

# Safeguarding Bulletin

Safeguarding adults and young people at risk

**ann craft trust**  
acting against abuse

**April 2020**

**Issue 111**

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

## Ann Craft Trust Team



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CEO



**Charlotte Brooks**

Marketing Officer



**Lisa Curtis**

Safeguarding Adults  
Manager



**Elliot Davies**

Marketing Officer



**Nicola Dean**

Safeguarding Adults in  
Sport Manager



**Richard Fletcher**

Safeguarding Adults in Sport  
Admin



**Sarah Goff**

Safeguarding Disabled  
Young People



**Julie Mather**

Finance



**Joanne Pell**

Safeguarding  
Adults in Sport  
Manager



**Nat Rock**

Administrator



**Laura Thorpe**

Safeguarding Adults  
in Sport Manager



**Kimberley Walsh**

Safeguarding Adults in  
Sport Manager

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# Ann Craft Trust Safeguarding Bulletin

April 2020

Issue 111

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## Editor's Note—Deborah Kitson, CEO

### Welcome to Issue 111 of our Quarterly

**Safeguarding Bulletin.** This is the time of year when I usually refer to Easter eggs and springtime. But somehow that does not feel right now. Never did I imagine that I would be writing my editor's note during a national lockdown. We understand that this is a difficult time for everyone, either because of their personal circumstances, their health, or

because they are missing friends and family. Many have compared the current situation to the war days. While both involve fear and uncertainty, my mother, aged 98, born in 1922, who served in the army at that time, says that she

never experienced the loneliness and isolation that now prevails. She recalls tea parties and developing romances in air raid shelters! It's great to see the camaraderie that is taking place on social media. But sadly, not everyone has access to these channels.

I want to mention the ACT team in this note. Like most of the UK, we are now working remotely. The team has been fantastic at adjusting to the new way of working. This situation is creating surprising new challenges every day. But the ACT team has found creative ways of ensuring that we stay in

communication with our supporters, and respond as far as possible to your needs.

We have seen evidence of the very real impact that this situation can have on people. Some are facing significant risks each day as they continue to support adults at risk or unwell people. And we're all dealing with the emotional effects of lockdown in different ways.

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*We understand  
that this is a  
difficult time for  
everyone.*

”

We are developing a 'Safeguarding in Challenging Times' series of resources, seminars and blogs. [Information about these can be found on our website.](#) Please do keep in touch and let us know the issues that you would like us to address

at this time. Your input can inform the topics we discuss on our new online seminars. We are also holding a weekly Safeguarding Twitter hour on Wednesdays 12.00–1.00 pm. This is an opportunity to ask questions and to discuss any safeguarding issues that you are currently dealing with. The more people that take part in these discussions, the more helpful they'll be for the wider safeguarding community. So be sure to join us every Wednesday!

I am pleased to introduce a new member of the team in this bulletin. Say hello to Joanne

## Editor's Note—Deborah Kitson, CEO

Pell, our new Safeguarding Adults in Sport Manager. She started with us on our first day of working remotely, so she's looking forward to meeting the rest of the team in person later this year.

We have an article on 'The Future of Care Homes and Their Role in Delivering Care' written by Silas Campbell, Head of Marketing at Blueleaf. This looks at the government initiatives that are transforming the way we think about care, and the sort of technology that could keep us safe, happy and comfortable in later life.

Last year we launched our Safeguarding Checklist. This is an online tool that allows organisations to assess their level of safeguarding knowledge, with lots of resources to help fill the gaps. Many have already completed the Checklist, and we're presenting our initial findings in this Bulletin. We've analysed the responses to date, and looked at what we can learn about the needs of the sector in relation to their knowledge of safeguarding.

Reverend Director Tom Wilson from St Philip's Centre has written an introduction to the concept of "Spiritual Abuse". He takes an honest look at the challenge that faith communities face in developing appropriate ways of tackling abuse, especially where it has a spiritual dimension.

And finally, Osinfowokan Omosalewa Grace, Program Officer Child Protection and Gender,

“

*The more people that take part in these discussions, the more helpful they'll be for the wider safeguarding community.*

”

has written about Safeguarding Older People in Nigeria, assessing how the nation must come to terms with the needs of its ageing population.

As usual, you'll also find updates on all the latest safeguarding news, resources, reports, studies, and research. We've included many of the resources we've produced on keeping safe and informed during lockdown. We would really like you to let us know of any issue that you would like us to address at this time, either during the Twitter hour or in our online seminars. In the meantime, on behalf of the whole ACT team, I wish you all the best. Take care and stay safe.

**Deborah Kitson**



# Safeguarding and Coronavirus— Info, Tips, and Resources



## **We all need to stay safe during the Coronavirus epidemic.**

We must look after ourselves, and others. But some people are particularly at risk during these trying times. It's important that we help where we can. But it's also vital that we remain aware of certain safeguarding risks.

We've put together this short collection of essential information, tips, and resources. We'll be sure to update this page as necessary, and we'll also be producing more resources of our own in the coming days.

To begin with, [read our short guide to safe volunteering during the Coronavirus crisis.](#)

## **General Information & Advice**

We still don't fully understand Covid-19. Every day, experts are broadening their understanding of the virus. As a result, official Government guidance changes regularly.

We advise against using social media for news and updates. Many non-experts are sharing their thoughts and opinions. Don't get caught up in a panic. Stay calm. And to ensure you only receive official updates and advice, stick to the official channels:

- [The NHS Coronavirus Hub](#) – Includes guidance on symptoms, and what to do if you feel unwell.



- [The UK Government Response](#) – The latest updates on the development of the virus and vaccines, plus tips on supporting yourself and others.
- [NHS 111 Online](#) – Check your symptoms online, and get tailored advice from medical professionals.

### **General Safeguarding Advice**

As the situation is still developing, and as the official guidance changes from day-to-day, we cannot currently offer any concrete guidelines for safeguarding during the Covid-19 epidemic. However, we can offer general advice. There are certain things you should keep in mind when interacting with anyone, and certain best-practice techniques you can adopt.

The Athena Programme produced a short guide to safeguarding adults and young people at risk during the epidemic.

Their advice:

- Watch for signs of anxiety.
- Give people control, and offer simple reassurance.
- Monitor media consumption – try and ensure at-risk individuals don't see too many upsetting images, or too many upsetting reports.
- Be a good role model – adopt good hygiene and social-distancing habits yourself, to show others how it's done.
- Stay in touch via phone, email, or video calls.
- Unless you cannot leave the house

yourself, offer to run errands. But be sure to leave food and other items at the door, to avoid contact.

- Encourage people to keep moving – exercise works wonders!

[You can read their guide in full here.](#)

### **At-Risk Individuals in Isolation**

The current Government guidance is to avoid leaving the house as much as possible. Unfortunately, this places some individuals at risk – either of isolation and neglect, or of domestic violence and other forms of abuse.

The Huffington Post published a comprehensive report on [how self-isolation may make abuse more likely](#).

If you or someone else is in immediate danger, call 999 and ask for police. Your emergency situation still matters, even during an epidemic!

But if you're not in immediate danger, there are many other resources out there:

- Freephone 24 hour National Domestic Abuse Helpline, run by Refuge on **0808 247 2000**, or visit [www.nationaldahelpline.org.uk](http://www.nationaldahelpline.org.uk)
- **Scotland:** Contact Scotland's 24 hour Domestic Abuse and Forced Marriage Helpline: **0800 027 1234**.
- **Northern Ireland:** Contact the 24 hour Domestic & Sexual Violence Helpline: **0808 802 1414**.
- **Wales:** Contact the 24 hour Life Fear Free Helpline on **0808 80 10 800**.

- National LGBT+ Domestic Abuse Helpline: **0800 999 5428**.
- Men's Advice Line: **0808 801 0327**.
- Respect helpline (for anyone worried about their own behaviour): **0808 802 0321**.

### **Beware of Scammers**

Unfortunately, [some people are exploiting the Covid-19 crisis to scam at-risk individuals](#). We're hearing reports of telephone scams, email scams, and even in-person scams.

Regardless of whether a virus is making the rounds, the best way to protect yourself and others from scams is through remaining vigilant. Be aware of the risks yourself, and learn what sort of warning signs to look out for. And if you know or care for any at-risk individuals, make sure you advise them on the risks too.

Some general guidance for avoiding scams:

- NEVER give your card or your card details to anyone else, whether it's in person, online or over the phone, unless they're someone you know and trust.
- Banks almost never contact customers by email or telephone. If you receive an email or a phone call requesting your bank details, you can safely ignore it. Then contact your bank by other means, telling them about the call or email you received. If there's genuinely an issue with your account, you can sort it there and then.
- If someone's offered to shop for you,

don't give them your card. Instead, ask them to provide a receipt, and arrange to send them money afterwards.

We have some additional resources about this issue. [Read our guide to keeping safe from financial abuse here](#).

Our guide to safe volunteering during the Covid-19 crisis also features some guidance on spotting certain warning signs. [Read it here](#).

It's sad that we have to share these guidelines. The vast majority of people who offer to help during this crisis genuinely want to help. But there will always be some who will think nothing of exploiting others' goodwill and vulnerability. As always, it pays to be vigilant.

### **Changes to DBS ID Checking Guidelines**

The government is making temporary changes to ID checking as a result of the Coronavirus outbreak.

To face the growing threat of Coronavirus, charities and other organisations across the country will be taking on more volunteers than usual. The government has introduced these temporary changes to help streamline the process.

We recently published guidance on who needs a DBS check. [Find our guide here](#).

