

WELCOME to the SSAB Newsletter

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We currently have **947** followers

LOCAL NEWS

Is My Home Being Invaded?

This leaflet has been developed by SSAB and LSCP and is for anyone who is living independently, their families and supporters. It is for people to share and go through together and talk about. This leaflet talks about a type of criminal activity that happens when a person's home is taken over by others for things like producing, storing and supplying drugs and/or weapons, having parties and encouraging sexual activity (you may have heard this referred to previously as "cuckooing")

This leaflet helps people think about what to look out for and what to do if this happens to them or someone they know.

[Link to Text Version](#) [Link to Easy Read Version](#)



Annual Health Check Information for People with Learning Disabilities.

All GP's across Birmingham and Solihull offer annual health checks for people with learning disabilities aged 14 and over.

These health checks are free and aim to identify any health problems that a person may have and to offer support about their health, for instance giving advice and health promotion information relating to existing conditions. The health checks are proactive meaning that the GP does not wait for someone to become ill to offer this check, the check is to prevent illness and to recognise any health needs early so that people can get the right support and treatment before deterioration.

The learning disability annual health checks are an important part of reducing health inequalities and ensuring access to health services and GP practices are committed to offering these checks.

Annual health checks for people with learning disabilities have been available for several years, but we know that there are still lots of people who do not know about these and their right to have one. We also know that not all carers and family members know about the health checks and how to get an appointment for their loved one. At this current time, it is even more important that people can access a health check to prevent illness and promote health.

We know that this is a difficult time for everyone, however annual health checks for people with learning disabilities remain a priority for GP practices, who are still inviting people to a health check. The health checks may take place in a different format, perhaps over a computer/ video or in person, but they remain important as a way of making sure that health needs are met.

You can find more information about the annual health check for people with learning disabilities [here](#) and in this [easy to read version](#)



National CE Day 18th March 2021

Its Child Exploitation Awareness day on 18th March and this year SSAB and LSCP will be launching some joint communications including the new Exploitation Procedures. Look out for further information on this coming soon.



LGBT+ History Month

When Is It?

LGBT+ History Month takes place every February in the UK, the month is commemorated at different times of the year in other countries. February was chosen as LGBT+ History Month in the UK to coincide with the 2003 abolition of Section 28, which stated that local authorities were not allowed to “intentionally promote homosexuality or publish material with the intention of promoting homosexuality”.



When Did It Start?

While LGBT+ History Month originated in the US in 1994, in the UK it began 11 years later following on from an initiative that was created by a couple of teachers who used it to educate young people about the issues members of the LGBT+ community face and to make schools feel inclusive for everyone, regardless of their gender identity or sexual orientation.

What Is It?

It is an annual celebration that provides education and insight into the issues that the LGBT+ community faces. The aim of LGBT+ History Month is to raise awareness of, and combat prejudice against the LGBT+ community while celebrating its achievements and diversity and making it more visible.

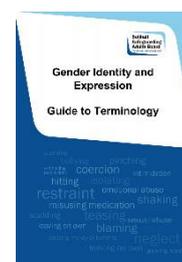
How Is It Observed?

LGBT+ History Month in the UK is coordinated by grassroots voluntary organisation and registered charity [Schools Out UK](#) who aim to increase the visibility of the entire LGBT+ community, as well as their history, lives and experiences. The theme for LGBT+ History Month 2021 is “Body, Mind, Spirit”.



Look out for our tweets and emails across the month where we’ll be sharing information and resources. In the mean time, read on for an introduction to some interesting topics and a list of some organisations who specialise in support for the LGBTQ+ community.

We have put together a [Gender Identity and Expression - Guide to Terminology](#). It is designed to be an introduction to the terms widely in use to describe gender identity and gender expression.



Mental health and being LGBTQ – Christine’s mental health story

When Christine’s wife died, she experienced suicidal feelings, but faced discrimination from her GP and struggled to find the help she needed.



[Watch Christine's mental health story here](#)

Experiencing Transphobia in the UK

In this report from April 2020, trans people talk about their experience of transphobia and the hopes they have for change. This video contains derogatory language and descriptions of transphobic assaults.



[Click to watch the video](#)

LGBTQ+ Support Organisations

Mermaids

Mermaids supports gender-diverse children and young people until their 20th birthday, as well as their families and professionals involved in their care.

