

Safeguarding Bulletin

Safeguarding disabled children and adults at risk.

ann craft trust
acting against abuse

January 2019

Issue 106

Bringing you the latest research and news on safeguarding disabled children and adults at risk.

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Ann Craft Trust Safeguarding Bulletin

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Welcome to Edition 106, the first in this New Year

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a very happy and peaceful 2019. It is great to look back and see the achievements of so many in 2018 with regard to enhancing best practice and ensuring the involvement of the people services support. Their voices are so important, and Making Safeguarding Personal should be offering just that when safeguarding concerns are raised.

One highlight at ACT during the year was the National Safeguarding Adults Week in November, with so many individuals and organisations contributing to it. Every day saw activities, tweets and blogs, all of which successfully raised awareness of the issues that were being discussed. Thanks go to all the organisations in the Safeguarding Adults Network who participated, and to our two students, Maisie and Olivia, who assisted us with the marketing and evaluation of the week. We have decided to hold another week in November 2019, and news about this will be featured in the bulletin as time gets nearer.

We also had our ACT annual seminar in November, which focused on the issues that were featured throughout the Safeguarding Week. I would like to thank all those who presented on the day and made it such a success. It was great to see so many of you

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I would like to thank all those who presented at our annual seminar, and made it such a success.

It was great to see so many of you there and to hear the commitment to taking these issues forward.

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there and to hear the commitment to taking so many of these issues forward.

This bulletin features some of the presentations and discussions from that day. We also have an article written by Sarah, our Safeguarding Children and Young People Manager, about Transforming Care, as well as information about the CSE training that Sarah is facilitating in the coming months. Our article from the vault talks about the need to safeguard children and adults in sport—a subject that is now very much embedded in ACT's work.

I hope you enjoy this edition and also save the date for our 2019 ACT seminar in November. More details will be given about this in the April edition.

Keep warm, keep safe, and do share any news and views that we can feature in future bulletins.

DM Kitson

Transforming Care

By Sarah Goff, Safeguarding Children & Young People Manager

Disabled children, young people and their carers often face major challenges in service provision and equality, as the readers of this bulletin will know

only too well.

'Being Disabled in England' 2017

revealed

enormous

inequalities

affecting the lives of disabled

people. Recent

work from the

Lloyds Foundation, 'A Quiet Crisis', highlights how cuts disproportionately affect those needing help and support and evidences a shift from preventative towards crisis spending.

Traditional early intervention models based on time-limited involvement do not always work.

Disabled children and young people may have a number of organisations working for them.

This is unwieldy to coordinate, but coordination is needed to achieve holistic and whole family approaches that are sensitive to changing needs. Coordination is also necessary if we're to hear and respond to children's voices and experiences.

Many special schools and settings are trying to manage children with increasingly complex needs. Some mainstream settings now seek to meet the needs of children. However, some teaching and care staff may not have enough specialist training and resources, either as students or in their current posts, to meet their

needs.

Child in Need help, under section 17 1989

Children Act, has been reduced in recent

years, with many local authorities less and less able to resource this. The needs of many disabled children are insufficiently complex for the high thresholds of need in use by Local Authority Social

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The number of children with complex needs has increased by 50% the last decade.

But only 0.4% of disabled children and their families have a social worker.

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Care disabled children's teams, despite the enduring myth that many disabled children have a social worker. The work of Anne Pinney has shown that only 0.4% of disabled children and their families have a social worker.

The work of Anne Pinney in her 2017 report 'Understanding the needs of children with complex needs or life limiting conditions; what can we learn from national data?' (CDC and the True Colours Trust, 2017) highlights increased life expectancy of children with life limiting conditions, the increased survival after trauma, and the increased survival of pre-term babies. This means that children and young people, and their families, need health, education and social care support to manage.

The number of children with complex needs has increased by 50% in the last decade. Nearly 118,000 children and young people with complex needs now attend special schools, and numbers of children with complex needs in mainstream schools have also increased.

Transforming Care

By Sarah Goff, Safeguarding Children & Young People Manager

According to Anne Pinney this reflects a rise in need rather than a drift away from inclusion of disabled children in mainstream provisions.

In 2017, government statistics estimated that there were 237,000 children in England with significant special educational needs, requiring specialist support and an individual plan for their care (EHC – Education, health and care plan). 73% of these children were boys. Diagnoses for those with ASC have increased. ‘21st century Social Work with children and young people with disabilities’, noted that there are ‘widely different approaches’ to children in need (Harvey et al, Research in Practice publication 2018). Differing thresholds and levels of intervention at both early intervention and at crisis stage were evident. At this year’s conference for the Association of Directors of Children’s Services, the CDC Digest noted that Damian Hind had talked about breakdowns at school for young people with special educational needs and stressed that this was not acceptable.

Recent project work carried out by Ann Craft Trust in special schools highlighted that populations of residential special schools include very many young teenagers whose lives at home and school have broken down after parents, carers and educators could no longer manage. Gaps were described by those we spoke to in many services including mental health support, family therapy,

speech and communication, advocacy and positive behaviour support.

On visits to residential special schools, it was clear that a major area of breakdown came as families struggled to manage the needs of young people, about three quarters of whom were boys struggling with communication as they approached teenage years and puberty. They had been placed in residential schools away from home and family care, often via Education and Health Care Plans.

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In 2017, government statistics estimated that there were 237,000 children in England with significant special educational needs, requiring specialist support and an individual plan for their care.

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There were serious concerns expressed via an October 2018 File on Four Radio 4 program about children and young people placed in secure units and Adult Treatment Units. It highlighted restrictive forms of care and voice or choice experienced by the young people involved. It described the lack of options available to work with young people and their families to prevent the need for such crisis admissions, the lack of therapeutic mental health support and help, and the lack of voice within reviews.

