

NEWSLETTER

Spring 2020



A WELCOME TO YOU ALL FROM CHERRY DALE

**Cherry is the independent Chair
for the Birmingham Adult
Safeguarding Board.**

Arising from the many challenges associated with the current Coronavirus, and having taken account of the comments from several safeguarding partners who are supporting their organisational responses and requirement; we have cancelled some meetings and reviewed how we manage the functions and the business of the Birmingham Safeguarding Adults Board, using technology - for example, holding virtual meetings.

We are conscious about not overburdening services and therefore are avoiding adding pressure to services who are already stretched on their response to Coronavirus. It is vital that organisational resources are directed to respond to Coronavirus and protect the most vulnerable people in our communities. This will require a collective and flexible approach.

This newsletter contains useful information to help raise awareness of preventative measures that can be taken to keep our vulnerable citizens safe during this challenging and unprecedented time.

In particular, we now have a safeguarding adults basic awareness workbook to support organisations and new volunteers who may struggle to access e-learning. We thank Kirklees Safeguarding Adults Board for allowing us to adapt their document.

We are sharing any information we feel the partnership will benefit from and are adding these to our website where necessary.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you and your teams for the vital work you are doing to keep our communities safe. Please do remember to look after yourselves.

All the very best
Cherry Dale



Latest Local and National Information on Coronavirus

[Click here](#) to view the Birmingham City Council's dedicated web page for Coronavirus which provides local links and National advice and information.

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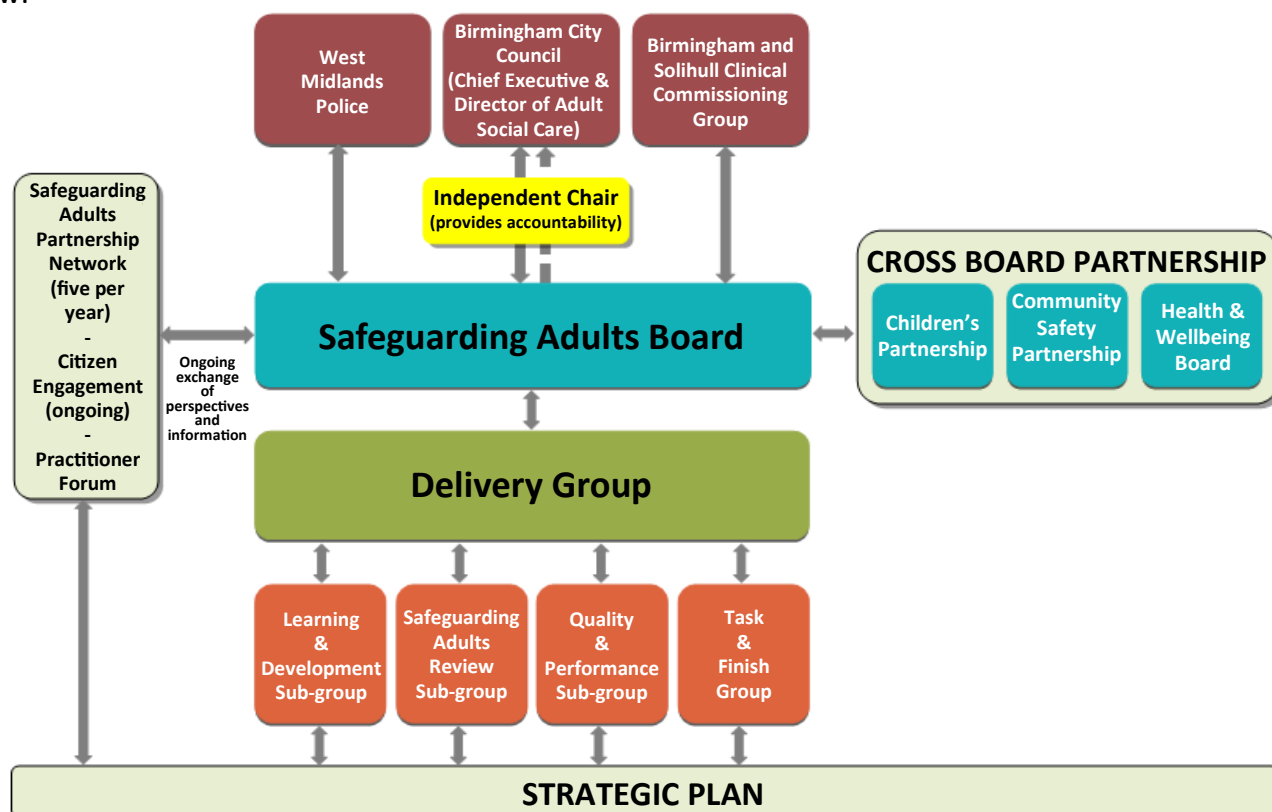
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New Governance Model for the Birmingham Safeguarding Adults Board

We have refreshed our operating model and over the coming months will be implementing this.