Tel: 0808 801 0400
Web: mermaidsuk.org.uk



AKT

AKT supports LGBTQ+ people aged 16-25 in the UK who are facing or experiencing homelessness or living in a hostile environment.

Email: contact@akt.org.uk
Web: akt.org.uk



Galop

National LGBTQ+ anti-violence helpline supporting lesbian, gay, bisexual and trans people experiencing hate crime, domestic abuse, or sexual violence.

Email: advice@galop.org.uk
Tel: 0800 999 5428
Web: galop.org.uk



Switchboard LGBTQ+ Helpline

Switchboard provides a one-stop listening service for LGBTQ+ people on the phone, by email and through Instant Messaging.

Tel: 0300 330 0630
Web: switchboard.lgbt



Mind

Mental health charity Mind has a [specific section for LGBTQ people](#) where you can access information about mental health support.



The Consortium of LGBTQ+ Voluntary and Community Organisations

This site has a searchable directory of services [find it here](#)



TRAINING

SCIE - Safeguarding Adults Training Webinar Series



SCIE has developed a series of webinar recordings for people working in health and social care to support good practice in safeguarding.

Staff, in a range of settings, need to understand what safeguarding is about and how to respond if they have a concern. These webinars will help you develop this understanding.

Safeguarding means: Protecting an adult's right to live in safety, free from abuse and neglect. It is about people and organisations working together to prevent and stop both the risks and experience of abuse or neglect and making sure that the adult's wellbeing is promoted.

Module 1: What is safeguarding?

Find out about the key factors that define safeguarding adults, including the six principles, who it applies to and defining the types of abuse.

Module 2: Making safeguarding personal

Learn about the importance of wellbeing and the Care Act legislation and principles that underpin balancing a person's safety alongside respecting an individual's choice, rights, and freedoms.

Module 3: Information sharing for safeguarding

Focusing on the key aspects of information sharing including the importance of consent, partnership working, effective reporting and the key legislation relevant to adult safeguarding.

Module 4: Safeguarding and human rights

Learn about the importance of human rights as a basis for good safeguarding practice, how this links to the Care Act, the Mental Capacity Act and advocacy to provide a balance between protection and empowerment.

Module 5: Section 42 enquiries for providers

Understand when and how an enquiry takes place, the role of care providers in supporting this process and who should be involved.

Module 6: Self-neglect and safeguarding

Develop an understanding of self-neglect and how best to respond. Learn how to use the Mental Capacity Act and Care Act to put the individual at the heart of your decision making.

[Click here to learn more and enrol: Safeguarding adults webinar series](#)

Skills for care webinar series

This series of webinars covers a whole range of topics and have been developed since the start of the pandemic. Find resources on having conversations about workplace race equality issues, risk assessment, wellbeing and much more. [Available here](#)



Health Films

Inclusion Gloucestershire have produced several films about accessing health services and what to expect. They provide information for people with lived experience of disability and promote good practice for professionals.

[Available at this link](#)



MAKING SAFEGUARDING PERSONAL

Making Safeguarding Personal toolkit

The practice toolkit handbook guides you through the best approach and effective application of safeguarding with a range of helpful tools and practice-based case examples.



[Click this link for this toolkit on the LGA website](#)

Adult Safeguarding and Homelessness: Virtual Seminars

In 2019/2020 four national workshops were organised on adult safeguarding and homelessness through the Care and Health Improvement Programme (CHIP). The outcome was a published briefing on adult safeguarding and homelessness, published by the Local Government Association and the Association of Directors of Social Services [accessible here](#)



A further series of virtual seminars has been developed to take this work forward, and to inform a further briefing on adult safeguarding and homelessness, including the impact of Covid-19.



The series has run since January and continues until March.

Previous sessions are viewable [here](#) and include:

13th January 2021 - Commissioning and Provider Services: safeguarding people experiencing homelessness.

18th January - Psychologically-informed and Reflective Practice in safeguarding people experiencing homelessness.

25th January - Learning Lessons from the Response to Covid-19 regarding safeguarding people experiencing homelessness.

15th February - Legal Literacy in safeguarding people experiencing homelessness.

Upcoming sessions can be booked [here](#)

23rd February - Governance of Adult Safeguarding and Homelessness.

1st March - Tackling Specific Issues: safeguarding people experiencing homelessness.