In 2016 it was estimated that there were on average about 170 young people under 18 at any one time placed in mental health

Transforming Care

By Sarah Goff, Safeguarding Children & Young People Manager

inpatient units awaiting assessment and treatment (Care and Treatment Reviews). Some were children in adults' settings, placed there because of the lack of suitable therapeutic children's beds in children's provisions. Dame Caroline Lenahan from the Council for Disabled Children drew attention to the needs of these young people in her two reports in 2017, 'The Lenahan Review: These are Our Children Too' and 'Good Intentions Good Enough'.

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The average stay in hospital is 285 days

10 times longer than the 28 day limit for assessment.

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Concerns have been raised about young people placed a long way from home, with over a quarter placed more than 100km away. This clearly poses huge challenges for continuing visits and family contact. It affects life for the whole family, as it may also reduce the links and connections needed to help make it possible for the young person to go home again one day, or to live near to their families. There are concerns about the time some young people spend as inpatients, with the average stay in hospital 285 days – 10 times longer than the 28 day limit for assessment. Concerns about this situation, the needs of the young people, the processes of review,

delays and the inappropriate use of medication continue to be voiced. Work is underway via the Transforming Care process to address the recommendations made in this review. Recent initiatives include the STOMP program looking at use of medication and its impact.

Addressing the issues raised by Lenahan and the File on Four program, Transforming Care is working to produce guidelines to reduce restraint and for positive behaviour support. Ofsted introduced Guidance in 2018 regarding physical interventions and restrictions of liberty called 'Positive environments where children can flourish'.

Alongside this, the key issue has to be to highlight the need for preventative support, listening to young people, multi-agency coordination, and partnership with parents and carers, many of whom provide love and attentive care but need more help. ACT training and consultancy seeks to support the development of the young person socially and emotionally, developing independence skills and confidence but also helping practitioners to work with parents. These services help parents understand the needs of their child and provide practical short breaks.

Communication and behaviour support may present costs to local authority budgets, but the front-loading of work in these areas would help create stronger foundations to prevent some of the later problems.



Sexual Exploitation & Learning Disabilities Training: Ann Craft Trust in Partnership with the NWG Network

This course is aimed at:

- All those working with children, young people and families, and parents of those with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities who need to know more about sexual exploitation.
- Those working with children and adults at risk of harm and abuse across all disciplines who need to know more about Special Educational Needs and Disabilities.

The course will develop your knowledge and awareness of how challenges in learning affect how children and young people understand and respond to risk.

Training Dates:

5 February, **Lancashire** — [Book a Place >](#)

17 April, **Nottingham** — [Book a Place >](#)



#ImWithSam: tackling learning disability and autism hate crime

Mark Brookes, Campaign Advisor, Dimensions

Andie Gbedemah, Public Affairs Officer, Dimensions

#ImWithSam is a national campaign to tackle learning disability and autism hate crime.

We launched the campaign after our research showed over 70% of people with a learning disability or autism had been a victim of a hate crime.

#ImWithSam has several goals: To raise awareness of the problem of learning disability and autism hate crime; to empower people with learning disabilities and autism to stand up to hate crime; and to work with government, the criminal justice system and others to deliver our blueprint for change.

Vulnerability vs. Hostility

Because there is no single piece of law on hate crime, there is an agreed definition of “hate crime” within the criminal justice system:

“Any criminal offence which is **perceived** by

*the victim or any other person, to be motivated by **hostility or prejudice** based on a person’s race or perceived race; religion or perceived religion; sexual orientation or perceived sexual orientation; disability or perceived disability, and any crime motivated by hostility or prejudice against a person who is transgender or perceived to be transgender.”*

This definition is used in Home Office Counting Rules and by the Crown Prosecution Service.

When it comes to disability hate crime, a focus on vulnerability can often make it harder to think about the hostility of the person committing the crime. This means that crime against people with a learning disability or autism aren’t recognized as hate crimes, even when the perpetrator is hostile. There is also a tendency to focus on safeguarding the victim, which means reducing the risk to them rather than dealing with the perpetrator’s hostility.



#ImWithSam—Tackling Learning Difficulty and Autism Hate Crime

By Mark Brookes, Campaign Advisor, Dimensions & Andie Gbedemah, Public Affairs Officer, Dimensions

A Brief History of Learning Disability & Autism



#ImWithSam—Tackling Learning Difficulty and Autism Hate Crime

By Mark Brookes, Campaign Advisor, Dimensions & Andie Gbedemah, Public Affairs Officer, Dimensions

What words do you think of when you hear the term “lunatic”?

Unstable
Mad
Disturbed

Unsafe
Crazy
Dangerous

Sick
Scary

What words do you associate with “hospital”?

Care
Health
Sickness

Cure
Treatment
Schedule

Doctors
Nurses
Wards

There were many challenges when it came to moving people out of long-stay hospitals. People with learning difficulties and autism were stigmatised. People were reluctant to live near them. They didn't understand certain behaviours of someone with a learning disability or autism, and many people didn't recognise that people can have “hidden” or “invisible” disabilities. Finally, there were very few ways for people with learning difficulties and autism to contribute to their communities.

A lot of this prejudice still exists today. People are targeted because they are seen as “weird” or “different”. They're targeted

because they're perceived as being “drains on society”. They're targeted because their behaviour's been misunderstood.

Some of the most serious crimes against people with learning disabilities have included these elements. Others have targeted the victim's vulnerability. Then there are the tragic cases of Brent Martin, Lee Irving and Steven Hoskin. All of these murders involved repeated failures in other services to safeguard them and join up work with the police.

