



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 21 | Autumn 2024

This issue at a glance:

- Launch of New Safeguarding Training and Events Booking System
- Safeguarding Learning Week 2024
- 2nd National Safeguarding Adult Reviews Analysis Report
- Focus on: Professional Curiosity
- Safeguarding Migrant Survivors of Gender-Based Violence (GBV) Free Webinar
- Useful 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. 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.

Launch of New Safeguarding Training and Events Booking System

SSAB and Sunderland Safeguarding Children Partnership are delighted to announce the launch of our new event booking system. To access all Sunderland's training and learning events concerning safeguarding follow this [link](#).

You will now be able to view and book on adults and children's specific safeguarding courses from one easy to use site.

You will be required to register prior to booking. Please familiarise yourself with the [terms and conditions](#), which includes information regarding course costs and cancellations.

SSAB SUNDERLAND SAFEGUARDING ADULTS BOARD SSCP SUNDERLAND SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN PARTNERSHIP Login Register

SSAB Events SSCP Events Sunderland Safeguarding Learning Week Sunderland Safeguarding eLearning SSAB Website SSCP Website

Home > Events & Courses

To use this booking system, you will first need to create a user account and once you have done this, you will be able to manage your own bookings, access course evaluations, certificates and access your training history.

By Venue: -- Select Venue --

By Category: -- Select Category --

October 2024

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

Events & Courses

Multi-Agency Roles During the Safeguarding Process
TUESDAY 22 OCTOBER 2024 (9.30AM - 4.30PM)
Venue: Teams Online Training -
Places Available: 24
[See other dates](#)
[Tell me about future dates of this event](#)
More Information & Booking

How To Assess Mental Capacity
WEDNESDAY 23 OCTOBER 2024 (9.30AM - 4.30PM)
Venue: Teams Online Training -
Places Available: 24
[See other dates](#)
[Tell me about future dates of this event](#)
More Information & Booking

Self-Neglect and Hoarding
THURSDAY 24 OCTOBER 2024 (9.30AM - 4.30PM)
Venue: Teams Online Training -
Places Available: 25
[See other dates](#)
[Tell me about future dates of this event](#)
More Information & Booking

Safeguarding Learning Week 2024

SSAB is once again collaborating with Sunderland Safeguarding Children Partnership (SSCP) to deliver Safeguarding Learning Week, a timetable of events aimed at professionals, on a range of safeguarding themes. Events include webinars, briefings and learning opportunities - all of which are free to attend.

To book a place on any of the week's events click this [link](#) to our new Safeguarding Training and Events Booking System.

Sunderland Safeguarding Learning Week 2024

Working in Partnership

For Sunderland's 3rd Safeguarding Learning Week, we will be exploring what working in partnership means to us, celebrating and shining a spotlight on some of the excellent practice we see in the city and supporting our colleagues to develop their skills further through reflecting on learning reviews, visiting partner venues and engaging on training sessions.

Below is the timetable for the week. Click on the session title to find out more and book your place. Act quickly as we do expect sessions to book out in previous years.

If you or our agency plan to do something for Sunderland Safeguarding Learning Week, please contact parnola.finn@gettogetherforchildren.org.uk and we will be happy to promote.

Date and Theme	Am Sessions	Lunchtime Sessions	PM Sessions	Regional Sessions
Monday 18th November Look, Listen, Ask - Developing Professional Curiosity	Professional Curiosity - Learning from Baby Child CSOP Hope Vineyard Church 9:30am - 12pm	Spotlight on Family Hubs - Tour and information sessions for professionals to learn about (Marsillal) Family Hub which serves the east of Sunderland	Professional Curiosity - Learning from SAB Alan Microsoft Teams 3.30 - 4.30pm	Safeguarding for Adults in Sport: RISE (sports welfare charity) More details to follow.
Tuesday 19th November Working in partnership: How to work effectively with the people you support	Complex Adults Risk Management (CAHR) briefing Microsoft Teams 10.30am - 11.30am	Spotlight on Family Hubs - Tour and information sessions for professionals to learn about Rainbow Family Hub which serves Washington	Safeguarding and substance misuse in Sunderland Rainbow Centre 1pm - 3pm Bringing Communities Together: SARA, HALO and SAsL projects Sunderland Business Centre 1pm - 1.30pm	
Wednesday 20th November	Impact of Childhood Trauma	Spotlight on Family Hubs - Tour and information	Learning from Joseph Safeguarding Adults	Building Resilience Against Fraud - Navigating

