



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

Collaborative Working/Escalation Policy

A recommendation of a recent Mental Health Homicide Review identified the need to ensure that an escalation policy existed to deal with disputes and disagreements between agencies, and primarily to address any encountered difficulties in relation to the co-operation, involvement and information sharing, when working with vulnerable adults or children. Work was carried out with the LSCB and the policy was agreed in SAB in October 2016.



Herbert Protocol

The Herbert Protocol was launched in November 2016. The protocol outlines a scheme aimed at supporting family, friends, and care providers for vulnerable adults that are at risk of going missing.



The Herbert Protocol is a national scheme, adapted and being introduced by Durham Constabulary and wider partners that include the Safeguarding Adults Board, Fire and Rescue Services, and other agencies such as Age UK and The Alzheimer's Society. It encourages families, friends and carers to compile useful information which could be used in the event of a vulnerable person going missing from either care homes or their own homes. The difference between this scheme within Durham and other schemes is the proactive measure put in place to prevent the individual going missing rather than a purely reactive approach.

Anyone throughout County Durham and Darlington can request to be involved in this initiative if they know of or care for a vulnerable adult who is at risk of going missing or wandering. To sign up, contact **101** or herbertprotocol@durham.pnn.police.uk

SAB Annual Report

With the introduction of the Care Act 2014, Safeguarding Adult Boards are placed upon a statutory footing. A statutory requirement placed upon the Safeguarding Adults Board is to produce and publicise an annual report.



Board Annual Reports are accessible via the SAB Website [here](#).

The 2015-16 annual report is available [here](#).

Promoting Housing Solutions

Housing Solutions have been working with Life Channel to produce a 60 second promotional [video](#) regarding the service.



The video is now live in 69 GP Surgeries and 23 schools across the county, as well as the Council's Customer Access Points and Occupational Therapy Centres. The video has also been distributed to the Advice in County Durham Network. Professionals are encouraged to share the video with the public.

SAB Training Day

Durham Safeguarding Adults Board members and those responsible for safeguarding adults in partner organisations attended a one day training course on safeguarding under the Care Act in September. The course was funded by the Association of Directors of Adult Social Services (ADASS) and delivered by Belinda Schwehr of Care and Health Law. Participants completed an evaluation and responses were positive with participants confident that they would be able to share their learning with others in their organisation. Learning points for the SAB have been shared by ADASS NE



Care Act E-Learning

A suite of free Care Act e-learning courses has been made available to staff employed in County Durham by SAB partner agencies and County Durham voluntary agencies and private providers. The aim of the training is to increase staff knowledge and understanding of the framework of care and support law in England as well as the new duties for Local Authorities and partners, and the new rights for service users and carers.

If you are interested in completing the training click on the below to the flyer which explains how you register for the courses. [Care Act Flyer](#)

Age UK – be prepared against scams

Beat the Scammers – Helping older people protect themselves from telephone fraud



Older people are ruthlessly targeted by criminals over the phone resulting in billions of pounds being obtained fraudulently. Vulnerable older people report they find themselves scared to answer the phone and can become socially isolated.

Age UK County Durham has developed an exciting new initiative 'Beat the Scammers' to give older people confidence and show them practical things they can do to protect themselves against crime.

Volunteers are being recruited to talk to older people across County Durham. The charity is working with agencies including Police Fraud Specialist Investigation Team, Trading Standards, Community Safety and housing associations to deliver this project. The initiative is part funded by Durham Police Crime and Victims' Commissioner.

For more information, please contact 0191 3746568 or email bts@ageukcountydurham.org.uk

Partner Overview

Tees, Esk and Wear Valleys 
NHS Foundation Trust

Tees, Esk and Wear Valleys NHS Foundation Trust provides a range of mental health, learning disability and eating disorders services across County Durham.

Some individuals who access our services do so at a vulnerable point in their life and have a right to be protected if concerns are highlighted.

As an organisation we are committed to eradicating any forms of harm or abuse and all our staff have a professional and moral obligation to raise any concerns.

The Trust has adopted the 'Think Family' approach when faced with a safeguarding concern. This allows us to look at the overall family dynamics when approaching what support would be needed and which partners agencies could be involved.

The Trust is a partner of the Durham Safeguarding Adults Board ensuring that we take an active part in a multi-agency approach to safeguarding. The Director of Nursing has overall responsibility for Safeguarding and the Associate Director of Nursing (Safeguarding) is the Safeguarding Lead within the organisation.

Our Safeguarding and Public Protection group oversees the safeguarding activity within the Trust to ensure that the legislation and principles of Safeguarding is embedded into every day practice. To do this we also have a dedicated team of practitioners who actively participate in multi-agency meetings, raise awareness through training and provide specialist operational advice to Trust staff.

Durham Safeguarding Adults Inter-Agency Partnership Board

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