#ImWithSam—Tackling Learning Difficulty and Autism Hate Crime

By Mark Brookes, Campaign Advisor, Dimensions & Andie Gbedemah, Public Affairs Officer, Dimensions

The Impact of Hate Crime on People with Learning Disabilities and Autism

Our survey found that hate crime has a very negative impact on people:

- 45% felt scared of other people
- 56% felt less confident
- 62% felt angry

Fear of hate crime prompts people to change the way they lead their lives:

- Not travelling alone
- Not going out at night
- Not going to certain areas of the community
- **45%** felt less comfortable leaving the house

We also know services and agencies will advise people to stay safe, which can make them change the way they live. This is helpful to keep people safe, but it doesn't always promote people's rights and inclusion. If services and agencies are advising people to keep safe they also have to ensure they're working to deal with the source of the hostility

The Role of Safeguarding in Tackling Hate Crime

Safeguarding infrastructure gives providers and opportunity to monitor and learn about hate crime. They can gather information about prevalence, show themes in the way that people are victimised, and demonstrate the sort of outcomes that can be achieved.

Hate or prejudicial targeting needs to be at the forefront of thinking about safeguarding. People responsible for safeguarding need to be confident in recognising and responding to hate crime.

This article was adapted from a presentation given at the 2018 Ann Craft Trust Safeguarding Seminar on Thursday November 22.

First Ever National Safeguarding Adults Week A Huge Success

By Elliot Davies, Marketing Officer



19–25 November 2018 marked the first ever National Safeguarding Adults Week.

It was a week of awareness-raising launched by members of the National Safeguarding Adults Network.

We realised that many organisations across the UK put on their own safeguarding weeks throughout the year. So our aim was to create a time when we can all focus on safeguarding adults—because we want to be better, together.

Throughout the week, national and regional safeguarding sports and activity organisations put on a range of activities to help spread awareness of this vital issue.

Each day of the week was focused on a different safeguarding issue:

- **Monday 19th November—Disability Hate Crime**
- **Tuesday 20th November—Forced Marriage, Domestic Abuse and The Prevent Agenda**
- **Wednesday 21st November—Financial Abuse**
- **Thursday 22nd November—The Ann Craft Trust Safeguarding Seminar**
- **Friday 23rd November—Online Safety and Cyber Bullying**
- **Saturday 24th—Sunday 25th November—Safeguarding Adults in Sport and Activity**

First Ever National Safeguarding Adults Week

By Elliot Davies, Marketing Officer

We put together a wealth of resources relating to these issues. [Access them all here.](#)

Sharing Safeguarding Stories on Social Media

We encouraged people to use the #SafeguardingAdultsWeek hashtag on social media to share updates and pictures.

We were overwhelmed by the level of support we saw. Every day, organisations everywhere posted photos and updates detailing their activities. We saw outreach stalls in public places, new safeguarding policy launches, and lots of messages of support.

The week was such a hit we saw our Twitter impressions rise by **1,192%**.

81,700 people saw our content relating to National Safeguarding Adults Week.

Our #SafeguardingAdultsWeek hashtag was used in around **1,400 total tweets by 560 Twitter users.**

[According to data from Tweet Binder](#), the first ever National Safeguarding Adults Week reached at least **1,943,306 people on Twitter alone.**

Same Time Next Year?

Deborah Kitson, Ann Craft Trust CEO, said:

“When we were first discussing the idea of having a National Safeguarding Adults Week

“

The first ever National Safeguarding Adults Week reached at least

1,943,306 people on Twitter alone.

”

in 2018, we had no idea of the journey ahead.

“But we know that this is a topic that so many people are trying hard to get right in their organisations, and that there is still so much that needs to be addressed.

“In the planning months I was sometimes excited, and sometimes filled with fear wondering what we had taken on. But I was mainly confident that this issue deserved the attention.

“The buzz of activity, discussions and debate on social media and at events across the country was fantastic. It could not have happened without your commitment to safeguarding adults.

“So thank you! And here’s to National Safeguarding Adults Week 2019!”

A Week of Activity

Overleaf you’ll find a selection of screenshots taken from social media throughout the week.

First Ever National Safeguarding Adults Week

By Elliot Davies, Marketing Officer



Bridgewater NHS @Bridgewater_NHS · 24h

Did you know that people with learning disabilities are at high risk of 'mate crime'?

This is a disability hate crime which involves the victim being abused and manipulated by someone they think is their friend
mencap.org.uk/advice-and-sup... #SafeguardingAdultsWeek @ann_craft_trust



Coventry Safeguarding Boards @CoventryLSCB · 7h

We had a very productive day yesterday out in the city talking about adult abuse and neglect for #SafeguardingAdultsWeek Today we are at UHCW, with @coventrycc and @nhsuhcw come and see us to talk about adult safeguarding! @nhsuhcw @AnnCraftTrust @LindyJaneKirk



Loudwater Studio @LoudwaterLudlow · 7h

Some fabulous work in the Studio yesterday recognising #SafeguardingAdultsWeek



BSAB @BrumSAB · 29m

Be #ScamAware: Number spoofing - #scammers use technology to make their caller ID appear to a genuine organisation. If in doubt, hang up and call the organisation directly, but wait 10 minutes as #scammers can keep the phone line open @AgainstScams #SafeguardingAdultsWeek

Annual ACT Safeguarding Seminar & AGM 2019

Thursday 21st November 2019

University of Nottingham

Save the Date!

Themes and speakers TBC.

My Marriage, My Choice—Forced Marriage of Adults With Learning Disabilities, Developing Knowledge, Policy and Practice to Keep People Safe

By Rachael Clawson

My Marriage, My Choice is a 2.5 year project funded by the NIHR school of Social Care Research.

The project builds on previous work:

- **2009–10: Research.** The motivators and consequences of forced marriage of people with learning difficulties (PWLD)
- **2011: Practice Development.** A Training programme for frontline practitioners.
- **2012–13: Research.** Forced Marriage and Safeguarding Boards.
- **2014–15: Awareness–Raising.** “Hidden Truth” regional events.

All projects were funded by the Forced Marriage Unit Domestic Programme Fund.

What Did We Do in This Research?

Phase 1 involved analysis of Forced Marriage Unit (FMU) data collected between 2009–2015. This enabled description of this “population”, along with some comparisons of all-case data and that for people with learning difficulties.