1 - Timetable of Events

Establishing Professional Boundaries	Mersey Park Fire Station 9:30am - 12pm	sessions for professionals to learn about (Bantuffill) Family Hub which serves the North of Sunderland	Daycare Microsoft Teams 1.00pm - 2.00pm	Financial Abuse & Scams RECCO Engagement Team, Police (coordinated by Teeswide SAB) Microsoft Teams 2.00pm - 2.45pm
Thursday 21st November Recognising exploitation: The ladder of criminality	Knife Crime Awareness Thorney Close Centre 10am-12pm Bringing Communities Together: SARA, HALO and SAsL projects Microsoft Teams 9.30am - 10am	Spotlight on Family Hubs - Tour and information sessions for professionals to learn about (Sharnley) Close Family Hub which serves the west of Sunderland	SSCP Harm Outside the Home City Hall - Mayors Parlour 12pm-3pm Learning from Joseph Safeguarding Adults	
Friday 22nd November Professional and Organisational Learning	Organisational Safeguarding: Principles and practice - a networking opportunity to share and learn from others Leachmere Centre 9.30am - 12.30pm	Spotlight on Family Hubs - Tour and information sessions for professionals to learn about (Coalfield) Family Hub which serves Coalfields	Launch of SSCP Skills Needs Assessment!	TWFS Hoarding and Fire Risks Microsoft Teams 10.00am - 11.00am

2 - Timetable of Events

2nd National Safeguarding Adult Reviews Analysis Report

In summer 2024, the 2nd National Safeguarding Adult Reviews Analysis Report was published. This analysis of Safeguarding Adult Reviews (SARs) in England was funded by the Local Government Association (LGA) and the Association of Directors of Adult Social Services (ADASS) as Partners in Care and Health.

The purpose of the analysis was to identify priorities for sector-led improvement as a result of learning from SARs completed between 2019 and 2023, a period of time that included the COVID-19 pandemic. The analysis builds on the findings of the first national analysis, published in 2020, which considered learning from SARs completed between 2017 and 2019.

Taken together, the analyses provide a significant knowledge base about adult safeguarding in England across all types of abuse and neglect. They highlight both the shifts that have taken place and the challenges that endure.

The analysis is split into three stages:

- Stage 1 report: Case Characteristics; Nature of the Abuse and Neglect; SAR Reviewing Process
- Stage 2 report: Analysis of Learning

- Stage 3 report: Conclusions and Improvement Priorities

There is also an executive summary (including six briefings aimed at different key stakeholders, including individuals and families, practitioners, elected members, SAB chairs and managers, senior leaders and SAB chairs and SARs authors).

To read or download the reports go to the [Local Government Association website](#).

Focus On: Professional Curiosity

Professional curiosity is the exploration and understanding of what is happening with an individual and/or their family, rather than making assumptions and accepting things at face value. Professional curiosity can require practitioners to think 'outside the box', beyond their usual professional role, and consider families' circumstances holistically and without judgement.

Barriers to Professional Curiosity

It is widely recognized that there are many barriers to being professionally curious, such as:

- Disguised compliance - a family member or care giver gives the appearance of co-operating with services and professionals to avoid raising suspicions
- The rule of optimism - professionals can tend to rationalize away new or escalating risk despite clear evidence to the contrary. Each new and escalating risk should be looked at with historic and current information and a risk assessment and action plan undertaken and recorded
- Accumulating risk - not looking at the whole picture and responding to each situation and new risk separately
- Normalisation - because a person's ideas and actions are seen as 'normal' they cease to be questioned and not recognised as potential risks
- Professional deference - there can be a tendency to defer to the opinion of a 'higher status' professional who has limited contact with person. Be confident in your own judgement and challenge their opinion of risk if it varies from your own
- Confirmation bias - looking for evidence that supports or confirms our pre-held view and ignore contradictory information that refutes it
- Knowing but not knowing - having a sense that something is not right, but not knowing exactly what. This is where asking difficult questions comes in, to try to get underneath what might be happening
- Confidence in managing tension - disagreement, disruption and aggression from individuals, families or others, can undermine confidence and divert meetings the practitioner wants to explore and back to the family's own agenda. Professionals should strive for a balance between allowing the individual and their representatives' voices to be heard, whilst ensuring their own topics and concerns are adequately discussed

