



Newsletter

Working in partnership to enable adults in Somerset to live a life free from fear, harm or abuse

This is the 19th edition of the Somerset Safeguarding Adults Board (SSAB) newsletter, and we hope those who have received copies since its launch continue to find it a useful resource and an interesting read.

To all our new subscribers who have recently signed up to receive copies of our newsletter, a very warm welcome and our thanks for your interest in being part of our local safeguarding community here in Somerset.

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Latest news from the Board

There have been a number of developments since the publication of our last newsletter in December 2022, particularly in relation to Board staffing:

In January 2023, the Board **welcomed Professor Michael Preston-Shoot as its new Independent Chair of the Somerset Safeguarding Adult Board.**

Michael is a leading authority nationally on Safeguarding Adults Reviews (SARs) and on self-neglect. He is also a leading authority on law for professional practice and is well known as a social work academic. Michael brings considerable experience in adult safeguarding as a SAB Independent Chair, author of Safeguarding Adults Reviews, and as a trainer/consultant, and we are delighted to benefit from his knowledge and input as we continue to make safeguarding everybody's business here in Somerset.



Message from the Board's Independent Chair, Michael Preston-Shoot

I am delighted to have been appointed independent chair for the Somerset Safeguarding Adults Board. It has been a pleasure to meet with Board members and with other colleagues working in and around adult safeguarding. I hope to meet many more of you over the coming months, to learn from your lived experience of work, and to support you in that important work. We have held a very productive Board Development Day where we heard from practitioners and operational managers. We now have a new strategic plan, which I hope the Board will approve at its next meeting. The plan aims to provide the Board with assurance about the effectiveness of adult safeguarding. It also includes priorities, as advised by practitioners and operational and strategic managers, for multi-agency training, for raising awareness of adult safeguarding and for addressing the many challenges involved in adult safeguarding work, such as self-neglect, transitional safeguarding, and homelessness.

- The Board also warmly welcomes a **new Business Support officer**, Jen, who joins us with administrative experience within a mental health setting. She is supporting the Board in the delivery of all its key duties and activities.
- We are currently in the final stages of compiling our **Annual Report for 2022-23**. This will be finalised in the Summer and formally to key Scrutiny and oversight Boards. To read previous reports, visit [Annual Reports – Somerset Safeguarding Adults Board \(safeguardingsomerset.org.uk\)](https://safeguardingsomerset.org.uk)
- The Board met most recently on 14th February 2023. Agenda highlights included a Chair’s address, a presentation on Prolonged Disorders of Consciousness from NHS Somerset demonstrating the importance of the Mental Capacity Act and best interests decisions in relation to local learning in the case of Becca, and a summary of latest safeguarding performance data and intelligence. Michael also presented on evidence and best practice in relation to self-neglect. The Board will next meet on 15 June 2023. Notes are published on the [SSAB Website](#) following sign-off at next meeting.

NEW Podcast: Social Work Sessions, Episode 1

Carolyn Smith (Principal Social Worker for Adult Social Care in Somerset Council) talks to our SSAB Chair, Professor Michael Preston-Shoot, about his career and role in safeguarding, specifically around self-neglect, in this newly released podcast now available on Spotify. There is no need to download Spotify, it will simply play within the browser window.

Listen now: [*Social Work Sessions with Professor Michael Preston-Shoot and Carolyn Smith, Principal Social Worker \(Adults\), Somerset Council - Social Work Sessions - Episode 1 - Self Neglect with Professor Michael Preston-Shoot | Podcast on Spotify*](#)

Links to aspects referenced in the podcast:

- The Clutter Image Rating Scale: [Microsoft PowerPoint - cir pictures.ppt \[Compatibility Mode\] \(hoardingdisordersuk.org\)](#)
- [Keith’s story: a personal and touching film about hoarding](#)





MAKING SAFEGUARDING PERSONAL

SSAB Conference - 2 March 2023

The Board was delighted to host its first conference since the COVID-19 pandemic with a central theme of 'Making Safeguarding Personal'. It was wonderful to welcome so many colleagues and professionals to the event, and to have the chance to reflect, listen and learn from each other.

We were extremely fortunate to hear from a host of presenters from different organisations, who provided thought-provoking sessions for everyone.

Market stall information stands also provided practical advice and information, prompting much discussion and helping promote networking opportunities.



We were very privileged to have The Misfits Drama Group join us as part of the event. Their unique way of conveying their thoughts and feelings was truly inspirational, encouraging all to reflect how we view and work with individuals.

