

# SSAB NEWSLETTER



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# LOCAL NEWS

## World Elder Abuse Awareness Day - 15<sup>th</sup> June 2023

Age UK Solihull has teamed up with Solihull Safeguarding Adults Board Business Team once again for this year's campaign, which encourages organisations involved in the care sector and the wider public to pledge to help stamp out abuse in older people.

It is understood that more than a million older people experience abuse or neglect in the UK every year. On WEAAD day, which is on **Thursday 15 June 2023**, Age UK Solihull aims to raise money to help continue their work with older people, and in particular to be the voice for those who are victims of abuse. Age UK Solihull ask our supporters to **wear purple** – as a symbol colour for dignity – or organise **purple themed events** and make a donation to [Age UK Solihull](#).



Instances of abuse increased during the pandemic. Those who are particularly vulnerable may accept help from those who seek to exploit them, as they will be at risk without the safeguards offered by regular day-to-day contact with the outside world.

Upload photos of you or your group/family wearing purple to Twitter using the hashtag **#WEAAD2023**.

[You can donate to Age UK Solihull using JustGiving](#)

[Find out more about WEAAD2023 from Age UK Solihull here](#)

## Multi Board Coordination Session

On 26<sup>th</sup> April members from several boards and partnerships with responsibilities for safeguarding and communities came together for an in-person workshop to look at improving their coordination and partnership working.



Members from Health and Wellbeing Board, Solihull Safeguarding Adults Board, Solihull Safeguarding Children Partnership, Community Safety Partnership, Exploitation Reduction Board and Domestic Abuse Partnership Board, met to look at the progress we have all made in improving our coordination and understanding of one another's Board and Partnership responsibilities.

For many it was the first time of meeting face to face and the opportunity to network and build relationships was greatly welcomed. Some fantastic discussions took place and over the coming weeks and months we'll be working to develop and implement some key actions to help us take this work forwards.

# NATIONAL NEWS

## Safe & Wellbeing Reviews: Thematic Review & Lessons Learned

As part of the NHS response to the safeguarding adults review concerning the deaths of Joanna, Jon and Ben at Cawston Park, a national review has been undertaken to check the safety and wellbeing of all people with a learning disability and autistic people who are being cared for in a mental health inpatient setting. Individual reviews of 1,770 children, young people and adults were carried out between October 2021 and May 2022.



This document sets out the themes emerging from the review findings. These findings have helped inform the work of NHS England's Quality Transformation Programme and the Dynamic support register and Care (Education) and Treatment Review policy and guidance.

The reviews indicated that, for many people, their care and treatment in hospital was appropriate, and that the care they were receiving was safe and in line with expected standards. However, in some cases the reviews indicated that people were not receiving enough support to stay physically healthy, and that people did not have enough to do during the day, which impacted on their mental health and well-being. There was some evidence of high levels of restrictive practice and people's medication not always being reviewed in a timely way.

**Nearly half of the people reviewed had needs that could be met outside of hospital, and some people did not have clear plans in place for their care or treatment, or for their journey out of their current hospital setting.**

The reviews indicated that not enough was being done to support people to maintain links with friends and family, or to access support from an independent advocate.

A very small number of people (3% of people reviewed) required a safeguarding referral to be made to address significant concerns identified during the review.

Click here to read the full report: [Safe and Wellbeing Reviews: Thematic Review & Lessons Learned](#)

## Deprivation of Liberty & The Mental Capacity Act – The Way Forward

The government has announced that the implementation of the Liberty Protection Safeguards (LPS) is being delayed beyond this Parliament (end of 2024 unless an early general election is called). This short article explains the implications of this decision for the health and social care sector, and the likely way forward.

The effect of the pause is that the DoLS will continue to provide the main legal framework for authorising deprivation of liberty under the Mental Capacity Act for the foreseeable future, and all cases of community deprivation of liberty must continue to be taken to the Court of Protection.

Use this link to read the full report: [Deprivation of Liberty and the Mental Capacity Act - The Way Forward](#)

# EQUALITY, DIVERSITY & INCLUSION

## Board Priorities for 2023-24

This year the board's priorities will have a strong focus on equality, diversity, and inclusion.