The Board Governance Model has been designed within the framework of the statutory requirements and key principles of safeguarding. A diagrammatic representation of accountability and information flow is given below:



Care Act Easements: Guidance for Local Authorities

The Department of Health and Social Care have published [Care Act Easement Guidance](#). Safeguarding Adults remains a Statutory duty of Local Authorities to keep the most vulnerable safe from abuse or neglect. The Coronavirus Act 2020 does not affect the safeguarding protections in the Care Act, particularly at Section 42 of the Care Act.

All providers of Adult Social Care or Health care have a key role in safeguarding adults in their care, and all agencies have a duty to ensure adults with care and support needs are not placed at risk of abuse or neglect by delays in care and support planning.



Safeguarding continues to be “...everybody’s business”

New Coronavirus Information Leaflets from the Birmingham Safeguarding Adults Board

Information for adults who are vulnerable and those who are self-isolating.

To help citizens, we have created a one page informative leaflet for vulnerable citizens, in particular those who are self-isolating.


Safeguarding Adults:
For People Self-Isolating or Vulnerable



We want to make sure the most vulnerable are safe when they are self-isolating as well as generally keeping safe - here are some things to think about if you are offered, or need, support during this time.

Try to use existing and trusted community groups - if not, could a family member, friend or neighbour who you know and trust help?

Never give your personal details including Bank Card and Pin number to people to do your shopping.

A directory of services can be found at:
www.birmingham.connecttosupport.org and
www.the-waitingroom.org





Protect yourselves and your details from SCAMS

Be mindful of clicking on links in emails or messages, paying for items online from companies you have not researched and giving money to people or bank details.

More information can be found at:
www.friendsagainstscams.com

Not sure? Don't answer the door.

If you're not sure about an offer of help, ask the person to leave details and talk to someone you trust about it.





To report concerns to **Adult Social Care**, call **0121 303 1234**, or visit www.bsab.org.uk

If you are worried about a **Child** call: **0121 303 1888** or visit www.iscpbirmingham.org.uk

If someone is in **immediate danger**, call **999**.

For Information on Coronavirus (COVID-19) visit www.birmingham.gov.uk

To access the leaflet
[Click Here](#)

Information for new volunteers or community groups.

This leaflet helps raise awareness about adult safeguarding including how to access free Safeguarding Basic Awareness Training.


Safeguarding Adults:
For Volunteers & Community Groups



Safeguarding adults means **protecting** the most **vulnerable** from **abuse** and **neglect**.

Abuse and neglect can happen in **different ways** and be perpetrated by **anyone** - abuse can be a **crime**.





All volunteers and organisations should familiarise themselves with adult safeguarding. There is a free safeguarding basic awareness e-learning course visit:
www.tlds.learningpool.com or a free workbook for those with limited internet access, ask your manager to visit www.bsab.gov.uk to get this, the site also contains other useful information.

If you **see something**, are **told something** or something **doesn't feel right** you need to **report it** to your **Manager** or to **Adult Social Care**: Call **0121 303 1234** or go to:
www.bsab.org.uk (click on report a concern).



If you are worried about a **Child** call: **0121 303 1888** or visit www.iscpbirmingham.org.uk

If someone is in immediate danger, call **999**.

For Information on Coronavirus (COVID-19) visit www.birmingham.gov.uk

To access the leaflet
[Click Here](#)

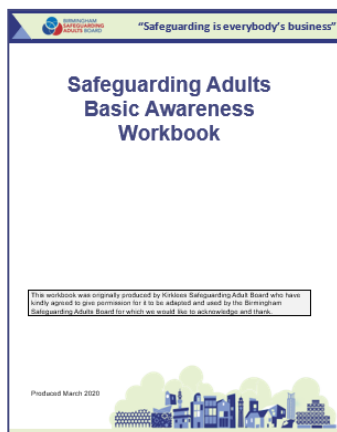


Easy Read Leaflet on Coronavirus

Mencap have created an informative, one page, easy to read leaflet.