8th March - Making Every Adult Matter and Every Contact Count – Reviewing Learning about Positive Practice in safeguarding people experiencing homelessness.

Other Safeguarding Resources

Safeguarding Enquiries and Reviews

Analysis of Safeguarding Adult Reviews

This first national analysis of Safeguarding Adult Reviews (SARs) held in England between April 2017 - March 2019 seeks to identify priorities for sector-led improvement. A summary identifies the headline findings with further detail in the main report. You can find a presentation covering the topic on our website [by clicking here](#). The full report is available on the [LGA website](#).



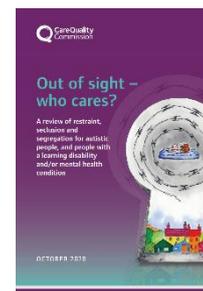
National Policies, Procedures and Guidance

Out of sight – who cares? Restraint, segregation, and seclusion review published by CQC

[This report](#) looks at the use of restraint, seclusion, and segregation in care services for people with a mental health condition, a learning disability or autism.

CQC looked in depth at how long-term segregation was used. They found that the 66 people they met who were in segregation had been let down by the health and care system.

CQC made 10 recommendations for national system change and 7 recommendations on restrictive practices.



590 people's stories of leaving hospital during Covid-19 from Healthwatch England and the British Red Cross published in October 2020

[This joint report](#) from Healthwatch England and British Red Cross, explores nearly 600 people's experiences of hospital discharge during the



COVID-19 pandemic and assesses the impact of new hospital discharge policy, introduced in March, including the roll-out of the 'discharge to assess' model. The report makes several recommendations to help manage hospital discharges during a second peak of the crisis.

Recommendations included:

- Post-discharge check-ins and assessments:
- Discharge checklists: Patients should be asked about the support they need, including any transport home and equipment required.
- Communication: Patients and carers should be given a single point of contact for further support or questions, in line with national policy.
- Medication: Waiting for medication can often lead to delays being discharged from hospital. Linking patients to voluntary sector partners or community pharmacists who can deliver medicine could avoid delays.
- Boost community care capacity and recognise the value of the voluntary care sector in hospital discharge: The current discharge policy depends on follow-up assessments and care being available. Longer-term, more investment is needed to ensure this happens, including in the voluntary care sector.

CQC State of Care Report 2019/20

[The State of Care Report](#) is CQC's annual assessment of health care and social care in England. The report looks at the trends, shares examples of good and outstanding care, and highlights where care needs to improve.



Love Carefully – Sexual Safety for Adults with a Learning Disability – Lessons from Canada and the USA published by Winston Churchill Memorial Trust in 2019

Sue Sharples used a Winston Churchill Memorial Fund grant to travel to the USA and Canada to help us all to learn their lessons around preventing abuse and promoting sexual health for people with learning disabilities.

[Her research](#) had found that people with a learning disability in England are four times more likely to be sexually abused than other citizens. It showed that the protection and safeguarding systems in the UK tend to look more at what happens *after* something bad has happened.



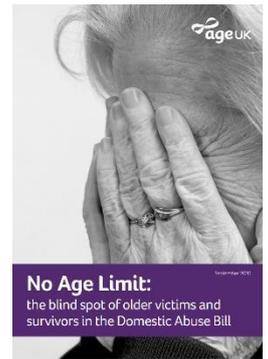
No Age Limit: the blind spot of older victims and survivors in the Domestic Abuse Bill published by Age UK in September 2020.

[This report](#) identifies the role of GPs and other medical and non-medical NHS staff crucial in recognising and supporting an older person who may be experiencing domestic abuse and is therefore calling for more training for healthcare practitioners, including GPs and practice nurses.

The Crime Survey for England and Wales only collects data on victims and survivors of domestic abuse under the age of 75, so the statistics do not reflect the true extent of the problem. However, the figures we do have for older victims under 75 are stark:

- According to the Crime Survey for England and Wales for 2018/19, around 180,000 older women aged 60-74 and 98,000 older men aged 60-74 were victims of domestic abuse in England and Wales in the past year.
- Most victims of domestic homicides are female (67%) and perpetrators are male (81%).
- Older people are similarly likely to be killed by a partner/spouse (46%) as by their adult children or grandchildren (44%).
- Older people killed in their own home most commonly die because of stabbings (41%).

