



Safeguarding Adults Week 2025

17 - 21 November

Prevention - act before abuse

Welcome to this special edition newsletter produced by the
Safeguarding Adults Board (SAB) Managers across the
East Midlands

You can visit the individual SAB websites for further information and resources.

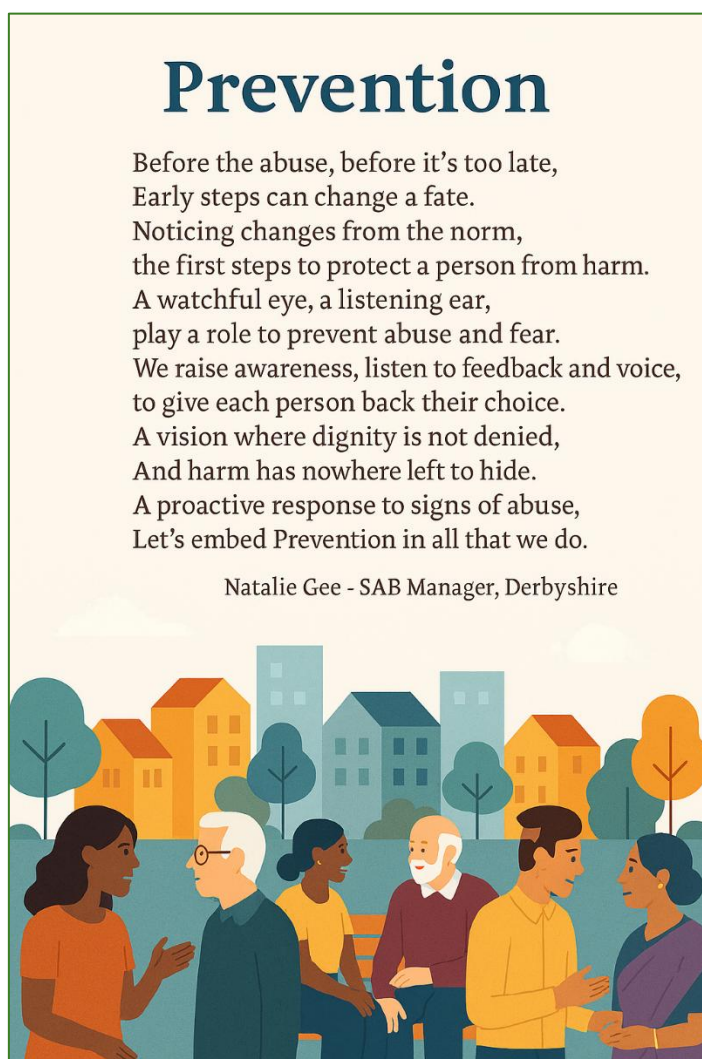
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Prevention poem



Derby SAB Prevention through learning

Prevention sits at the heart of safeguarding adults

Derby Safeguarding Adults Board (SAB) is committed to ensuring that professionals across Derby and Derbyshire have the skills and knowledge to prevent abuse and neglect before harm occurs.

Derby SAB offers free webinars designed to build skills, strengthen multi-agency practice, and embed a culture of prevention. By equipping professionals with the right knowledge and tools, Derby SABs ensures that concerns can be identified and addressed sooner, stopping issues from escalating into serious harm. Over the past year, **1,415 delegates** took part in training, gaining valuable insight into safeguarding duties, professional practice, and lessons from reviews.