We are already looking forward to arranging our next conference which will take place in February 2024!

All conference presentations are now publicly available on the SSAB website:

[SSAB Conferences – Somerset Safeguarding Adults Board \(safeguardingsomerset.org.uk\)](https://www.safeguardingsomerset.org.uk)



Liberty Protection Safeguards (LPS) – Important Update

It was recently announced by the Government that the proposed Liberty Protection Safeguards (LPS) introduced through the Mental Capacity (Amendment) Act 2019 which were due to replace the current Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards (DOLS) arrangements will not be implemented within the remaining term of this government.

The new scheme was intended to provide a more efficient framework for authorising deprivation of liberty and ensuring appropriate protections were in place in a broader range of settings.

This means that Local Authorities will continue to be the supervisory body for all cases in hospitals and care homes and the existing DOLS arrangements will continue as they are.

To summarise, the current legal position:

- DOLS only applies to care homes and hospitals;
- Depriving a person aged 16 and upwards of his or her liberty in other settings requires an order from the court of protection;
- Depriving a child 0-16 of his / her liberty can provide via the exercise of parental responsibility (when parenting has not been questioned) or via an order from the High Court (when parenting has been questioned).

If you are a Managing Authority, for example a care home or hospital, you can contact the Local Authority to request a standard or urgent Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards—visit:

<https://service.somerset.gov.uk/deprivation-of-liberty-safeguards>

ann craft trust
acting against abuse

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**Share your
safeguarding
successes**

**Share your
safeguarding
challenges**

Ask questions

Care Quality Commission announces new approach to assessing Local Authorities

On 28 February 2023, the Care Quality Commission announced its interim guidance for their new assessment of local authorities:

[Assessment framework for local authority assurance - Care Quality Commission \(cqc.org.uk\)](https://www.cqc.org.uk/resources/framework/assessment-framework-for-local-authority-assurance)

The Health and Care Act 2022 gave the regulator new powers to provide a meaningful and independent assessment of care at a local authority and integrated care system level. These new powers commenced in April, enabling the quality of care in a local area or system to be better understood and to provide independent assurance to the public of the quality of care in their area.

The new assessment framework comprises 9 quality statements mapped across 4 overall themes, 1 of which (Theme 3) is focused on 'how the local authority ensures safety within the system'. This theme will explore safe systems, pathways and transitions, and also examine safeguarding arrangements: [Safeguarding - Care Quality Commission \(cqc.org.uk\)](https://www.cqc.org.uk/resources/framework/safeguarding-care-quality-commission)

The regulator will want to ensure that people feel safe and are supported to understand and manage any risks. They'll be looking for assurances that section 42 safeguarding enquiries are carried out sensitively and without delay, keeping the wishes and best interests of the person concerned at the centre. They will also want to see that there is a clear understanding of key safeguarding risks and issues in the local authority area and a clear, resourced strategic plan to address them. Additionally, the CQC will want evidence that lessons are learned when people have experienced serious abuse or neglect, and that action is taken to remove future risks and drive best practice.

The work of and feedback from the multi-agency safeguarding adults board will be a key contributor to these new assessments. We will continue to update on developments.

Council invests in stronger support for domestic abuse victims

A new approach to domestic abuse services in Somerset aims to break the cycle of abuse, reduce repeat offending and offer stronger support for victims and families. Somerset Council's domestic abuse service – Somerset *Integrated Domestic Abuse Service (SIDAS)* – launched its new service from April 2023 which will incorporate additional investment in safe accommodation and support to victims, perpetrators and children across Somerset.

The new wider service will offer a more holistic type of support, with interventions for anybody, of any risk factor, whose life is impacted by domestic abuse that they are experiencing or have experienced in the past.

From the first week in May, the support hub physically opened its doors between 5pm and 8pm allowing people to access one-to-one support in person. In addition, the service is launching a number of pop-up hubs across the county allowing the public to get in-person support in their area. To find a hub location near you go to: <https://somensetsurvivors.org.uk/community-support/>

SIDAS will be working with schools, businesses and other organisations to increase awareness of the signs of domestic abuse and how to respond to it.

The contract for the service was awarded to providers last year, following a rigorous procurement process. It will ensure Somerset Council is able to provide sufficient safe accommodation and support for women, men and children experiencing domestic abuse.