To access the leaflet
[Click Here](#)

Free Safeguarding Training and Basic Awareness Workbook



Introducing a free Safeguarding Basic Awareness e-learning course and new Safeguarding Adults Basic Awareness workbook.

The Birmingham Safeguarding Adults Board have a basic Safeguarding Awareness e-learning course available for free by visiting: <https://tlds.learningpool.com>.

In addition, we have adapted a workbook which the Kirklees Safeguarding Adults Board initially produced and which we have had permission to adapt and use. This workbook is mainly aimed at volunteers in organisations that may struggle to access the free e-learning that is available. This could be used by other organisations who also may be facing challenges in accessing e-learning due to the increase in new volunteers.

Please note the e-learning contains a lot more detail and includes Children's Safeguarding - also please follow advice from Birmingham Children's Trust and partnership in regards to their requirements.

The workbook is not a direct replacement for e-learning and wherever possible, please complete this. To download the workbook

[Click Here](#)

Did you know - emollients can cause deaths?

There have been Safeguarding Adults Reviews as a result of fire related deaths due to emollient. Emollient skin products are widely prescribed and dispensed for various skin conditions such as psoriasis and eczema. They are safe to use but can soak into clothing, dressings and bedding leaving a flammable residue. If exposed to naked flame or heat source e.g. cigarettes, heaters etc. they could catch fire and spread rapidly which could result in serious injury or death.



[Click here](#) for NHS safety advice on using emollient skin products or, to view the YouTube video on using Creams [click here](#)

Be SCAM Aware

READ IT – SHARE IT - PREVENT IT

Unfortunately there are people who are willing to take advantage of those who are most vulnerable even at this unprecedented time when we should all be pulling together.

Action Fraud has received multiple reports about fraud linked to Coronavirus. Can you share some crime prevention advice with loved ones to ensure they aren't tricked by fraudsters taking advantage of people's worries?

Recently the National Fraud Intelligence Bureau (NFIB) [reported](#) a new trend in fraud related to Coronavirus, or COVID-19.

Updated figures show there have been 105 reports to [Action Fraud](#) since 1 February 2020, with total losses reaching nearly £970,000.

Wash your hands of coronavirus scams!

Friends Against Scams aims to protect and prevent people from becoming victims of scams.

Be aware of people offering or selling:

- Virus testing kits - these are only offered by NHS.
- Vaccines or miracle cures - there is currently no vaccine or cure.
- Overpriced or fake goods to protect yourself from coronavirus such as anti-bacterial products.
- Shopping or medication collection services.
- Home cleaning services.

Protect yourself and others:

- Don't be rushed into making a decision. If it sounds too good to be true it probably is.
- Only purchase goods from legitimate retailers and take a moment to think before parting with money or personal information.
- Don't assume everyone is genuine. It's okay to reject, refuse or ignore any requests. Only criminals will try to rush or panic you.
- If someone claims to represent a charity, ask them for ID. Be suspicious of requests for money up front. If someone attempts to pressurise you into accepting a service they are unlikely to be genuine. Check with family and friends before accepting offers of help if you are unsure.

Be a good friend,
help to protect
your family, friends
and neighbours
from scams.

**Read it.
Share it.
Prevent it.**

**#Coronavirus
#ScamAware**



Contact

For advice on scams call the
Citizens Advice Consumer Helpline on **0808 223 11 33**
To report a scam call Action Fraud on **0300 123 2040**
Contact your bank if you think you have been scammed.

**NATIONAL
TRADING
STANDARDS**

Scams Team

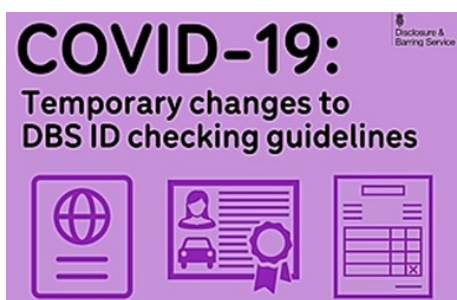
To learn more about the different types of scams visit www.FriendsAgainstScams.org.uk

[Click here](#) to look at the National Trading Standard's website, or [click here](#) for the Police's fraud information.
Follow the West Midlands Police twitter feed [here](#), and the Trading Standards twitter feed [here](#)

Disclosure and Barring Service Updates

There have been changes and information on the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS).