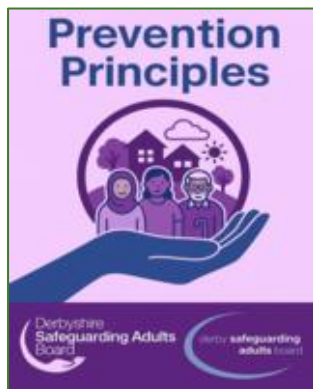
The programme covers both the foundations of safeguarding and the complex challenges practitioners face, including:

- Safeguarding Adults under the Care Act 2014
- Making Enquiries under Section 42
- Mental Capacity Act (Modules One and Two)
- Deprivation of Liberty (Modules One and Two)
- Professional Curiosity – Roles and Responsibilities
- Learning from Safeguarding Adults Reviews (SARs)
- Links between Safeguarding and Forced Marriage, Domestic Abuse, and Human Rights
- Understanding Dignity, Equality & Respect
- Establishing Professional Boundaries
- Coroner Training
- Safeguarding Adults Case File Audit

In addition, both Derby and Derbyshire SABs are running a wider sweep of prevention-themed webinars throughout the year. These sessions reflect the Ann Craft Trust's national focus on prevention in safeguarding, promoting early intervention and shared learning across agencies.

By making training free and accessible, Derby SAB is removing barriers to learning and ensuring that every professional can play their part in prevention. Through collaboration, shared knowledge, and ongoing development, safeguarding becomes stronger, and adults at risk are better protected.

Derby and Derbyshire SABs Prevention Principles document



The Derby and Derbyshire SABs are proud to introduce their new [Prevention Principles](#) document, which sets out a shared commitment to preventing abuse and neglect before it occurs.

Grounded in the Care Act 2014 and aligned with the Boards' strategic priorities, this document highlights key areas for collaborative action, ranging from public awareness and strengths-based safeguarding to partnership working and accountability, ensuring that adults across Derby and Derbyshire can live safely, with dignity and independence.

Derby and Derbyshire SABs Self-Neglect Toolkit

The Derby and Derbyshire SABs have launched a comprehensive **Self-Neglect Toolkit** to support professionals working with adults at risk.

This resource is designed to provide practical advice and support for practitioners, offering information about multi-agency working, a case closure checklist, and prompts for reflective practice.



It aligns with the Care Act 2014, recognising self-neglect as a safeguarding concern and ensuring that all reasonable steps are taken before ending involvement.

The toolkit promotes consistency in safeguarding practice, supports Making Safeguarding Personal, and incorporates learning from Safeguarding Adult Reviews, including Derbyshire SAR22A 'William'.

Download the [Self-Neglect Toolkit](#)

For more safeguarding resources, visit the [Derbyshire Safeguarding Adults Board website](#)

Derbyshire SAB Safeguarding factsheet for Tradespeople



[Trader News](#), is a safeguarding factsheet developed by Derbyshire Safeguarding Adults Board for tradespeople who visit people's homes. It has been shared with every company listed as a [Derbyshire Trusted Trader](#).

Tradespeople including heating, plumbing/cooling engineers, builders, or

painters and decorators can play a vital role in keeping adults and children safe from harm and abuse.

Workers who enter homes to carry out their work, may well be in a position to notice and report signs of neglect, exploitation and abuse, thereby playing an essential role in keeping members of the public safe and secure.

Their information could be the first indication or a missing part of a bigger picture. Adults or children rarely exist in isolation and the approach of 'Think Family' aims to promote the importance of considering the potential risk or wider implication to the whole family.

[Read the Trader News factsheet](#)

Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland SABs - local spotlight on self-neglect and hoarding work



Leicestershire Fire and Rescue Service

Leicestershire Fire and Rescue Service have been hosting a hoarding peer group called "My Space at my Pace" at our Central fire and rescue station which meet on the last Wednesday of every month.

This is an opportunity for people who have a lot of clutter in their home to meet other people who are living a similar lifestyle to theirs. This group is also open to family or friends who know of someone who is hoarding and is directly affected.

On some occasions, guest speakers attend to inform the group about the services that they can

offer or are available to them. Due to popularity a second group has been set up in the Hinckley fire station.

If you feel that the group would benefit from knowing about the services you or what your organisation could offer please get in touch with the Leicestershire Fire and Rescue Service Safeguarding Team via 0116 210 5555 email: safeguarding@leics-fire.gov.uk.