There are five elements that have been awarded to three organisations:

- 1) Central Hub – [The You Trust](#) – Providing a place of contact for victims and perpetrators of domestic abuse. The Central Hub will coordinate those peoples' support, ensuring they get the best service
- 2) Children and Young People – [The You Trust](#) – Specialist support for children and young people who have experienced or witnessed abuse
- 3) Advocacy and Support – [The You Trust](#) – Providing one-to-one and group support for victims of domestic abuse
- 4) Safe Accommodation – [Julian House](#) – Providing an increased range of safe accommodation options for people of all genders with or without children who are fleeing domestic abuse
- 5) Counselling for adults and children who are in Safe Accommodation – [Fearless](#)



If you are experiencing domestic abuse, worried about someone you know, or are concerned about the impact of your behaviour towards others, then help is available:

www.somensetsurvivors.org.uk or by telephoning 0800 69 49 999

In an emergency you should always dial 999. If you are worried an abuser may overhear your call you can remain silent, tap the phone and dial 55 when prompted by the operator who will send help.

Safeguarding Adults Week 2023

Monday 20 – Friday 24 November
#SafeguardingAdultsWeek

Safeguarding Adults Week is a time for organisations to come together to raise awareness of important safeguarding issues, and this year will take place from Monday 20th to Friday 24th November 2023. This year, the focus will be on how you can prioritise the welfare and wellbeing of yourself and others.

As part of the week-long campaign, Somerset Safeguarding Adults Board will contribute to a series of free online workshops that aimed at practitioners working with adults across Somerset, North Somerset, South Gloucestershire, Bristol, and Bath & North East Somerset:

- Monday** What's my role in safeguarding adults?
- Tuesday** Let's start talking: Taking the lead on safeguarding in your organisation
- Wednesday** Who cares for the carers? Secondary and vicarious trauma
- Thursday** Adopting a trauma-informed approach to safeguarding adults
- Friday** Listen, learn, lead: Hearing the voice of adults

Booking is now open, please follow the link to book onto these workshops:



[Stop Adult Abuse Week 2023 - Week of Workshops | Eventbrite](#)



2023 NSAB Excellence Awards

Award nominations now open!

Opportunity to nominate and recognise the hard work and dedication of any professional and/or team across England who've gone over and above this year in providing an outstanding commitment and effort to safeguard adults and their families.

The awards are judged by a panel of Safeguarding Adults Managers and Safeguarding Adult Board Managers from across the country, and seek to recognise inspirational people of teams who:

- Go above and beyond;
- Share their skills and expertise;
- Overcome barriers to make a real difference, and
- Work in partnership with others.

Somerset was extremely successful in last year's awards and we hope to see others from our beautiful county again receive national recognition for their approach and efforts:

[Award recognition for Somerset County Council Safeguarding staff - Bridgwater Town Council \(bridgwater-tc.gov.uk\)](#)



We encourage our readers to visit the Somerset Safeguarding Children Partnership.

Their re-branded website now includes more accessible resources for practitioners, as well as information about key safeguarding themes on the **Working with Children** pages.

Visit: [Somerset Safeguarding Children Partnership](#)

Dementia Safeguarding Scheme (Herbert Protocol)

The Dementia Safeguarding Scheme is a national scheme encouraging carers, family and friends to provide useful information which can be used in the event of a vulnerable person going missing. This information is captured in a form and used by the police to help locate vulnerable individuals. Information captured includes:

- Medication required
- Mobile numbers
- Previous addresses and employer details
- Places previously located
- A photograph.

Providing these details in advance means:

- ⇒ You do not need to remember vital information if you need to report a missing person, helping reduce your stress at an already anxious time
- ⇒ The police are aware of any locations an individual may have gone so they can start their search sooner

What happens when you join the Scheme?

You will be asked to provide personal information about the individual. It is important you make sure this information is accurate and that the individual is aware you are completing the form on their behalf.

This information is stored on our police database and will be used if you raise a concern about the individual's wellbeing or to report them missing.

As part of the Scheme, you can request a wearable wristband, hangtag or lanyard with glow-in-the-dark card for the individual which stores electronic information about the wearer, such as their name and next of kin. The device will be scanned by emergency services if the individual is found wandering. Devices are only available for those with dementia and not any other type of medical condition.



