



**Durham
Safeguarding Adults
Partnership**

**DSAP Newsletter
September 2023**



Welcome to the twenty-third edition of the Durham Safeguarding Adults Partnership's Newsletter

We are a multi-agency statutory partnership with responsibility for monitoring the effectiveness of the arrangements to safeguard adults at risk of abuse. Click on our logo above for more info.

News from Durham Safeguarding Adults Partnership

New items recently added to our website. All available on

[DurhamSafeguardingAdults Home Page - Durham Safeguarding Adults \(safeguardingdurhamadults.info\)](https://durhamsafeguardingadults.homepage.durham.gov.uk/)

Skin Damage Toolkit update

A user-friendly guide to help you decide whether to make a Safeguarding referral or not when someone has some form of skin damage, recently updated.

- [Skin Damage Toolkit](#)

Strategic Plan on a Page update – 2023-2026

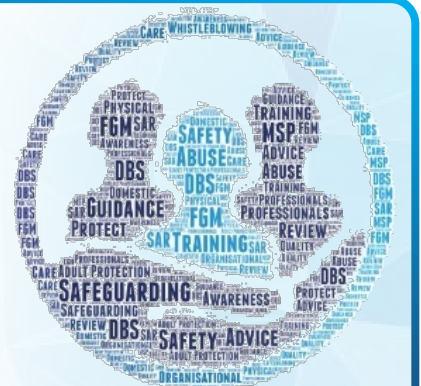
This has been updated and replaced with the new plan covering April 2023 - March 2026.

- [Strategic Plan on a Page](#)

Making Safeguarding Personal Briefing

A briefing to explain Making Safeguarding Personal, what it is and how it works.

- [MSP Briefing](#)



**Safeguarding Week:
20 – 24 November 2023**



**Durham
Safeguarding Adults
Partnership**



The County Durham Safeguarding Week 2023 will be a joint event with Durham Safeguarding Children Partnership. There will be a full timetable of online events

Theme – safeguarding yourself and others

**Safeguarding
Adults Week 2023**

Monday 20 – Friday 24 November
#SafeguardingAdultsWeek

ann craft trust
setting against abuse

[Safeguarding Adults Week 2023 Key Themes – Safeguarding Yourself and Others - Ann Craft Trust](#)



A message from the DSAP Independent Chair

Hi everyone,

As I write this we are nearing the end of August and that means summer is nearly over, "What summer??!!," I hear you cry, and if I'm honest, I have to share your sentiments. For many of us the weather has been somewhat disappointing but I do hope you managed a break at some point. Downtime is hugely important when we live and work in a world that can be so demanding and pressured. Resting our minds as well as our bodies is essential if we are to rise to the inevitable challenges that await us in this life.

As we move towards the next season, I'm reminded of the list of priorities and tasks that are pending in relation to our work in safeguarding and whilst sometimes that can feel daunting, it is important to remind ourselves of why we do this work and what would happen if we didn't support the most vulnerable people in our society. Many of us are committed to our work because we are driven by a need to make a difference as we know that safety from harm and exploitation is one of our most basic needs but a crucial part of our ability to respond effectively when we know people are in need of support, is dependent upon committed leadership across the whole public service economy, at all levels.

In effectively safeguarding people, we need to think about the places we work within. An effective safeguarding adult culture prioritises the quality of care, has strong leadership and employs a competent and safe workforce. We know that organisational culture can work against a culture of raising concerns and it has an influence on the prevention of abuse. Building a positive culture requires integrating whistle blowing into wider philosophies of good practice, challenging poor practice before it escalates, fostering openness and honesty, good quality training, staff development and supervision as well as challenging dominant individuals and we **all** have a role to play in these things.

In writing this blog I am reminded of the findings of the Whorlton Hall Safeguarding Adults Review and our work on toxic cultures which includes direct training for staff working across the NHS as well as adult social care. It is with much sadness and regret that such a situation existed in that particular service and we must do all that we can to prevent it happening in the future. That is why advocacy, with appropriately skilled representatives, is so important as is being able to identify poor cultures and to be equipped to challenge them when we identify concerns. Our work within the partnership will continue to drive change in this regard over the rest of the year.

I'm also aware of the work that is underway across the council in relation to the forthcoming inspection by CQC of Adult Social Care which will also involve partners. I understand this work can feel additional to existing duties and therefore time consuming but a focus upon quality is a great focus to have and preparation helps to drive up standards which has to be a good thing.

So, as we move into autumn, I'd like to encourage you to think about the part you can play wherever you are in our partnership, in upholding good quality care and protecting the most vulnerable in our society. Taking action in addressing poor responses from those tasked with supporting people in need is a collective responsibility but our personal obligation to challenge things we see that are wrong has never been more important.