The current best practice for validating ID documents is to carry out the examination face-to-face, or via video link. The person checking the ID must physically handle any documents so as to correctly check

them for signs of fraud.

However, to help prevent the spread of Coronavirus, [the government has urged the public to work from home wherever possible](#). This makes it difficult for organisations to receive and inspect physical documents. It's delaying applications and making it difficult for organisations to find volunteers while maintaining safeguarding standards.

So under these temporary new rules:

- You can now view ID documents over video link.
- Scanned images can now be used in advance of the DBS check being submitted.

These changes came into effect from March 24, 2020.

For more information, [head here](#).

### **Covid-19 and the Mental Capacity Act 2005**

The Government's Coronavirus Act 2020 should not affect the Mental Capacity Act (MCA) 2005.

[The MCA 2005](#) states that everybody has capacity unless it is proved otherwise. It outlines that we should support people to make their own decisions. It also stipulates that anything done for or on behalf of people without capacity must be in their best interests, and should be the least restrictive intervention.

In March 2020, the Government introduced the [Coronavirus Act 2020](#). It's a set of temporary measures that the Government

hopes will address the spread of Covid-19. But how do these measures affect existing legislation?

### [Mental Capacity Law and Legislation](#)

[experts](#) have analysed the text of the Coronavirus Act. They conclude that the new act does not itself contradict the terms of MCA 2005. However, whenever practitioners apply the MCA in the coming months, they'll do so in an unprecedented set of circumstances.

Everyone involved in health and social care must think creatively about how to secure the MCA's core principles. We must also be clear as to when a particular option is simply not available, so that it is not taken into consideration as part of any best interests decision-making process.

[You can read a full guide to Covid-19 and the MCA here.](#)

### **Need Anything Else?**

No matter what happens with Covid-19, we're still here for safeguarding support and advice.

The whole ACT team has switched to remote working. So while it might take us slightly longer to reply, we will still get back to you.

Tel: **0115 951 5400**

Email: [ann-craft-trust@nottingham.ac.uk](mailto:ann-craft-trust@nottingham.ac.uk)

[Or use our online contact form.](#)

# #ACTSafeguardingHour

Every Wednesday

12.00–1.00 pm

@AnnCraftTrust

**ann craft trust**  
acting against abuse

**Do you have any questions or concerns about Safeguarding during Covid-19 lockdown?**

Join us for **#ACTSafeguardingHour**—every Wednesday on Twitter, 12.00–1.00.

This is an opportunity to discuss safeguarding matters with an online community of practitioners.

For more information, find us on Twitter:

[@AnnCraftTrust](https://twitter.com/AnnCraftTrust)

# National Safeguarding Adults Week 2020

**16 to 22 November 2020**

## **Safeguarding Adults Week 2020—Key Themes and Areas of Focus**

Safeguarding Adults Week 2020 will take place 16 – 22 November.

Each day of the week we'll focus on a different safeguarding theme. These themes are broad, and each one covers many different areas of focus.

Plus, these themes are not exhaustive. Our aim is to highlight certain causes, and to start some vital conversations. But if you want to use Safeguarding Adults Week to talk about a different aspect of safeguarding, please do so!

We'd love to hear about your plans for this year's Safeguarding Adults Week. And don't forget to use our **#SafeguardingAdultsWeek** hashtag when posting to social media!

## **Monday – Safeguarding and Wellbeing**

There's a strong link between safeguarding and mental and physical wellbeing. In short, if someone's wellbeing is suffering, they may consider certain actions that put them at risk. We'll fully explore this link between safeguarding and wellbeing. We'll also share advice and resources that'll help you keep your wellbeing in check, and to look out for your friends, your family, and others.

## **Tuesday – Adult Grooming**

Grooming is a form of abuse that involves manipulating someone until they're isolated, dependent, and more vulnerable to exploitation. [We've already produced a short introduction to this issue.](#) But we'll be exploring the topic of adult grooming in greater depth in the coming months.

### **Wednesday – Understanding Safeguarding Legislation**

All safeguarding matters are governed by certain legislation, including [The Care Act](#) and [The Mental Capacity Act](#). In the resources section of our site, [you'll find an overview of numerous relevant laws and initiatives](#). But how well do you really understand safeguarding legislation? In the coming months we aim to demystify safeguarding legislation with primers, resources, and more. And during Safeguarding Adults Week 2020, we'll focus on a major change to safeguarding legislation – [the transition from DoLS to LPS](#).

### **Thursday – Creating Safer Places**

This is a focus on safeguarding at a grassroots level. Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility. So we're looking at ways everyone, from all walks of life, can help make the places they live, work and play safer for everyone. We're asking you to consider: "[What's my role in safeguarding?](#)"

### **Friday – Organisational Abuse**

Organisational abuse includes neglect and poor care practice within a specific care setting. This could be a hospital or a care home, but also the care you receive in your own home. [We've already prepared a short primer to organisational abuse](#). During safeguarding adults week, we'll take a closer look at the [Transforming Care agenda](#). We'll also share the results of certain new studies of abuse in care settings.

### **Saturday – Safeguarding Adults in Sport and Activity**

[Safeguarding Adults in Sport and Activity](#) remains one of our three main areas of focus as a charity. Once again, we'll devote a day of Safeguarding Adults Week to all things sport and activity. We encourage sport and activity organisations across the nation to get involved! Together, we can make sport and activity safer and more accessible for everyone.

### **Sunday – Safeguarding in Your Community**

The overriding theme of Safeguarding Adults Week 2020? We all have a responsibility to be there for each other, and to look out for each other. On the final day of the week, we aim to organise open days, coffee mornings, fetes and other events across the country. We want communities to come together and to recognise our shared responsibilities towards keeping each other safe. Watch this space for more information!

### **Sign up for Safeguarding Adults Week 2020 Updates**

[Head to the official Safeguarding Adults Week 2020 event page to register for updates](#). As well as all the latest news, we'll send you posters, social media assets, and other resources via email.

### **Download Your Safeguarding Adults Week 2020 Poster!**

[Download your A4 poster here](#).





# The Future of Care Homes and Their Role in Delivering Care

**Silas Campbell, Head of Marketing, Blueleaf**



**With improvements in science and healthcare, as well as cuts in government funding, care homes are struggling to keep up with the demand for the specialist care needed to support everyone requiring it.**

The government has introduced a number of initiatives designed to reduce the number of people in long-term hospital stays by increasing the number of people cared for at home and in their community. This has a far-reaching impact on the care being delivered, as well as on care homes and the care sector as a whole.

## **Government Initiatives**

With the government aiming to reduce the number of people in hospital beds,

this has led to a push for care to be provided at home and in the community.

## **Transforming care**

‘Building the Right Support’, a national action plan, was published in 2015 and set out the government plans to improve health and care services for people with autism and learning disabilities. This launched the government’s Transforming Care agenda where NHS England committed to reduce the numbers of people in hospitals.

The agenda was widely met with support in the care sector due to the insufficient care general hospitals are able to provide to people with autism and learning disabilities. Five years on, however, the

transforming care agenda has been subject to far-reaching criticism.

The National Autistic Society, for example, agrees that wherever possible people with autism should get the support they need in their own community. And where someone is admitted to hospital, it should be delivered by staff who understand autism, in an environment that meets their needs and for as short a time as possible. However, in the years following the introduction of the agenda, despite some progress in overall numbers, [figures for the number of people with autism in mental health hospitals has increased.](#)

Charities and organisations are campaigning to improve the current system, with the vast majority focusing on improving the level of care people receive by encouraging the growth of support services at home and in the community.

### **Better Care Fund and Integrated care systems**

The 'Better Care Fund' was introduced in 2013 as a pooled fund over £3.8 billion to improve co-ordination of health and social care organisations. This gave more control to local areas to control and plan how they would improve local social care, with the aim of reducing emergency hospital admissions.

From there, the government introduced a range of new initiatives to move the health and care system away from providing episodic treatment for acute

illnesses and towards integrated support for older people and people living with long-term conditions. [Integrated care systems](#) (ICSs) are the future model for the health and care system, with 10 areas being selected to develop the first ICSs in 2017, and four more in 2018.

### **What this means for the care sector**

The impact of the agenda to increase the number of older people and people with long-term conditions receiving care at home is far reaching for the care sector.

### **More demand for local services**

With the government initiatives all pointing towards localised care, there will be an increased demand for local services.

This will put an emphasis on the need for the creation of community hubs and local areas where people can go to get support, education and advice. These hubs will be essential to improve communication between services and carers, families and those who need support. This will not only reduce the number of people requiring long-term care in hospitals and institutions but create a system where better care is being delivered across the board.

### **Personalisation**

Personalisation is essential for delivering effective care. It is vital to create the right environment and deliver the right care for each individual. For example, [creating dementia-friendly settings for those with](#)

[dementia can help prevent confusion and reduce tension](#). This not only provides a better level of care and allows for more independent living but makes it easier for support staff to deliver high quality care.

The [Making Safeguarding Personal](#) initiative is another example of how the sector needs to move away from following prescribed systems and towards more individual-focused processes. This should encourage practitioners to place a stronger emphasis on achieving satisfactory outcomes that take into account the individual choices and outcomes of everyone involved. Ultimately, people should be more involved, and their views, wishes and beliefs should be taken into account when decisions are being made that will affect them.

### **Independence & Co-operation**

The push towards receiving care at home or in a community setting will reduce the number of people in long-term hospital stays and care homes.

[Retirement villages are a growing example of how this works in practice](#).

