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## Welcome to the newsletter of the Derbyshire Safeguarding Adults Board

**Issue 33 - Quarter 4 - 2023**

Our newsletters are published quarterly to update professionals and volunteers who work with adults with care and support needs on key information related to the Board.

The DSAB works with organisations across Derbyshire to ensure they have safeguarding policies and procedures in place and work together in the best way possible to protect adults with care and support needs.

**If your organisation would like its safeguarding work featured in a future newsletter,  
please contact the DSAB's Service Manager, Natalie Gee  
[DerbyshireSAB@derbyshire.gov.uk](mailto:DerbyshireSAB@derbyshire.gov.uk)**

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## Message from our Independent Chair

Hello, my name is Andy Searle and I am the Independent Chair of Derbyshire Safeguarding Adults Board (DSAB)



Welcome to issue 33 of our newsletter.

I am pleased to share with you several new resources that have been produced by the Board office and professionals from our partner agencies recently.

Our two new podcasts aim to raise awareness about telephone and doorstep scams. Scams can affect anyone and the information in the podcasts will help you recognise a potential scam and report it. I would like to thank Jamie Dean from the Derbyshire County Council Community Safety Team, Tammy Barnes from Derbyshire Police and Rachel Daniels from the Derbyshire County Council Trading Standards Team for sharing their knowledge and expertise in the podcasts.

Our new Hidden Harms animation aims to raise awareness about domestic abuse in the relationships of older people. Sadly, we know that domestic abuse in this age group is under-reported and often not recognised as abuse by the victim. I would encourage you all to watch and share this animation, as it encourages us to be professionally curious and ensure that support is given to those who need it.

We have our annual Board development session scheduled for 1<sup>st</sup> March 2024 where we will reflect on our achievements as a partnership, and agree our priority areas of work for the next twelve months. I look forward to sharing more information with you about our aims and objectives in the next edition of this newsletter.

As always, I ask you to remember our DSAB Vision, and please check our [website](#) and our [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#) profiles to keep informed of the work of the DSAB.

**"We will work together to enable people in Derby and Derbyshire to make choices to stay safe and to live a life free from fear, harm and abuse."**

Thank you, and please enjoy this edition.

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## Meet our Board Members: Simon Stevens

Executive Director, Derbyshire County Council  
Adult Social Care and Health



I have worked in adult social care for almost 40 years, joining Derbyshire County Council in 2008 as a Group Manager in the South Derbyshire area before moving into senior management in 2015, having been Assistant Director, Director and then moving into my current function last July.

I started my social care career as a volunteer carer back in 1985 working, and living in as a carer for a young man with a physical disability before working in residential care services and day opportunities for young children and then adults with a learning disability. I undertook my social work training and qualified in 1999 and have worked across various direct delivery and assessment functions on my journey to where I sit now.

Throughout my career I have been involved in safeguarding activity whether that be alerting of concerns, undertaking safeguarding assessment and formal enquiries or being involved in the Derbyshire Safeguarding Adults Board activity and I am committed to protecting people's right to live free from harm, abuse and neglect.

In my current role as the statutory Director of Adult Social Services (DASS) I have responsibilities for professional leadership and operational delivery of adult social services, including safeguarding activity, and whilst safeguarding is everyone's responsibility, the Care Act 2014 places a particular responsibility on local authorities to carry out enquiries under Section 42 of the Care Act where there is a concern that an adult is or may be being abused or neglected.

Outside of work I am married with two grown up daughters, one of whom still lives with us in our family home whilst the other moved into her first new home just over a year ago. I spend my spare time, when I am not addressing the seemingly endless list of jobs either in our own house or at my daughters, walking with our family dog, Doris, or cycling and wherever possible spending time with family and friends.

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## NEW - Assessing mental capacity and making best interests decisions guidance



### We have launched our guidance to assessing mental capacity and making best interests decisions

We published the guidance in November 2023 as part of Safeguarding Adults Week. It aims to *"demystify the Mental Capacity Act and make key aspects workable in practice."*

The document provides guidance about assessing mental capacity and making best interests decisions in accordance with the Mental Capacity Act 2005 (MCA). It is not the intention to cover the many other provisions within the legislation. Practitioners should also seek information from their organisation's policies, processes and practice guidance.

The Derby and Derbyshire Safeguarding Adults Boards' Mental Capacity Act Sub-Group would like to extend their thanks and gratitude to Waltham Forest Safeguarding Adults Board for their permission to use the guidance document that was produced in 2021 by their Mental Capacity Sub-Group.

Read the Derby and Derbyshire [guidance to assessing mental capacity and making best interests decisions](#)

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## NEW - Hidden Harms animation: older adults and domestic abuse



## Our new animation called "Hidden Harms: older adults and domestic abuse" has been released

Abuse can occur at any age and is often under reported when it related to adults over the age of 65. Safeguarding often considers "carer's stress" when incidents occur, and while one-off events do happen, it needs to be explored to see if there are any patterns or history. Based on the [power and control wheel as adapted by Dewis Choice](#), the aim of this short animation is to help support practitioners and families start a conversation with an older adult.