Hoarding Awareness Day at Central Station

As part of National Hoarding Awareness Week, Leicestershire Fire and Rescue Service (LFRS) hosted their first **Hoarding Awareness Day** at Central Station. The event featured various demonstrations by the operational crew, including a hot oil demonstration and a rescue operation. These practical displays provided an opportunity to highlight the risks associated with heavily hoarded premises and to offer safety advice to the public.



The day included 2 insightful panel discussions. One panel comprised professionals from various sectors, while the other featured individuals with lived experience of hoarding behaviours, along with affected family members. The panel questions were developed by attendees from our hoarding peer support group, ensuring relevance and authenticity.

A number of partner agencies also attended hosting stalls to promote their services. These included Age UK, Live Well Leicester, Samaritans, Leicester City Council Housing, and Action Deafness.

Feedback and impact

Community feedback was overwhelmingly positive. Attendees described the event as informative and eye-opening, particularly appreciating the personal stories shared by individuals with hoarding behaviours. These first-hand accounts were praised for being honest and relatable, helping to deepen public understanding and empathy.

Many participants also noted that they were previously unaware of the support available or the extent of LFRS's involvement in assisting individuals with hoarding behaviours. The professionals panel played a key role in breaking down common misconceptions and improving awareness of available resources. Overall, the event successfully raised awareness, encouraged dialogue, and strengthened community understanding of hoarding-related challenges and support pathways.

Positive practice: case scenario



Two people, who regularly attend Hoarding Peer Group, have now had their situations that were being looked at under safeguarding closed as the clutter in their homes is no longer a concern. With support from partner agencies, they have significantly reduced the clutter in their properties.

Both people shared that attending the peer group has been instrumental in motivating them to start and stick with the decluttering process. They expressed a desire to continue attending the group to prevent their homes from returning to its previous condition. Although their situations have now been closed to Adult Social Care from a safeguarding standpoint, partner agencies will still provide ongoing support in other ways to prevent the clutter reaccumulating and to offer additional help and support where they can

Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland SAB resources

LLR SABs have published a [self-neglect animation](#) and published our self neglect and hoarding procedures. and we have a [7-minute briefing on self-neglect](#).

To launch these we held introductory sessions via 15-minute briefing held throughout the week. A copy of the video can be found on the LLR SABs YouTube channel [Self Neglect and Hoarding Procedures: 15-minute introductory briefing](#).



Northamptonshire SAB Cyber and Fraud Awareness Session - 20 November 2025



This FREE online session – led by Northamptonshire Police – will cover cyber and fraud awareness.

Book your place on the [Cyber and Fraud Awareness session](#)

Northamptonshire Safeguarding Adults Board publication of two Safeguarding Adult Reviews

SAR 026/035 – Homelessness Thematic Review

Northamptonshire Safeguarding Adults Board have published a thematic Safeguarding Adult Review (SAR) in respect of homelessness.

The review follows the publication SAR 019 in 2021 where there were similar issues relating to Multiple Exclusion Homelessness (MEH). SAR 026/035 refers to two individuals who both experienced MEH at the time of their deaths. Themes explored in the review include self-neglect, substance use and mental health.



The report can be read on the [NSAB website](#)

SAR 033 - Adult C – Self-neglect and Mental Health

The 033 review refers to Adult C, a gentleman in his 30s of South African heritage who was known to and supported by a number of organisations at the time of the incident. The themes explored in the review include self-neglect and mental health.

The report can be read on the [NSAB website](#)

Missing military veteran scheme - The Forcer Protocol



Northamptonshire Police is encouraging military veterans and their families to sign up to a potentially life-saving safeguarding scheme called the Forcer Protocol.

The Forcer Protocol was founded by Claire Lilly and is named after her former husband Lance Corporal Alan Forcer, a veteran who suffered with depression and complex post-

traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) following service in Kosovo and Northern Ireland. Tragically he died by suicide in 2020 after going missing.