They are becoming an attractive option among the elderly as they tackle loneliness, health and wellbeing and increase independence, while allowing for increased safety and support. [With dementia affecting 1 in 6 of us over the age of 85](#), it is becoming increasingly clear that the role of care homes will be to

move towards creating community hubs and providing short-term and supplementary support, as part of a wider co-operative system as opposed to a full-time option it has been.

**Silas Campbell is Head of Marketing at Blueleaf, who help care homes transform business goals into sustainable success.**



# The Safeguarding Checklist—What Have We Learned So Far?



## In 2019, the Ann Craft Trust developed the Safeguarding Adults Checklist.

The checklist enables organisations or individuals to assess their understanding of safeguarding. On completion of the checklist, you can gain access to free safeguarding resources.

The checklist consists of ‘Yes or No’ questions focusing on prevention, recognition, reporting and the recording and reviewing processes.

So far, **450** people have completed the checklist!

## Exploring the Responses- Highlighting Good Practice

- 89% reported that their organisation records safeguarding concerns and allegations.
- 71% of individuals reported that they were confident of recognising the signs of abuse.
- 84% of organisation and individual respondents stated that they or their organisation understand what safeguarding is.
- 80% responded that the wishes and

beliefs of affected individuals are recognised, considered, recorded and acted upon by their organisation.

- However, for individuals completing the checklist, only 49% reported that they are clear about how to involve the person who may be the victim of abuse.

### **Exploring the Responses—Developing Safeguarding Practice**

- Only 40% of people reported that staff within their organisation have knowledge of the law in relation to safeguarding. Similarly, only 55% of individuals completing the checklist reported that they have knowledge of safeguarding legislation.
- Just 52% of individuals stated that training provided equips them with the relevant skills to understand adult safeguarding.
- Similarly, within organisations, 66% reported that they are provided with ongoing training and development opportunities in response to and relevant to safeguarding concerns that have been raised.
- Only 55% of individuals and 53% of organisations reported that they have access to separate policies and procedures for safeguarding adults

and children.

- Just 52% reported that their organisations have a process by which they reflect on safeguarding data and outcomes.
- Only 44% of people reported that staff within their organisation understand the Local Authority thresholds for reporting.

### **How Can you Develop Your Safeguarding Knowledge?**

- [Listen](#) to our Safeguarding Matters podcasts! Our Safeguarding Managers will explain how to interpret legislation such as The Care Act and Mental Capacity Act.
- [Read our advice](#) about why it is important to have different policies for safeguarding adults and children.
- [Sign up](#) to our safeguarding bulletin to receive the latest safeguarding news.
- [Book](#) the Ann Craft Trust to deliver bespoke training to meet the needs your organisation.
- [Complete](#) the Safeguarding Checklist.
- [Get in touch](#) to find out more!

The checklist was developed as part a wider campaign funded by the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport and the National Lottery.



# New CQC Report: Promoting Sexual Safety Through Empowerment



## Promoting sexual safety through empowerment

**A review of sexual safety and the support of people's sexuality in adult social care**

**The Care Quality Commission's new report looks at how adult social care services keep people safe from sexual incidents.**

It also looks at how services can support them to express their sexuality. Expressing your sexuality is a basic human right. When using adult social care services, people should feel empowered, supported, and protected.

The first step towards protecting and supporting people is through building a culture of openness in which people

can talk about sexual safety and sexuality.

In the words of our founder, Ann Craft: "To be a human being is to be a sexual being. Although there may be a range of intensity varying over time, we all have sexual needs, feelings and drives, from the most profoundly disabled person to the most able. Although we can shape (and misshape) sexual expression, sexuality is not an optional extra which we can choose to bestow or not according to whether some kind of intelligence test is passed."

## **A Taboo Subject**

The new CQC report reveals that sex remains a taboo subject. Providers, staff and families are often reluctant to raise issues. This can affect people's wellbeing. It also mean predatory behaviour can be missed or normalised.

Here are some key findings from the report:

- The lack of awareness of good practice in sexual safety and sexuality can place people at risk of harm.
- We must develop a culture where people and staff feel empowered to talk about sexuality and raise concerns around safety.
- As the regulator, the CQC has a strong role in making sure people using services feel protected and supported.

The report gives detailed recommendations for providers and leaders in adult social care, as well as for the regulator.

[You can download the full report from the CQC site.](#)



## **We Matter Too—One Day Training Based on the Project RESCHEDULED!**

**This training will explore key findings and learnings from the We Matter Too project.**

We'll consider current practice and look at development. How can we better reach out and provide services for disabled young people experiencing domestic abuse?

We hope this training will allow practitioners and managers to reflect on the services they provide.

### **What to Expect**

The training is aimed at all agencies working with young people. Our aim is to have a multi-disciplinary approach to developing effective partnerships between children and young people and adults' services, domestic abuse organisations and police and criminal justice agencies. It is appropriate for front line practice and managers, and it can be adapted for strategic management.

**This event was originally scheduled to take place on 22 April. Due to ongoing concerns with Covid-19, we've rescheduled it to Wednesday 15 July.**

15 July, **University of Nottingham** — [Book a Place](#) »

# Safeguarding Adults at Risk Through the Coronavirus Crisis



## What Do Volunteers Need to Know to Keep Themselves and Others Safe?

With the outbreak of coronavirus, community groups and volunteers are increasingly crucial in supporting individuals at risk.

With that in mind, if you are volunteering within your local community, or you are hiring volunteers, it is important that you safeguard yourself and others from harm and abuse.

## How Can I Help in Safeguarding Adults at Risk?

Our [useful guidance](#) on safe recruitment can support you in maintaining good practice within your organisation or

community group, to ensure individuals are safeguarded from harm in these challenging times.

The guide highlights the importance of a detailed application form for positions. Interviews should test safeguarding, equality, and diversity knowledge. Completed reference checks for staff and volunteers are vital. Induction processes must also include information about safeguarding.

As we respond to rapid changes, such practices may seem more difficult to follow, or less important than usual. However, safeguarding principles should remain in place throughout the Covid-19 epidemic to ensure we safeguard those

at risk from abuse.

If you are volunteering to support family, friends, and people in your community, your work is essential in ensuring those most at risk continue to receive the support they need.

### **How Can You Make a Difference?**

- **Learn** about the different types of harm and abuse
- **Discover** how to spot the signs
- **Record** any concerns you have
- **Report** concerns to your Local Authorities Safeguarding Board

Individuals and organisations are responsible for working together to safeguard an adult's right to live free from abuse and neglect. **Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility.**

As we work together to look after one another over the months ahead, ensure you are aware of how you can make a difference to safeguarding an individual's rights.

If you are worried about an individual's safety, our useful [contact directory](#) provides information on where you can find help and advice.

### **Keeping Yourself Safe When Receiving Voluntary Support**

In late March, over 500,000 people signed up to be [NHS volunteers](#). Available roles involve checking in-on self-isolated individuals over the phone, collecting and delivering medicine and other supplies, and providing transport from patients returning home after they've been discharged from hospital.



As these new volunteers begin their roles, the NHS has provided resources for spotting the signs of abuse, and for reporting individual safeguarding concerns.

We have a wealth of [free resources](#) volunteers can use to support the fantastic work they are doing within their communities. But we also want those who are receiving support from volunteers to be aware of their rights to live in safety, free from harm and neglect, during these challenging times.

### **How Can You Safeguard Yourself When Accessing Support During the Covid-19 Lockdown?**

#### **DO:**

- Do contact official organisations. Take up the offer of support through official services, rather than with a stranger.
- Do ask to see your volunteers' identity app. All NHS volunteers must carry digital ID, which will confirm if they are the right person to support you.
- Do use 141 to withhold your number if you need to phone a volunteer or a stranger. Avoid sharing your number with anyone you do not know.
- Do read our guide to [staying safe](#)

[online.](#)

- Do learn [how to spot the signs of emotional abuse.](#)

#### **DO NOT:**

- Do not invite volunteers into your home, even if they have the correct ID.
- Do not share your bank details or bank cards with volunteers. You should arrange to pay for food or medicine over the phone, directly with the shop. You should never expect a volunteer to make payments on your behalf.

**And remember:** Anyone who is supporting you should treat you with dignity and respect. Report your concerns immediately if you are worried about your safety when receiving support.

#### **Reporting Concerns**

If you're worried about your physical or emotional safety when receiving voluntary support:

- You can report your concerns to your GP or social worker. Local authorities have social workers who deal specifically with cases of abuse and neglect. Call your local council and ask for the adult safeguarding co-ordinator.
- You can call the free, confidential Action on Elder Abuse helpline on **0808 808 8141.**



- You can also speak to the police about the situation. Some forms of abuse are crimes.
- If you find yourself in immediate danger but unable to speak over the phone, call **999**, then dial **55**. This will trigger an emergency response from the police.

### **Safeguarding Against Domestic Abuse in Challenging Times**

Across the globe, countries are implanting lockdown measures to prevent the spread of Covid-19.

The US is no exception. Families are spending an increased amount of time at home while managing additional caring responsibilities and financial demands. Some are concerned that increased

tensions could result in a rise in domestic abuse cases.

