



Welcome to the newsletter of the Derbyshire Safeguarding Adults Board

Issue 43

If your organisation would like its safeguarding work featured in a future newsletter, please contact the DSAB Board Manager, Natalie Gee at

DerbyshireSAB@derbyshire.gov.uk

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.

Derbyshire Safeguarding Adults Board (DSAB) is a multi-agency strategic partnership, which ensures and oversees the effectiveness of arrangements made by agencies to safeguard adults who have care and support needs and are experiencing, or at risk of experiencing, abuse or neglect.

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Message from our Independent Chair



Welcome to the latest edition of the Derbyshire Safeguarding Adults Board newsletter.

It has been a busy and productive period for the Board, with both a Development Session and a formal Board meeting taking place over the last few weeks. These events have provided valuable opportunities for reflection, challenge and planning as we continue to strengthen safeguarding arrangements across Derbyshire.

A key focus of our recent Development Session was inclusion and how we ensure that the experiences and perspectives of people with care and support needs remain at the heart of everything we do. Board members explored opportunities for meaningful engagement, accessibility and co-production, recognising that effective safeguarding is built on learning from those with lived experience. As a result of these discussions, work is now underway to review both the Board's Communications Strategy and the Making Safeguarding Personal (MSP) Subgroup Action Plan. This will help ensure that our approach continues to reflect our shared commitment to inclusion and person-centred practice.

I am also pleased to highlight the re-launch of the Adult Safeguarding Decision-Making Guidance. Following a comprehensive review and update, this resource has been refreshed to support practitioners and managers in understanding when a safeguarding referral may be appropriate. The guidance aims to promote consistent decision-making and support effective responses across all partner organisations.

Alongside this, the Safeguarding Adults Referral Form has been updated. The revised form has been designed to improve the quality and consistency of information provided at the point of referral, support timely decision-making and make the referral process more accessible for those raising concerns. I would encourage all partners to familiarise themselves with the updated form and accompanying guidance.

Thank you for your continued commitment to safeguarding adults across Derbyshire, particularly during this very hot weather. I hope everyone gets a chance to enjoy some of the lovely sunshine.

Amanda.

News from the Board

The Derbyshire Safeguarding Adults Board (DSAB) meets every three months and the last meeting took place on 23 July 2026

Below is a summary of the items discussed at the meeting:

1. It was confirmed that Gemma Poulter, Derbyshire County Council Adult Social Care Director is the new Vice-Chair of the Board
2. A presentation was given by Carl O'Riordan, Derbyshire County Council in relation to the Supreme Court ruling overturning the Cheshire West ruling on deprivation of liberty
3. Feedback from the Development Session held jointly with Derby SAB on 2nd July 2026 was discussed and an update was provided in relation to the Safeguarding Co-Production Group which has been set up by Derbyshire County Council Adult Social Care.

4. An update was given in relation to Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) and the decision made by central government for Derbyshire to be split into two local authorities (Derbyshire North and Derbyshire South).
5. The latest team structures and cover arrangements for the Integrated Care Board (ICB) were shared with Board members following the ongoing ICB reorganisation.
6. Derbyshire Police provided a briefing in relation to the new Domestic Abuse Risk Assessment Tool (DARA) now being used by officers
7. Safeguarding adults data from quarter 1 2026-2027 was presented with key headlines discussed.
8. A new risk management guide was presented by the DSAB Board manager and Board members agreed to adopt this methodology for overseeing the risk register moving forward.
9. Progress updates made against the Derbyshire SAB strategic plan were shared and discussed.
10. Sub-group updates, including headlines, assurance, and challenges, were presented by sub-group Chairs.

Meet our Board members - Jo Hunter

Hello, I am Jo Hunter, Director of Quality, Safeguarding CHC and Partnerships at NHS Derby and Derbyshire, NHS Lincolnshire and NHS Nottingham and Nottinghamshire ICB Cluster, otherwise known as the DLN Cluster.