The Forcer Protocol enables police to ensure key information is available to them when searching for military veterans who are lost or reported missing.

The service is free and run independently from police with the provider [Safe and Found Online](#).

Veterans, their families and carers can complete an online form and provide a variety of information which is held digitally on a secure platform, including photographs, a physical description, any medical conditions, mobile phone numbers of the veteran and friends, vehicle details, whether they have gone missing before, and whether they pose a risk to themselves.

The information entered into the personal profile is completely confidential. Police can only access the profile, if the person featured is reported missing.

Det Ch Insp Wayne Preece said: “The Forcer Protocol is vital in ensuring the safety of vulnerable veterans within our communities.

“We are really pleased to be adopting this initiative in Northamptonshire, working alongside the Armed Forces Covenant and Op Nova to ensure a joined-up approach to best protect those who are in crisis when they need help the most.

“It’ll be a valuable tool to help us find missing veterans, providing us with key information in seconds. Having access to information, such as risk factors, triggers and key vulnerabilities helps us to accurately assess the risk associated with that missing person and tailor the search accordingly. It also helps connect veterans to specialised aftercare support once they have been found.

“We want to encourage all veterans, their families, friends and carers to sign up to the scheme.”

Police will only access the information in cases where the person is reported missing or lost. The following three step approach is used:

1. The person is reported missing to Northamptonshire Police. As part of the initial assessment for a missing person, the call handler will ask the reporting person if the missing person is known to be a veteran
2. Following this, the police control room supervisors will directly access the information provided on the online form, through Safe and Found Online. Officers will then identify risk, investigate and look for the missing person without delay.
3. Once the missing person is located, a subsequent referral can be completed to Op Nova, a specialist charity providing practical and emotional support. Op Nova is delivered by the Forces Employment Charity which provides support for

veterans who may be feeling detached and in between military and civilian worlds. Find out more about [Op Nova](#).

The [Forcer Protocol animation](#) gives an overview of the protocol and its key concepts.

Register now on the [Forcer Protocol pages](#) of the Safe and Found website.

Nottingham City SAB - good practice examples

In Nottingham City, every Safeguarding Adults Board meeting starts with a case example demonstrating good practice and making safeguarding personal. This helps to set the scene for the Board meeting and put the person's voice right at the centre. We're sharing two of these examples below – one from Probation, and one from Nottingham CityCare Partnership.

Changing Futures Severe and Multiple Disadvantage (SMD) Practitioner in Probation



Tom was brought to the attention of the Severe and Multiple Disadvantage Practitioner just before he was due for release from prison as homeless. His Probation Officer didn't know what to do as there were no apparent options to break the cycle of prison/homelessness. Tom also had a Criminal Behaviour Order (CBO) barring him from begging in Nottingham city centre.

Tom is a revolving door prison/homeless case, with a long history of problematic drug use, declining physical health and increasingly poor mental health. He has ADHD, hyperkinetic disorder, adjustment disorder, emotionally unstable personality disorder, has suffered multiple mini-strokes and lost sight in one eye. While in prison, he had boiling water poured over him which required daily treatment and creams. Tom had multiple Assessment, Care in Custody and Teamwork (ACCT)'s in custody due to self-harm and suicidal ideation. His offences are primarily shop thefts to fund substance use.

There are no supported accommodation providers willing to offer an assessment to Tom due to his chaotic drug use. He is historically deemed to have no local connection to Nottingham city, despite rough sleeping in the city for a significant period. He also has poor engagement with services in the community, and it's hard to put support in place as he is constantly in and out of prison serving short sentences.

