



NEWSLETTER

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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 Adult Review Publication

In August 2021 SSAB published a [Safeguarding Adult Review \(SAR\)](#) in respect of 'Alan', a man in his 50's who died as a result of an accident in a fire caused by a cigarette in February 2020. Alan had a pattern of longstanding and repeated involvement with a range of public services, including health, social care and criminal justice services, throughout his adult life. This was underpinned by his chronic alcohol dependency, with Alan having begun drinking at a young age. Alan also had a long history of drug misuse, physical and mental health concerns. He lived a chaotic lifestyle and at the time of his death Alan was homeless and subject to statutory safeguarding, though sadly he died before any meaningful safeguarding work was undertaken.

Although a number of agencies worked extensively with Alan in the period covered by the review to support him with his complex needs, and there were a number of examples of good practice, the review found that the response was not 'persistent, consistent or coordinated enough' to meet his needs. It was 'episodic rather than organised, reactive rather than assertive' when what Alan required was an ongoing, structured approach that was built on assertive outreach and multi-agency management rather than a series of responses driven by his regular crises.

The review highlights key learning and recommendations, which have been accepted by SSAB and a multi-agency action plan has been implemented to evidence learning from the review.

[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

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.

Training includes online eLearning courses, provided on behalf of SSAB by Social Care Institute for Excellence (SCIE):

- **Safeguarding Adults:** suitable for all staff and volunteers who work with, support or come in to contact with adults at risk of abuse and/or neglect
- **Mental Capacity:** suitable for all staff and volunteers working with, supporting, or who come into contact with adults who may lack mental capacity to make their own decisions
- **Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards (DoLS):** suitable for all staff and volunteers who work with, support, or come in to contact with adults who may/are being cared for under a DoLS decision

SSAB has appointed Aspect Training to deliver safeguarding adults training on the following topics:

- **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

The above-mentioned courses will be delivered by Aspect Training using Microsoft Teams presently, moving toward a mix of face-to-face and virtual training sessions later in the year, dependent upon current Covid-19 guidance.

For more information or to book a place please contact [Learning and Skills North East](#)

telephone: 0191 5612620, email: info.twca@sunderland.gov.uk

Talk Money Week 2021: 8th—12th November 2021

Talk Money Week is a national initiative organised by the Money & Pensions Service, who say that people in the UK don't talk about their money enough. Despite the COVID-19 crisis affecting our finances, 9 in 10 UK adults – that's 47 million of us – don't find it any easier to talk about money, or don't even discuss it at all. On the road to recovery from the pandemic, financial wellbeing, alongside physical and mental wellbeing will be crucial. But there is still work to be done to break down the taboo of talking money. That is why, each November they encourage the nation to come together for Talk Money Week, to start money conversations in any walk of life. The week is designed to increase people's sense of financial wellbeing by encouraging them to open up about personal finance – from pocket money to pensions. It's an opportunity for everyone to get involved with events and activities across the UK which help people have more open conversations about money.

Talking about money and financial concerns and planning well what happens to your money can also help to stop people becoming the victims of scams or potentially suffering financial abuse by people they think they can trust, such as friends, acquaintances, or relatives. Get involved by downloading the #TalkMoney week participation pack at [Talk Money Week | Join the conversation | The Money and Pensions Service](#)

Safeguarding Adults Week 2021: 15th—21st November 2021

Safeguarding Adults Week is a national initiative organised by the Ann Craft Trust. It's an opportunity for organisations to come together to raise awareness of important safeguarding issues. The aim is to highlight safeguarding key issues, facilitate conversations and to raise awareness of safeguarding best practice. Each day there is a focus on a different safeguarding theme:

Monday— Emotional Abuse and Safeguarding Mental Health

Tuesday—The Power of (Respectful) Language

Wednesday— Digital Safeguarding/Creating Safer Cultures Online

Thursday— Adult Grooming

Friday— Creating Safer Organisational Cultures

Saturday & Sunday—Safeguarding and You (Knowing your Role/Safeguarding is Everyone's Responsibility)

Further information and resources such as posters & factsheets can be found here: [Safeguarding Adults Week 2021 - Links, Resources, and More - Ann Craft Trust](#)

Locally, SSAB partners are in the process of planning a range of activity such as social media interactions and local information displays to promote awareness of safeguarding adults issues during the week, and will also link in with regional SABs activity where possible, to ensure consistent messages are shared.

**We're Supporting
Safeguarding Adults
Week!**

#SafeguardingAdultsWeek

ann craft trust

CARM (Complex Adults Risk Management) - latest update

CARM (Complex Adults Risk Management) has been adapted by Sunderland for local purposes, from the nationally-used VARM (Vulnerable Adults Risk Management) model. The process has support of SSAB members and is being developed now—the specific documentation has been circulated to SSAB partner agencies for comment as part of the development process, and following some agreed changes, has been finalised.

What is CARM?

The CARM process provides a framework for professionals to facilitate effective multi-agency working with [adults at risk](#) who are deemed to have mental capacity and who are at risk of serious harm or death through self-neglect, refusal of services and/or high levels of risk taking activity.

The CARM process and guidance should be used for discussing, identifying, assessing, recording, planning and reviewing the management of risk, wherever possible with the adult and with their consent.

CARM should not be seen as a substitute to legislation and existing processes.

CARM Launch

In preparation for the launch of the CARM process, an Implementation Workshop was held in May 2021 and was well attended by practitioners from a range of agencies and disciplines. The workshop provided an overview of the process, criteria for the application of the CARM process and case study examples.

The CARM process is expected to launch in Sunderland by the end of 2021. Further information regarding this will be circulated in due course and the CARM Policy, Practice Guidance and Referral & Risk Assessment form will be made available on SSAB's website.

Useful Resources

Tyne & Wear Fire & Rescue Services (TWFRS) 'Safe and Well Check'

For people living in Tyne and Wear who are eligible, TWFRS offer a fire risk/home check called a 'Safe and Well Check'. During this check, a uniformed member of staff will visit the person's home and carry out a risk assessment. They will then:

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

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

To find out if a person is eligible for a Safe and Well check, complete the online request form or contact the local fire station. Full details here: [Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service \(twfire.gov.uk\)](#)

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, please read the [SAC Form Guidance](#) and [Threshold Guidance Risk-Assessment Tool](#) before completing the [Safeguarding Adults Concern \(SAC\) form](#).

Further information is available [here](#).

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