The 2 priorities are:

### **To understand who Solihull's communities are**

What we aim to achieve:

- Representation of diverse groups in safeguarding dashboard data which reflect Solihull's communities
- Improved data quality around protected characteristics
- The board will have a clear understanding of where communities are seeking support, and this will support effective engagement
- The board will more accurately reflect the communities it serves
- The board will understand how different safeguarding issues affect different groups and whether the board is doing enough to address this

### **To understand from Solihull's communities and those with lived experience of safeguarding, what they need from an effective safeguarding response**

What we aim to achieve:

- Diverse groups will say safeguarding interventions are meeting their needs and they know how to report a concern.
- Demographic data will show that safeguarding concerns reported are reflective of Solihull's communities.
- The board is hearing the voices of diverse communities that it hasn't previously heard from e.g., homeless communities
- The board and subcommittees can demonstrate how feedback from those with lived experience has been used to influence the multiagency safeguarding response



# LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT

## SSAB Training Offer

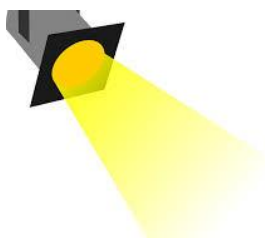
We can now share our Training Offer for 2023-2024. There are a range of training sessions on offer including foundation and advanced level sessions on 'Mental Capacity Act', we have a session on 'Outcome Based Safeguarding and Positive Risk Taking' which is new for this year's training offer, as well as 'Making safeguarding Personal'. We have also included sessions which were positively received last year which include 'Domestic Abuse Revisited' and 'Working with People that Self-Neglect'.

Taking part in learning and development is crucial to enabling practitioners to undertake their role effectively. Please take a look using the links below and book on to the training sessions via Eventbrite, using the links included in the Offer.

You can view the [training offer on our website](#), or a [PDF version](#).



## Policy and Procedure Spotlight – Financial Abuse



A reminder that the SSAB developed a guide on financial abuse, designed to support professionals in understanding what financial abuse is, how to spot the signs of financial abuse, the impact it can have on individuals, and how to broach the subject of financial abuse with individuals who may be reluctant to talk about it or unaware they are being abused. The final section covers options for legal redress.

You can access it on our website by clicking the link: [Link to Financial Abuse Guide](#)

Please also take a look at this toolkit for economic abuse, developed by Surviving Economic Abuse. The toolkit is designed to support professionals to identify whether someone they are working with is experiencing economic abuse as a form of domestic abuse. It sets out points for professionals to talk through when introducing questions about economic abuse to someone they are working with, and how to ensure the person is as comfortable as possible to talk about this difficult topic. Find the toolkit on our website at this link: [Link to Screening for Economic Abuse Toolkit](#).

# MAKING SAFEGUARDING PERSONAL

## Hoarding Awareness Week - 15<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> May 2023

### Henry - An Example of Best Practice When Working with Hoarding

We are starting to develop some short briefings which will provide best practice examples of adult safeguarding, where professionals have focused on making safeguarding personal and effective partnership working to support an individual to improve their safety and wellbeing.

Please click the links below to read about Henry, a case example which has been anonymised for confidentiality purposes. The briefing contains a short summary of the situation, sets out what enabled effective practice and lists some useful resources.

Please use the briefings for personal reflection, discussion in 1:1 supervision or as part of a wider team discussion. As new examples are shared, and our understanding of best practice changes and develops, we will look to add to this resource and will keep it under routine review.

Click the link to learn about Henry: [Henry - An Example of Best Practice When Working with Hoarding](#)



As part of National Hoarding Awareness, [Clouds End](#) are hosting FREE webinars every day!



For more information and to book your place click the links below.

Monday 15 <sup>th</sup> May	3:00pm – 4:30pm	<a href="#">Hoarded Homes - Are they a fire risk?</a>
Tuesday 16 <sup>th</sup> May	3:00pm – 4:30pm	<a href="#">The Hoarded Brain</a>
Wednesday 17 <sup>th</sup> May	3:00pm – 4:30pm	<a href="#">Resilience &amp; Hoarding</a>
Thursday 18 <sup>th</sup> May	3:00pm – 4:30pm	<a href="#">Approaches to Trauma Informed Practice</a>
Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> May	3:00pm – 4:30pm	<a href="#">Let's Talk about Hoarding! – Open Forum</a>

## Deaf Awareness Week - 1<sup>st</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> May 2023

12 million adults in the UK are deaf or have hearing loss – but we can all play our part to be more deaf aware, both at work and in daily life.

Find information and support from [Royal National Institute for Deaf People](#) including

- [Communication Tips](#)
- [Being more deaf aware at work](#)
- [Learning British Sign Language](#)
- [Tips for people with hearing loss](#)



## Dementia Action Week - 15<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> May 2023

Each year, [Alzheimer's Society](#) work with individuals and organisations across the UK to encourage people to 'act on dementia'.



The focus for 2023 will be on increasing diagnosis rates. Following a sustained drop in dementia diagnosis rates for the first time ever, they undertook research to understand the key barriers and benefits to getting a diagnosis.

As well as the misconception around memory loss just being part of getting old, the research found being in denial, and referral times to specialists, are big barriers for those experiencing symptoms to seek a diagnosis.

[Find out more about Dementia Action Week from Alzheimer's Society](#)

## Mental Health Awareness Week - 15<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup> May 2023

This year [Mind](#) are focusing on the impact that the cost-of-living crisis is having on our mental health. [Find out more from Mind here](#) including information on the [link between money and mental health](#).