I am a registered nurse and have worked in the health services in Derbyshire since 1987 with the exception of 18 months when I worked in South Yorkshire. I worked as a Midwife in Buxton for 14 years, then led the Family Planning and Contraception services in North Derbyshire before moving into senior nursing roles in Derbyshire Community Health Services and latterly as Deputy Chief Nurse at Derby and Derbyshire ICB.

Over the years my clinical work has been focussed on the care and support of vulnerable people and 'hard to reach' groups. I have provided senior leadership to both Children and Adult Safeguarding Services and am really excited to be working again in this space.

When I am not at work, I enjoy riding and walking my dogs as well as just spending time with friends and family.

UPDATE - Derbyshire safeguarding adults electronic referral form

The [safeguarding adults electronic referral form](#) should be used for referrals from professionals only.

The electronic referral form can now be saved throughout the referral process, and also at the point of submission to allow referring agencies to store a copy of the safeguarding adult referral on their own recording systems. You'll need to create an account, though.

Safeguarding Adults Electronic Referral Form

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How to create an account:

1



Open the Adult Safeguarding Referral page and click **Register** at the top right.

2



Enter your work email address and select **Send Verification Code**.

3



Retrieve the code from your email and enter it on the registration page.

4



Create and confirm your password, then click **Submit**.

5



Complete the required registration fields (those marked with *).

6



Click **Next** through the remaining sections and finish the registration.



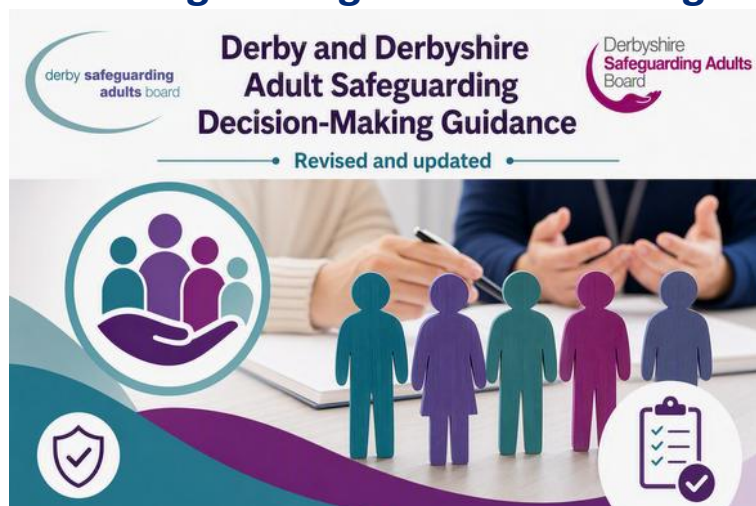
Done! Your account is now active. When completing future forms, sign in to access the **Save** feature and return to forms later if needed.

How to create an account:

1. Open the **Adult Safeguarding Referral** page and click **Register** at the top right.
2. Enter your work email address and select **Send Verification Code**.
3. Retrieve the code from your email and enter it on the registration page.
4. Create and confirm your password, then click **Submit**.
5. Complete the required registration fields (those marked with *)
6. Click **Next** through the remaining sections and finish the registration.

Done! Your account is now active. When completing future forms, sign in to access the **Save** feature and return to forms later if needed.

UPDATE - Adult Safeguarding Decision-Making Guidance



We're pleased to announce that the Derby and Derbyshire Adult Safeguarding Decision-Making Guidance has been updated

The guidance has undergone significant revision to provide clearer advice and practical support for practitioners when considering and making safeguarding adults referrals. We encourage all partner agencies to familiarise themselves with the updated guidance and use it alongside the referral form to support consistent and effective decision-making.

The updated guidance can be accessed here: [Derby and Derbyshire Adult Safeguarding Decision-Making Guidance](#)

Carers Toolkit for unpaid carers launched by Derbyshire Fire and Rescue Service



Derbyshire Fire and Rescue Service (DFRS) has launched a fire safety toolkit for unpaid carers, following a review of 16 fatal house fires across the county

The toolkit has been developed to help carers better understand fire risks in the homes of those they care for, prevent incidents and respond effectively in an emergency. A fatal fire review in Derbyshire found that between March 2022 and December 2024, DFRS attended 25 incidents involving people with care and support needs, resulting in 28 casualties, 16 of which were fatal.

