

## NEWSLETTER

Spring 2021



### A welcome to you all from Cherry Dale

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

**Welcome to the BSAB's Spring Newsletter. I am hoping that the signs of Daffodils and Tulips are signalling brighter days ahead for all of you.**

It's been an incredibly difficult year and I know that many of you are now running on adrenalin. We at BSAB would like to express a heartfelt thanks for your dedication to safeguard our most vulnerable adults during this time.

It's coming to the time when we can review what's happened to all of us, regroup and take forward the learning from this pandemic.

Coronavirus has taken so much and so many from us, but it has also given us a chance to see and feel some real-life lessons. There have been many changes to the way we all work together, and much stronger partnerships have evolved. I would encourage you all in joining with BSAB to champion that all of this is not lost.

You will see in the newsletter that there has been some incredibly positive progress with Exempt Accommodation. I thank West Midlands Fire Service who first raised the concern with BSAB back in 2018. I also wish to thank Thea Raisbeck and Spring Housing for working tirelessly to create the change that you will read about.

As a Board, over the last three months, we have been working on seeking assurance and developing a Competency Framework, and on our planned events for the coming year. We will also shortly be in touch to work together to develop our new strategy for 2021-2023.

I hope that you are all taking good care of both your mental and physical wellbeing as we edge towards the end of lockdown.

**I wish you well.**

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[www.bsab.org](http://www.bsab.org)

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## Raising Concerns where Birmingham and Solihull CCG are the Host Commissioner

**Birmingham and Solihull CCG (BSOL CCG) are the Host Commissioner for three Cygnet Learning Disability Hospitals within our geographical area. They are Wast Hills, Cygnet Cedars and Cygnet Elms.**

As Host Commissioner, one of our key responsibilities is to act as a central point to receive information relating to the quality and safety of care being delivered at the three hospitals, and to take appropriate action on receipt of this.

BSOL CCG would therefore ask that where there is a concern relating to the quality of care being

provided at any of the three Cygnet Hospitals that this is raised via the Learning Disability shared inbox.

Professionals providing information must do so in line with GDPR, ensuring that no patient identifiable information is shared.

Where there are safeguarding concerns, or an approach to CQC is required, please do continue to adhere to our local safeguarding policy and CQC reporting processes.

The Host Commissioner role and responsibility does not override any existing policies and procedures.

BSOL CCG are committed to improving services for people who have a learning disability and/or autism, so your feedback is very important to us.

**NHS**  
**Birmingham and Solihull**  
Clinical Commissioning Group



[Raise concerns via the learning disability shared inbox](#)

## Safeguarding Adults Reviews (SARs)

Here are a selection of SARs and other related reviews that have been published by various Safeguarding Adults Boards nationally:

Northamptonshire  
Safeguarding Adults Board

**Jonathan - Published Mar 2021**

Jonathan was in a hotel at the time of his death and there were concerns about how agencies worked together.

[Read the full review](#)



**Damien - Published Mar 2021**

Damien died in supported accommodation after leaving a mental health inpatient unit.

[Read the full report](#)



**Mr EF SAR - Published Mar 2021**

Mr EF was of African-Caribbean heritage and died as a result of a fire in his flat.

[Read the SAR Report, Community Briefing and 7 Minute Briefing](#)



**MS SAR - Published Jan 2021**

MS was of Turkish descent with a limited understanding of English. MS had a history of homelessness self-neglect and had issues with substance misuse.

[Read the SAR Report and Community Briefing](#)



**Joint DHR/SAR for Margaret - Published Jan 2021**

Margaret died in her home as a result of domestic abuse/violence.