### **What is Domestic Abuse?**

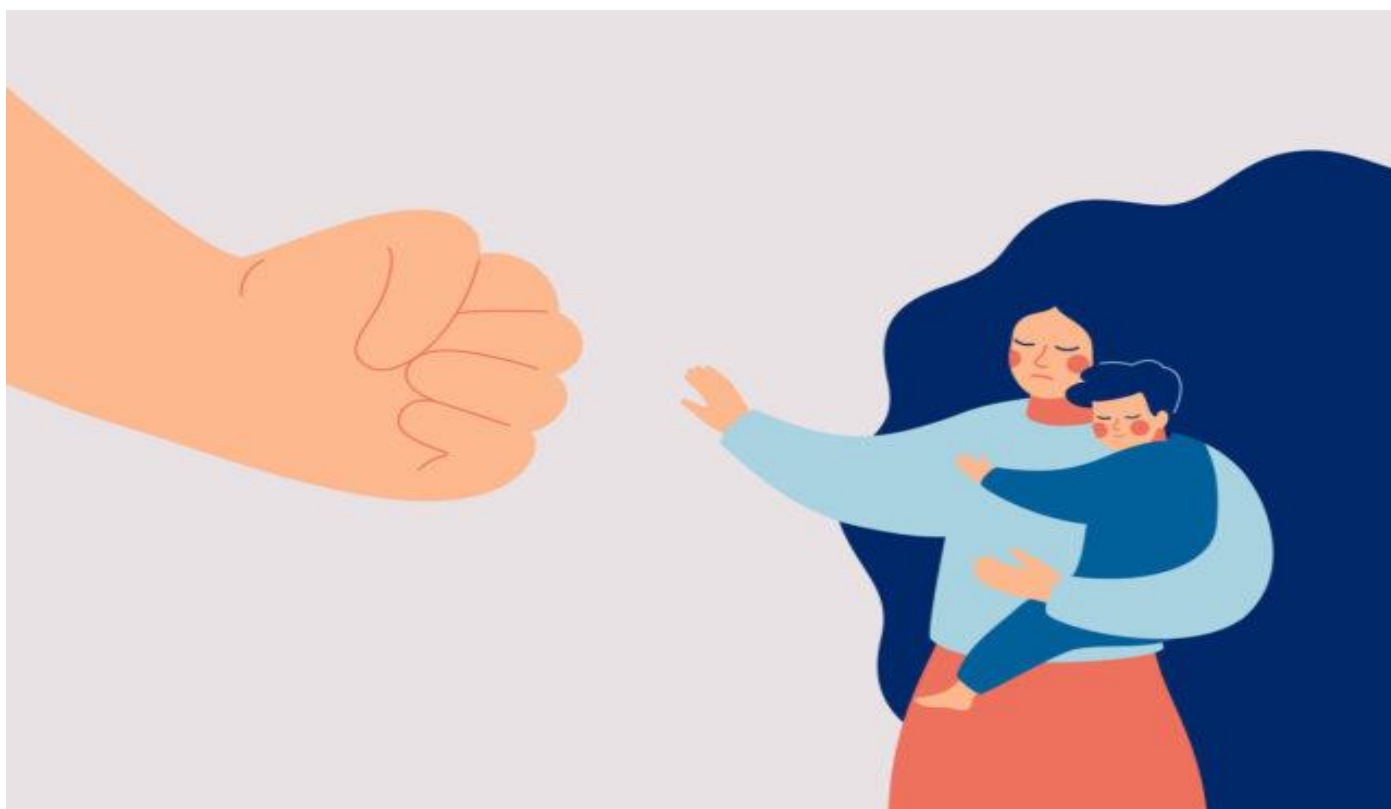
[Women's Aid](#) defines domestic abuse as:

*“An incident or pattern of incidents of controlling, coercive, threatening, degrading and violent behaviour, including sexual violence, in the majority of cases by a partner or ex-partner, but also by a family member or carer.”*

### **Spotting the Signs of Domestic Abuse**

We must all look out for each other in these challenging times—not just those in our community, but our friends and family too.

Domestic abuse can take many forms, so it's important to learn to spot the signs:



- **Emotional Abuse** – e.g. belittling you, isolating you from friends and family, controlling where you go and who you talk to.
- **Threats and Intimidation** – e.g. threatening to hurt/kill you, harassing or following you.
- **Physical** – e.g. hitting you, shoving you, throwing things at you, choking you.
- **Sexual** – e.g. pressures you into having sex, touches you in a way that you don't want to be touched.
- **Financial** – e.g. controlling your use of money, not giving you enough money to survive.

[Watch our short video to find out more.](#)

You can also [complete an online survey](#) designed by Women's Aid to help you recognise if you or a friend are in an abusive relationship.

### **Safeguarding Against Domestic Abuse During Lockdown**

- **Always** keep a mobile with you.
- **Use** Silent Solutions. If you find yourself in immediate danger but unable to speak over the phone, call 999 followed by dialling 55. This will trigger an emergency response from the police.
- **Find out about your housing rights.** Contact [Shelter](#) for free, confidential housing advice.
- **Contact** [Turn2Us](#) if you are concerned about your financial situation and would like to know more about benefits you could be entitled to.
- **Get in touch** with your Local Authority

for support and advice. They will still be working throughout the pandemic and continuing to offer a duty service

- **Access** healthcare if you need to.

### **Who Can I Contact If I Need Support?**

- [Women's Aid](#) are continuing to offer daily live forums to provide advice
- [Deaf Hope](#) provides support to deaf women experiencing domestic abuse
- **Phone** the [National Domestic Abuse Helpline](#) on 0808 2000 247
- **Phone** the [Men's Advice Line](#) on **0808 801 0322**
- **Contact** the [Muslim Women's Network](#) on **0800 999 5786**
- [Safe Lives](#) have launched a newsletter to inspire and support people experiencing domestic abuse

### **Supporting Someone at Risk From Domestic Abuse**

- **Encourage** them to contact one of the services above.
- **Advise** them to phone 999 in an emergency, and use the 55 code if necessary.
- **Reassure** them that there is support available, and that they'll be listened to if they are concerned about their safety and wellbeing.

# Safer Faith, Safer Followers—An Introduction to Spiritual Abuse

Reverend Director Tom Wilson, St Philip's Centre



## What is Spiritual Abuse, and What Sort of Signs Should We Look Out For?

I met with a leader to discuss some research I was conducting into the safeguarding needs of Buddhist communities. This was his response to the request:

*"I cannot guarantee to someone who visits our Vihara that they will not die tonight. So how can I be expected to keep their children safe?"*

Or something to that effect.

As a result of our conversation, this

particular organisation did not take any further part in the research. I tell this story not to single out Buddhists for criticism. Instead, I want to demonstrate that all faith communities have work to do in promoting healthy cultures. Everyone should feel able to share concerns. Everyone should feel valued and truly safe.

At the St Philip's Centre, we believe that despite the difficulties and divisions which distract us, we can learn how to live well together. In our view true cohesion can only be achieved if we work through our problems, rather than staying silent about them.

One challenge faith communities face is the need to develop appropriate ways of tackling abuse, especially where it has a spiritual dimension. We call this form of abuse spiritual abuse.

## **What is Spiritual Abuse?**

Spiritual abuse takes place when an individual or group engages in coercive and controlling behaviour of others in a faith context. It means using religious beliefs and practices to justify behaviour and actions that are harmful to others. The victim of the abuse may not be aware they are being abused.

One of the problems of spiritual abuse is that it usually happens gradually and incrementally, so that the person at risk of abuse does not realise at first that there is anything wrong.

Spiritual abuse may start with a pastoral conversation that feels helpful. It may start with a suggested course of action that makes sense, or an offer of practical support. But over time, the temperature of the relationship is raised to the point where it causes serious harm, or even death.

Another definition of spiritual abuse is “abuse linked to faith or belief.” For examples of this, think of scenarios involving accusations of witchcraft or spirit possession. My focus is not on promoting a particular definition but rather to ensure people in faith communities are safe.

The contribution the St Philip’s Centre is making to tackle this problem is to develop a discussion guide, *Safer Faith, Safer Followers*. We are working with stakeholders from a range of different faith communities and professional organisations. Our aim is to produce a scenario-focused, accessible booklet that faith communities and groups can use to begin the conversation about how to make themselves and those they work with safer.

## **An Example of Spiritual Abuse**

Melanie was experiencing difficulties in her personal life. She had an abusive husband, and a daughter diagnosed as autistic. Her vicar and other leaders in her Anglican church suggested she needed deliverance.

One day, Melanie fainted during a choir rehearsal:

*“As I was regaining consciousness, they said that I looked at them with an inhuman face and laughed at them. I was told this was a mocking spirit. Rather than get medical attention or first aid, they took me for prayers and kept me there in quite a forceful manner for three hours, despite being in considerable pain. Later, it was discovered that I had a perforated eardrum, and that had been the cause of the faint.”*

A few months afterwards she was collected from her home and taken to the

house of a person unknown to her:

*“Things took a really strange turn. They pushed me to my knees and shouted in my face. They said the spirits were in me and that I was going to bring down the church. Then they forced me to be sick. It went on for about two hours. I felt very traumatised and just blanked it out. They said I mustn’t tell anyone about it. I mustn’t come to church for six months until they were sure all the demons were gone. I was in a state of shock.”*

Later, one of those involved suggested to Melanie that her four-year-old daughter might not be autistic but possessed by demons, and that the child needed deliverance.

## Understanding Spiritual Abuse

Having read the scenario, ask yourself:

- Is this an example of spiritual abuse according to the definition cited above?
- Which behaviour do you recognise as abusive or problematic?
- What harm, or risk of harm, exists? Do any circumstances make Melanie an adult at risk?
- What is the potential impact on Melanie from this behaviour?
- How should we respond to this behaviour?

These questions should help you develop your own understanding of what

constitutes spiritual abuse.

As well as discussing case studies such as this one, the *Safer Faith, Safer Followers* workshops will use case studies featuring paid staff and volunteers. The situations we explore may not necessarily constitute spiritual abuse, but they certainly indicate poor practice.