The findings highlight the increased fire risk faced by people with care and support needs. The new **Fire Safety in the Home for Carers** Video and booklet has been developed with the support of a group of Derbyshire carers and leading smoke alarm provider, Aico.

It includes a room-by-room visual guide with members of DFRS's Prevention Team demonstrating common fire risks and how to reduce them. The video is also available in **British Sign Language (BSL)** to support Derbyshire's Deaf community.

DFRS is encouraging carers, families and partner organisations to access the toolkit and take simple steps that could help save lives.

Darren Pick, Group Manager at Derbyshire Fire and Rescue Service said: "Preventing fatal and serious house fires is a key priority for the Service, and we recognise that people with care and support needs are at increased risk."

This toolkit helps carers think proactively about fire safety in the home—supporting them to plan escape routes, use appropriate detection and alarm systems, and access wider support available to them as unpaid carers.

Our Prevention team are working closely with carers and the wider care sector to support this, and we're grateful to Aico for their investment and ongoing support in developing the toolkit."

Adam Burch, Relationship Manager at Aico said:

"It's great to be involved with such an important project that will have a direct and long-standing impact.

"At Aico, we focus our attention on fire detection but appreciate that prevention is key. The toolkit highlights the most common causes of fires and offers instructions on the best practice of preventing them in the first instance.

"We were delighted to be asked by Derbyshire Fire & Rescue Service to be able to be involved and were happy to assist in any way that we could."

The *Fire Safety in the Home for Carers* toolkit was launched during Carers Week (8–14 June 2026), an annual UK-wide campaign which highlights the vital contributions of unpaid carers, aiming to raise awareness, improve support, and reduce isolation for family or friends.

DFRS hosted an interactive media event on Monday 8 June at the Derbyshire Police and Fire Joint Training Centre to showcase the resources to carers and care providers, alongside representatives from the National Fire Chiefs Council (NFCC) and partner organisations.

The toolkit has also been welcomed by partners, including Michael Rose, Lead Commissioner for Learning Disabilities, Autism, Mental Health, Dementia and Carers at Derby City Council, who described it as "an invaluable resource" to help carers reduce fire risk and keep vulnerable people safe.

Emma Handley, Manager at the Derbyshire Carers Association, attended the launch event. She said:

"Carers often carry the quiet responsibility of keeping someone else safe, and this resource gives them clear, practical guidance to help manage that responsibility with confidence. By bringing together the expertise of the fire service and carer organisations, we're giving carers the tools to spot risks early, understand what to do in high-risk situations, and know where to turn for support. It's a simple but powerful way to help prevent harm and give carers greater peace of mind as they support the people they love."

Following its launch in Derbyshire, the toolkit will be made available nationally, enabling other fire and rescue services to adapt and use the resources to support carers and vulnerable people across the UK.

Visit the [Advice for Carers :: Derbyshire Fire and Rescue Service](#) to view and access the toolkit.

Derbyshire Fire and Rescue Service: Safe and Well Visits are now known as Home Fire Safety Visits

Derbyshire Fire and Rescue Service is changing the name of its Safe and Well Visits to Home Fire Safety Visits

The change is intended to make the purpose of the visit clearer for residents, families, carers and partner agencies, while continuing to support those most at risk of fire in the home.

The new name better reflects the core focus of the visit: helping people to stay safe from fire where they live. During a Home Fire Safety Visit, Derbyshire Fire and Rescue Service staff will continue to provide tailored fire safety advice, identify risks in the home, visit smoke detection, discuss escape planning and, where appropriate, fit smoke alarms or make referrals to other services for additional support.

This is a change of name rather than a reduction in the service offered. The visit will remain person-centred and risk-based, with a continued focus on identifying vulnerability, reducing the likelihood of accidental dwelling fires and supporting safer outcomes for people across Derbyshire.