- A Factsheet about Volunteers can be seen on the link below:
[DBS Community Volunteering Factsheet—COVID-19](#)
- There is a free of charge COVID-19 application and fast track barred list service:
[DBS Free of Charge application and Fast Track info](#)
- Guidelines have been published on identity checking during COVID-19:
[DBS ID Checking Guidance](#)



To keep up to date on all the latest updates on DBS visit:
[Click Here](#)

Some Useful Directories of Services

Connect to Support

Connect to support is an online information and advice guide, community directory and marketplace for citizens of Birmingham:

[Click Here](#)



The Waiting Room

The Waiting Room is a free online resource directory designed to give you information about the right support and advice you when you need it most:

[Click Here](#)



Domestic Abuse - Can Increase During Isolation

If you or someone you know is experiencing domestic abuse and are under quarantine amid the coronavirus outbreak, local and International organisation's want you to know: "You are not alone, and help is still available."

The government's advice on self or household-isolation will help reduce the spread of COVID 19 but for many victims of domestic abuse staying at home may not be the safest option.

We know that any external factors that add stress and financial strain can negatively impact on victims and create circumstances where their safety is further compromised.

As always, if you or someone else is in immediate danger please call **999** and ask for the police.



Click on the image to view the Govt Guidance

For information on local and national help: [Click Here](#)

To look to at the leaflet: [Click Here](#)



Homeless Update

The Government has asked Local Authorities too step in to house rough sleepers to protect the vulnerable from the Coronavirus.

Birmingham City Council and Partners have therefore been working to house rough sleepers. Additional accommodation has been commissioned for the homeless during this period. Outreach teams are still going out to support any people they can identify.

What should you do if you come across someone who is rough sleeping?

If you are concerned about someone you have seen sleeping rough in England or Wales, you can use the [StreetLink](#) website or download the StreetLink app to raise/send an alert.

The details you provide are sent to the local authority or outreach service for the area in which you have seen the person, to help those services find the individual and connect them to support.

It is important to note that if you think the person you are concerned about is under 18, please do not contact StreetLink, but instead dial **999** for the police.

Safeguarding Adults Reviews (SARs)

When should a referral for consideration of a Safeguarding Adults Review be made?

S44 Care Act 2014 Safeguarding Adults Reviews states:

- (1) A SAB [Safeguarding Adult Board] must arrange for there to be a review of a case involving an adult in its area with needs for care and support (whether or not the local authority has been meeting any of those needs) if:
 - (a) there is **reasonable cause** for concern about how the SAB, members of it or other persons with relevant functions **worked together** to safeguard the adult, and
 - (b) condition 1 or 2 is met.
- (2) **Condition 1 is met if:**
 - (a) the adult has died, and
 - (b) the SAB knows or suspects that the **death** resulted **from abuse or neglect** (whether or not it knew about or suspected the abuse or neglect before the adult died).
- (3) **Condition 2 is met if:**
 - (a) the adult is still alive, and
 - (b) the SAB knows or suspects that the **adult** has **experienced serious abuse or neglect**.



Care Act 2014

When submitting a referral for a SAR, Partners are reminded that the SAR criteria must be met.

An example of this could be:

If the adult is suspected to have been abused or neglected by a single agency or member of their family and no other agencies/partners were involved prior to being conveyed by ambulance to a hospital. The fact that there is now an ambulance service and hospital involved does not immediately make this a SAR unless the ambulance and hospital service contributed to the abuse or neglect which then led to the death or serious harm.

To access the full information about SARS visit the BSAB website.

[Click Here](#)

SARs and COVID-19

Services are currently stretched dealing with COVID-19 and systems are in place to ensure that citizens receive the best possible care and support. To ease pressure on the Partners and Services, the BSAB have agreed to postpone any SAR related work and review this position on an ongoing basis.

New referrals for SARs can continue to be made, which will be screened and prioritised.

Our last Safeguarding Adults Practitioners forum focused on Forced Marriage.