Also, there is a potentially slippery slope from treating a volunteer or staff member badly. This can result in far greater harm to the individual and faith group as a whole.

## A Healthy Culture

Safeguarding is not primarily an issue of policy, but one of organisational culture. The single most important practical steps any faith community can take in order to become safer is to develop a healthier culture.

I used to be chair of governors of a primary school. I can vividly remember a conversation I had with the headteacher about one of his staff. She had not responded appropriately to a safeguarding disclosure. It was not because she had not attended training. She attended the mandatory annual refresher every year. It was because safeguarding was not part of her worldview, her culture.

Places of worship and faith communities face exactly the same cultural challenge. We’re often too quick to defer to the spiritual authority of a single leader. Those



leaders do not always have the maturity or objectivity to recognise the potential for spiritual abuse to take place. So ask yourself, what would a healthy culture look like in your place of worship?

## Key Points to Consider

- Who is responsible for safeguarding people in your place of worship?
- Do you have safeguarding policies, and do regular attendees know you have them?
- Do people know who they can discuss safeguarding concerns with?
- Are people able to challenge inappropriate behaviour, regardless of who it involves?
- Do your leaders receive regular supervision and accountability sessions?
- Are those who work with vulnerable people trained in safeguarding?
- Is safeguarding on the agenda of all relevant committees and management meetings?
- Do you have a process in place to support victims of abuse?
- Do leaders recognise the potential for spiritual abuse to occur in your place of worship?
- What are leaders doing to prevent abuse from happening?

It's not easy to deal with problems so complex. Tackling spiritual abuse requires individuals and groups from many walks of life to work together towards a shared outcome.

At the St Philip's Centre, we're playing our part. We hope you will join with us so that

more places of worship can be safer for followers of all faiths.

## Spiritual Abuse Training – Safer Faith Workshops

In the coming months, the St Philip's Centre will hold workshops to test the *Safer Faith, Safer Followers* discussion guide.

All the workshops take place at the [St Philip's Centre in Leicester](#). If you'd like to attend one of these workshops, please get in touch. We have limited places, so booking is essential.

Call us on **0116 2733459** or email [admin@stphilipscentre.co.uk](mailto:admin@stphilipscentre.co.uk).



# Introducing the Wales Safeguarding Procedures

Ruth Ingram, Safeguarding Adults in Sport Lead, Wales



## The Wales Safeguarding Procedures launched 14 November, 2019.

[You can access them online here.](#) You can also get a dedicated app from the [Google Play store](#) and the [Apple App Store](#).

If your organisation is based in Wales or on the Welsh border, or if you commission or provide services or events in Wales, then you need to know:

- Wales has its own Safeguarding Procedures. They are published as guidance for organisations to meet the requirements of the [Social Services and Well-Being \(Wales\) Act 2014](#). The procedures apply to **all areas** of Wales.

- They cover safeguarding children AND safeguarding adults at risk. However, they currently have separate sections for children and adults.

- An adult at risk is an adult (over 18) who:
  - is at risk from abuse or neglect;
  - has needs for care and support to maintain their well-being;
  - and because of those needs is unable to protect themselves from abuse or neglect.

## What's New?

If you are used to the old Protection of Vulnerable Adults Procedures in Wales, some key changes are:

- Safety from abuse and neglect is taken

to be integral to our well-being.

- We no longer use the term 'vulnerable adult'. We now use the term 'adult at risk'.
- The adult at risk is central and involved, to the extent that they are able, in all decisions about how they are supported to address any safeguarding concerns. There is an active offer of advocacy and the use of Cymraig.

## **Wales Safeguarding Procedures & The Care Act**

There are a lot of similarities between the SS&WB Act and the [Care Act \(2014\)](#) but there are also some differences.

In Wales:

- There is a **legal duty** on key statutory agencies (Police, Health, Social Services, Probation) and those funded by them to **REPORT** any situation where they have reason to believe there is an adult at risk.
- There is an **expectation that ALL organisations** will consider it their duty to report all safeguarding concerns.
- Concerns about harm caused by a person in the course of the work with children or adults with care and support needs **MUST** be reported to the Local Authority. This includes a duty to report concerns arising outside work. For example, about neighbours, friends, family who may be causing harm at work.
- There is an expectation that Social Services will ask the organisation best placed to carry out an enquiry or investigation to find out how to protect the

adult do so. For example, a National Governing Body. Also, that those people who already have established supportive relationships will play a key role in safeguarding the adult at risk. This will involve attendance at the strategy meetings and case conferences that coordinate the safeguarding of an individual.

If you would like support to understand the implications of the Wales Safeguarding Procedures for your organisation, please get in touch. Contact [Ruth Ingram](#), who is working for the Ann Craft Trust, based at Sports Wales, on **029 2033 4975**.

# The Uncared: Safeguarding Older People in Nigeria

**Osinfowokan Omosalewa Grace, Program Officer Child Protection and Gender**

**In Nigeria, senior citizens are one of the most vulnerable groups of people. They also receive less care than other groups.**

We class senior citizens as people who fall within a certain age bracket—60–65, and over. According to the civil servant stipulations, anyone above this age bracket is supposedly ready for retirement. Some believe that older people are less productive. That they make little contribution to the economic development of the country.

Nigeria is the most multitudinous black African nation, and the aged population is growing at breakneck speed. 2019 United Nations statistic reports revealed that 5.5% of Nigeria's population are aged 65 and above. That accounts for approximately 5.4 million people out of a population of around 200 million. It's estimated that up to 11.5% may be aged 65 or over by 2025.

This steady growth implies a change to the age structure of Nigerian society, which may have serious economic implications. Nigeria has fallen short in fulfilling its mandate as a UN member state in achieving the Sustainability Goal Development (SGD3). This is due to the neglect of the government in implementing health policies and infrastructures that will promote the social, physical, and mental wellbeing of the country's ageing population.

## Social Exclusion

The perception is that ageing in Nigeria is a social problem, and this idea contributed greatly to the wellbeing of older people in the country. There's a divide of power across social, economic, political and cultural groups, and this divide exists at individual, household, community, country and global levels. The end result is social exclusion for Nigeria's senior population.

[Sen's Capability Approach](#) focuses on the significance of individual's capability of achieving the sort of lives they want to live. It's based on the ideas of "functionings" and "capabilities". Functionings are things that an individual has the ability to do or to become in their life. It includes things like physical fitness, education, self-respect, and participation in community life. Capabilities are combinations of various functionings that allow an individual to live the sort of life they value.

Social exclusion has gradually created a state where it is difficult for certain individuals and groups to achieve certain functionings. This is particularly true for older people in society, due to their increased vulnerability. As such, they have been deprived of their social existence, which compromises their social security. In Nigeria, there are different theories concerning the stakes of senior citizens in

the socioeconomic development of the nation. Some believe that older people are archaic; because they're from a less civilised era, they struggle to socialise. This makes it difficult for them to function in our era of rapid social globalisation.

Others focus on the idea that senior citizens lack the mental and physical capacity to perform certain roles and responsibilities. But many senior citizens may be perfectly capable of engaging in any task, only to feel embarrassed and alienated when they're not asked to help.

### **Dependency**

In Nigeria, there is a high dependency rate among the senior population. According to the 2019 demography pyramid profile, the dependence ratio among the aged population is 5:1. This is the ratio of the elderly population (aged 65+) per 100 people of working age (aged 15-64).

A low dependency ratio means that there are sufficient people working who can support the dependent population. A high dependency ratio means that there are fewer potential workers to support the elderly. The problem in Nigeria is that the senior population is increasing, so many supposed "dependent" people are still working in roles that support the economy.

For example, up to 60% of Nigerian market workers are aged 60 or over. Many senior citizens also work as vital carriers in urban trading centres. Most parents have made huge investments in their children's welfare and education, earnestly awaiting the day when they'll receive a dividend on their investments. Unfortunately, for many

that day will never come. Many people find it difficult to secure a good job once they've left school, so they still depend on their aged parents for support. How long can this system continue? Can anyone expect to live a better life?

The potential support ratio refers to the number of working-aged people (15-64) per one elderly person (65+). As a population ages, the potential support ratio tends to fall. The working population is obliged to support the ageing population. A 2018 report from the Nigerian Bureau of Statistics shows that over 78.3% of the population is in the labour force, out of which 18.1% are unemployed graduates, and 60.2% are employed graduates. 44.4% of those are fully-employed, and 15.8% are part-time employed. This report indicates that a lot of working people are facing increasing financial stress, which could affect the socioeconomic stability of the country.

In Nigeria, one of our cultural values is that children have a responsibility to care for and support their aged parents, through catering for their needs, paying bills, providing healthcare, and so on. Unfortunately, due to our economic situation, not every parent is able to enjoy the support of their children in later life. Some aged parents are lucky. Their children are gainfully employed and as such can afford to care for them. But many are less lucky. Their children struggle to find work, so they're less able to provide the care and support needed in later life. These parents feel neglected and abandoned. Some have resorted to

begging on the streets and in markets. Some have lost their homes, which will ultimately send them to an early grave.

### **Where Do We Go From Here?**

We're facing a crisis of care, and we're yearning for answers. This has been a palpable issue for some time. We have long wondered how we can best safeguard our growing senior population.