Home Fire Safety Visits may be particularly beneficial for people who are older, live alone, have mobility difficulties, live with a physical or cognitive impairment, are dependent on alcohol or substances, smoke in the home, use medical equipment or emollient products, or are experiencing clutter, hoarding or other circumstances that may increase fire risk.

Partners play an important role in helping to identify people who may benefit from a visit. Where professionals have concerns about fire safety within the home, they are encouraged to make a referral using the Derbyshire Fire and Rescue Service referral process. Providing clear information about the person's circumstances, fire risks and any wider care or support needs helps ensure referrals are triaged appropriately and that those at greatest risk are prioritised.

Although the terminology is changing, the commitment remains the same: working with communities and partners to prevent fires, reduce harm and help people live more safely in their own homes.

For further information, or to make a referral, please visit the Derbyshire Fire and Rescue Service website and use the advice for professional's referral route using this link: [Referral Form for Adults](#)



Learning from DSAB audits shared at Derbyshire Working Age Adult Provider Forum



Amanda Clarke, Independent Chair of the Derbyshire Safeguarding Adults Board (DSAB), attended the Derbyshire Working Age Adult Provider Forum on 24th June to share learning from two DSAB multi-agency audits. The audits reviewed a sample of safeguarding adult referrals involving people living in care homes and highlighted key areas of good practice, partnership working and opportunities for improvement.

The session provided an opportunity to reinforce important safeguarding messages, promote shared learning across the sector and support providers in strengthening safeguarding practice. The forum was well attended, with approximately 60 people taking part, demonstrating the continued commitment of providers across Derbyshire to improving outcomes for adults with care and support needs.

The DSAB would like to thank colleagues involved in organising and contributing to the event, and all attendees for their engagement and commitment to safeguarding adults.

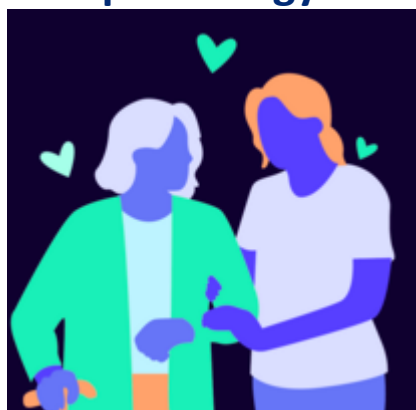
Learning from the DSAB self-neglect audit June 2026

Derbyshire Safeguarding Adults Board recently completed a multi-agency audit of safeguarding adult referrals relating to self-neglect. The audit found examples of positive, person-centred practice, including home visits, involvement of family members and advocates, and support which helped people remain safe and independent.

The learning also highlighted areas for improvement. Practitioners should use professional curiosity to understand the wider context of a person's circumstances, clearly record safeguarding decisions and risk analysis, and make sure the person's views, wishes and desired outcomes are evidenced within the person's case file. The audit also reinforced the importance of early multi-agency involvement, including health, housing, fire service and police where relevant. All agencies are encouraged to promote and use the Self-Neglect Toolkit, Initial and S42 enquiry guidance and refer to the DFRS fire safety resources to support effective practice.

- [Self-neglect toolkit](#)
 - [SAB initial and S42 enquiries guidance](#)
 - [Derbyshire Fire and Rescue Service fire safety advice for Carers](#)
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Octopus Energy social workers



Katie Orme, Social Worker at Octopus Energy, recently delivered a presentation to the Multiagency Adult Risk Management (MARM) Working Group, outlining the social work service that Octopus Energy provides to customers who may be vulnerable or in need of additional support.

Octopus Energy currently employs eight qualified social workers who are based across the UK, including Leicester, Coventry, London, Brighton and Manchester. Although regionally based, the team offers support to customers throughout the whole of the United Kingdom and also works closely with global teams.

The social workers bring a range of specialist expertise, including mental health, substance misuse, children and families, and adult social care. Alongside the social work team, Octopus also employs over 500 Vulnerability and Affordability Representatives, whose role is similar to that of community care workers.