A **forced marriage** is where one or both people do not (or in cases of people with learning disabilities or reduced capacity, cannot) consent to the marriage as they are pressurised, or abuse is used, to force them to do so. It is recognised in the UK as a form of domestic or child abuse and a serious abuse of human rights.

An **arranged marriage** is not the same as a forced marriage. In an arranged marriage, the families take a leading role in choosing the marriage partner, but both parties are free to choose whether to enter into the marriage or not.

The pressure put on people to marry against their will may be:

- physical – for example, threats, physical violence or sexual violence
- emotional and psychological – for example, making someone feel like they are bringing 'shame' on their family
- Financial abuse, for example taking someone's wages, may also be a factor.

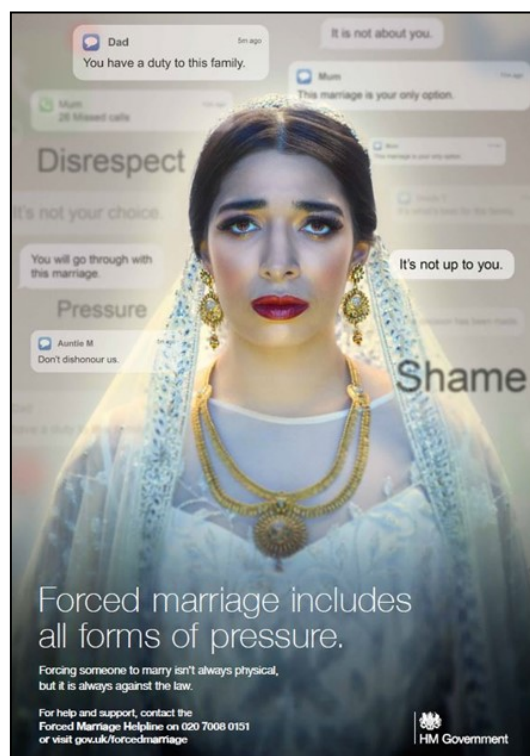
Some key Learning Points:

- If an adult lacks capacity to consent to a marriage, that marriage must be viewed as forced. The criminal offence of forcing someone to marry is committed by anyone who tries to arrange a marriage for an adult who lacks the mental capacity to agree to this.
- To obtain a Forced Marriage Protection Order (FMPO) it is only necessary to show a judge that we have a reasonable belief that the adult

is/or is at risk of being a victim of forced marriage. It is not necessary to have completed a detailed mental capacity assessment at this point in order to take immediate action to protect.

- Forced marriage and associated so called "honour-based" abuse places victims (women and men) at absolute risk of harm or death.
- Often professionals may have just one chance to intervene (the '**one chance rule**'); in past cases where this chance has been missed terrible events have followed.
- If alerted, perpetrators may act to remove the adult from the country, making protecting them **much** harder.
- As workers it is our duty to understand these risks, and when made aware of a case, to take action **the same day**.

As workers, we need to know the legal steps we can take to protect. These include a FMPO.



For further information

[Click Here](#)

MOVERS & SHAKERS



This is our 'welcome', 'thank you' and 'goodbye' section.

Thank you and Goodbye...

RUTH O'LEARY

Ruth O'Leary, Head of Safeguarding from the University Hospitals Birmingham has had a change of role and the fore no longer is the co-Chair of the Safeguarding Adults Review Sub-Group as well as the Vice chair of the Executive Board.

The Board would like to thank Ruth for all her hard work and support and wish her well in your new role.

KENNY BELL

Kenny Bell, Commander from the West Midlands Police has had a change of role and therefore is no longer a Board member for the BSAB.



The Board would like to thank Kenny for all his hard work and support and we wish him well in his new role.

CATHERINE EVANS

Catherine Evans, Head of Safeguarding from the Birmingham and Solihull Mental Health NHS Foundation Trust has resigned as co-Chair of the Safeguarding Adults Review Sub-Group. However, she will continue to support the work of the BSAB.

The Board would like to thank Catherine for all her hard work and her continued support with the Board's business.

Hello and Welcome...

MAT SHAER



Mat Shaer, Commander from the West Midlands Police has joined the BSAB Executive Board.

The Board looks forward to working with him.

HOT OFF THE PRESS!



The West Midlands Adult Position of Trust Framework

Version 2.0 of our West Midlands Adult Safeguarding Policy and Procedures is now published and available via the regional information hub pages: [Click Here](#).