We know from research that this is a very sensitive topic to talk about. Older adults may be more reluctant to talk about problems at home due to experiential, cultural, and social factors, and this combined with ageing and subsequent care needs leaves them vulnerable to having domestic abuse overlooked

The [Hidden harms animation](#) has been co-created by survivors aged between 60 and 93 years old from Dewis Choice, who are now in recovery and living free from harm, fear and abuse. Talking to someone about the behaviour will not mean having to make decisions you are not ready for, but it will create options to help you get the support you need to feel safer and happier.

We would like to thank Norfolk Safeguarding Adults Board for granting permission to adapt this animation for Derbyshire and Derby Safeguarding Adults Boards and Derbyshire and Derby City Safer Communities Boards.

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## NEW - Telephone and doorstep scams podcasts



### Two new podcasts about scams are available now

Members of our Financial Abuse Working Group have recorded two podcasts about scams

#### Telephone scams podcast

Jamie Dean from Derbyshire County Council Community Safety and Tammy Barnes from Derbyshire Police discuss the strategies used by telephone scammers and how to keep yourself safe. The podcast has information about where to find advice about spotting scams and how to report them. It also includes a short film from the Derbyshire Police [Sock It To The Scammers campaign](#). The campaign aims to raise awareness of commonly reported fraud attempts in Derbyshire and how to stop them.

## Doorstep crime podcast

In our doorstep crimes podcast, Rachel Daniels from Derbyshire County Council Trading Standards explains this type of crime, which includes rogue traders, bogus callers and distraction burglaries. Rachel provides information about what to look out for, your rights, how to seek support and how to report this type of crime.

You can access these and other [podcasts](#) on the Derbyshire Safeguarding Adults Board website.

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## NEW - Multiple Exclusion Homelessness: a safeguarding toolkit

A new national toolkit 'Multiple Exclusion Homelessness: a safeguarding toolkit for practitioners' has been published

The [Multiple Exclusion Homelessness toolkit](#) was originally developed by Bruno Ornelas, Andy Meakin, Fiona Bateman, Dr Michelle Cornes, and Dr Laura Pritchard-Jones with support and feedback from people with lived experience at Expert Citizens Community Interest Company.

At its core, this toolkit underscores the principle that safeguarding is a collective responsibility. It equips practitioners with the necessary guidance to actively gather information, unveiling risks that may otherwise be overshadowed by complexity or immediate crises.



Divided into four sections — assessing needs and risks, chronicling events, identifying immediate risks, and devising protection plans — the toolkit integrates resources, links, and nuanced guidance for practitioners to consider in reaching conclusions.

People have experienced multiple exclusion homelessness if they have been homeless, including experience of temporary/unsuitable accommodation as well as sleeping rough, and have also experienced one or more of the following domains of deep social exclusion:

- Institutional care (prison, local authority care, mental health units)
  - Substance misuse (drug, alcohol, solvent/gas misuse)
  - Participation in street culture activities (begging, street drinking, “survival”, shoplifting or sex work)
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## UPDATE - Vulnerable Adult Risk Management (VARM) meeting record form

Changes to the VARM meeting record — now live!

The Vulnerable Adult Risk Management (VARM) Working Group have recently reviewed the VARM meeting record form, and changes have been made following their suggestions.

These changes will allow us to capture the impact of the VARM process and also record how many adults have been made safer because of the VARM.



The following changes have been made to the VARM meeting record form and also in Mosaic:

- Consideration to whether children's services should be contacted and invited to the VARM meeting when there are children in the home of the adult being supported via the VARM process.
- Recording any diagnosed medical conditions that are of relevance to the VARM process to ensure they are being considered as part of any action plans and risk assessments
- A new section has been included to confirm whether if the adult has been made safer as a result of the VARM process: risk removed, risk reduced or risk remains.

The most up-to-date version of the [VARM meeting record form](#) is available from the Derbyshire Safeguarding Adults Board website.

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## Dignity Action Day - 1st February 2024



**What does dignity mean to you?**

Little things make a big difference when someone's looking after you

Celebrate Dignity Action Day with our colleagues in care on 1 February 2024

Find out more at [derbysab.org.uk](http://derbysab.org.uk)

The poster features a red background with several pink hearts and mugs. At the bottom left, there is a circular logo for Dignity Action Day 2024, a calendar icon for February 01, and logos for Derbyshire Safeguarding Adults Board and derby safeguarding adults board.

Dignity Action Day is an annual opportunity for professionals and members of the public to highlight the importance of the need to uphold people's rights to dignity and to provide a truly memorable day for people who use care services.