These staff can provide tailored support to customers experiencing hardship, and they have the authority to write off energy debt where appropriate and offer energy-saving advice to help customers stay on top of their bills long term.

The social workers are trained in welfare benefits and can carry out home visits to provide advice, assess needs, and support the completion of benefit applications. Their approach focuses on understanding the customer's whole situation to provide holistic, person-centred assistance.

Referral Process

Referrals to the Octopus Energy Social Work Team can be made in two ways:

- Customer self-referral: Octopus Energy customers can contact Octopus Energy directly via email and request support from a social worker.
- Third-party referral: If you know someone in need, anyone can email Octopus Energy at hello@octopus.energy with the Octopus customer's name and address, as long as they have the customer's consent. This is sufficient for the customer to be identified within their system.

Further support and information

- [Help when you're struggling to pay](#)
- [Pay Plan - debt advice made simple](#)
- [Behind the scenes with October Energy social workers](#)

Derbyshire Constabulary's new fraud newsletter – The Big Con

Derbyshire Constabulary has launched a new fraud prevention newsletter, The Big Con

It aims to raise awareness of the latest scams and provide practical advice on how to avoid becoming a victim.

The newsletter has been produced by the force's fraud team and brings together real examples of fraud and scam activity being seen across Derbyshire. Drawing on the experiences of officers working on the frontline, each article explains how a scam took place, the tactics used by offenders, and the steps people can take to protect themselves.

Fraudsters continually adapt their methods, often taking advantage of new technology and targeting individuals during moments of vulnerability. Resources such as *The Big Con* can help residents, families and professionals recognise warning signs and take action before a scam succeeds.

The Constabulary is working with partner organisations to make the newsletter widely available, both as a digital resource and through printed copies in community locations. The aim is to ensure that as many people as possible have access to up-to-date fraud prevention information.

If you have any feedback, or stories you'd like to be included in future editions please email TheBigCon@derbyshire.police.uk

As always, remember the key message: **Stop! Think Fraud.** Taking a moment to pause and question an unexpected request, message or phone call can be one of the most effective ways to prevent fraud.

[Read Derbyshire Constabulary's fraud newsletter – The Big Con](#)



Stop Loan Sharks 'We Will Help You Make That Call' campaign



Sometimes people who have borrowed from a loan shark need help to access the support they need from the England Illegal Money Lending Team.

This may be for practical reasons, such as not having a phone or internet access, or they may need emotional support and reassurance that they are doing the right thing.

It may also be that they'd prefer a physical place to go to for guidance on making that initial contact.

As a national organisation, the IMLT doesn't have a central base that members of the public can visit. But their partner organisations do – and they're asking

them to help by becoming a Stop Loan Sharks Access Point. The aim is to build a network of local spaces where borrowers can find a supportive ear and a safe place to make a call or learn more about available help.

We will help you make the call – how you can join our network of [Stop Loan Sharks Access Points](#)

Loan Sharks Awareness sessions

A poster for 'Loan Sharks Awareness Sessions'. It features a large image of a woman speaking on a video call screen, with several other participants visible in smaller windows. The text on the poster reads: 'Loan Sharks Awareness Sessions', 'Free online training for anyone working with the community who may be at risk of being manipulated by a loan shark.', 'Each session is one hour and thirty minutes.', 'Upcoming Sessions', '— 17th September 2026 – 1:30pm', '— 24th November 2026 – 9:30am', '— 25th February 2027 – 1:30pm', and 'For any queries or for bespoke sessions for your team meetings/staff upskilling sessions, please contact: affordable.credit@derbyshire.gov.uk'.

Click on the links for more information and to book your place:

- [17th September 2026 – 1:30pm](#)
 - [24th November 2026 – 9:30am](#)
 - [25th February 2027 – 1:30pm](#)
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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 adult or child affected by domestic abuse

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
- [Online](#)

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

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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're 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**



The next DSAB meeting is on 15 October 2026

For queries or comments please contact:

Natalie Gee (DSAB Board Manager) at DerbyshireSAB@derbyshire.gov.uk



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