[Read the full Report and Joint Statement](#)



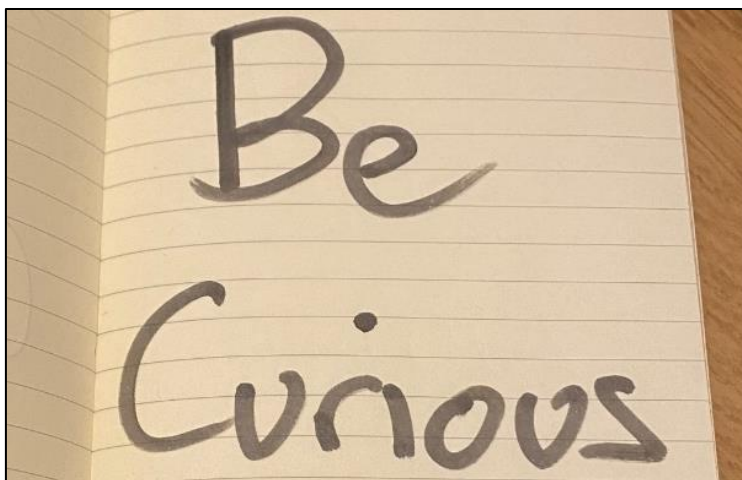
Professional curiosity is a concept which has been recognised as important in the area of safeguarding. Safeguarding Adult Reviews have also highlighted this need.

## What is professional curiosity?

The practice of professional curiosity could be viewed as a collection of personality traits, attitudes, behaviours and skills acquired by individuals. These characteristics could enable practitioners and leaders to:

- identify and take action to explore more deeply what is happening for an individual using proactive questioning
- make connections and have the confidence to respectfully challenge when appropriate
- identify potential abuse or neglect, or potentially abusive and/or neglectful situations
- intervene early and take preventative approaches before a situation deteriorates

## Spotlight on Professional Curiosity



- make and record defensible decisions
- work in a person-centred way.

The COVID-19 pandemic has shown that systems known to support curious practice can disappear. The crisis presents additional challenges for professionals carrying out face-to-face risk assessments where there are safeguarding concerns. It imposes restrictions on full observations and assessments of the adult's environment, including for those experiencing coercive control and when *Mental Capacity Act 2005* assessments are required.

Creativity and curiosity are important when using telephone or video conferencing not only to conduct safeguarding adult enquiries due to the significant challenges in assessing the full extent of risk, harm, abuse and neglect within the environment, but also for managers carrying out supervision.

[Read more on Professional Curiosity](#)


## MOVERS & SHAKERS



**Sue Hartley** is retiring from her role with the Birmingham & Solihull Mental Health Foundation Trust.

The Board has greatly benefitted from her vast knowledge of safeguarding and healthcare and from her compassion for the most vulnerable citizens in this fair city.

**We wish Sue the best in her retirement.**



**Cuckooing is a form of crime in which drug dealers take over the home of a vulnerable person in order to use it as a base for drug dealing**

**The following signs may indicate that an individual or family's property has been cuckooed**



New vehicles regularly parking or remaining outside the property



An increase in anti-social behaviour



Restricting access to parts of the property to friends or professionals



An increase in the number of people visiting the property



Curtains or blinds always being closed



Individuals or families staying away while unknown individuals remain

**CONTACT:**

Report Safeguarding Concerns for Adults with Care and Support needs to Birmingham Adult Social Care: 0121 303 1234 or visit [www.bsab.org](http://www.bsab.org)  
In an emergency call: 999.  
Crimestoppers on: 0800 555 111




**BSAB  
NEWSFLASH**

## Launch of Charter of Rights and Quality Standards



**Announcing the launch of Charter of Rights and a set of Quality Standards for Exempt Accommodation residents, placing new requirements on providers and managing agents.**

The Birmingham Safeguarding Adults Board are pleased to see the launch of these two crucial documents that will seek to make improvements for vulnerable citizens in Birmingham.

The Birmingham Safeguarding Adults Board commissioned [research](#) in response to significant concerns over the growth in Birmingham of non-commissioned supported shared accommodation, utilising the 'exempt' provisions of current Housing Benefit and Universal Credit Regulations. In such accommodation, rents, and thus benefit claims, far in excess of private sector Local Housing Allowance Rates can be yielded, merely by such providers meeting a loose regulatory requirement to provide a level of 'care, support or supervision' to claimants.