It is important to note that these statistics were collected before coronavirus and lockdown, which will have exacerbated the problems facing older victims.



Accessing Support As A Victim of Modern Slavery (Adult) published by the West Midlands Police and Crime Commissioner and the West Midlands Anti-Slavery Network in October 2020

The West Midlands Anti-Slavery Network have produced [a multi lingual explanatory document](#) which explains in detail, the National Referral Mechanism (NRM) for use by First Responders for survivors of Modern Slavery at the point of identification in the West Midlands. It includes information from professionals about the process a survivor could expect if they were to consent to an NRM referral and the potential outcomes and opportunities if they decided not to consent to an NRM referral.



Minds that Matter - Understanding Mental Health in Later Life published by Independent Age in October 2020



[This new report](#) looks at the life events and circumstances that can affect people's mental health in later life. These include things like bereavement, loneliness, ill health, and caring responsibilities. It highlights the common barriers and makes recommendations for what needs to change to improve support for older people and ensure they can live a mentally healthy later life.

The report draws on interviews with people in later life – vividly describing their experiences and attitudes through a range of real-life stories – as well as survey and polling data.

As If Expendable – The UK Governments Failure to Protect Older People in Care Homes During the Covid 19 Pandemic published by Amnesty International in October 2020

Between 2 March and 12 June 2020, 18,562 residents of care homes in England died with COVID-19, representing almost 40% of all deaths involving COVID-19 in England during this period. During the same period, 28,186 “excess deaths” were recorded in care homes in England, representing a 46% increase compared with the same period in previous years. These excess deaths likely include undiagnosed COVID-19 deaths, and underscore the broader impact of the pandemic on older people in care homes.

Amnesty International is asking for a full independent public inquiry. At the same time, Amnesty International is asking for relevant authorities to work with the care home sector and civil society to ensure a number of issues they identify on page 8 and 9 in [the report](#).



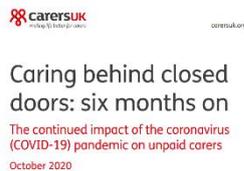
AS IF EXPENDABLE
THE UK GOVERNMENT'S FAILURE TO PROTECT OLDER PEOPLE IN CARE HOMES DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC



Caring behind closed doors: six months on. The continued impact of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic on unpaid carers published by Carers UK in October 2020

The pandemic has resulted in millions of new carers – 4.5 million new to caring since the start of the pandemic, 2.8 million of whom are juggling work and care. Caring can have significant costs, and without sufficient support it can take its toll on carers’ emotional and physical health, ability to work and have a knock-on effect on their long-term finances.

Carers have been hit particularly hard because of the COVID-19 pandemic. As this research shows many have had to make extremely difficult decisions about work and family.



[This report](#) makes recommendations for the short, medium, and long term.

Nowhere to Turn: Sexual violence among women selling sex and experiencing sexual exploitation during Covid-19 published by Changing Lives in October 2020

[This report](#) looks at how the Covid-19 pandemic has had devastating consequences for women facing abuse and violence across the country.



Data collected during the first four months of lockdown shows a 62% increase in the number of women disclosing that they had experienced sexual violence – although there are reasons to believe that the actual figure is much higher than this.

The findings show a marked increase in repeat victimisation, whereby women are experiencing multiple crimes against them.

COVID-19: deaths of people with learning disabilities published by Public Health England on 12th November 2020



The Department of Health and Social Care, with the support of the Chief Medical Officer for England, commissioned Public Health England (PHE) to review the available data on the deaths of people with learning disabilities in England during the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

The report found people with learning disabilities were up to six times more likely to die from Covid-19 during the first wave of the pandemic, and the death rate for those with a learning disability was 30 times higher in the 18-34 age group.

[The study](#) which looked at deaths between 21 March and 5 June, found that 451 per 100,000 people registered with a learning disability had died with Covid-19 during that period. Due to gaps in the data, the researchers estimated that it could be as high as 692 per 100,000 - 6.3 times higher than the general population.

The report suggests the huge disparity could be because people with learning disabilities are more prone to obesity and diabetes, which can increase the risk of dying from Covid-19. The report also highlighted that certain kinds of learning disability, such as Down's Syndrome can make people more vulnerable to respiratory infections. Adults with the condition have recently been added to the government's "clinically extremely vulnerable" list.