An initial referral to Changing Futures was unsuccessful, as Navigators could not arrange initial assessment and then Tom returned in prison. However, a re-referral was

successful, and an initial assessment was completed just before his release from custody. Tom had ongoing liaison with his Community Offender Manager regarding the Duty to Refer/homelessness process when in prison. The navigator linked together Probation with Clean Slate regarding potential residential rehab placement, and although the initial rehab placement didn't work out, they kept all support services up to date to ensure continued wrap-around support. They also successfully queried Housing Solutions on the Local Connection issues, as he has no settled address anywhere over the last five years and has been rough sleeping the city for most of this time. They also arranged a homelessness triage assessment in prison prior to release, and Tom was assessed as Priority Need. The navigator also liaised with Probation and Clean Slate regarding a second referral to residential rehab, submitted a Duty to Refer and was offered Community Accommodation Tier 3 (CAS3) on Tom's release to bridge the gap before his placement started.

The work of the Changing Futures Navigator led to some positive outcomes for Tom, and helped agencies work together to secure accommodation, a rehab placement and break the prison/homelessness cycle. He was accepted onto a second Open to Recovery residential rehab placement, which is going really well and is in the final phase. He is now off his amphetamine-based medication and feeling much better, attending the gym twice a week along with groups and therapy sessions. He is also back in touch with his parents after many years of non-contact. For the first time in many years, Tom is engaging with Primary Care and has had an MRI scan which confirms that brain tumour has not got bigger in last six years. He is now deemed to have a local connection to Nottingham city, and there is a plan in place to move into supported 'dry' accommodation in Nottingham at the end of residential rehab.

Nottingham CityCare Partnership



Nottingham CityCare Partnership have a mission to make a difference every day to the health and wellbeing of our communities. They do this through their guiding principle and fundamental beliefs of kindness, respect, honesty and trust.

CityCare are supporting Krzysztof, a polish gentleman who has recently suffered a stroke. No one is quite sure how long he has lived in the UK, but he appears to have been here for a long time. He has no formal legal status/documentation in this country, but he has an open application with the Home Office and is awaiting a response. He is now registered with a GP.

Krzysztof lives in a 1-bedroom flat with his friend Marek but does not speak or understand English very well. Their landlord is also Krzysztof's employer. Prior to his stroke he was a handyman, but he cannot work now and has no money resulting in rent

arrears and being unable to pay his half. While in employment Krzysztof was never actually paid correctly and is probably owed money.

Krzysztof's mobility isn't good, but he can get up and down the stairs and his friend does provide some care. He has memory loss, although he can make day to day decisions. He struggles with nutrition and medication needs.

While providing care, CityCare were really concerned about potential financial exploitation by his employer/landlord, and there was a possibility of modern slavery. Krzysztof was especially vulnerable to abuse due to his lack of legal status in the UK, his poor mental health due to the loss of function from his stroke, not currently being able to work and stress caused by his financial situation. The poor state of his property was also a worry.

CityCare demonstrated some really good practice in supporting Krzysztof. There were regular visits from Stroke Nurse and Social Worker with a Polish interpreter. A PIP and universal credit application was made for him, and he is now in receipt of benefits and is less stressed about his financial situation. He also consented to a care and support assessment.

In terms of modern slavery, there is good evidence of professional curiosity, and there was a S42 enquiry into slavery and exploitation which is now closed. Krzysztof was offered alternative accommodation but wishes to stay in Polish community. He has capacity to make relevant decisions, and has access to a mobile phone and is able to contact police if needed to keep himself safe. A further referral was made on to mental health services, and he is now also receiving ongoing support from his GP in relation to medication.

Nottinghamshire SAB Safeguarding Adults' Competency Framework and Learning Pathway

Nottinghamshire Safeguarding Adults Board (NSAB) has this year approved the [Safeguarding Adults' Competency Framework and Learning Pathway document](#).

It has been updated to reflect changing practice and legislation, including the Mental Capacity Act 2005 and the Care Act 2014 and is based on the third second edition of the Intercollegiate document, [Adult Safeguarding: Roles and Competencies for Health Care Staff](#) updated and published by Royal College of Nursing in 2024.

