



Newsletter

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

This is the 21st edition of the Somerset Safeguarding Adults Board (SSAB) newsletter, and we hope you 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

This has been an extremely busy and productive period for the Somerset Safeguarding Adults Board.

We have held two full Board meetings in recent months (October and December), and have learnt more about how the Homelessness Reduction Act is being enacted across Somerset and also about Avon & Somerset Constabulary's implementation plans approach to 'Right Care, Right Person' - these are covered later in this newsletter .

We continue to promote the Safeguarding Adults Board across the region and, are reaching out to Somerset's communities to engage them in our work, and have recently provided safeguarding awareness sessions to local micro-providers.

To the 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. We always welcome any suggestions for improvement, requests for future content or any contributions you would like to make.

Message from the Board's Independent Chair,

Michael Preston-Shoot



Well, that's another year that has just flown by. As this drops into your mailbox, some of you no doubt will be thinking of Christmas. We hope that you manage to get some downtime with friends, family or perhaps on your own, to enable you to recharge your batteries

We are working with Boards and Partnerships across Somerset to address those areas in our Strategic Plan and will be updating our Strategic Plan in the New Year for consideration by the Board in the Spring. Our members have been working hard to update working documents, which can be found on our new SSAB website, please do have look.

We have had an extremely successful Safeguarding Adults Week, across the region, SABs have presented webinars, which have been well attended and are now on our website.

As we near the end of the year I would like to wish you and your families a merry Christmas & a Happy New Year, and wish you & the partnership well as you enter a new year.

Somerset Safeguarding Adults Board Launches its New Website—please click on the title to access



[Report a concern](#) | [Our sections](#) | [Search](#)

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Safeguarding Somerset is our number 1 priority

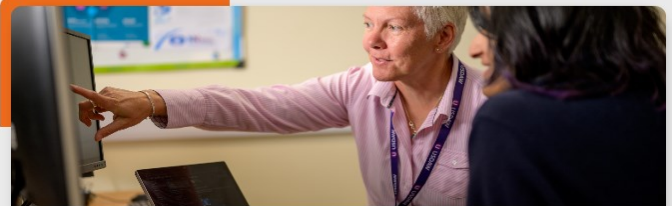
Working in partnership to enable adults in Somerset to live a life free from fear, harm and abuse

[Read more about us](#) →



Information for the public

The wellbeing and safety of local people is our main concern



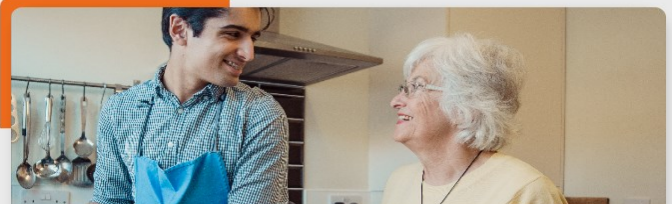
Information for professionals

We want to make sure the local workforce has easy access to information to support adults with care and support needs



Publications and Resources

The Care Act 2014 requires all Safeguarding Adults Boards to produce and publish an Annual Plan and Report each year



'Safeguarding is everyone's business' Campaign

A new campaign asking Somerset residents to look out for members of their community who might be experiencing abuse.

Report a concern

If you are worried about a vulnerable adult and would like our help, please don't stay silent.

Call: [0300 123 2224](tel:03001232224)
Email: adults@somerset.gov.uk

Police: **101** or in an emergency **999**



Key links

[Guidance for Safeguarding Adults](#)
[Professionals safeguarding referral form](#)
[Care Act Safeguarding Guidance](#)

[Putting the Mental Capacity Act into Practice](#)
[Safeguarding Adults Policy](#)
[Safeguarding Children](#)



'Safeguarding is everyone's business'



Somerset Safeguarding Adults Board launched a new campaign asking Somerset residents to look out for members of their community who might be experiencing abuse.

The campaign, called 'Safeguarding is everyone's business', asked that people do their part in supporting their communities by recognising the signs of self-neglect when they see them because self-neglect can be an indicator that someone is being abused. Acting early when you

suspect that someone is neglecting themselves could save a person's life.

If someone is struggling, getting them help early on can prevent things from getting worse, so if people are concerned about a neighbour, friend, or member of their community they can contact Somerset Council to raise a safeguarding concern by calling 0300 123 2224 or email adults@somerset.gov.uk. If someone is in immediate danger, the Police should be called by dialling 999.