The FMU data demonstrated a year-on-year increase of cases being reported in respect of people with learning disabilities. There was similar increased reporting in all cases.



Key differences were highlighted in terms of gender and age in respect of cases reported for people with learning disabilities. There were more cases of males with learning difficulties being reported than those of females with learning disabilities as compared with all cases. The ages of people with learning disabilities being reported as being at risk of, or having been forced into marriage, are higher than in all cases.

This shows that the profile of a “typical” person who may be at risk of forced marriage is not notably different, which has implications for practice. The highest incidence of reported cases were in London & the South East; the West Midlands; the North West; and Yorkshire & Humberside.

My Marriage, My Choice

By Rachael Clawson

Phase 2 involved interviews and focus groups with four key stakeholder groups:

- 19 people with learning disabilities
- 23 family carers
- 16 faith/community leaders
- 37 practitioners (social work services, health services, the police service and learning disability services)

Headline Findings—People With Learning Disabilities

The right to choose was recognised, but the degree to which people were able to exercise rights was determined by individuals' capacity to understand marriage, family and living circumstances.

When presented with specific scenarios about forced marriage, people were less sure of rights and wrongs of particular situations

...like [the] partner if he is good, they understand the person's situation, that is OK.

...if they think, oh no, there is no care, nobody is going to look after my son or daughter, then maybe they will force their son or daughter to get married.

It's difficult to do it on your own. That's why you need a person to help you get married.

There's lots of people I know who wouldn't be able to say no to their mums and dads.

and more likely to acquiesce with persuasive suggestions.

Some people demonstrated strong conviction and willingness to vocally exercise their rights to choose— though there remained a strong deference to others (particularly parents) over decisions.

Those who expressed the most willingness to say no to unwanted marriages were those with observable capacity, a wider frame of reference on marriage, and wide social opportunities. This suggests that a greater vulnerability to forced marriage may exist for those who have less of any or all of these.

Headline Findings—Family Carers

Some felt high levels of acceptance in their social circles and wider community. Some experienced isolation and stigma.

There's appreciation that people with learning

My Marriage, My Choice

By Rachael Clawson

disabilities had differing levels of capability, but there was less clear understanding of capacity and how it's assessed.

Some reported dilemmas about marriage. People desired marriage and contentment for their relatives, but they made the incorrect assumptions that this would always be possible.

Motivations for considering marriage were intertwined with concerns about future care. Younger family members seemed more open to the idea of support and services.

Distinctions between arranged and forced marriage appeared blurred for many. Some were aware of the law, but many were not.

The key is seen as finding the “right” partner. Concerns of the partner without learning disability coping were put above risks or concerns that may exist for the person with a learning disability.

Headline Findings—Faith and Community Leaders

In some faiths there was a level of stigma in having a “label”. There were mixed experiences even within the same faith community. There was a prevalent view of compassion and tolerance of diversity, though this also meant a denial of difference.

Some alluded to a strong influence of families in marriage matters and the vested interests there may be in bringing families together through marriage. Assumptions that parents know best for their offspring suggests limitations to their own role in influencing marriage decisions.

...in our society, in our faith as well, we're expected for everyone to get married. And obviously when they don't... it's not a big issue, but you still hear negative whispers here and there.

We find [disability] taboo. We find it shameful. We try to hide it. We don't want social services to deal with it. We find we can't talk about it openly.

Most of those we spoke to were aware of the law, but the assessment of capacity to consent was problematic on both a language level and on what is meant by capacity. This has important implications for who may or may not be able to get married legally.

Most felt their role was largely one of preparing and conducting marriages and supporting people in marriage, rather than influencing choice to marry.

My Marriage, My Choice

By Rachael Clawson

Headline Findings—Practitioners

People identified future care concerns as the highest motivator for families. Some perceived there were genuine misunderstandings about forced marriage, capacity and consent.

I think the problem is it damages your relationship with that family. And it's not like—oh, they can go to a different learning disability service...

...if somebody actually thinks—oh gosh, I can't say anything because somebody's going to say that I'm racist...

Some perceived that there were genuine misunderstandings among families about forced marriage, capacity and consent. Practitioners' awareness of Forced Marriage, the law and statutory guidelines varied greatly in line with the incidence in their area. Some misunderstood the assessment of capacity to consent.

The practitioners talked about the challenges they were facing in recognising, reporting and progressing cases. They told us about the lack

of resources and training, and the lack of an infrastructure to support the speedy progression of cases.

We learned about collusive activities within families and between families and other practitioners. Finally, we were told about the delicate balance that's required in maintaining existing relationships with families while delivering sometimes “disagreeable” outcomes to them.

Additional Findings—Interviews With Five Registrars

Among the five registrars we spoke to there was some awareness of the law and statutory guidelines, but mostly in the context of sham marriages.

Some suggested they could feel quite unsupported in their role, though all said they could find support in their local team and that they would work through concerning cases together.

For a typical registrar it would simply be the fact that they don't want to cause problems... we're not social workers. And how do we know the level of their capacity to understand.

My Marriage, My Choice

By Rachael Clawson

Registrars work within a culture of enablement. They perceive that if people are experiencing challenges in giving notice of marriage or saying their vows, they should be enabled to do so even if it means saying one word at a time.

Practice Issues

- Helping all stakeholder groups to understand consent, what constitutes a forced marriage, and what the consequences might be.
- Raising awareness of the law and statutory guidelines.
- Assessing capacity to consent to marriage—complexities of the assessment itself and the impact of decisions made.

- What to do in cases where the marriage has already taken place and seems to be “working” for all concerned.
- Empowering people with learning disabilities to have a voice.

Forced Marriage Awareness Film

We produced an educational film that includes powerful real cases, expert analysis of the issues, and messages for families and for practitioners working with them.

[You can watch the film in full here.](#)

This article was adapted from a presentation given at the 2018 Ann Craft Trust Safeguarding Seminar on Thursday November 22.