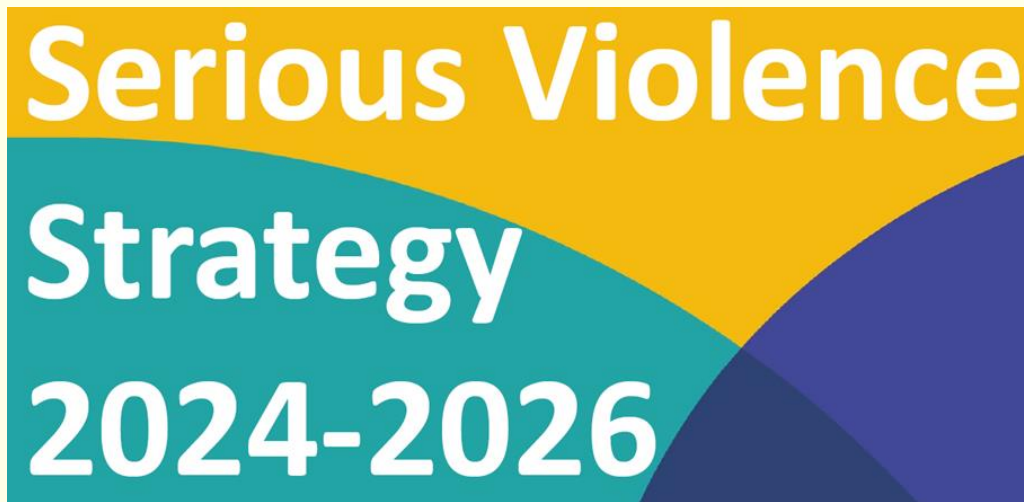
The campaign's core values are about having dignity in our hearts minds and actions, changing the culture of care services and placing a greater emphasis on improving the quality of care and the experience of citizens using services including NHS hospitals, community services, care homes and home support services.

Find out more about [Dignity Action Day](#) from the Dignity in Care Campaign.

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## Serious Violence Strategy 2024-2026



Serious violence is a growing problem, with incidents increasing across England and Wales since 2014 (UK Government, 2022)

Serious violence has a devastating impact on the lives of victims and families, instils fear within communities, and has wider costs to society as a whole.

Between 2019 and 2022, serious violence increased by 11% in Derby and Derbyshire. In recent years, increased research into the causes of, approaches to, and interventions for, serious violence has led to increased knowledge and new strategies to address the issue. It is a complex problem, with many risk and protective factors, but we can take action to reduce and prevent it.

As part of the Serious Violence Duty introduced by the government, the Derby and Derbyshire Safer Communities Partnership has developed a [serious violence strategy](#), which sets out the local multi-agency approach to tackling serious violence.

This strategy is informed by the Serious Violence Strategic Needs Assessments that were completed in the autumn of 2023. This strategy is the first of its kind in Derby and Derbyshire, providing a response to the serious violence issues identified.

This strategy will provide a framework upon which Derby and Derbyshire can begin to work in a focused, effective and evidenced-based way to tackle serious violence.

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## Derbyshire Domestic Abuse Helpline

The Derbyshire Domestic Abuse Helpline, facilitated by The Elm Foundation, is a safe, welcoming, supportive place for any man, woman or child affected by domestic abuse

Derbyshire Domestic  
Abuse Helpline



A friendly, informal, peaceful haven in which you can talk freely and make sense of your thoughts. A hub that can provide the advice, support and tools you may need to change your situation; where you will feel empowered to take back control of your life.

- Tel: 08000 198 668
  - Hard of hearing/deaf text: 07534 617252
  - Email : [derbyshiredahelpline@theelmfoundation.org.uk](mailto:derbyshiredahelpline@theelmfoundation.org.uk)
  - [Online](#)
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## Reporting a safeguarding concern



Derbyshire  
Safeguarding Adults  
Board

### There is NO Excuse for Abuse

If you or someone you know in Derbyshire is being abused or neglected please tell someone

In an emergency, contact the police, tel: **999** or if you are deaf/hard of hearing use emergency SMS by texting **999** from your phone, or use the NGT Relay Assistant by dialling **18000** from the app or textphone

If the person is not in any danger now but there has been a crime, contact the police, tel: **101**

If you're worried about yourself or someone else being abused or neglected, please contact Call Derbyshire, tel: **01629 533190**

**Derbyshire Safeguarding Adults Board**  
[www.derbyshiresab.org.uk](http://www.derbyshiresab.org.uk)

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If you or someone you know in Derbyshire is being abused or neglected please tell someone.

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If the person is not in any danger now but there has been a crime, contact the Police, tel: 101.

If you are worried about yourself or someone else being abuse or neglected, please contact Call Derbyshire, tel: 01629 533190.



There are eight '[There is NO Excuse for Abuse](#)' posters. They are available to download from the Derbyshire Safeguarding Adults Board website, [www.derbyshiresab.org.uk](http://www.derbyshiresab.org.uk)

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**The next DSAB meeting is on 1st March 2024**

For queries or comments please contact:

Natalie Gee (DSAB Service Manager) at [DerbyshireSAB@derbyshire.gov.uk](mailto:DerbyshireSAB@derbyshire.gov.uk)

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