Welcome to the second edition of the County Durham Safeguarding Adults Inter-Agency Partnership Board’s newsletter.

Training Update

We are pleased to announce that a number of free e-learning courses relating to Safeguarding Adults are now available via the Durham Safeguarding Adults Website. Courses are available on a number of topics including Safeguarding Adults at risk, Basic Awareness of Child and Adult Exploitation and the Mental Capacity Act, to name but a few. Follow the link on the website for a full list of courses available and details of how to register via the LSCB self-registration page. The courses are open to all SAB partners; however there are restrictions for private and for profit organisation. These are detailed on the self-registration page.

Adults and Health Services (formerly Children and Adults Services) are to deliver mandatory risk training for frontline staff and social work practitioners. The full day sessions will commence in October and run until February 2017. The training aims to support staff to:

- Develop a greater awareness and understanding of balancing service user choice and control with preventing harm to themselves and others
- Be able to take proportionate action to reduce or prevent risk in response to the level and complexity of risk presented
- Understand the importance of professional accountability and defensible decision making in relation to the job role
- Be able to address risk with a person centred approach
- Be able to adopt a systematic approach to managing risk.

Training Charging Policy

It is important that all organisations are mindful of the implications of non-attendance/ cancellation of a training course.

There is a direct impact upon the costs for providing training through cancellation or non-attendance for example, room hire, administration and delivery costs.

The Board wish to provide good quality accessible training across a range of related topics, as well as providing affordable bespoke packages to the wider sector. Agencies are encouraged to ensure attendance at training and identify replacement attendees where it is possible.

To improve training attendance, the SAB have introduced a training charging policy. This can be found on our website.

Safeguarding Adults Review Revised Protocol and Guidance

Safeguarding Adults Boards have a statutory responsibility to undertake SARs, should the SAR criteria be met. One of the working groups of the Board - Making Safeguarding Personal/Post Care Act Sub Group have identified the need to heighten awareness of the SAR processes and procedures. A protocol has been devised and is available on the website.
Partner Overview

County Durham and Darlington NHS Foundation Trust is an active partner of Durham’s Safeguarding Adults Board. The Executive Director of Nursing is the executive lead with responsibility for Safeguarding Adults and the Associate Director of Nursing (Patient Experience and Safeguarding) is the Safeguarding Lead within the organisation.

The Adult Safeguarding process is supported in the organisation by, Mike Egan, Safeguarding Adult Lead who provides operational advice to Trust staff in relation safeguarding concerns and raising issues. Mike is active member Sub groups and ensures that information disseminates through the organisation to staff at the grass roots.

The Trust also has a Lead Nurse for people with a learning disability and a Dementia Specialist Nurse ensuring we provide exceptional services to our most vulnerable patients.

The Trust has a well-established Safeguarding group. The group oversees Safeguarding activity within the Trust, shares information, monitors action plans in response to serious case reviews, domestic homicide reviews, inspections and audit, the group also reviews safeguarding policies, processes and procedures.

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Be Fraud Aware

Did you know that one in ten people have fallen victim to financial scams, losing hundreds, and sometimes thousands of pounds? The total cost to victims of financial fraud in 2015 was a staggering £755 million.

Vulnerable people can be particularly susceptible to scams. Some simple ways to avoid fraud include:

- Always shred personal information
- Make sure your computer has anti-virus protection
- Keep personal information confidential
- Never let unexpected callers into your home without checking their credentials

For more information on how to avoid fraud or how to report it, visit [www.actionfraud.police.uk](http://www.actionfraud.police.uk)

Other useful links include:
- [https://www.getsafeonline.org/durham/](https://www.getsafeonline.org/durham/)

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Communication & Engagement Strategy

For safeguarding adults to be effective in County Durham, good communication is key. The aim of this [document](#) is to set out the different ways that the SAB will raise awareness and promote key messages about safeguarding adults.

It is everyone’s responsibility to safeguard and as such the SAB takes a proactive approach and is committed to promoting the safety, health and wellbeing of adults with care and support needs and their carers.

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Access to Advocacy

Advocates support people to be listened to and to ensure their rights and choices are respected. The safeguarding principle of ‘empowerment’ is key to advocacy, and empowering individuals to understand what happens, how and when to challenge, including access to services and safeguarding intervention.

Statutory advocacy under the Mental Capacity Act 2005 and Care Act 2014 is essential to ensure the views and wishes of adults are central to safeguarding and adult protection; further supported by Making Safeguarding Personal. Statutory partners the NHS and Local Authority have a duty to appoint a Care Act Advocate if a person is subject to a safeguarding enquiry or safeguarding adult review in certain circumstances.

The Board regularly receives updates to seek assurance for advocacy provision. Statutory advocacy support in County Durham is provided through the commissioning of three Advocacy providers – Skills For People, Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB) and Rethink.