Club Matters—Supporting Sport and Activity Clubs

By Nicola Dean, Safeguarding Adults in Sport Manager

ACT has been working for over 10 years with the sport and activity sector, providing expert advice on the topic of safeguarding adults.

Deborah Kitson CEO sits on the Safeguarding Adults in Sport Strategic Partnership, a cross sport committee that provides direction to the sport and activity sector on how to embed safeguarding adults.

For the past three years, ACT has received funding from Sport England to provide expert safeguarding guidance. We have found that it is a large and varied sector, and that acronyms are very different to those we are used to in education, health and social care.

A key task is getting the message of safeguarding adults out to the sector to make it feel relevant to the people on the ground—or depending on the sport, on the water or in the air! At club level, most people are volunteers and are sometimes only just getting the hang of safeguarding children. Safeguarding adults can feel like an added pressure.

Introducing Club Matters

So that's where Club Matters comes in. They know how to pitch the information to get clubs to feel that it is relevant and that they can do something and play their part in safeguarding adults. The accessible resources are relevant to anyone involved in running a club, not just sports clubs.

ACT has been working with Sport Structures on the messages that they get out to clubs regarding safeguarding adults. We have supported the developments of a short information guide and an online information piece that will demystify the topic. Keep an eye out for their launch.

In addition, there is a podcast in which I was interviewed by two sport journalists. They really helped the topic come to life. [Find it here—it's episode four!](#)

Clubmark—The Club Accreditation Tool

Future plans include reviewing the criteria for Clubmark. This is the accreditation scheme for community sports clubs. We want to ensure that the criteria adequately covers safeguarding adults. We also want to launch a follow-up to include adult participants talking about what safeguarding means to them, and what they want from clubs.

To register for the Clubmark scheme, clubs must be located in England and affiliated to a Sport England recognised National Governing Body. Clubs that are not affiliated to a National Governing Body can still access the Club Matters site and use the resources to ensure that they have good governance.

For more information about how ACT supports clubs and other sport and activity organisations, [visit our website.](#)

Safeguarding Adults in Sports and Physical Activity Using Club Matters and Clubmark

By Rosie Benson, Head of Clubs, Sport England, and Lisa West, Project Manager, Sport Structures (Club Matters Provider for Clubmark)



We do have a new vision, and it is different.

Traditionally we have started with the people that already play sport, and those that are talented.

Our new vision turns this on its head. We start with the many—not the few!

We want everyone in England—regardless of age, background, or level of ability, feeling able to engage in sport and physical activity.

Some will be young, fit and talented, but most will not.

To deliver this, we need a system that welcomes everyone. We need a system that's customer-focused and that thinks about customer needs.

Sports Clubs in Context

There are currently more than 72,000 sports clubs in England. 76% of these clubs have been around for more than 10 years, and only 14% of them were formed in the past five years. Almost all clubs are experiencing positive membership trends.

Safeguarding Adults in Sports and Physical Activity Using Club Matters and Clubmark

By Rosie Benson, Head of Clubs, Sport England, and Lisa West, Project Manager, Sport Structures (Club Matters Provider for Clubmark)



15.5 million people are playing members of a sports club. That's 28% of the population. On top of this there are a further 3.2 million non-playing members.

56% of playing members are adults, and 44% are juniors. On average, members stay with their clubs for 12 years.

All of these clubs are run by a paid workforce that's around 400,000 strong, and a volunteer workforce of around 2.7 million people.

Clubs generally have an optimistic vision of the future. More than 55% expect to grow, and 45% plan to try new things to attract new participants. The key drivers for the members are the social contact and, of course, enjoyment of the sport.



Clubs have an important role to play in sustaining the core market and in extending their reach to bring new people into sport.

What is Club Matters?

Running, managing or setting up a sports club is hugely rewarding and enjoyable. But it can also be challenging at times.

Club Matters is a one-stop-shop for sport clubs of all sizes in England, giving advice on all aspects of running or setting up a club.

It offers free, convenient, practical and universal resources to support the safe, efficient and effective running of sports clubs.

Club Matters resources can help with:

- **Club Finances**—Managing money, generating income, budgeting and tax.
- **Club Management**—Governance, facilities, partnerships, structures and development plans.
- **Club People**—Coaches, members, participants, and volunteers.
- **Club Marketing**—Research, strategies, sponsorship, and social media.

Safeguarding Adults in Sports and Physical Activity Using Club Matters and Clubmark

By Rosie Benson, Head of Clubs, Sport England, and Lisa West, Project Manager, Sport Structures (Club Matters Provider for Clubmark)



With Club Matters, sports and activity organisations can access a number of free resources, including:

- **Workshops**
- **Online Modules**
- **Toolkits**
- **A Club Improvement Tool**

Our aim is to help sport and activity organisations attract and retain members through building a sustainable club. We want clubs to be able to understand their members to better deliver a high quality customer experience.

What is Clubmark?

Clubmark is a club accreditation tool that focuses on four key areas:

- **Activity/playing programmes**
- **Duty of care and welfare**
- **Knowing your club and its community**
- **Club management**

Clubs that use Clubmark are pledging their ongoing commitment towards delivering an excellent customer experience with long-

CLUBMARK



term sustainability. They're pledging to stay connected and relevant to their local community, and to stay committed to their ongoing development as a club.

The Clubmark accreditation tool identifies a club that meets minimum operating standards in relation to safeguarding and welfare best practice.

Clubmark Duty & Welfare Criteria

Here's our criteria for duty of care and welfare:

- The club ensures that all activities take place in a safe environment that complies with legal requirements.

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- The club has necessary provision in place for the safeguarding and welfare of its members. This means they need a child and adult at risk safeguarding policy that meets statutory requirements
- There are clear systems to report, respond to and manage safeguarding concerns or allegations of poor practice or abuse that arise.
- Coaches, volunteers, instructors, club activators and club welfare officers receive an induction that includes information about safeguarding responsibilities, policy and procedures, and are appropriately trained in safeguarding and child protection.