You can find more information about the awareness week from [Mental Health Foundation](#). Their theme for this year is 'anxiety'.

Anxiety is something we can all experience from time-to-time. There are lots of reasons why we get this feeling. MHF have tips on [What can we do to cope with feelings of anxiety?](#)



## Making Safeguarding Personal Audit

Making Safeguarding Personal (MSP) is not simply about gaining an individual's consent, although that is important, but also about hearing people's views about what they want as an outcome. It engages the person in a conversation about how best to respond to their safeguarding situation in a way that enhances involvement, choice and control as well as improving quality of life, wellbeing and safety. This means that they are given opportunities at all stages of the safeguarding process to say what they would like to change.

Within the Performance, Quality and Audit subcommittee, partners are undertaking single agency audits to provide assurance to the Board that practitioners understand and apply MSP in practice, to support the participation of people in their safeguarding. The audit will also seek to confirm that relevant staff are trained to understand and apply MSP to the people they support, that staff provide accessible information and understand the process of referring someone to an Independent Mental Capacity Advocate.

Feedback from the single agency audits, is expected to be shared at the next Performance, Quality and Audit subcommittee in July.

# BOARD & SUB-COMMITTEE NEWS

## Safeguarding Adults Board Meeting

The Board's priorities for 2023-24 are: **To understand who Solihull's communities are, and to understand from Solihull's communities and those with lived experience of safeguarding, what they need from an effective safeguarding response**

At our meeting 2<sup>nd</sup> March 23 we held a development session to agree our priorities for 2023-24. We then held a shorter board meeting than usual to consider some core areas of business including an update on system pressures, updates from the ICB on Transforming Care and LeDeR, a review of the impact of our priority for 2022-23, a review of the risk register, an update on plans for CQC inspection of local authority adult social care, updates from the subcommittees on their progress against their workplans, and a review of the performance dashboard.

Next Board meeting is 1<sup>st</sup> June 2023

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### Engagement & Prevention Sub-Committee

At our meeting on 18<sup>th</sup> April, the group shared feedback, from their organisations, on the updated Safeguarding Information Leaflets. The group received a summary of the Structured Partnership Approach and agreed plans for this resource to be refreshed. We discussed plans for World Elder Abuse Awareness Day, partners shared intelligence on how community members feel about risk and safety, and we explored how we can access hard-to-reach groups in the borough. We considered the new priorities for 2023-24 and actions for this subcommittee. We reviewed the risk register and the new workplan for 2023-24.

Next meeting is 18<sup>th</sup> July 2023.

### Performance, Quality & Audit Sub-Committee

At our meeting on 4<sup>th</sup> May, the group considered the new priorities for 2023-24 and actions for this subcommittee. The group received the initial findings of a dip sample audit on Birmingham and Solihull Mental Health Foundation Trust referrals. A further audit is planned in due course.

A summary report with recommendations, was shared, following the Single Agency Audits on Mental Capacity Assessments & Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards. The group received a report on *Exploring and understanding safeguarding reporting across the West Midlands* and we considered regional differences where safeguarding enquiries have taken over 61+ days to conclude. We reviewed the risk register, the Safeguarding Dashboard data and agreed plans for the Audit schedule for the new year.

Next meeting is 4<sup>th</sup> May 2023.

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### Policies & Procedures Sub-Committee

At our meeting on 4<sup>th</sup> April we considered the new priorities for 2023-24 and actions for the subcommittee. We also received updates on the West Midlands safeguarding procedures regional review and Exploitation Reduction Strategy and Procedures review. We agreed to share the Safeguarding Adults Risk Screening Tool with colleagues and we reviewed the risk register.

Next meeting is 4<sup>th</sup> July 2023

### Learning & Improvement Sub-Committee

At our meeting on 13<sup>th</sup> April, the group shared feedback, from their organisations, on the updated Safeguarding Information Leaflets. A summary report with recommendations, was shared with the group, following the Single Agency Audits on Mental Capacity Assessments & Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards. The new Training Offer for 2023-24 was shared, with a discussion for further topics to be considered. The group considered the new priorities for 2023-24 and actions for this subcommittee. We reviewed the risk register and the new workplan for 2023-24.

Next meeting is 13<sup>th</sup> July 2023





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### **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 --- [Click here to view the Procedures](#)

### **To Report Abuse**

Tel: **0121 704 8007** (Office Hours)  
Tel: **0121 605 6060** (Out of Hours)  
Tel: **101** – Police (Call **999** in an emergency)

### **Safeguarding Referral Form**

**Public** - [Find the details on our website](#)  
**Professionals** - [Click here to make a referral to SMBC Adult Social Care](#)