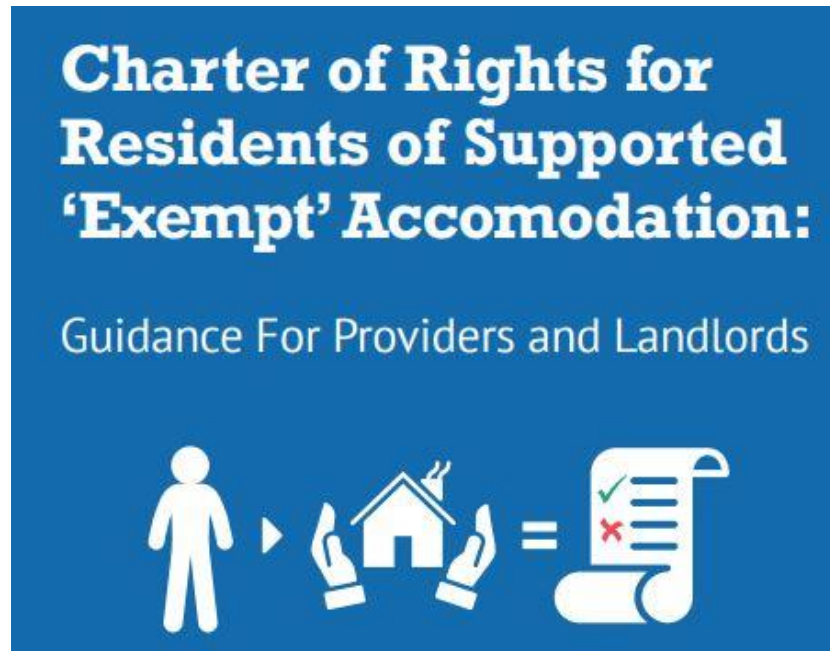
Although exact figures were not available during the course of this research, it was estimated that up to 10,000 units of this type of accommodation were in operation within the City at the time of the research. This figure had increased considerably.

Following on from the research, BSAB highlighted the issues and has sought assurance on a regular basis since 2018 to the present day on the developing work on exempt accommodation. BSAB are pleased that these two key documents have now been launched:

- The [Charter of Rights](#), developed alongside Spring Housing Association, is intended to make tenants and their families aware of the service they should expect from their landlord.
- Birmingham Voluntary Services Council (BVSC) has worked with the Birmingham City Council to sign a set of [Quality Standards](#) for all exempt accommodation providers in the city.

The Birmingham Safeguarding Adults Board would urge all referring agencies to only refer to those exempt accommodation providers who have signed up to the Quality Standard.

[More information on exempt accommodation](#)





## 7 Minute Briefing on Virtual Consultations



A useful 7 Minute Briefing containing tips on consulting with clients virtually has been developed for use by all agencies.

In the spirit of Making Safeguarding Personal and being mindful that safeguarding is everyone's business, we would be grateful if partner agencies have a read:

[Access the 7 Minute Briefing](#)

## West Midlands Fire Service Safe and Well Checks

WEST MIDLANDS FIRE SERVICE



A message from the West Midlands Fire Service about Safe and Well checks which are assessments they continue to offer for those most at risk of fire.

COVID risk-assessed home visits are available for individuals who are most at risk of dying or being seriously injured in a fire, namely people who live alone and meet two of the following additional risk factors:

- Smoking
- Drug or alcohol dependency
- Medical oxygen and/or an airflow mattress use
- A sensory impairment, e.g. sight, hearing etc
- Poor mobility
- Have had a fire recently\*
- Victim of hate crime\*
- Hoarding\*
- Mental health condition, including dementia

*\* Where these risks are present, when referring, include any of these three risk factors in the 'Comments' section of your referral as this will help the WMAS to triage more effectively.*

Please remember your referrals can save lives. At a time when people are spending more time at home and therefore engaging in more activities that can increase the risk of fire, we hope you will assist the West Midlands Fire Service in keeping our communities safe.

Please continue to refer to the West Midlands Fire Service using your organisation's usual method. If you are unsure how to refer or want to set up a new referral pathway, please get in touch with Sue Brookin, Partnership Team, West Midlands Fire Service at [sue.brookin@wmfs.net](mailto:sue.brookin@wmfs.net) or phone 0121 380 6357 / 07973 810101.