What Role Can Club Matters and Clubmark Play in Safeguarding Adults?

We've made some new resources available for clubs and physical activity settings. These include a two page "Essential Guide" and a podcast. There's a wealth of up-to-date information on the Club Matters website, and we'll soon be releasing an online training workshop.

There's a review of evidence requirements within Clubmark to ensure that best practice is followed, and some assessor training on what best practice around safeguarding adults looks like, and what is required of clubs.

Safeguarding adults is still quite new to sports clubs. We want to spread the word.

This article was adapted from a presentation given at the 2018 Ann Craft Trust Safeguarding Seminar on Thursday November 22.

Safeguarding Adults in Sport Email Update

Get the latest in safeguarding adults in sport and activity straight to your inbox.

Our monthly email update will bring you the latest safeguarding news, advice, resources and training opportunities every month.

Subscribe now →

ACT Sport Seminar 2019

Tuesday 2nd July 2019

University of Nottingham

Save the Date!

Themes and speakers TBC.

2009 Disabled Children Practice Guidance – Looking to the future? A call to update this excellent resource!

By Sarah Goff, Safeguarding Children & Young People Manager

The 2009 Disabled Children Practice Guidance is an excellent resource for care managers, care practitioners, local authorities, and local authority children boards (LSCBs).

It sets out how all agencies and professionals should work together to ensure that the needs of disabled children are fully understood and addressed.

[Access it here.](#)

It contains clear, direct and detailed information, analysis and material to support practice. Chapters include:

1. Practice Guidance for LSCBs
2. Practice Guidance for Professionals
3. Research and Statistical Evidence on Safeguarding Disabled Children and Young People

It also contains useful annexes exploring:

- A summary of legislation, guidance and policy most relevant to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of disabled children and young people
- Training and CPD
- Information about resources

The report followed the work of the National Working Group for Safeguarding Children. They produced a report called “It Doesn’t Happen to Disabled Children”. This report ironically highlights the lack of recognition, awareness and response to what are in fact far higher levels of abuse faced by disabled young people.

In many places there’s a backdrop of continuing lack of strategic, management and practitioner awareness, all aggravated by reduced opportunity and social inequality.

This of course has huge relevance for those of us working in all related sectors working with adults, disabled children and young people, parents and carers of disabled children, and parents with learning needs.

This guidance was perhaps not widely distributed when it was originally launched. It was described as being for “education services”. But it actually contains material useful for carers and practitioners across all agencies—including the criminal justice sectors.

Changes Since Publication

Since the guidance was published, major changes have been introduced that place greater emphasis on voice, choice, agency,

2009 Disabled Children Practice Guidance – Looking to the future? A call to update this excellent resource!

By Sarah Goff, Safeguarding Children & Young People Manager

rights agendas, participation and co-production in service and policy design and delivery.

In terms of legal and policy development, new responsibilities and frameworks include:

- **The Equalities Act 2010**— Which challenged the need for recognition of unequal opportunity and reasonable adjustment.
- **The Children and Families Act 2014**— Which introduced Education and Healthcare Planning.
- **The Care Act 2014**—Which changed the landscape for adult safeguarding.

Other developments, such as the Mental Capacity Act, challenge practice and encourage debates.

Recognition is growing of young people's voices and experiences, but we still have a long way to go. The same can be said of carers' needs—holistic and whole family approaches including siblings' needs and those of young carers.

New forms of practice are developing, such as family group conferences. But we're facing challenges in early intervention, and continued support to assist those with complex needs.

Young people's voices and experiences have highlighted the extent and the impact of harm. New research highlights developments in safeguarding generally, both outside and inside the home as well as in care and services settings.

Research into practice has highlighted what works and what young people and families need. Practitioners, managers and LSPs need succinct but clear guidance, which practitioners and disabled young people, as well as their families and carers, can consider and refer to when planning practice and seeking to apply the same thresholds for disabled young people as for all young people.

The 2009 Disabled Children Practice Guidance remains an excellent resource. But it seems that we're long overdue an update...

Introducing Ieuan Watkins — Our New Safeguarding Adults in Sport Manager for Wales!



Well hello everyone!

On my first day at the Ann Craft Trust, I was asked to write a blog post for the website. I thought that might be a bit premature, as I'm brand new in my role and I have so much to learn.

But I already have loads of ideas for [how we can make Welsh sports safer for Adults at Risk](#).

First, a little bit about me. There won't be a lot!

I recently retired after 31 years of police service. I have spent many years managing public protection teams. This includes time sat on several national bodies helping to shape policy and processes throughout the UK.

I have also recently returned from secondment to the National Crime Agency. This saw me helping the Bermuda Police

Service with their public protection processes. I know—tough gig!

The National Sport Centre for Wales isn't Bermuda. But it is my new work home and I am delighted to have secured this role.

I plan to contact all sports, organisations run training and provide support across all of Wales. [Why not follow me on Twitter and say hello?](#)

But for now, I thought I would answer a question I've been asked a number of times already...

What is an Adult at Risk? Is this the same as a Vulnerable Adult?

OK, so a little bit of law.

The term "vulnerable adult" came from some national guidance published in 2000 called "[No Secrets](#)".

Introducing Ieuan Watkins—Our New Safeguarding Adults in Sport Manager for Wales!

We have now moved away from this old terminology. Because adults do not consider themselves to be “vulnerable” all day every day, labelling people as “vulnerable” is perhaps unfair. Some may even consider the term to be insulting.

The new terminology is “Adult at Risk”. This comes from [The Care Act](#). Just to complicate things a little, [there’s a different piece of legislation in Wales that uses the same terminology](#).

Both have very similar definitions that an “Adult at Risk”:

- Is experiencing or is at risk of abuse or neglect.
- Has needs for care and support, whether or not the local authority is meeting those needs; and
- As a result of those needs, an Adult at Risk is unable to protect himself or herself against abuse or neglect, or the risk of it.

