



### A welcome to you all from Cherry Dale

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

I hope this newsletter finds you safe and well.

During these winter months the Board continues to focus on ensuring that safeguarding plays a key role in everyone's work to protect and support people with care and support needs in the city. Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility, and our ambition is that it becomes second nature for all of you wherever you work.

I am made constantly aware of the incredible lengths you are going to, in these most difficult of times, to support vulnerable individuals and communities.

We as a Board are trying to share all of the best practice as we hear it and would like to take this opportunity to say a huge thank you to all for your commitment and dedication.

Our December Board heard many encouraging messages about the impact this period of living with Coronavirus amongst us has had on partnership working. Old barriers have been lowered, past blockages unblocked, and closed communication channels opened up to ensure that Birmingham utilises all of its great assets and delivers the best services it can across all sectors. COVID 19 has taken away so much from so many but has also given some positives back to us that I truly hope we maintain.

I encourage you to read and share the valuable information and insights in this newsletter and put them to good use.

So, as we head into the Christmas Period and a New Year, thank you again for your continued commitment to safeguarding, we couldn't do it without you. Please take care and I wish you all a Happy Christmas and Healthy 2021.

**With very best wishes**

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## Concerned about someone rough sleeping?

**What should you do if you come across someone who is rough sleeping? Use the Street Link App!**

It's difficult during any wintertime for our rough sleeping community. This year it will be made doubly hard in the face of COVID-19, especially with the risk of a continued lockdown.

**StreetLink** Help someone sleeping rough in 4 easy steps

- 1 See a rough sleeper
- 2 Open the StreetLink app
- 3 Enter rough sleeper's details
- 4 A professional will visit the person

Tell StreetLink about rough sleepers in your area  
**Download the StreetLink app today**

Available on iTunes | GET IT ON Google play

If you are concerned about someone over the age of 18 who you have seen sleeping rough in England and Wales, you can use the Streetlink website or download the 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 the age of 18, then do not contact Streetlink but instead dial **999** for the police.

[For further information access the Streetlink website](#)

## Staying mentally well this winter

Wellbeing and Mental Health Support Plan for COVID-19



## Staying Mentally Well: Winter Plan 2020-2021

**In order to support people's wellbeing and mental health during the COVID-10 pandemic, the Government have released a plan.**

The plan sets out the support that will be in place in the immediate term to help support individuals to stay well during the second wave of the coronavirus and winter months ahead.

Good wellbeing and mental health are essential assets for individuals, communities and society. They can help each one of us to live fulfilled, productive and mentally healthy lives.

We know that each person's mental health and resilience are shaped by a broad range of factors. Read more in the below link.

[Read the plan including an easy-read version](#)

### Victim of Modern Slavery?

**Do you suspect someone as being a victim of modern slavery and in need of help?**

If so, please contact The Salvation Army's confidential and anonymous referrals helpline on **0800 808 3733**. The helpline is available 365 days a year, 24 hours a day with interpretation services where needed.



## Report on COVID-19 Related Learning Disability Deaths

**Public Health England, with the support of the Chief Medical Officer for England, have commissioned a report to review the available data on the deaths of people identified as having learning disabilities during the COVID-19 pandemic.**

**The review looked at:**

- deaths from COVID-19 of people with learning disabilities;
- factors impacting the risk of death from COVID-19 of people with learning disabilities; and
- deaths in care settings of people with learning disabilities.

In Birmingham, the Safeguarding Adults Board have requested and received learning from the Learning Disability Mortality Reviews (LeDeR) with a view to seek assurance on implementing learning.



[Read the COVID-19 death of people identified as having learning disabilities: summary report](#)



social care  
institute for excellence

### Concerned about a social care, health or housing provider?

**The Social Care institute for excellence have provided a guidance for how to raise or handle a concern about a social care, health, housing or other related provider.**

#### RAISING A CONCERN

This guidance is for people who use services and carers, to help you to raise concerns effectively if things are not going well.

#### DEALING WITH A CONCERN

This gives help to social care, health and housing providers and helps providers to respond effectively to concerns and promotes joint working.

[More detailed guidance raising and dealing with concerns](#)

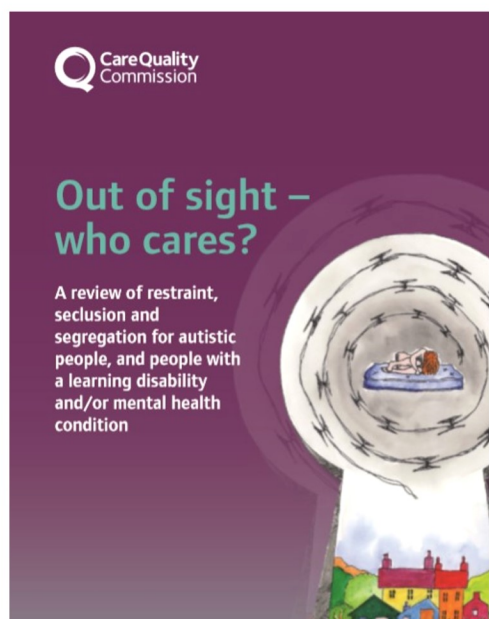
### Out of sight - who cares?

