



# Safeguarding MATTERS

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## Welcome to the first edition of the new 'Safeguarding Matters' bulletin.

'Safeguarding Matters' will become a regular publication from the joint Leicestershire and Rutland Children and Adults Safeguarding Boards. If you work with children or vulnerable adults we really hope you (and your manager) will find the articles useful in supporting your practice.

We intend that every edition will follow a similar format but that doesn't mean to say that it will be set in stone. We will be very grateful to receive any feedback or comments. If you are reading the online version – click this button to email your thoughts. Or find our contact details on the back page.

### Adult Safeguarding Board and the Children Safeguarding Board Annual reports for 2011-2012

The **Adult Safeguarding Board** ([http://www.lrlscb.org/index/publications/annual\\_report\\_and\\_business\\_plan.htm](http://www.lrlscb.org/index/publications/annual_report_and_business_plan.htm)) and the **Children Safeguarding Board** ([http://www.leics.gov.uk/index/social\\_services/asc\\_support/asc\\_keeping\\_people\\_safe/asc\\_suspected\\_abuse/adult\\_protection\\_procedures/safeguarding\\_adults\\_partnership/safeguarding\\_annual\\_report.htm](http://www.leics.gov.uk/index/social_services/asc_support/asc_keeping_people_safe/asc_suspected_abuse/adult_protection_procedures/safeguarding_adults_partnership/safeguarding_annual_report.htm)) Annual reports for 2011-2012 are now published and on the website (click the links above to view or download)

Both reports give updates on the work of their respective boards and both publish the referral activity into the Leicestershire and Rutland Adults Social Care and Children's Social Care departments.

## CRB checks are changing...

On 1 December 2012, the Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) merged with the Independent Safeguarding Authority (ISA). The new name will be the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS). The DBS was established under the Protection of Freedoms Act 2012 and is a Non-Departmental Public Body sponsored by the Home Office.

The CRB logo will be replaced and all documents will be rebranded including Certificates, Stationery, websites and all customer information.

### Changes to terminology:

Current Terms	New Terms
CRB, ISA, VBS	DBS
Standard CRB check	Standard DBS check
Enhanced CRB check	Enhanced DBS check
Enhanced CRB check with Barred List check	Enhanced check for regulated activity
ISA Adult First	DBS Adult First
Vulnerable adults	Vulnerable groups

Information sheets have been produced detailing the key changes for staff and what they mean for your organisation.

They can be down loaded here:

<http://www.childrensworkforcematters.org.uk/node/1680>

<http://www.childrensworkforcematters.org.uk/node/1681>

# Keeping the Child in Focus

## - Learning from Serious Case Review

Professor Eileen Munro's review of the child protection system in England published in May 2011 concluded that systems had:

- become too focused on compliance with rules and procedures
- lost their focus on the needs and experiences of children and young people.

Reviews both locally and nationally following the death or serious injury to children and young people routinely highlight that the needs of the child or young person or the impact of parental issues have not been adequately considered

Whether you work directly with children and families or your role is to support adults the message is very clear: 'Keep the Child in Focus'

### Areas to help keep the child in focus:

#### Children

- Seen, spoken and listened to: separately and without parents
- Others who may see and speak to children – actively seek their knowledge
- Holistic picture – daily life and well-being
- Stimulation and development
- Differentiate between children
- Do siblings pose a risk?
- Importance of age range/gaps

#### Babies

- Vulnerability of babies – no voice 'What would they say?' if they could
- Neonates with health concerns - what is the impact on family?
- Unborn child should not be invisible - take time to prepare and develop resilience of the family.

#### Parental Capacity and Risk

- 'Respectful uncertainty' of stories and evidence presented by parents
- Do not accept without sufficient challenge
- Use research and reference to inform your decisions or to strengthen your evaluation
- Examine motivations – insufficient attention paid to why parent might have dropped charges or not pursued complaint. Extent of fear or anxiety feeding into risks.

