, please contact pamela.finn@sunderland.gov.uk, pamela.weightman@sunderland.gov.uk or amy.poulter@sunderland.gov.uk



[Voiceability](#) have been supporting people to have their say in decisions about their health, care and wellbeing for almost 40 years. They are an independent charity and provide advocacy and involvement services across the UK, including Sunderland.

Advocates are independent professionals who work with people to help them understand their options, know their rights and say what they want. Advocacy is a statutory right for eligible people. The Mental Capacity Act and Care Act state that you must refer eligible people for advocacy. The Mental Health Act states that you must make eligible people aware of how to access advocacy.

VoiceAbility Sunderland have recently been awarded the new tender for statutory services in Sunderland 2022 - 2027, which covers statutory advocacy in the following areas:

- IMHA (Mental Health Advocacy)
- IMCA (Mental Capacity Advocacy)
- Care Act Advocacy
- Relevant Person's Representative (RPR)
- Litigation Friend
- Rule 1.2 Representative
- NHS Independent Complaints Advocacy

Download the [Service Overview for Professionals in Sunderland](#) and [What is a Relevant Person's Representative \(RPR\)](#) guides for more information on services provided by Voiceability or visit [VoiceAbility Sunderland](#) for further details and how to make a referral.

Free Webinars and E-Learning

Local Government Association Webinars

The Local Government Association is hosting free webinars on the following topics:

- **DATE TO BE RESCHEDULED** (was 19th September) Transitional Safeguarding - key messages from Safeguarding Adults Reviews (SARs) and an evidence base for SARs. The webinar will draw together an analysis of SARs where transitional safeguarding has been a theme. Key messages for positive practice will be presented alongside an evidence base that can be used when auditing and reviewing cases of transitional safeguarding.
- Monday 26th September 2022, 2.00pm - 4.00pm: Transitional Safeguarding and homelessness. This webinar will focus on transitional safeguarding where young people have experienced homelessness and/or insecure forms of accommodation. There will be presentations that draw on findings from SARs, Serious Case Reviews and Research. **Follow this [link](#) to book.**
- Tuesday 18th October 2022, 10.00am - 12.00pm: Tackling Modern Day Slavery. To mark anti-slavery day, the LGA is hosting a webinar to launch their refreshed council guide on tackling modern slavery. This webinar, which will be hosted in partnership with the [Human Trafficking Foundation](#), will provide an overview of the guidance and accompanying maturity index that have been designed to support the work of councils to tackle modern day slavery in our communities. **Follow this [link](#) to book.**

E-Learning

The ACT (Action Counters Terrorism) Awareness E-Learning package has been devised by Counter Terrorism Policing and security experts and is available to public and businesses. The training is free and provides learning about the best practices to help counter terrorism and increase your security awareness. Click [here](#) to book and for further information.

Focus On: Safer Cultures

The aim of adult safeguarding is to prevent harm and reduce the risk of abuse or neglect to adults. It is also about enabling and empowering adults to live their lives as they wish, and raising public awareness so that communities alongside professionals, play their part in preventing, identifying, and responding to abuse and neglect. This means:

- Raising awareness of safeguarding amongst employees, volunteers and the general public and how concerns can be reported
- Having clear organisational procedures in place to enable the effective recognition and response to safeguarding concerns

What is a Closed Culture?

The Care Quality Commission's (CQC) defines a closed culture as 'a poor culture that can lead to harm, including human rights breaches such as abuse'. Any service that delivers care can have a closed culture, and in these services, people are more likely to be at risk of deliberate or unintentional harm.

A closed culture is one where individuals fear speaking up, that serious complaints will be dismissed or ignored, while inappropriate behaviour is accepted.

What is a Safer Culture?

The foundations of a safer culture are to:

- Listen - an environment where everyone is confident their concerns are welcomed, listened to and addressed appropriately
- Learn - Where organisations encourage continuous learning and reflection at all levels. Applying this to improve and adapt
- Lead - Organisations should lead by example to empower everyone with the confidence to challenge and instigate change

Research shows that a significant number of abuse and neglect incidents involve professionals, care workers and managers, i.e. people paid to care for and advise adults at risk. This fact places a responsibility both on workers, and those responsible for their management and supervision, to ensure that they are safe to work with adults at risk. The Care Act 2014 Statutory Guidance details the safeguarding arrangements all organisations should have in place, including:

- Safeguarding policy - clearly written, detailing the identification, response and management of safeguarding concerns and how to report them
- Systems and procedures - including the recording and sharing of information
- Whistleblowing Policy - clearly explaining how to report a concern, who to contact and how
- Rigorous recruitment practices - with appropriate application of a Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check
- Training and supervision- reflective of the role and responsibility a worker or volunteer has in safeguarding adult arrangements

Further Reading:

- [NICE: Creating a Safeguarding Culture](#)
- [Ann Craft Trust](#)
- [CQC: How CQC Identifies and Responds to Closed Cultures](#)
- [SSAB Prevention Strategy](#)
- [SSAB Multi-Agency Safeguarding Adults Procedures](#)
- [Care Act 2014 Statutory Guidance](#)

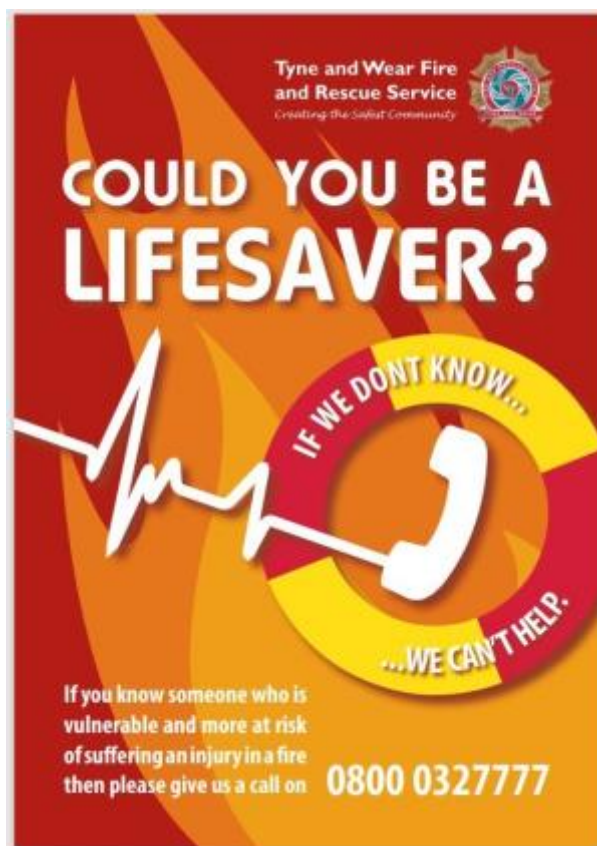
SSAB Annual Report

The Board's Annual Report, looking back over the challenges and achievements of 2020 - 2021, is available to read. 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 statutory partners, demonstrating their key safeguarding activities and focus for the period. An easy read version of the report will also be made available in due course.



1 - [Sunderland Safeguarding Adults Board: Annual Report 2021 - 2022](#)

Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service: Lifesaver Campaign



Do you ever sit up at night and worry about the safety and well-being of your elderly relatives, parents or a vulnerable member of the family?

Do you feel that their home or its contents could pose a potential fire risk?

If you're answering yes to any of the above questions then you have the power to become a...Lifesaver!

Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service have launched our Lifesaver campaign to encourage people to reach out and help save someone's life.

A simple phone call, email or social media message could be the deciding factor that helps to change a friend or family member's life forever.

The two-minute act of selflessness could include in form us about:

- An elderly parent, grandparent or relative requiring smoke alarms
- Your neighbour having an issue with hoarding and requires some safety advice or additional support
- You know a family on your street who has a vulnerable person in their property and having a 'fire escape plan' in place could be a lifesaver
- You might have an elderly relative who likes to smoke at night in their favourite armchair who could do with a fire blanket

Over the past four months 1222 referrals have been made with 717 of them being from the public – you are heroes without capes but we want more calls.

If you know someone who is vulnerable and more at risk of suffering an injury in a fire then please call 0800 0327777 or fill out [our online form here](#).

Help make a real difference and become a lifesaver today because *if we don't know, we can't help*.

Useful Resources

Safeguarding Apps

Please note any apps requiring subscription or payment are not endorsed by SSAB; the details are provided here merely for information and individuals or organisations must make their own decision on purchasing and using these apps.

Safe Car Wash

The Safe Car Wash App enables anyone who uses hand car washes to identify and report slavery. The app asks a series of questions related to the indicators of modern slavery and then assesses the answers. If there is a high likelihood that modern slavery is occurring at the hand car wash, users are invited to send a report to the Modern Slavery Helpline at the touch of a button. By visiting a hand car wash and submitting a report you can help law enforcement end exploitation at hand car washes.