CQC have published a report that looks at the use of restraint, seclusion and segregation in care services for people with a mental health condition, a learning disability or autistic people.

The Care Quality Commission's aim is to make sure that health and social care services provide people with safe, effective, compassionate, high-quality care and encourage care services to improve.

Stories included in the report are illustrative and some are real life examples. The front cover art was drawn by Alexis Quinn who has lived experience of being secluded and segregated.

[Access and read the report](#)



### What Mental Capacity Assessment must delve beneath what people say to what they do

This article from Community Care says that professionals often assume capacity should only be considered when they interview the person in cases where assessments must explore their ability to carry the decision through, say *Dr Emma Cameron* and *James Coding*.



The term is often misunderstood, in the context of the Mental Capacity Act 2005, of 'material time', which is used at section 2(1) of the MCA:

**"For the purposes of this Act, a person lacks capacity in relation to a matter if at the material time he is unable to make a decision for himself in relation to the matter because of an impairment of, or a disturbance of, the mind or brain."**

In their experience, and based on research they are undertaking, they have found that many professionals in the health and social care sectors have artificially created a 'rule' that suggests 'material time' means only considering a person's capacity to make a specific decision at the time of the conversation of the person.

[Read the full Community Care report](#)



### Do you know what the prevent programme is?

Most people know little about the Prevent Programme or the support it provides to help vulnerable people.

That is why Counter Terrorism Policing (CTP) has launched a new website to encourage friends and family to act early, share concerns and seek help if they are worried that someone they care about is being radicalised.

The ACT Early website includes:

- case studies
- signs to spot
- FAQs; and
- details of where to access help.



In addition, it includes a new confidential advice line staff by specialist in Counter Terrorism Policing.

This year has underlined the crucial role employers and businesses play as a trust source signposting staff and customers to information and support.

[Access the new ACT Early website](#)



### Risk Enablement

#### Balancing Wellbeing and Risk

What Safeguarding Adults is all about



**Birmingham Safeguarding Adults Board believes that at the heart of adult safeguarding lies a tension between the duty to protect an adult from the risk of harm, with the duty to support them to maintain as much control and choice over their life as possible.**

All professionals involved in safeguarding an adult at risk have a duty to understand this tension, and to work with the adult (and others involved with them). This is to ensure that an appropriate balance is struck between managing risk and protection from harm with promoting their autonomy and wellbeing in any action they take.

**We call this ‘Risk Enablement’.**

[Find out more on Risk Enablement](#)

### Safeguarding Adults Reviews (SARs)

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

A safeguarding adults review (SAR) is a multi-agency review which seeks to determine what relevant agencies and individuals involved could have done differently that could have prevented harm or death from taking place.

The purpose of a SAR is to promote effective learning and improvement and is not looking to apportion blame.

#### A SAR (Statutory SAR) must always be conducted when:

There is reasonable cause for concern about how the SAB, member agencies or persons with relevant functions worked together to safeguard an adult with care and support needs (regardless of whether the local authority was meeting any of those needs) who:

- Has died and the SAB knows or suspects that the death resulted from abuse or neglect (regardless of whether or not the abuse or neglect has been reported); or
- Is still alive and 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.

[Visit our website for more SARs information](#)

### Safeguarding Adults Reviews

Below is a Safeguarding Adults Review that has recently been published nationally



#### HOMELESS DEATHS - Published November 2020

Oxfordshire SAB have published a Safeguarding Adults Review (SAR) into the death of nine people who were in a homeless pathway.

[View the full and summary reports](#)

### Do you know the legal framework for Safeguarding Adults?

The Care Act 2014, for the first time, sets out a clear legal framework for how local authorities and other parts of the health and care system should protect adults at risk of abuse or neglect.

**Adult Safeguarding is working with adults with care and support needs to keep them safe from abuse or neglect.**

The framework allows key organisations and individuals with responsibilities for adult safeguarding to agree on how they must work together and what roles they must play to keep adults at risk.

During Safeguarding week Janice White, Solicitor, Coventry City Council supported the West Midlands Regional Adult Safeguarding Lead by delivering a extremely useful webinar which covered an overview of the relevant legislative framework including:

- What is ‘well-being’?
- ‘Making enquiries’
- What are ‘care and support needs’?
- When is a SAR needed?
- The duty of co-operation.
- Transitions?
- Practical tips for front line staff.