Register for the scheme

If someone you know has dementia,
you can sign up online:

[Avon and Somerset Police](#)

Learning Lessons (Somerset)

'Robert'

Background:

A report was published by the Somerset Safeguarding Adults Board on 18/01/2023 and documents the events leading up to Robert's death (pseudonym) in March 2019. Robert was found at his home dehydrated, hypothermic and confused by a General Practice (GP) Paramedic and died in hospital on 6/3/19. There had been concerns about Robert's self-neglect in the two years prior to his death and Robert had been moved out of his home for six days whilst a deep clean took place. Robert returned home, but 3 weeks later was moved to other more appropriate accommodation. Care and support was provided, but following a review the care ceased the following month. There was no further Adult Social Care input and Robert had intermittent contact with the District Council Housing Department.

Key considerations for practice identified in the review:

- **Self-neglect and mental capacity:** When self-neglect is evident and someone is making "unwise" decisions, be prompted to assess their mental capacity to be able to make decisions about their care and welfare. For individuals who self-neglect, consider whether a physical or mental health condition has caused an impairment or disturbance in the functioning of their mind or brain. In complex cases bring together multi-agency, multi-disciplinary thinking to explore ideas and interventions. Be wary of closing cases without safeguards in place to spot continuing self-neglect. Follow your organisation's self-neglect practice guidance.
- **The Human Rights Act 1998:** Remember the need to balance the right to life (Article 2) and the right to respect for private and family life - autonomy of decision making - (Article 8) and recognise that there may be circumstances where you have a duty to protect life more than the right to autonomy. This can be challenging but attention should be given to developing an understanding of a person's previous choices, decisions and way of life, and with compassion for them rather than as an abstract exercise.
- **Think Family:** Think how you can work with family members as partners in meeting their relatives' needs and how they may be supported to do so.
- **Missed appointments, avoidance and feigned compliance:** When people who cannot look after themselves or self-neglect miss appointments, follow this up. Explore why and consider what support can be put in place to ensure their physical, mental health and welfare needs are promoted. Be alert to feigned compliance and avoidance. People may try to convince you that they are working with you and are motivated to 'comply' with the interventions put in place by services but in reality they don't. If they avoid you, be curious about why.

Further information: [Read the review](#)

Learning Lessons (National)

Whorlton Hall SAR

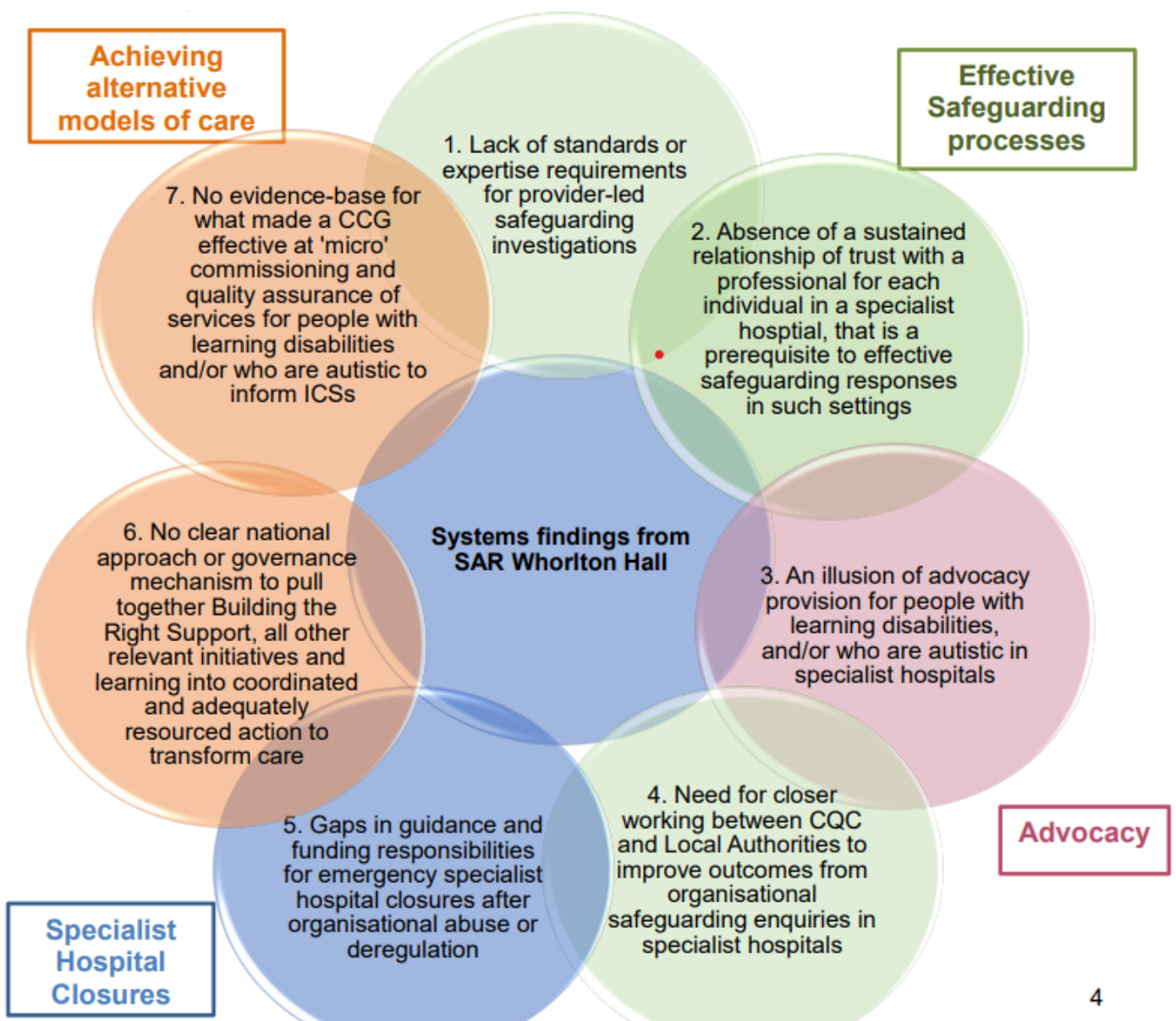
Commissioned by Durham Safeguarding Adults Partnership and published in May 2023