So ask yourself:

Have You At Any Stage in Your Life Been an Adult at Risk?

I know I have.

So I challenge everyone involved in Welsh sports to consider:

- Have you got an Adults at Risk policy in your sport?
- Does your current policy use correct terminology?
- Is your organisation “Adult at Risk” ready?

For more updates from Ieuan, follow him on Twitter — [@SportSafeguard](#).

Safeguarding News Watch:

Safeguarding Children and Young People

Ofsted Warns Against “False Economy” of Cuts to Preventive Services

5 December 2018 | [CommunityCare.co.uk](https://www.communitycare.co.uk)

For Disabled Children in Poverty, Christmas is Straight out of Dickens

6 December 2018 | [theguardian.co.uk](https://www.theguardian.co.uk)

DfE Threatened With Judicial Review Over Children’s Social Care “Myth Busting” Document

11 January 2019 | [CommunityCare.co.uk](https://www.communitycare.co.uk)

Special Educational Needs Children Services Facing Deficit of £536m

15 November 2018 | [LearningDisabilityToday.co.uk](https://www.learningdisabilitytoday.co.uk)

Bin Workers Trained to Spot Signs of Child Abuse

4 July 2018 | [bbc.co.uk](https://www.bbc.co.uk)

Scottish Government Urged to do More to Support Children With Complex Needs

15 January 2019 | [LearningDisabilityToday.co.uk](https://www.learningdisabilitytoday.co.uk)

“Positive Pants” to Empower Children and Increase Their Feelings of Confidence and Security

29 October 2019 | [askiris.org.uk](https://www.askiris.org.uk)

Safeguarding News Watch:

Safeguarding Adults at Risk

Government Pledges New Mental Health Act to Shift Power From Professions to Patients

6 December 2018 | [CommunityCare.co.uk](https://www.communitycare.co.uk)

What Does the Independent Review of the Mental Health Act Mean for Autistic People?

13 December 2018 | [LearningDisabilityToday.co.uk](https://www.learningdisabilitytoday.co.uk)

MP Calls For “Predatory Marriage” Law Change

21 November 2018 | [bbc.co.uk](https://www.bbc.co.uk)

The Shop Where It’s OK to be Different

3 December 2018 | [bbc.co.uk](https://www.bbc.co.uk)

CQC to Probe Restraint and Seclusion Following BBC Investigation

4 December 2018 | [CommunityCare.co.uk](https://www.communitycare.co.uk)

Why Did Rachel Johnston Die After Having All Her Teeth Removed?

14 December 2018 | [bbc.co.uk](https://www.bbc.co.uk)

Why Increased Funding Won’t Guarantee Improved Social Care

4 December 2018 | [CommunityCare.co.uk](https://www.communitycare.co.uk)

Safeguarding News Watch:

Safeguarding Adults in Sport and Activity

Bradley Bowls Club Recognised With Disability Sport Award

3 December 2018 | LeaderLive.co.uk

Disabled Manchester United Fans Want Netting to Protect Them From Missiles

5 December 2018 | bbc.co.uk

“My Life is Just as Important as Everybody Else’s” – Meet the Disability Leaders

3 December 2019 | theguardian.co.uk

Moving Medicine – A New Tool to Help Healthcare Professionals Talk About The Benefits of Physical Activity

16 October 2018 | SportEngland.org

Former Wales Rugby Captain Gareth Thomas—“I Have Been The Victim of a Hate Crime”

18 November 2018 | bbc.co.uk

Surfer and Paralympic Hopeful Has Motability Car Taken Away by DWP

13 October 2018 | dailypost.co.uk

Reminiscing About Sport Can Help People With Dementia Retain Vivid Memories

1 December 2016 | Alzheimers.org.uk

Safeguarding Research and Resources

Advanced Practitioner Workshops

Designed for social workers and other professionals in social care settings, the workshops aim to bring the latest practice-relevant academic theory and research to a practitioner audience.

The Advanced Practitioner Workshop is being run to create a social work learning community at the University of Nottingham and is therefore free of charge.

13th February 2019, 13:30–16:00.

Further information and booking: www.nottingham.ac.uk/cpdstudy/programmes/sociology-social-work/advanced-practitioner-workshops.aspx

Endangered Syndrome

By the International Union for the Conservation of Nature's own criteria, the Down syndrome community qualifies as endangered in many parts of the world. With this petition, the Canadian Down Syndrome Society is hoping to get added to the IUCN Endangered List.

For more information, and to sign the petition: www.endangeredsyndrome.com/

Jumping Through Hoops—How are Coordinated Responses to Multiple Disadvantage Meeting the Needs of Women?

The 2017 *Mapping the Maze* report provided a broad picture of the support that homelessness, substance misuse, mental health and criminal justice services are providing to women. The report explores the experiences of local areas across the country that are seeking to bring such services together to develop a more coordinated response for individuals facing multiple disadvantage.

Little is known about how general services in these areas are responding to women's needs or how women-specific services, such as domestic and sexual violence services, are involved in coordinated approaches.

This small-scale research report seeks to answer three key questions relating to these issues. Read it here: https://avaproject.org.uk/wp/wp-content/uploads/2018/09/Jumping-Through-Hoops_report_FINAL_SINGLE-PAGES.pdf

From the Vault: Protecting Disabled People From Abuse in Sport

By Annie Kerr, Issue 39; April 2002

This article gives a brief overview of research that is currently in progress regarding good practice procedures in the protection of disabled people from sexual abuse in sport. It begins with a short description of the origins of disability sport and the organisation of sport in general. The discussion that follows describes the research being undertaken. Finally, there is an update of what

sports organisations are currently doing to protect disabled people in sport.