Developing Skills in Professional Curiosity

To develop skills in professional curiosity and work at removing the barriers, consider the following key points and work to make them a part of your everyday practice:

- Be flexible and open-minded, non-judgemental and anti-discriminatory. Do not take everything at face value
- Check your own emotional state and attitudes. Leave time to prepare yourself for managing risk and uncertainty and processing the impact it has on you
- Think the unthinkable; believe the unbelievable. Consider how you can articulate 'intuition' into an evidenced, professional view
- Use your communication skills: review records, record accurately, check facts and feedback to the people you are working with and for
- Never assume and be wary of assumptions already made, e.g. mental capacity – has it been stated that someone 'has mental capacity' or 'lacks mental capacity'? Statements like these should be backed up with a capacity assessment and other associated documentary evidence. Also, consider that with some medical and physical conditions, an individual's mental capacity can fluctuate. Mental capacity may also be influenced by another person's coercion and control over the individual
- Use case history and explore information from the person themselves, the family, friends and neighbours, as well as other professionals (this is called 'triangulation' and helps in checking out facts and issues from different viewpoints and angles)
- Pay as much attention to how people look and behave as to what they say (non-verbal cues)
- Actively seek full engagement. If you need more support to engage the person or their family, think about which other partner agencies can help you – these may or may not currently be actively involved in the case, but as long as they have the necessary skills and expertise, it is a valuable consideration. Consider calling a multi-disciplinary (MDT) meeting to bring in support from colleagues in other agencies – and emphasise the importance of all agencies actively engaging in information-sharing as part of this, to better understand any safeguarding concerns or risks to the individual
- Take responsibility for the safeguarding role you play, however large or small, in the life of the person in front of you

Professional Curiosity Good Practice

Good practice in professional curiosity occurs when practitioners:

Attend good quality training to help them develop

Have access to good management support and supervision

Have empathy ('walk in the shoes') of the person to consider the situation from their lived experience

Remain diligent in working with the person and their family/representatives, and also other professionals, developing professional yet empathetic relationships to understand what has happened and its impact on all involved

Always try to see the individual separately

Listen to people who speak on behalf of the person and who have important knowledge about them

Be alert to those who prevent professionals from seeing or listening to the person

Do not rely on the opinion of only one person, wherever possible

Have an analytical and reflective approach

Develop the skills and knowledge to hold 'difficult conversations' – examples of issues falling into this could be (not exhaustive): domestic abuse, inadequate housing, self-neglect, social isolation, mental health, drugs and alcohol, issues between a person and their carer (thinking about possible exploitation).

Further Reading

- Sunderland Safeguarding Adults Board [Professional Curiosity Guidance](#) available as part of SSAB's [Multi-Agency Safeguarding Adults Procedures](#). It also has a [Professional Curiosity 7 Minute Briefing](#).
- This useful 3-minute '[Bitesize Guide](#)' to professional curiosity has been produced in video format by Waltham Forest Council:
- The [Resolving Professional Differences](#) multi-agency procedure is available on the [SSAB website](#). This sets out guidance for challenging other professionals/managing a challenge from another professional, and a process for escalation and decision-making.
- The [Complex Adults Risk Management \(CARM\)](#) documents are available on the SSAB website. These cover the process for addressing highly complex cases which often don't fully meet the safeguarding adults criteria but involve a great deal of risk to the individual, and where a number of agencies need to work together to support the individual to achieve more positive outcomes
- Making Safeguarding Personal resources can be found [here](#) and [here](#)

Safeguarding Migrant Survivors of Gender-Based Violence (GBV) Free Webinar

The graphic is a vertical rectangular poster with a purple and orange color scheme. At the top left, there is a 'LIVE WEBINAR' logo. To the right, it says 'PLACE OF THE EVENT WEBINAR' with a location pin icon. The host is listed as 'The Angelou Center'. The main title is 'SAFEGUARDING MIGRANT SURVIVORS OF GBV'. Below the title is a white button that says 'BOOK AT EVENTBRITE'. The main body of text describes the webinar's focus on supporting and protecting migrant survivors. It lists learning objectives and key topics. At the bottom, it provides available dates and times.