[Watch the webinar](#)



WEST MIDLANDS  
REGIONAL ADULT  
SAFEGUARDING  
LEADS  
DEVELOPING POLICIES AND  
PRACTICE ACROSS THE REGION

### Understanding the legal framework for Safeguarding Adults

Janice White  
Coventry City Council  
November 2020

**HOT OFF THE PRESS!**



### BSAB ANNUAL REPORT

Our latest Annual Report has  
now been published

[Read the BSAB Annual Report](#)



Birmingham Safeguarding Adults Board  
**Annual Report**

### Developing an Understanding of Domestic Violence and Coercive Control

**The Birmingham Community Safety Partnership have several sessions free on domestic violence and coercive control following learning from Domestic homicide reviews.**

#### The session will cover:

1. Understand domestic abuse, with particular emphasis on coercive and controlling behaviour and how it manifests in behaviours such as: Intimidation, belittling, degradation, stalking and surveillance to create a 'micro regulation of everyday life' for victims and their families.
2. Identify and Interpret behaviours exhibited by both domestic abuse victims and perpetrators to help identify domestic abuse and assess risk, including understanding the impact of separation on risk.
3. Identify the risks to children living within domestic abuse households and the importance of building a trusting relationship with the non-abusing parent.
4. Identify how abusers prevent victims from engaging with agencies and how best to respond to victims of Domestic Abuse in that context.
5. Identify how to ensure perpetrators are held accountable for their abusive behaviour.
6. Recognise how to use the learning in improved practice.



[Book a place](#)

### Making Safeguarding Personal Adults Partnership Event

No decision  
about me  
without me.

[Useful resources on MSP  
on the Local Government  
Association website](#)

**We would like to thank those that came to our first virtual Safeguarding Adults Partnership Event and those that presented and shared their application of Making Safeguarding Personal (MSP).**

The event had a presentation from the following organisations:

- Birmingham City Council - Adult Social Care
- Birmingham Community Healthcare
- Accord Housing
- Advocacy Matters
- West Midlands Fire Service
- Sense
- West Midlands Mencap

We also had an engagement exercise to discuss strategic priorities.

**We plan to hold our next event in March 2020 (details to follow).**





**WEST MIDLANDS FORCED MARRIAGE & HONOUR BASED ABUSE**

**24 HOUR  
MULTI LINGUAL HELPLINE**

**0800 953 9777**

Delivered by the  
**West Midlands Black Asian Minority Ethnic Forced Marriage & Honour Abuse Consortium**  
A partnership between Roshni, Panahghar and S.W.A.N

Are you facing or have gone through a forced marriage or honour abuse?  
Do you feel under pressure to get married?  
Are you afraid that you will bring shame and dishonour to your family?  
Are you afraid of going on a family holiday?  
Are you from the LGBTQI community and fear the consequences of coming out and reporting forced marriage or honour abuse?

SUPPORTED BY:  
west midlands police and crime commissioner

**ROSHNI**  
**S.W.A.N**  
**Panahghar**

## West Midlands Forced Marriage and Honour Based Violence 24 Hour Multi Lingual Helpline

There are concerns from organisations that that victims will be at heightened risk during this Christmas period.

Honour-based violence can be described as a collection of practices, which are used to control behaviour within families or other social groups to protect perceived cultural and religious beliefs and/or 'honour'.

Such violence can occur when perpetrators perceive that a relative has 'shamed' the family and/or community by breaking their honour code.

If you, or somebody you know, is experiencing or afraid that you are at risk of Honour-based Violence or Forced Marriage, there are people that you can speak to who will be able to provide you with help and support, in confidence.

There is a West Midlands Forced Marriage and Honour Based Violence 24 Hour Multi Lingual helpline available - **0800 953 9777**.

[For further information visit the West Midlands Police Crime Commissioners website](#)

## Domestic Abuse #YOUARENOTALONE

If you are controlled or physically, sexually or emotionally abused by a partner, ex partner or family member, this is domestic abuse. Household isolation rules do not apply.

**If you are in immediate danger:** Call 999 and ask for the police.

**If you are deaf and cannot verbally communicate:** You can register with the emergency SMS service. Text REGISTER to 999. You will get a text which tells you what to do next. Do this when it is safe so you can text when you are in danger.

[To find out local information for advice and support visit the Birmingham City Council website](#)



Keep in touch on [Twitter](#) @BrumSAB



**#YOUARENOTALONE**

**CALL 999  
FOR URGENT HELP**

**IF YOU CAN'T SPEAK,  
DIAL 55 WHEN PROMPTED  
BY THE OPERATOR  
(MOBILE ONLY)**

**FIND SUPPORT AT: [GOV.UK/DOMESTIC-ABUSE](https://gov.uk/domestic-abuse)**