Background:

Whorlton Hall was an independent hospital in Barnard Castle, County Durham, run by Cygnet Healthcare who took operational responsibility from January 2019 following acquisition of Danshell Services in August 2018.

The Safeguarding Adults Review (SAR) was triggered by concerns raised following the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) Panorama Programme on 22nd May 2019 which alleged 2 psychological and physical abuse of people living at Whorlton Hall by people who should have been caring for them. Following the programme, staff were immediately suspended, all the 13 people living there were moved to other care settings and Whorlton Hall was closed.

Further information: [Read the review](#)



Training and Development

It is the responsibility of all organisations to ensure they have a skilled and competent workforce who are able to take on the roles and responsibilities required to protect adults at risk and ensure an appropriate response when adult abuse or neglect does occur. The SSAB does not provide any single or multi-agency training but has published a [Somerset Adult Safeguarding Learning Framework](#).

Somerset Survivors: e-Learning (free)

- [Professional e-Learning modules on domestic abuse](#)
- [Domestic Abuse and Modern Slavery e-Learning modules for the public](#)

Social Care Institute for Excellence: e-learning (please note that SCIE are now charging for this content)

- [e-learning: Adult Safeguarding Resource](#)
- [e-learning: Mental Capacity Act](#)

Other resources

- [FutureLearn Safeguarding Adults Level 3 Training](#)
- [Friends Against Scams Practitioner E-Learning](#)
- [Health Education England e-Learning Mental Capacity Act e-Learning](#)
- [Unseen Modern Slavery training](#)
- [Home Office Prevent e-learning](#)
- [Home Office FGM \(Female Genital Mutilation\) e-learning](#)

Useful Safeguarding Adults links

- [Secure professionals e-referral form](#)
- [Joint Safeguarding Adults Policy](#)
- [Somerset Adult Safeguarding Guidance](#)
- [Practice guidance and resources](#)
- [Get the SSAB Website on your phone or tablet](#)

Your Adult Safeguarding Experience Feedback

Somerset Council's Adult Safeguarding service would like hear feedback not just from people who have been supported by adult safeguarding services, and their carers, but also from those who advocate or support them on a professional basis. The forms below have been developed in partnership with Healthwatch Somerset.

- [Adult Safeguarding Service Questionnaire for adults who have been supported by safeguarding services](#)
- [Adult Safeguarding Service Questionnaire for carers, relatives or friends](#)
- [Adult Safeguarding Service Questionnaire for Advocates, IMCAs and Providers](#)

Get in touch

If you have any suggestions for future topics or comments about this newsletter, please contact us via:

[**ssab@somerset.gov.uk**](mailto:ssab@somerset.gov.uk)

Alternatively call our Business Manager, Natalie Green, on:

01823 357228

If you are worried about a vulnerable adult, don't stay silent

Phone: 0300 123 2224

Email: adults@somerset.gov.uk

Or complete a secure

[Professionals e-referral form](#)

In an emergency always contact the police by dialling 999.

If it is not an emergency, dial 101

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