The following resources can help you to identify risk and understand the values of referrals:

- [Fire Risk Factors Overview](#) (5-10 minute read)
- [Fire Safety Guidance for Professionals and Carers](#) (10-20 minute read)
- [Fire Safety E-learning](#) (30-60 minutes to complete - use enrolment key '999')
- [Safe and Well Overview](#) (what is a Safe and Well visit)
- [Safe and Well Booklet](#) (what we typically cover in an in-person Safe and Well visit)



## Research into COVID-19, Adult Social Care, and Adult Safeguarding

**Keele University is looking for participants for research into COVID-19, Adult Social Care, and Adult Safeguarding.**

Keele University is inviting frontline practitioners to take part in a survey designed to explore views on the impact COVID-19 has on the law and practice of adult safeguarding and social care.

They are particularly interested in practitioner's experiences of any changes to their practice and how they have adapted. The university envisages that this survey will inform the understanding of the types of resources needed to support those working in this area for a duration of the pandemic and beyond.

[More information on the research](#)



**Keele University are also looking for frontline social care (or related) professionals with any degree of adult safeguarding activity as part of their work, or non-frontline professionals with specific responsibilities for adult safeguarding (e.g. chairs, managers, or members of Safeguarding Adults Boards) who would be willing to participate in research interviews for approximately 1-2 hours each.**

**Anyone who wishes to take part is welcome to email Laura at [l.g.pritchard-jones@keele.ac.uk](mailto:l.g.pritchard-jones@keele.ac.uk) to arrange. All interviews will be done remotely and there are assurances of complete anonymity in the project information.**

**HOT OFF THE PRESS!**

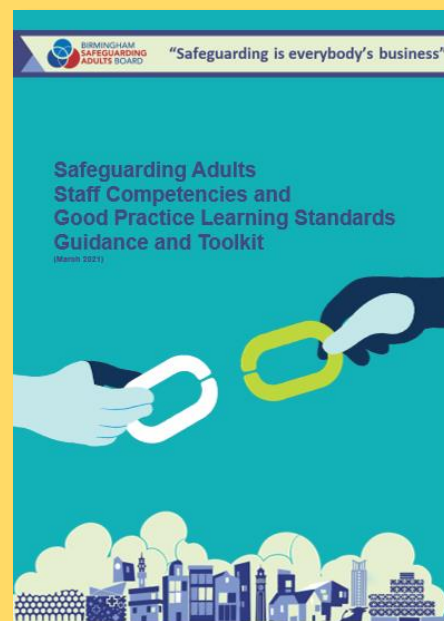


### Competency Framework

We have now published guidance on Safeguarding Adult Staff Competencies and Good Practice Learning Standards. The document provides guidance and information on competency of the workforce around safeguarding adults. It also provides Learning Standards and a Guidance Toolkit as a 'good practice tool' to support partners to identify how they manage safeguarding adults learning - from the

identification of needs through to the measurement of the impact of learning on practice and outcomes for service users.

[This document is open to be used by all organisations that provide support with care and support to Birmingham.](#)



## Autism Week

World Autism Week is from 29 March to the 4 April.

### What is autism?

Like a learning disability, autism is a lifelong condition.

Autism is sometimes referred to as a 'spectrum', or 'Autism Spectrum Disorder' (ASD). There are three common features of autism which might affect the way a person:

- interacts with others in a social situation
- is able to communicate with others
- experiences the world around them.

Autism is **not** a learning disability, but around half of autistic people may also have a learning disability.



[More information about autism](#)

## NICE National Institute for Health and Care Excellence

The National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) has published a new standard aimed at improving the wellbeing of adults who provide unpaid care for people over 16 years old.

Using evidence from the [NICE Guidance](#) published before the COVID-19 pandemic, the new quality standard emphasises what local authorities and health and social care organisations need to do to support carers.

Quality statements include the need for practitioners to identify people who are unpaid carers and direct them to the advice and support that is available, ensuring that carers are recognised as partners in the care of the person they are supporting and help them to become familiar with resources at an early stage, as well as their rights.

[More on the quality standards](#)

## NICE Guidance - Supporting Adult Carers

### Other Publications by NICE

The National Institute for Health and Care Excellence has also published guidance on safeguarding in care homes.

[More on the guidance](#)