LIVE WEBINAR

PLACE OF THE EVENT
WEBINAR

Host: The Angelou Center

SAFEGUARDING MIGRANT SURVIVORS OF GBV

BOOK AT EVENTBRITE

Migrant survivors are some of the most vulnerable in society. Learn how to better support and protect them in your professional role.

Learn to Safeguard Migrant Survivors:

- Recognise the specific challenges migrant survivors encounter in seeking safety and support.
- Overview of the Northumbria Multi-Agency Guidance and Toolkit for effective safeguarding strategies.

Key topics include

- Immigration abuse: coercion and control
- Overcoming barriers like No Recourse to Public Funds
- Legal options: Domestic Violence Rule (DVR) & Migrant Victims of Domestic Abuse Concession (MVDAC)

Available dates: 📅 23rd, 25th, 29th October | 11th, 15th, 20th November 🕒 Time: 10am - 11:30am

About This Webinar

Join The Angelou Centre for a webinar on safeguarding migrant survivors of Gender-Based Violence (GBV). This session will focus on the unique barriers migrant survivors face in accessing safety and protection and will introduce the *Northumbria Multi-Agency Guidance and Toolkit: Immigration abuse, barriers to support, and the importance of safeguarding migrant survivors of violence and abuse*.

Migrant survivors often encounter additional challenges such as No Recourse to Public Funds (NRPF) and fear of deportation, making it crucial for professionals to understand how to safely respond and protect these survivors. This webinar will provide practical guidance on how to navigate these complexities and ensure migrant survivors are treated as victims first and foremost.

What will the Webinar Cover?

- Immigration abuse: learn how immigration status is used as a tool of coercion and control in abusive relationships.
- Barriers to safety: understand the key challenges migrant survivors face, including NRPF, and how to overcome them.
- Safeguarding in Practice: how to use the Multi-Agency Guidance and Toolkit to provide effective support and safeguard migrant survivors.

- Legal options: learn about the Domestic Violence Rule (DVR) and Migrant Victims of Domestic Abuse Concession (MVDAC), and how these can help survivors

Who Should Attend?

This training is designed for multi-agency professionals working across the 6 Northumbria Local Authority areas, including those in social services, healthcare, legal services, and community organisations.

Available Dates

Please click on a date below to check availability

[11th November: 10am - 11.30am](#)

[15th November: 10am - 11.30am](#)

[20th November: 10am - 11.30am](#)

Why this Matters

Migrant survivors are some of the most vulnerable in society. It's essential to ensure their rights and entitlements are protected, and they are given access to the support they need. By attending this webinar, you'll gain the tools and knowledge to better safeguard and support these survivors in your professional practice.

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.

Responding Safely to Migrant Survivors of Violence and Abuse

The Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC) for Northumbria has a range of 7-minute briefings, guidance and a toolkit available for frontline workers, giving advice on how to safely respond to migrant survivors of violence and abuse, as well as details for help and support services:

- [7min Briefing Safeguarding Migrant Survivors of Violence & Abuse](#)
- [7min Briefing How to Safely Respond to Migrant Survivors of Violence & Abuse](#)
- [Multi-agency guidance: Immigration abuse, barriers to support, and the importance of safeguarding migrant survivors of violence and abuse](#)
- [Multi-agency toolkit: How to safely respond to migrant survivors of violence and abuse and upholding the rights and entitlements of those with no recourse to public funds](#)

Further information from the OPCC regarding tackling domestic abuse and sexual violence can be found [here](#).

Avoiding Fraud & Scams: Advice & Guidance Resources

There are online resources available which give a range of information about avoiding fraud and scams, and advice on what to do to recognise a scam, how to report it, and what to do if you think you've been a victim of a scam or fraud. These include:

- The Citizen's Advice Bureau have a section dedicated to scams advice (including online scams) [on their website](#)
- Personal fraud & scams advice is available from Northumbria Police [on their website](#)
- The Metropolitan Police have useful resources to view and download [on their website](#) on scams, fraud & cyber crime, etc.
- [Action Fraud](#) is the UK's national reporting centre for fraud and cybercrime where you should report fraud if you have been scammed, defrauded or experienced cyber crime in England, Wales and Northern Ireland. Their website has a range of useful information, including pages about [protecting yourself from fraud and cybercrime](#) and an [A-Z of Fraud](#).

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 of this Newsletter, please contact the Strategic Safeguarding Team: strategic.safeguarding@sunderland.gov.uk