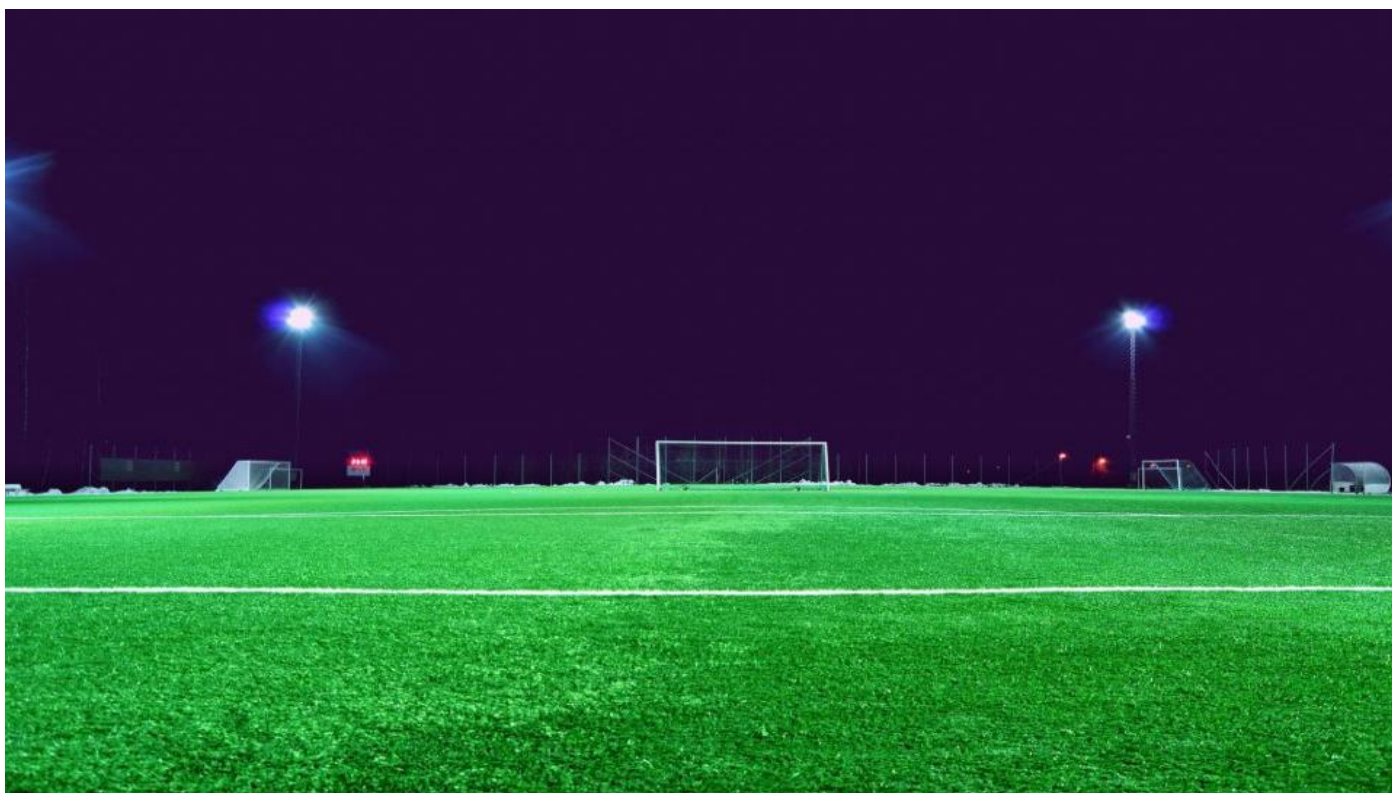
Ageing is an inevitable part of life that we all must face. I worry about what lies ahead. Presently, Nigeria has less than 30 care homes to shelter and care for the growing population of senior citizens. We also have an ineffective welfare system and a weak social security network.

For our country to achieve the UN SGD3, we'll need more non-Governmental organisations (NGOs) and faith-based organisations (FBOs) to meet our growing care requirements. At the same time, various religious groups, especially churches and mosques, should strengthen their support groups with the sort of outreach programs that could rejuvenate and energise our senior citizens.

On the other hand, in line with the International Bill of Rights document that protects the rights of all people, including senior citizens, it's vital that our government should step in to safeguard our senior citizens against any form of discrimination, abuse, and neglect. Safeguarding older people requires a holistic approach. Relevant stakeholders at all levels of government should make a concerted effort to ensure everyone's safety, protection, and wellbeing.



## **Sport and Activity Organisations—Help Us Understand How Covid-19 is Affecting You!**



### **How is Covid-19 affecting sports and activity organisations and participants?**

We've put together a short survey for UK sport and activity organisations. We'd like to hear how you're responding to Covid-19, and whether you have any questions or concerns about safeguarding during lockdown.

Your answers will help us create the resources and offer the guidance you need to get through this trying time.

The survey asks:

- What key challenges are you facing during covid-19?
- Are you running any alternative activities for your members during

lockdown?

- How are you using your safeguarding policy at this time?
- Do you have any questions about safeguarding, or other issues?
- What sort of resources would you like us to create?

The survey should take you no longer than five minutes to complete.

**Help us understand how lockdown is affecting UK sport and activity.**

**[Head here to take our survey.](#)**



## Two Reports Published From VOICE Project



### **The VOICE Project aims to combat sexual violence in European Sport through the voices of those affected.**

The project draws from 72 interviews with people who have experienced sexual violence in sport. One report offers an overview of the main results of these interviews. It also provides in-depth insights into the life stories of individual survivors.

Also published is a Good Practice Guide. This guide is for sport organisations of all sizes, and it's designed to assist them in their efforts to prevent sexual abuse and exploitation. In particular, it aims to assist

them in their engagement with anyone who's experienced sexual violence in sport.

[Download the VOICE Project Final Report here.](#)

[Download the VOICE Project Good Practice Guide here.](#)

## Safeguarding in Sport During the Coronavirus Pandemic



**We have collaborated with Club Matters on a new guide to safeguarding adults during the Covid-19 pandemic.**

These are challenging and worrying times for everyone. Across the country, sports and activity organisations have had to stop running their usual activities and events.

As well as the everyday challenges that come with a pandemic, the Covid-19 has also given rise to some important adult safeguarding considerations.

Many who have care and support needs live in residential or supported living environments. Attending their local sports group and socialising with other members may be the only social outlet they have. They will miss the social,

physical and mental wellbeing benefits these clubs and groups provide.

Safeguarding leads, friends, coaches and volunteers within sports clubs and delivery organisations may also have concerns about their more vulnerable members. They may be considering different ways to keep in touch and ensure people are safe and well during this difficult time.

We've collaborated with Club Matters on a new guide to safeguarding adults in sport during the Covid-19 pandemic. It features hints, tips, and useful contacts to help everyone stay connected and stay active.

[Download the guide here.](#)

## More Progress is Needed to Increase Disabled People's Activity



### Activity Alliance work towards making active lives possible with a vision that disabled people are active for life.

They have released a new [report](#) based on the Activity Alliance's Annual Disability and Activity Survey, supported by Sport England that gives an in-depth comparison of disabled and non-disabled adults' experiences of sport and activity.

#### Key findings include:

- 81% of disabled adults want to do more activity than they currently do, compared with 57% of non-disabled people.
- Disabled people are half as likely as non-disabled people to agree that 'sport'

is for someone like them.

- Seven in ten disabled people are motivated to be active to improve or maintain their physical health.

#### The report concludes with three recommendations for sport, health and other sectors:

1. To address the wider determinants of inactivity
2. Design and lead a choice of accessible activities
3. Challenge perceptions through inclusive and accessible communications

**Read the full report and explore the work of the Activity Alliance [here](#).**



## **New Research Centre on Safeguarding in Sport Offers “Real Hope For Change”**



### **Celebrating the launch of the Centre for Child Protection and Safeguarding in Sport.**

Edge Hill University's new [Centre for Child Protection and Safeguarding in Sport \(CPSS\)](#) will focus on the prevention of abuse and exploitation in sport. It will promote the positive welfare of participants. It also aims to take a lead in national and international research and education on a range of safeguarding and welfare issues in sport.

At the Centre's first conference, former swimmer [Karen Leach spoke about her experiences of abuse in sport:](#)

“You will never know the pain, until it comes to your door. We are the reminder, we're here to tell the truth.”

The new CPSS centre is the product of nearly 20 years of research. There is a diverse range of expertise on athlete welfare, safeguarding in sport and more. It's all provided by a cross-departmental team that includes Dr Mike Hartill and Dr Melanie Lang, Centre Director and Assistant Director respectively.

[You can read more about the Centre, and its plans, here.](#)

# Introducing Joanne Pell—Our New Safeguarding in Sport Manager



**I am excited to start as a Safeguarding Adults in Sport Manager for the Ann Craft Trust, a role funded by Sport England.**

My background and experience lie within Adult Social Care, where I have worked in learning disability services, mental health services and training/personal development within the statutory sector. For the last 19 years, I have worked in Safeguarding Adults, with 10 years acting as the Strategic Lead of Adult Safeguarding within a large Local Authority.

I've been involved in a number of regional and national safeguarding initiatives including working with ADASS and the Ann

Craft Trust in the development of the document: 'Safeguarding Adults: a national framework of standards for good practice and outcomes in adult protection work'. [Find it here.](#)

Growing up in Canada, I was involved in a variety of sports including softball, figure skating, skiing and curling, to name a few. Since moving to England, I have learned to love football, cricket and rugby – mostly as a spectator! I currently enjoy hill walking in the beautiful Lake District, as well as yoga and keeping fit.

I am looking forward to continuing the excellent work ACT does within the sport and activity sector.



