



# NEWSLETTER

## This issue at a glance:

- Who should read this newsletter?
- Coronavirus (COVID-19) Official Advice & Guidance
- Citizen's Advice Domestic Abuse Report
- Focus On: What to do if you suspect Adult Abuse or Neglect
- Annual Safeguarding Conference 2020
- Safeguarding Adults E-learning: Update
- Other Safeguarding Adults Online Learning Resources

## 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 & support. 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.

## Coronavirus (COVID-19): Official Advice & Guidance

The official advice on hygiene practices to help stop the spread of COVID-19 is to wash your hands:

- When you get to work or arrive at home
- After you blow your nose, sneeze or cough (make sure you cough or sneeze into a tissue and then bin it)
- Before you eat or handle food

If you, or someone you live with, suspects you have coronavirus, then you will need to self-isolate. Stay up to date with the latest official information on self-isolation and all other coronavirus advice and guidance by visiting [www.nhs.uk/coronavirus](http://www.nhs.uk/coronavirus).

## Citizen's Advice Domestic Abuse Report: The Impact of Postal Address Breaches

Citizen's Advice has published a report on Domestic Abuse & the potentially negative impact of postal address breaches on people's safety and wellbeing (both physical & mental health). This informative report has implications for how organisations interact with individuals by post. The recommendations could apply to many organisations offering help & support to those affected by domestic abuse issues, therefore it is worth considering. The full report can be read on the Citizen's Advice website [here](#).

**Sunderland Safeguarding Adults Board (SSAB)** 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**

## Focus on: What to do if you suspect Adult Abuse or Neglect

Adult Abuse and neglect is a violation of a person's human and civil rights by any other person. It's where someone does something to another person that puts that person at risk of harm or it has a negative impact on their quality of life. Adult Abuse may be deliberate, or may be the result of ignorance or lack of training and can happen once or repeatedly.

All adults have the right to live their lives free from abuse or harm. They should be able to choose how to live their lives independently, receive support in doing this and be treated with respect and dignity. Some adults may be at more risk of harm than others, including people who depend on others for care, because of age or illness, have mental ill health, have learning or physical disabilities, have sight or hearing impairment or loss, have dementia, or misuse drugs or alcohol.

Anyone can be an abuser - a relative, friend or neighbour, a paid or volunteer carer, professional worker or another vulnerable person. Abuse can happen anywhere - in the person's own home, in a care home, in hospital or in a public place.

If you are in any doubt about reporting your concerns don't think "What if I'm wrong?" think "What if I'm right?"

### Concern about a paid worker or volunteer?

If you have concern about a paid worker, professional or volunteer who is abusing an adult you must speak to the Safeguarding lead in the service they work in, or [raise a safeguarding concern](#). Further information is also available at the [SSAB website](#).

### What to do if you think Someone is at risk of abuse and/or neglect:

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, please call: 999

If there is no immediate risk, call the police on: 101

Any concern about adult abuse and neglect can be referred to Sunderland City Council on 0191 5205552 or [raise a safeguarding concern](#) online (there are separate forms for members of the public and professional staff).

If you have concerns about the safety or welfare of a child or young person contact [Together for Children](#) on 0191 561 7007 (available 8.30am to 5:15pm Monday - Thursday, 8.30am to 4.45pm Friday)

### Types of Abuse

Abuse can take different forms:

**Physical:** Hitting, smacking, pushing, shaking, or misuse of medication.

**Sexual:** Any sexual activity that is unwanted or not understood.

**Emotional:** Intimidation, threats, humiliation, isolation, verbal or psychological abuse.

**Neglect:** Ignoring medical/physical care needs, withholding food, heating.

**Discriminatory:** Being treated differently because of ethnicity, sexuality, gender, age etc.

**Financial:** Theft of money, property or belongings.

**Domestic:** May include any of the above.

**Organisational:** Poor working practices in care homes or hospitals that cause poor or inadequate care.

---

## Annual Safeguarding Conference 3rd March 2020

Sunderland Safeguarding Adults Board was pleased to be involved in this year's annual 'Think Family' Safeguarding Conference on 3rd March 2020. It was planned in partnership with South Tyneside and Sunderland NHS Foundation Trust, Sunderland Safeguarding Children Partnership, South Tyneside Safeguarding Adults Board and South Tyneside Safeguarding Children Partnership.

The full-day conference was trauma-focused, with a theme of 'County Lines' and the issues that can arise for both children and adults from being involved in this, e.g. drug addiction, mental health issues, sexual exploitation and criminal exploitation. Speakers either had lived experience or were workers in these fields. Over 400 people attended and the feedback from delegates has been very positive.

We look forward to planning for the next Safeguarding Conference (taking into account any issues arising from coronavirus restrictions, such as the current ban on mass gatherings, which may mean it needs to be held at a different time or in a different way).

---

## Safeguarding Adults E-learning: Update

SSAB has renewed its e-learning contract for 2020. E-learning is now provided by the Social Care Institute for Excellence (SCIE) on the following topics:

- Safeguarding Adults
- Mental Capacity
- Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards (DoLS)

Places are available to book online via the [SSAB website](#).

**Please note: SSAB pays for the e-learning out of its limited budget, this has always made this valuable resource free to all learners. A review of 2019 figures shows a high number of people signed up & then did not attempt/complete the courses. Managers should ensure any staff enrolled on SSAB's e-learning provide them with proof of completion. 2020 figures will be closely monitored. Access to e-learning may have to be limited for organisations who are found to have high numbers of staff who don't complete the courses.**

---

## Other Safeguarding Adults Online Learning Resources

Under the current circumstances, whilst some staff are likely to be working more often from home, or are self-isolating but are still well enough to work, this could be the ideal opportunity to access online training/information. As well as the SSAB e-learning offer described above, the following resources are available from other sources:

- Prevent (radicalisation & extremism): [Home Office approved Pathways to extremism and Prevent programme training](#)
  - Modern Slavery: Unseen Ted Talk <https://www.unseenuk.org/modern-slavery/unseen-ted-talk>. The Gangmasters and Labour Abuse Authority (GLAA) has produced video case studies and materials on different types of forced labour [www.glaa.gov.uk/publications/resources/glaa-videos](http://www.glaa.gov.uk/publications/resources/glaa-videos). Break the Chain have a short film about modern slavery in the UK [www.youtube.com/watch?v=2vpbT5Lx\\_Mg](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2vpbT5Lx_Mg). The Independent Anti Slavery Commissioner (IASC) has produced a range of videos <http://www.antislaverycommissioner.co.uk/resources> by sector on spotting the signs of modern slavery.
-