Please have a look at our campaign posters, which you may use:

['Safeguarding is everyone's business' Campaign](#)



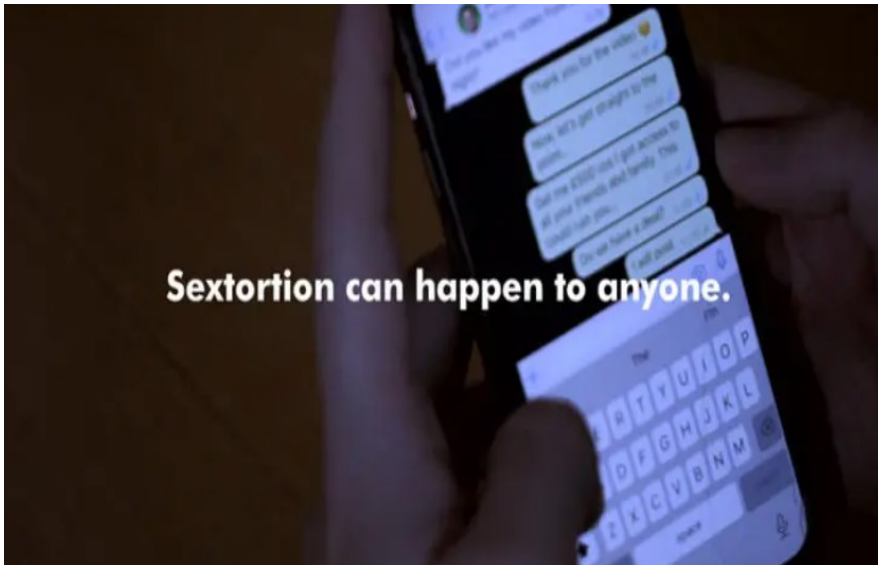
Watch this new video to find out how we are transforming Adult Social Care in Somerset with the 'My Life, My Future' programme.

In the video, Executive Director for Adult Social Care, Mel Lock, explains the programme in detail, including how it can help us make savings whilst improving our services for the people we support.

Our ambition to help others, unites us all in what we do. We need your voice to achieve better outcomes for Somerset and its communities.



Sextortion campaign to empower people, aiming to halt the rise in cases



Last year, more than 720 people were blackmailed or bribed in Avon and Somerset through sextortion.

Sextortion is when someone threatens to share sexual images or videos of you, unless you do something for them – like sharing more photos or paying a sum of money.

This type of crime is sadly becoming more and more common, we've seen a repeated 40 per cent increase* in reports

Sextortion is a crime that can happen to anyone, but young males are a particular target for criminals – over 50 per cent of victims coming forward are males under 29 years old.

It can be a devastating experience for each victim involved, with criminals playing on the shame that people feel about their image or film being seen by loved ones or friends.

We've created a campaign to raise awareness and empower people, particularly young people, to make it harder for perpetrators to commit this devastating crime and to encourage those who are affected to come forward for help.

We're asking people who are experiencing sextortion to remember three actions – 'don't panic, don't pay and don't communicate'.

Please watch the below video and share it with loved ones and families. We want to make everyone aware of the risks, to hopefully reduce the number of victims of this crime.



Victims of sextortion can find support here:
[Support for victims of sextortion | Avon and Somerset Police](#)

Stop Adult Abuse Week 20-24 November 2023

Safeguarding Adults Week 2023 took place Monday 20th – Friday 24th November 2023 and was a fantastic opportunity for organisations to come together to raise awareness of important safeguarding issues. The aim was to start vital conversations and share best practice so we can all be better together.

This year's theme was focused on Safeguarding Yourself and Others. You can find lots of helpful links, resources and information via the Ann Craft Trust website:

[Safeguarding Adults Week 2023 - Links, Resources and More - Ann Craft Trust](#)

Here in Somerset, we combined with other Safeguarding Boards across the Avon and Somerset region and hosted a week of free, virtual webinars covering the following topics:

Monday 21 November: What's My Role in Safeguarding Adults?

Tuesday 22 November: Taking The Lead on Safeguarding in Your Organisation

Wednesday 23 November: Who Cares For the Carers?


Thursday 24 November: Adopting a Trauma-Informed Approach to Safeguarding Adults

Friday 25 November: Listen, Learn, Lead: Co-Production With Experts By Experience

556 people attended the lunchtime workshops from across the 5 Board areas: 90% said the sessions delivered were excellent or very good.

Many thanks to Somerset's multi-agency Task and Finish Group who progressed our contribution to Stop Adult Abuse Week 2023.

All recordings are now available on our webpage: [Training and resources \(somersetsafeguardingadults.org.uk\)](#)



'Somerset's Principal Social Worker launched a new public-facing podcast earlier this year ('The Social Work Sessions') providing information and promoting learning through discussions with people in social work, from the front line, academia and elsewhere. Episodes have included discussions with members of the Somerset social care workforce, as well as renowned national figures in the world of social work including Bryony Shannon, Lyn Romeo, and SSAB Chair, Professor Michael Preston-Shoot. [Social Work Sessions | Podcast on Spotify](#)

There is no need to download Spotify, it will simply play within the browser window.

[Click here to listen now.](#)

Let's make this Christmas a bad one for scammers

Christmas is a time when scamming activity often increases, and different types of scam are emerging all the time.

What is a scam?

Scams are crimes. They are fraudulent activities designed to cheat people out of their money or obtain their personal details for illegal purposes. They can include everything from bogus lottery or competition wins, through to miracle cures and chain letters. Scammers may seek to trick people online, on the telephone, through information sent in the post or in person.