Kind regards
Lesley Jeavons
Independent Chair



Durham
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Seen yet sidelined



Surviving Economic Abuse's new report finds two thirds of reported prosecutions for Coercive Controlling Behaviour (CCB) reference economic abuse, but it appears to be sidelined.

SURVIVING
ECONOMIC
ABUSE



[Surviving Economic Abuse.org - Seen-Yet-Sidelined](https://www.survivingeconomicabuse.org/seen-yet-sidelined)

Eyes Wide Open

County Durham and Darlington Fire and Rescue Service (CDDFRS) short film about fire risk, what to look for, and who might need a Home Fire Safety Visit.

County Durham and Darlington
Fire and Rescue Service



[Eyes Wide Open - Durham Safeguarding Adults Partnership - YouTube](#)

To request a CDDFRS Home Fire Safety Visit:

- complete the referral form on [Free Home Fire Safety Visit | County Durham and Darlington Fire and Rescue Service \(ddfire.gov.uk\)](#)
- or call CDDFRS on 0345 223 4221 during office hours.

Social worker guidance: in-person assessments if safeguarding concerns



Department
of Health &
Social Care



Chief social worker for adults Lyn Romeo and principal social workers have issued [guidance on carrying out proportionate assessments under the Care Act 2014](#). Echoing the statutory guidance, the new guide says face-to-face assessments are “**necessary and appropriate** if there are complex needs or **safeguarding concerns**”.

It says virtual assessments may be proportionate “if all of the following conditions apply”:

- the situation is fairly straightforward, with no coercion, neglect, or safeguarding concerns;
- there is a stable internet connection and access to technology;
- the person has capacity to engage in the assessment, and their communication skills are good.

Find out more

[Chief social worker and adult PSWs issue assessment guidance - Community Care](#)

CommunityCare
The heart of your social care career

Controlling or Coercive Behaviour Statutory Guidance updated



Home Office

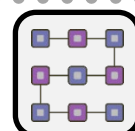


The offence of Controlling or Coercive Behaviour (CCB) under section 76 of the [Serious Crime Act 2015](#) was amended by the [Domestic Abuse Act 2021](#) to include partners, ex-partners and relatives who **do not live together**. This amendment came into force in April 2023. The government held a consultation on the CCB Statutory Guidance and in July published an update with a number of changes including:

- Clarifying the distinction between stalking, harassment, or coercive or controlling behaviour, to support police and prosecutors;
- increased focus on how perpetrators can exploit older people, disabled people, people with mental health issues or people with substance misuse issues, and can manipulate professionals;
- more information on the Mental Capacity Act 2005 and need for multi-agency approaches and professional curiosity when a ‘carer’ may use acting in someone’s best interests as a defence;
- more focus on economic abuse with civil and criminal examples, and of the impact of post separation abuse.



[Controlling or coercive behaviour: statutory guidance framework - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)



Spot early signs of life-threatening constipation in people with a learning disability

A NHS campaign co-created with people with lived experience has launched a [suite of new resources](#) including film, posters and leaflets for primary care, care settings, and use in families.



[NHS England » New NHS campaign to help spot early signs of life-threatening constipation in people with a learning disability](#)

Parliamentary magazine The House article about patients with learning disabilities and autistic people in mental health units

THEHOUSE[®]

"The pace of change is depressingly slow".

"The key is to get more funding into social care and address the workforce crisis".

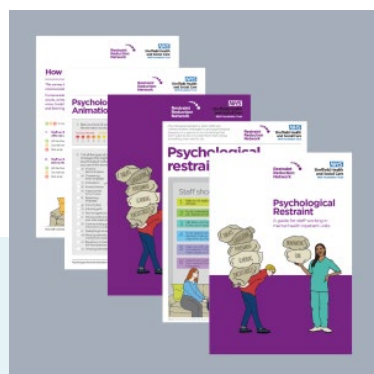
"Evidence of high levels of restrictive practice...more than half of people were being detained a long way from home...41 per cent of people did not need to be in hospital".

"What is needed now is a root-and-branch review of this programme and a serious analysis of the needs of people with learning disabilities and autism".



[an investigation for parliamentary magazine The House.](#)

Psychological restraint resource toolkit



Restraint is often seen as physical, restrictive, or chemical. This new Restraint Reduction Network resource, including posters, film, and an evaluation tool, supports identifying and reducing use of psychological restraint.

Restraint
Reduction
Network

[Restraint Reduction Network launches new Psychological Restraint resource toolkit - Restraint Reduction Network](#)