For more information visit [The Clewer Initiative](#).

MYCONCERN

MyConcern is a secure and trusted safeguarding software used by education, training, sports and charity settings (plus many more) to help protect, children, young people and vulnerable adults across the UK and worldwide.

Report or update safeguarding, wellbeing and pastoral concerns as they come to your attention and receive alerts and notifications in real-time with the MyConcern companion app.

For more information visit [The Safeguarding Company](#).

Help me Angela

The help me Angela App is a personal safety app that connects you to a 24/7 live Personal Safety Specialist who will provide you with the assistance you need to help you feel safer.

For more information visit [Help Me Angela](#).

Mental Capacity Act

The Mental Capacity Act 2005 affects anyone that is unable to make their own decisions due to a condition of their mind or brain (i.e. dementia, learning disability, brain injury, confusion due to alcohol, drugs or medication). The legislation is used on a daily basis by hospitals, care homes, local authorities and families.

This easy to use App enables the user to quickly read and refer to the main parts of the Mental Capacity Act such as the principles, the capacity assessment and best interests. For the practitioner, clicking on key words instantly provides additional screens with definitions, practical examples and Code of Practice guidance. A multiple choice quiz at the end of the app will consolidate the learning process.

For more information [visit](#).

Unseen

Recognise and report modern slavery or seek help through the Unseen App.

Tens of thousands of modern slavery victims are estimated to be in the UK today, and an estimated 40 million worldwide. Slavery is happening all around us, seen but unseen, - in car washes and nail bars, hotels and restaurants, factories and warehouses, massage parlours and private homes – in fact it can be anywhere. This unseen crime, hidden in our communities, is hard to tackle if we don't know what to look for or what action to take.

The Unseen App provides a guide to understanding how women, men and children can be exploited and spotting the signs of modern slavery – the different indicators that may suggest you've come across a case of human trafficking and exploitation.

It makes reporting concerns or suspicions to Unseen's Modern Slavery Helpline easy – you can either fill in a report or call direct at the click of a button.

For more information visit [Unseen](#).

NHS England Safeguarding App

The NHS Safeguarding app has been developed to act as a comprehensive resource for healthcare professionals, carers and citizens. It provides 24-hour, mobile access on up to date legislation and guidance across the safeguarding life course.

The app also provides information on how to report a safeguarding concern and even has a directory of safeguarding contacts for every local authority in England, searchable by region.

It can be accessed via [Apple iOS](#), [Google Play](#) or it can be downloaded by visiting your device's appropriate app store and searching for 'NHS Safeguarding'.

Safeguarding Schemes and resources

Ask for ANI

Ask for ANI (Action Needed Immediately) is a codeword scheme that enables victims of domestic abuse to discreetly ask for immediate help in participating pharmacies.

The scheme was developed by the Home Office with the help of partners including the domestic abuse sector, pharmacy associations and the police. It was launched across the UK on 14 January 2021. The scheme is now managed by Hestia's [UK Says No More campaign](#).

Over half of UK pharmacies, including Boots, Lloyds and community pharmacies, are now enrolled in the scheme. People from across the UK have been supported by pharmacists to access support from the police or domestic abuse services.

For more information visit: [Ask for ANI](#).

[Avoid and Report Internet Scams and Phishing](#)

Information and guidance on how to report internet scams and phishing, and what to do if you think you've been a victim of an online scam or fraud. Visit [Gov.UK](#) for more information.

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, the Safeguarding Adult Concern (SAC) notification is now an on-line Portal for Providers and professionals: [Worried about someone? \(sunderland.gov.uk\)](#)

The Safeguarding Team have trained 118 Organisations, (365 people) on its use and the Portal system is in line with GDPR and Data Protection Act 2018.

It is a one-stop shop allowing all information relating to a SAC i.e. capacity assessments etc. to be added to the portal securely rather than send separate e-mails.

Of the 1217 most recent concerns received, a total of 677 (55.6%) were submitted via the Safeguarding Adults Portal.

Further progress will include developing the Portal for use by the Public, as well as integration with Health databases which rely on the different computer systems "talking" to one another.

The above link also includes the guidance documentation that professionals need to consider before raising a concern: guidance on completing the form itself, and the Threshold Guidance Risk Assessment Tool.

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