Scams target people of all ages, backgrounds and income levels. No one is immune, but people can be better enabled to keep themselves safe with information so that they can be alert to this type of crime.

Financial scamming can have seriously damaging consequences on the person that has been scammed and society. Unfortunately, the impact is often underestimated and becoming involved with a scam can be a life-changing event, and can be a major factor in the decline of health and independence in older people

What can the impact be on individuals?

Scams can cause long lasting or permanent damage to an individual's health and quality of life. Many individuals experience injury to their confidence and trust, and some people are left with the psychological effects of stress, anxiety, fear, depression and shame. Individuals may deny their involvement and others may blame them.

Remember:

- Financial scamming is a crime and can affect anyone. It is vastly under reported and the true scale of the financial loss and other impacts is unknown.
- Enabling people to keep themselves safe from scammers can be beneficial to people's health and independence
- Factors such as loneliness, social isolation, poverty and cognitive impairment can make people more vulnerable to responding to financial scams or fraudulent schemes.
- Older people are targeted by certain types of scams such as doorstep, mail, telephone, pension and investment scams.
- Cognitive impairments, such as dementia, can interfere with an individual's capacity to identify a scam. Those with dementia may not have the skills to judge risk and can find it more difficult to apply precautionary measures to decision making which puts them at increased risk of responding to a scam.





[Home](#)

Somerset Domestic Abuse

Information relating to domestic abuse and the services available across Somerset. Including Somerset Council's locally based confidential service, offering a range of specialist support to anyone who needs advice and help on domestic abuse



The Christmas period often brings with it a reported **increase in police call-outs for incidents of domestic abuse**. Financial pressures, alcohol on tap, trying to create the 'perfect' Christmas and being cooped up together for long periods all contribute to a regular rise in domestic abuse.

Somerset Domestic Abuse Service have engaged Paragon to support victims and help address domestic abuse across Somerset.



Domestic Abuse | Sexual Abuse | Stalking | Training

Donate

We have been commissioned by Somerset Council to deliver the Somerset Domestic Abuse Service. Julian House will be providing the refuge and safe accommodation and we will be joined by a counselling team in 2024.

Our team offer targeted support for victims, children, and people causing harm in their intimate relationships.

We are also been funded and commissioned by the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner and National Government.

[Download a referral form for children and young people](#)

[Somerset - Paragon Team - SIDAS - Domestic abuse services](#)

ACORN

RECOVERY PROGRAMME FOR MALE SURVIVORS OF DOMESTIC ABUSE

Have you, or someone you know,
experienced domestic abuse and want to
join up with other men with similar
experiences, learn new skills and make
sense of what happened?

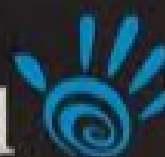
ManKind Initiative are hosting
online recovery courses for male
survivors funded by the
Police & Crime Commissioner

For more information contact
training@mankind.org.uk



*If you are experiencing domestic
abuse you can contact us on our
national helpline 01823 334244
or in an emergency call 999*

ManKind
Initiative





Right Care Right Person

- Police forces deal with a wide variety of incidents and calls for assistance. Some of these are policing matters, others are in relation to mental health, concern for welfare and social care issues.
- There is considerable overlap between the roles and activities of police, various parts of the NHS and other agencies. The police are often seen by the public as a ‘do all’ service.
- Right Care, Right Person is an approach designed to ensure that people of all ages, who have health and/or social care needs, are responded to by the right person, with the right skills, training, and experience to best meet their needs.
- Though the approach can be applied more broadly than cases relating to mental health, the NPA is focused on the interface between policing and mental health services, as one step towards implementing RCRP.
- Sets out a collective national commitment from the Home Office, Department of Health & Social Care, the National Police Chiefs’ Council, Association of Police and Crime Commissioners, and NHS England to work to end the inappropriate and avoidable involvement of police in responding to incidents involving people with mental health needs.



somerset
carers
part of CCS

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Free support & information for Carers

If you regularly look after someone in a caring capacity, the Somerset Carers Service can support you with advice and guidance. Caring for another person is very rewarding, but can be overwhelming and lonely at times. The Somerset Carers Service can help you to find groups and events in your area, to get facts and information that will help the person you are caring for with their particular needs.

You can receive support from Somerset Carers for free if you are over 18 and you look after someone in an 'unpaid' caring capacity (not employed or self employed as a Carer).

The person you look after could be a loved one, friend, partner, parent or child (it doesn't matter if they are under or over 18) on a regular or irregular basis.

Somerset Carers will do their utmost to ensure you receive the right support you need in your day-to-day life, by working with healthcare providers, and other local services to create a tailored, integrated package of care that works for you.

- [Free support & information for Carers just like you. - Somerset Carers](#)
- [Carers Groups - In Person & Online! - Somerset Carers](#)
- [Carers Downloadable Resources - Somerset Carers](#)

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.

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](#)
- [Home Office Prevent 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

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.