- This competency framework can support adult social care and health staff to build and develop their knowledge, attitudes and values that are required for safe and effective safeguarding practice.
- It should be used to enable partner agencies to review and assure NSAB that different staff groups are competent to an appropriate level and accessing appropriate learning and development opportunities to support this.
- It is also designed as a guidance tool for staff to help them identify sources of learning and development opportunities, allowing them to achieve the relevant

competency. Partner organisations will be able to utilise this document when completing the Safeguarding Adults Self-Assessment and Assurance Framework (SAAF) and others may find it useful as part of their audit process for demonstrating staff competencies.

- It can also be used with staff during annual appraisals or supervision sessions, or as part of your professional portfolio.

ADASS Out-of-Area Safeguarding Adults Arrangements Protocol

ADASS have published their updated Out-of-Area Safeguarding Adults Arrangements Protocol



The protocol aims to complement statutory guidance by recognising the particular safeguarding risks and needs that arise where people's care and support arrangements cross local authority boundaries.

[Read the ADASS Out-of-Area Safeguarding Adults Arrangements Protocol](#)

Diagnostic overshadowing and the impact on people with a learning disability and autism

Diagnostic overshadowing occurs when clinicians or caregivers attribute a person's symptoms or behaviours to their autism and/or learning disability diagnosis without considering other potential causes, such as medical conditions, mental health issues, or other neurodevelopmental conditions.

Partners in Care and Health have developed a guide for local authority practitioners to help understand the concept of diagnostic overshadowing, which can impact on people with a learning disability and autistic people, and to give practitioner strategies to prevent diagnostic overshadowing if they come across this when working with people.



[Read the guide on the Partners in Care and Health website](#)

Romance fraud awareness video campaign



The Metropolitan Police, in collaboration with West Midlands Regional Organised Crime Unit and the City of London Police, launched the national awareness campaign to tackle romance fraud; a crime where victims are deceived into fake relationships and socially engineered to hand over money or personal information.

The video series features victim accounts and crime prevention advice on identifying the signs of fraud before it causes emotional and financial harm.

Diana's Story - After losing her husband, Diana sought companionship on a pen-pal site, where she formed a connection that turned out to be based on deception.

Nazaha's Story - Looking to rebuild her life after an abusive marriage, Nazaha met someone on a marriage app whose intentions were not genuine.

Sarah's Story - Sarah discovered her widowed mother was being manipulated online and persuaded to sending money.

You can help by sharing the videos and use the digital assets:

- Post the videos on your organisation's social media channels using the hashtag #RomanceFraud and signpost to the Action Fraud website for further information
- Embed the longer-length videos on your website or blogs.
- Show the videos in community sessions, staff briefings or public events.

Watch all the [Romance Fraud Awareness videos](#)

Fraudsters impersonating DWP over energy claims

This alert has been issued by the National Anti-Fraud Network (NAFN)

Fraudsters are sending text messages impersonating the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP), claiming to offer Winter Fuel or Energy Allowance payments. These messages often include links to malicious websites designed to steal personal information.

Messages have been reported from the following numbers:

- +63 908 306 9627
- +44 744 709 4289



An example message is shown below:

- *“According to DWP records: You have not submitted your application for Winter Heating Allowance 2025-2026. To ensure you receive your £300 payment, please complete your application before 30 July 2025. Failure to submit an application by the deadline will render you ineligible for the stipend. Please take action now an complete your application via the link below...”*

These messages may include links such as: <https://rebrand.ly/nrs91qt?lju=p9jiZc>

These links should not be clicked on. They lead to malicious websites that may compromise your personal data.

Although the example above references a past date, scammers often update the message to reflect current deadlines, making it appear timely and urgent.

If you receive these messages:

- Do not click on links
- Visit official government websites directly, never through links in suspicious messages.
- Raise awareness amongst colleagues, friends, and family.
- Report suspicious messages to intel@nafn.gov.uk and [Action Fraud](#).

Share this information with your teams and networks. A quick conversation could prevent someone from becoming a victim.