The review will help inform policy and practice to reduce the future risk and impact of COVID-19 on people with learning disabilities.

CQC to review use of DNACPR during pandemic

In October, the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) asked CQC to review how do not resuscitate orders were used during the COVID-19 pandemic, building on concerns reported earlier in the year.



[The review](#) will take a national view of how these decisions were made in and across different types of services – including hospitals, GPs, and care homes. CQC will carry out fieldwork in seven local Clinical Commissioning Groups across the country, selected to cover a cross-section of areas and a mix of demographics:

- NHS Birmingham and Solihull CCG**
- NHS Bristol and North Somerset CCG
- NHS Cambridge and Peterborough CCG
- NHS Morecombe Bay
- NHS Sheffield
- NHS South East London CCG with a focus on Greenwich
- NHS Surrey Heartlands CCG with a focus on East Surrey

They expect to publish a final report in early 2021.

BOARD AND SUB COMMITTEE NEWS

Safeguarding Adults Board Meeting

The Board's **priorities for 2020-21** are:

- **Financial Abuse**
- **Exploitation and Transitions**

At the Board meeting on the 3rd December 2020 the Board received the final report from the Spehen Safeguarding Adults Review and agreed to develop a comprehensive action plan so learning can be achieved. Ruth Tennant and Caroline Murray from SMBC Public Health and Commissioning presented a report to the us on the pending Domestic Abuse Priority Bill. The outcome from the Joint SAB, LSCP & CSP Development Event on 18th November 2020 was received and next steps agreed. The Board agreed to no progress with plans to Develop an Adult MASH at the moment but we agreed to revisit this in 12 months.

Next Board meeting is Thursday 4th March 2021

Engagement & Prevention Sub-Committee

At our meeting on agreed to work with Solihull Neighbourhood Police to raise awareness not to engage with or buy from doorstep sellers. We heard how successful National safeguarding Week in November was and we looked at the LGA MSP Toolkit. We discussed Solihull's Safe Places Scheme and other similar schemes in other areas and received some feedback from the Self Funder research. Finally we started to think about how we can mark WEAAD this year.

Next Engagement & Prevention Sub-Committee meeting is Thursday 15th April 2021

Policies & Procedures Sub-Committee

At our meeting on 19th January we looked at some new leaflets aimed at people living independently and for professionals to use in conversations around grooming or cuckooing. We discussed the new LAG what constitutes a safeguarding concern framework and the LGA MSP Toolkit. And we received an interesting and informative presentation from Gaynor Smith the new regional safeguarding leader for DWP.

Next Policies & Procedures Sub-Committee meeting is Tuesday 13th April 2021

Performance & Audit Sub-Committee

At our meeting on 26th January we reviewed the performance dashboard and noted the continued increase in domestic abuse cases and the demand placed on a number of services in the borough. We also discussed a number of audit programmes that could run during 2021/22 to provide assurance to the board that solihull is learning from Safeguarding Adult Reviews and continues to make improvements to policy and practice.

Next Performance & Audit Sub-Committee meeting is Tuesday 20th April

Learning & Improvement Sub-Committee

At our meeting on 14th January we discussed how learning from Paul's SAR, the Structured Partnership Approach and Professional Curiosity had been shared across organisations. We also talked about the Stephen SAR learning and reps at the meeting were encouraged to share this within their organisations. We talked about CSE Awareness Day in March and what would be helpful for partners in terms of support in working with exploitation, and we also considered the learning from the analysis of Safeguarding Adult Reviews report. .

Next Learning & Improvement Sub-Committee meeting is Thursday 22nd April 2021

West Midlands Adult Safeguarding Policy & Procedures

Adult Safeguarding: Multi-Agency Policy and Procedures for the protection of adults with care and support needs in the West Midlands

The Procedures can be viewed [HERE](#)



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SSAB TRAINING INFORMATION - ssab@solihull.gov.uk

To report adult abuse

Tel: 0121 704 8007 (office Hours)
0121 605 6060 (out of hours)
101 – Police

On-Line Referral Form

Public - SSAB WEBSITE: www.ssab.org.uk
SSAB TRAINING INFORMATION/BOOKINGS - ssab@solihull.gov.uk

Professionals - [Click here to report adult abuse](#)