## Stay In, Work Out

Joanne Pell, Safeguarding in Sport Manager



### **The Coronavirus outbreak is going to have an impact on everyone's daily lives.**

We are all having to spend a lot more time at home. This can affect how we feel both mentally and physically. Therefore, it has never been more important to look after both our physical and mental health.

Being active in a way that is right for you can not only improve your physical health. It can also help to manage stress and anxiety, and generally improve your mood and make you feel better.

Sport England has launched their [Join the Movement campaign](#) that supports people to get or stay active at home. The campaign includes lots of fun ideas, tips

and suggestions on how to keep fit whilst at home. It uses the hashtag **#StayInWorkOut** to show people how they can get active. Sport England are also encouraging people to use the hashtag to share some of their own ideas.

It's important to take care of your mind as well as your body during this time. Physical activity can help here, too. Everyone will react differently to what is happening. Changes to the way we feel, what we think and how we behave will vary from person to person and will change over time.

[Public Health England](#) has some advice on how you can look after your mental health and wellbeing during this time, and how to get further support.

## Can Safeguarding in Sport be “Furloughed”?

Ruth Ingram, Safeguarding in Sport Lead, Wales



**Sporting activities are coming to a standstill and some organisations are facing huge losses in income as a result. It is possible that some people working in sport will be “furloughed”.**

“Furloughed” is a term used for workers who are laid off during the Corona Virus Emergency. Their employment rights are protected and they will receive 80% of their wages.

When organisations are making decisions as to who to furlough, they must consider all of a person’s duties. The organisation also needs to retain its ability to carry out basic functions.

### **So Can Organisations Furlough Safeguarding?**

I don’t think so!

It is self-evident that sports won’t have to be addressing new incidents of potential abuse or neglect arising in sporting activity. But at the moment there are other safeguarding risks.

Many athletes, volunteers and staff have underlying health care conditions which means they will be self-isolating for 12 weeks. Others have Coronavirus symptoms, or the illness itself. Many of these people will be lonely. All these people are especially dependent on others at the moment. There is an army of volunteers starting to visit people who may have no other human contact. Volunteers may be their literal lifeline.

### **Exploiting a Crisis**

The emergency is bringing out some of

the best in communities and individuals. But unfortunately, some people are exploiting the situation. Anyone else had a text from the scammers telling them to click on a link to get a government handout of £400?

Some of the risks in the current situation are:

- Using the internet to groom people for current or future abuse/exploitation.
- Actively exploiting people online. For example, to extort money, or to ask for sexualised photographs.
- People abusing their position as volunteers to groom and exploit isolated individuals.
- Intensifying coercive control, domestic abuse, sexual and financial exploitation within their household and families.
- People unable to meet or deliberately neglecting the needs of dependent adults in their household.
- Does any of this have anything to do with safeguarding in sport? Well, yes.

### **What Can We Do?**

There are plenty of great resources on how people can safeguard themselves during the emergency. You should look for ways to share this information with your clubs and members.

For example, we produced a short guide to keeping safe while in self-isolation. [Find it here.](#)

There is also good guidance for people

experiencing domestic abuse. [Access it here.](#)

Other things to consider:

- Have you identified anyone as a risk within your sport? They might be taking on roles where they could pose a risk in the wider community. They may be volunteering, or they may be making independent contact with club members offering support.
- If you think there is anyone who might pose a risk to others at the current time, inform your safeguarding lead. Consider calling a virtual case management meeting to assess the risk. And if necessary, decide who should be alerted.
- If you are in the position of making decisions about furloughing, please ensure that your organisation is still able to provide safeguarding information and advice to clubs and individuals.

At a minimum, please remember that anyone can contact the [Ann Craft Trust](#) or the [NSPCC safeguarding in sports services](#) for support and advice. We are working from home and keeping going!

## Sports Participation Surveys—It's Not Too Late to Have Your Say!



### Help us develop best practice in safeguarding adults at risk!

We have been holding discussion forums with sports participants and staff to develop some shared understandings.

- What does safeguarding mean to you?
- And what can individuals, clubs, and organisations do to keep people safe?

Among other things we discuss possible safeguarding risks, and whose responsibility it is to keep people safe. We also explore good practices for ensuring this happens.

We are still running discussion forums all over the country with all sorts of sporting groups, and we would like to hear from anyone interested in hosting a

forum. [Please get in touch if you'd like to discuss this further.](#)

There is also still time to take part via survey, for those who would prefer to give us their views via a questionnaire. These are available online, as paper copies and in an easy-read format too. We can arrange to send paper copies out to you if you contact Nicola with your address.

We have two surveys – one for sports participants, and one for staff.

- [Head here to take the the online SPORTS PARTICIPANT survey.](#)
- [Head here to take the online STAFF survey.](#)

[You can also read about some of the initial findings from these surveys here.](#)

## Safeguarding News Watch:

# Safeguarding Young People

### **Schools Targeted With Enquiry Into Use of Restraint**

11 February 2020 | [Equalityhumanrights.com](http://Equalityhumanrights.com)

### **Children in Lockdown: Where Do Children of Divorced Parents Go?**

24 March 2020 | [Express.co.uk](http://Express.co.uk)

### **Latest Coronavirus Information for SEND Families**

March 2020 | [SpecialNeedsJungle.com](http://SpecialNeedsJungle.com)

### **The Nature and Culture of Social Work with Children and Families**

13 February 2020 | [OnlineLibrary.Wiley.com](http://OnlineLibrary.Wiley.com)

### **Thank You Social Workers! Why We're Clapping For You**

16 April 2020 | [CommunityCare.co.uk](http://CommunityCare.co.uk)

### **Transport Budget Cuts Render Education Inaccessible for Autistic Young People**

15 April 2020 | [LearningDisabilityToday.co.uk](http://LearningDisabilityToday.co.uk)

### **Launch of Children's Services Trust Postponed Indefinitely**

15 April 2020 | [CommunityCare.co.uk](http://CommunityCare.co.uk)



## Safeguarding News Watch: Safeguarding Adults at Risk

### **Ministry of Justice Secures Extra Funding to Support Victims of Rape and Domestic Abuse**

12 Marc 2020 | [Gov.uk](https://www.gov.uk)

### **Morrisons Supermarket Launch Food Box Delivery Service**

23 March 2020 | [Metro.co.uk](https://www.metro.co.uk)

### **Are Social Distancing Measures Bringing Communities Together?**

23 March 2020 | [Independent.co.uk](https://www.independent.co.uk)

### **Local Authorities Grant Designed to Support Vulnerable People**

24 March 2020 | [Fundraising.co.uk](https://www.fundraising.co.uk)

### **UK Hotels Reach Out to Local Communities**

24 March 2020 | [TTGMedia.com](https://www.ttgmedia.com)

### **Ministers' Failure on Disability Payments Guidance "Will Not Be Forgotten"**

2 April 2020 | [DisabilityNewsService.com](https://www.disabilitynewsservice.com)

### **Council Tells Social Workers to Stop All Their Usual Work**

2 April 2020 | [DisabilityNewsService.com](https://www.disabilitynewsservice.com)

## Safeguarding News Watch:

# Safeguarding Adults in Sport and Activity

### **Tip-off Website Signals the End of Dangerous College Initiation Rituals**

16 February 2020 | [TheGuardian.com](https://www.theguardian.com)

### **The 2.6 Challenge—Working Out From Home During Lockdown to Help Support Charities**

17 April 2020 | [twopointsixchallenge.co.uk](https://twopointsixchallenge.co.uk)

### **Postponed Olympics “Not Certain to Go Ahead in 2021”**

10 April 2020 | [TheGuardian.com](https://www.theguardian.com)

### **The Abuse of Young Athletes: “An Open Letter to Welsh Athletics”**

20 November 2019 | [athleticsweekly.com](https://athleticsweekly.com)

### **Stay In, Work Out—Sport England’s Join the Movement Campaign**

31 March 2020 | [AnnCraftTurst.org](https://AnnCraftTurst.org)

### **Nike Uses Grassroot Stories to Inspire Young Girls to Play Sport**

16 April 2020 | [GiveMeSport.com](https://GiveMeSport.com)

### **How is the Sport and Development Community Responding to Covid-19?**

April 2020 | [SportandDev.org](https://SportandDev.org)

# Safeguarding Research and Resources

## **Guidance on Handling Safeguarding Allegations in a Charity**

A new safeguarding tool produced by Gov.uk. You answer a series of questions, and the tool will recommend the right people and the right agencies to help you address your safeguarding issue.

Access it here: <https://safeguarding.culture.gov.uk/>

## **Measuring the Scale and Nature of CSE**

Scoping report covering 2017–2018, published July 2019.

Access it here: <https://www.csacentre.org.uk/documents/scale-and-nature-scoping-report-2018/>

## **Effectiveness of Services for Sexually Abused Children and Young People**

Third in a series of reports by Anita Franklin, Louise Bradley and Geraldine Brady of Coventry University. This report focuses on the perspectives of service users with learning difficulties or experience of care.

Read it here: <https://www.csacentre.org.uk/documents/effectiveness-learning-difficulties-care/>

# Safeguarding Research and Resources

## **Disabled Children: A Legal Handbook 3rd Edition**

An authoritative yet accessible guide to the legal rights of disabled children and their families in England. “The authors expertly navigate the many, often overlapping, sources of law, explaining the difference between what public bodies must do to support disabled children, and that which they may do.

Read the guide here: <https://councilfordisabledchildren.org.uk/help-resources/resources/disabled-children-legal-handbook-3rd-edition>

## **Child Sexual Abuse—Resources for Survivors and Parents**

Anna Glinski from the Centre of Expertise on Child Sexual Abuse, has gathered two suites of resources and contacts—one to help survivors, one to help parents.