Very few sports organisations existed for disabled people before the Second World War, although disabled people took part in sport on an individual basis. The first sports organisation for disabled people was a sports club for the deaf, which was founded in Germany in 1888. In Great Britain, the Society of One-Armed Golfers was founded in 1932. After the Second World War, there were large numbers of war disabled people. Sport was used as an aid to treatment and rehabilitation. Sir Ludwig Guttman established the Spinal Centre at Stoke Mandeville Hospital in Aylesbury in 1944, where activities such as wheelchair basketball were introduced to

disabled ex-service men and women. The first Stoke Mandeville Games for the Paralysed were held in 1948 with the first international competition for wheelchair athletes being held in 1952. The first Paralympics (Parallel Olympics) were held in 1960 in Rome. Initially,

athletes who used wheelchairs were included in the Paralympics, but gradually, as the Paralympic movement has

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...Sport England, Sports Coach UK, National Governing Bodies and the NSPCC have been working together to raise awareness of child protection issues in sport.

”

grown, athletes with other impairments have participated. The first time that athletes with learning disabilities took part in the Paralympics was in Madrid in 1992.

Sport is generally organised by National Governing Bodies whose responsibilities include establishing competition rules, training coaches and selecting national teams. The Home Countries usually have their own National Governing Bodies, which in some cases work together under a “Great Britain” or “United Kingdom” heading. Sport for disabled people can be organised through National Governing Bodies such as the National Disability Sports Organisations or the Welsh Sports Association for People with Learning Disabilities, or through organisations such as

From the Vault: Protecting Disabled People From Abuse in Sport

By Annie Kerr

Special Olympics, Disability Sport England, Mencap and Gateway. Advice and information on competition and participation opportunities for learning disabled athletes, at local, national and international levels, can be obtained from the United Kingdom Sports

Association for People with a Learning Disability.

Over the last six or seven years, Sport England, Sports Coach UK,

National Governing Bodies and the NPSCC have been working together to raise awareness of child protection issues in sport. The first time these issues were discussed openly was at a conference held in Cheltenham in 1996, hosted by Professor Celia Brackenridge. An increased awareness of child protection issues in sport motivated those organisations involved in sport to take action and review what was available to protect disabled children. As a result, in 1999 Disability Sport England, funded by Children in Need, was able to produce a guide and training workshop called *Protecting Disabled Children and Adults in Sport and Recreation*.

My involvement in the protection of disabled people in sport began as a result of my links

with disability sport and with child protection in sport. I trained as a teacher and taught disabled children and young adults in a variety of settings before becoming a development officer working in disability sport. Later, as a self-employed consultant and author, I was asked

“ Good practice guidelines assist organisations to protect the disabled people they work with, while also showing coaches and volunteers how to act appropriately. ”

to write the guide and workshop described above, which led me to further research the area, concentrating in particular on the

protection of disabled people from sexual abuse in sport.

Research already undertaken describes how disabled people can be abused outside sport. Research had also found that non-disabled people are abused inside sport. It would seem a fair assumption to make, then, that disabled people are abused in sport. This, along with anecdotal evidence of abuse cases, was the starting point of my research. I decided to concentrate on identifying good practice guidelines which would not only assist organisation to protect the people they work with, but also ensure that coaches and volunteers act in the most appropriate way to protect themselves from false allegations.

My research began a literature review of the

From the Vault: Protecting Disabled People From Abuse in Sport

By Annie Kerr

social history, theory and policy of disability, child protection and sport. I interviewed disabled and non-disabled people who work inside and outside of sport about a range of issues including their understanding of the meaning of disability and sexual abuse. I also collected protection policies and guidelines from a variety of sources inside and outside of sport. I am at the present time analysing the data collected from the interviews and the documents which will then be presented in my thesis. I hope the data will eventually be used to assist sport organisations in implementing

guidelines which can protect disabled people and promote good practice when working with disabled people in sport. The data will refer to disabled children and also take into consideration the additional issues relating to the protection of disabled adults.

In the past, many governing bodies of sport worked in isolation to produce their own protection policies and guidelines. In 1999, the NSPCC and the National Coaching Foundation brought selected Governing Bodies together to share information and ideas. The group suggested that there was a need for a

Safeguarding in Sport and Activity Resources

- [Safeguarding Adults—The Essential Guide for Sports and Activity](#)
- [DBS Checks in Sport—Working with Children](#)
- [DBS Checks in Sport—Working with Adults](#)
- [Safeguarding Adults in Sport and Activity Resources Pack](#)
- [Safeguarding Adults Policy & Procedure Templates](#)

From the Vault: Protecting Disabled People From Abuse in Sport

By Annie Kerr

National Task Force for Child Protection in Sport. This Task Force came up with an action plan in 2000. One of their recommendations was that a Child Protection in Sport Unity (CPSU) be set up. The CPSU has been operational from January 2001 and is based at the NSPCC National Training Centre in Leicester. The CPSU provides a cohesive and co-ordinated

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One of their recommendations was that a Child Protection in Sport Unit (CPSU) be set up.

The CPSU has been operational since January 2001. It provides a cohesive and co-ordinated approach to research, education, training and awareness-raising.

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approach in several areas of work, including research, education, training and awareness-raising. Although based in England, the CPSU will eventually have contacts in all of the Home Countries.

At the present time, the CPSU is establishing a wide range of information regarding the protection of disabled children, which will be available on its website. The CPSU is mainly concerned with the protection of children, yet many Governing Bodies appreciate that there are additional issues surrounding the protection of disabled adults in sport.

I hope that through this article, readers have

gained more knowledge about the organisation of disability sport and how sports organisations are acting to implement

procedures to protect non-disabled children and disabled children and adults in sport. There is always work to be done to ensure the safety of everyone in sport. Raising awareness through articles such as this will help to keep the

issues on the agenda and ensure action is taken to make sport as safe and enjoyable as possible for everyone.

Safeguarding Adults in Sport Email Update

Get the latest in safeguarding adults in sport and activity straight to your inbox.

Our monthly email update will bring you the latest safeguarding news, advice, resources and training opportunities every month.

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Everyone has a right to be treated with respect and dignity.
Everyone deserves to be safe.