Access them here: <https://www.anncrafttrust.org/resources/child-sexual-abuse-resources-for-survivors-and-parents/>

## **Coronavirus—Contact, Creativity, and the Court of Protection**

On 2 April 2020, Hayden J published a judgment following a Skype hearing in the Court of Protection (“CoP”) about contact with a person in a care home in the time of coronavirus.

The take-away lesson? Local authorities and care homes should communicate with residents and their families to find creative solutions to maintain meaningful contact.

Learn more: <https://insights.doughtystreet.co.uk/post/102g3wr/coronavirus-contact-creativity-and-the-cop>

# Safeguarding Research and Resources

## **Safeguarding Children from Abuse in Residential Schools**

This research aims to understand residential schools' safeguarding practice against child sexual abuse; and collate views on good practice to prevent, identify, report and respond to child sexual abuse in residential schools.

Find it here: <http://natcen.ac.uk/our-research/research/safeguarding-children-from-sexual-abuse-in-residential-schools/>

## **Coronavirus: Adult Social Care Action Plan**

Information on how the government will support the adult social care sector in England throughout the coronavirus outbreak.

Learn more: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-adult-social-care-action-plan>

## **Coronavirus Rapid Response Guidance Note**

Guidance on Covid-19, social distancing and mental capacity. Please note that this is a general discussion, as opposed to legal advice on the facts of individual cases, which the team can provide. This document cannot take the place of legal advice.

Read more: <https://www.39essex.com/rapid-response-guidance-note-covid-19-social-distancing-and-mental-capacity/>



# From the Vault: “Financial Abuse of People with Learning Disabilities”

By Sue Thurman, Issue 81; October 2012

**Everybody has the right to the money and property that is legally theirs and live free from financial abuse.**

Financial abuse is unacceptable, and in many cases illegal. It can occur in a person’s own home, whilst they are receiving a service or in their community.

The abuse may be perpetrated by a professional, friend, family member or stranger. Financial abuse is complex and can be hard to recognise and prove.

It is very important that people with learning disabilities know about their rights not to be financially abused and that others can recognise and prevent it.

Studies show that in some areas it is the most widespread type of abuse.

**Statistics are startling:** Around 24% of all UK cases of adult abuse are financial (*NHS Information Centre November 2011.*)

**One local area:** reported that 60–80% cases of financial abuse take place in a person’s own home and nearly 70% of financial abuse is carried out by a family member.

## The Financial Abuse Project

A two year partnership project, funded by the Department of Health.

The main aim was to develop a flexible

training resource on issues relating to financial abuse of people with learning disabilities; including prevention, detecting, and reporting of abuse. The resource to be available to people supporting adults with learning disabilities with their financial management, especially advocates.

“

*Financial abuse is unacceptable.*

”

## What is financial abuse

Financial or material abuse, including theft, fraud, exploitation, pressure in connection with wills, property or inheritance or financial transactions, or the misuse or misappropriation of property, possessions or benefits.

## No Secrets 2000

## The dynamics of financial abuse include:

- The intentions of the (potential) abuser and their relationship with the vulnerable person.
- The nature of the actions taken to access the money.
- The extent to which the money is

being used to meet the vulnerable person's needs.

- The degree of harm/ loss to the vulnerable person.
- Any conflicting interests the (potential) abuser and other interested parties (eg relatives) have in terms of access to the money or property.

“

*There are other, rather more subtle examples of financial abuse.*

”

### **A working definition of financial abuse:**

The intentional or opportunistic appropriation of the income, capital or property of a vulnerable person through theft, fraud, deception, undue influence or exploitation; including the hoarding of vulnerable person's resources for future gain which is also a form of exploitation and may be associated with culpable neglect. **Brown 2003**

### **So - what is financial abuse?**

At its most basic financial abuse is very clear and straightforward. Criminal offences such as theft, fraud and extortion leave no room for doubt. They are plainly abusive. However there are other, rather more subtle examples of financial abuse,

some of which are a lot more common in practice than we might like to think.

### **Themes from our survey**

We had an amazing response rate to the survey and received:

- **368** responses: professionals and paid carers.
- **293** responses: unpaid carers and family carers.
- **53** responses: people with learning disabilities.
- We also spoke to **72** people with learning disabilities in focus groups.

Financial abuse seems to occur **wherever people live** – residential care, supported living, in the family home.

The subject of **mate crime** and the vulnerability of people with learning disabilities has been raised often.

Reluctance to raise matters with **the police** or get the police to take action has been a common issue.

Just about everyone has said they would like **more information or training** on the subject

People are increasingly expected to **manage their own money.**

Alongside this we must not lose sight of the **potential risks** of abuse or crime.

There are many **ethical and other dilemmas** to balance.

There is a clear need for a lot **more support and advice** for those working with people with learning disabilities to prevent, detect and deal with financial abuse.

### Key issues from professionals

- Banks issuing credit cards/ overdraft facilities with no clear instructions.
- Difficulty involving the police.
- Low priority of training on financial abuse.
- ‘Private carers’ – issues such as large fees, grooming of people, accepting gifts.
- Mate crime –being taken advantage of by ‘friends.’
- Family carers looking on person’s income as ‘family money.’
- People with learning disabilities not understanding or recognising financial abuse or knowing how to complain.

### Key issue from families

- Big concerns about financial abuse and many shared their stories.
- Not being consulted on decisions about financial capacity and risk assessment.
- Worries around when people are not living at home.
- Concerns around reporting crimes and support from police.
- Not understanding their rights and

responsibilities when their child becomes an adult.

### Key issues from people with learning disabilities

- Limited understanding about definition of financial abuse (often confused with other forms of abuse.)
- Some awareness of financial abuse in own lives or those of friends eg in relation to brokers (more stories from focus groups than surveys.)
- Main examples given were family members controlling or mishandling money, staff taking advantage (eg BOGOFs) and ‘mate crime’ or targeting by people on the street.
- Very little training or information received but was strongly desired.
- Lack of reporting to or follow up by police.
- Mixed experiences with banks.

### Key risk factors for financial abuse

- Person is **unable to manage their own finances** due to lack of capacity or insufficient numeracy skills.
- Person is known to be **isolated or is regarded as at risk** within the community.
- Person who is isolated or lives on their own may be more at risk of being **exposed to financial pressure** e.g. from salespeople, loan firms, rogue traders or bogus callers.
- Person is **dependent on another**

**person or people** to manage their money.

### **Action needed**

- Improving financial awareness amongst people with learning disabilities and their supporters.
- Improved uptake of appropriate financial support.
- Safe financial procedures and practices.
- Raising awareness of indicators of abuse.
- Improved assessment of financial decision making capacity.
- Improving engagement with the criminal justice system.

### **Recommendations for people with learning disabilities**

People with learning disabilities need more knowledge and awareness of money matters and how to keep themselves safe.

Practical support and training should be available and resourced for those who can develop financial capacity.

The improved and consistent use of appropriate safeguards and support for those who can't manage their own money should be widely available.

Comprehensive assessment of the financial capacity of people with learning disabilities should be undertaken on an ongoing basis.

### **Recommendations for families and carers**

Families and carers need more knowledge and awareness (as early as possible) of their rights and responsibilities under the Mental Capacity Act in relation to their son's and daughter's money matters.

Families and carers should have appropriate involvement in any financial decision making assessment undertaken on their son or daughter.

Families and carers should be made aware of what to do and who to contact if they have concerns.

### **Recommendations for care managers**

Care managers should ensure good financial capacity assessments of those for whom they are responsible.

Care managers should recognise early signs and symptoms of financial abuse.

Care managers should have a better understanding and application of the Mental Capacity Act and role of deputies and appointees.

Care managers should involve families and carers as appropriate to safeguard people with learning disabilities from financial abuse.

### **Recommendations for support staff**

Support staff should receive training on awareness and recognition of financial abuse.

Support staff should be supported in their

practice by good policies and procedures on financial management.

Support staff need access to good resources and support networks to enable them to carry out their role in relation to supporting the money management of the people they support.

Support staff should know how to help police investigations and obtain quality evidence of any financial crime.

### **Recommendations for advocates**

Advocacy organisations should have clear policies and procedures in relation to clarifying their role in instances of financial abuse.

Advocates should have ongoing training in safeguarding; to include financial abuse, and their role in safeguarding investigations.

A specialist financial advocacy role should be developed within the profession.

Advocates should have a good understanding of the legal issues related to money and advocacy partners who may be unable to manage their own finances.

### **Recommendations for the police**

Police should continue to improve their recognition of, and responses to, the vulnerabilities of victims.

Police should continue to work with other groups to improve access to justice for victims of financial abuse.

Police should be aware and make use of special measures designed to help vulnerable victims give evidence (e.g. registered intermediaries).

### **Recommendations for others**

Banks and building societies need to continue to develop ways in which people with learning disabilities can use their services safely.

Bank staff need training and awareness of the needs of people with learning disabilities.

There is a need for improvement in the uptake and quality of appointees.

The role of deputies needs to be better understood by people supporting people with learning disabilities.

**Project Team: Liz Brooks, Deborah Kitson and Sue Thurman**



## **Ann Craft Trust**

Centre for Social Work  
University of Nottingham  
NG7 2RD

0115 951 5400

[ann-craft-trust@nottingham.ac.uk](mailto:ann-craft-trust@nottingham.ac.uk)



**[anncrafttrust.org](http://anncrafttrust.org)**

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

Everyone deserves to be safe.