#### Household

- What is the impact on the child when individuals leave or join the household?
- Impact of change and of changes
- Periods following separation and break-up of relationships critical This needs to inform plans for support during times of transition
- Different relationships with adults in household
- Significant influence of other adults

#### Professional Networks

- All carry safeguarding responsibility
- Do not assume responsibility or knowledge
- Use multiple perspectives – there is no "one truth" – don't privilege any profession
- Review risk factors
- Challenge and query

#### Child Protection Plans

- Child-focused in language and format
- Actions by adults – be clear about outcomes for child – what progress has been made?
- Child's point of view – what matters to child?
- Plans central to delivery of care/support by all agencies

- Expectations on parents/family spelt out
- Focus on risk identification and reduction
- Contingency plans and alternatives
- A cohesive plan focused on the child(ren)

#### Transitions

- Managing transitions
- End of plan/step down/case closure
- Monitor parental response
- Communication is key – safeguarding continues even if Child Protection Plan (CPP) ends
- Child's life goes on
- Change of status may matter more to adults than child
- Time – childhood is short; opportunities matter

#### Working Together Support and Supervision

- Information sharing and contributions to assessments
- Reflection and review of practice on both a single and multi-agency basis
- Support those with less experience dealing with chronic cases
- Supervision should challenge and test assumptions

#### When working with children, young people and families we should ask the following questions:

- **Why** are we doing this?
- Why are **we** doing this?
- Why are we doing **this**?
- Does this contribute to making the child safer?
- Clarifying the results/impact/outcomes – Did it make a difference?

# The Abuse of Adults with Learning Disabilities - Learning from Winterbourne View

South Gloucestershire's Safeguarding Adults Board (SAB) commissioned a Serious Case Review following the disclosure last year of the abuse of adults with learning disabilities and autism at Winterbourne View, a 24-bed private hospital owned and operated by Castlebeck Ltd.

Prepared by independent adult safeguarding expert Margaret Flynn, the review shows that the abuse at Winterbourne View Hospital resulted from serious and sustained failings in the management procedures of Castlebeck Limited.

It also identifies where other organisations' systems and procedures fell short in commissioning patient care, and in reviewing and safeguarding the wellbeing of patients before and during their stay at Winterbourne View hospital.

Recommendations include a call for greater investment in community-based care in order to reduce the

need for in-patient admissions at assessment, treatment and rehabilitation units such as Winterbourne View Hospital.

The report highlights the need for outcome-based commissioning for hospitals detaining people with learning disabilities and autism and says that the use of 't-supine restraint' in which patients are laid on the ground with staff using their body weight to restrain them should be discontinued at such units.

The report also calls for notifications of concern, including safeguarding alerts, hospital admissions and police attendances, to be better co-ordinated and shared amongst safeguarding organisations to allow earlier identification of potential problems and earlier action to be taken.

The Leicestershire and Rutland Safeguarding Adults Board have sought assurance from partner agencies that services are checked



against these recommendations and action taken accordingly.

But what does this mean for front line practitioners? What can you do?

The abuse of adults with learning disabilities can happen anywhere and be perpetrated by anyone

- **Be alert to signs of abuse and harm in families, communities and care settings – Physical, Sexual, Financial, Emotional, Exploitation and Bullying**
- **Know how to Alert, Refer or Whistle blow if necessary – check the Multi-agency Policy and procedures and your own internal process.**

**SEE SOMETHING?  
SAY SOMETHING!**

## Preventing Avoidable Accidents

Preventing accidents is a key area of good safeguarding practice. Just a few simple changes can make the difference between a child or young person suffering a very serious injury and experiencing just the normal grazes, knocks and bumps of growing up.

The Safe Network has produced guidance on preventing avoidable accidents. It provides practical and pragmatic advice regarding:

- How to create a robust accident prevention policy
- How safety requirements change as children grow
- Preventing hazards e.g. burns and scalds, falls, injuries, outdoors and in cars

The guidance is free and can be downloaded from: <http://tinyurl.com/preventingavoidableaccidents>

## New learning from serious case reviews: a two year report for 2009-2011

New learning from serious case reviews: a two year report for 2009-2011 has been published by the Department for Education. This is the sixth two-yearly national analysis of Serious Case Reviews (SCRs). Findings include:

- Just over a third of SCRs concerned a baby under the age of one - a drop of more than 10% from patterns identified in previous studies
- Neglect is a background factor in the majority (60%) of SCRs
- An analysis of SCRs concerning children aged 5 to 10 years old revealed few distinct features that could be linked to the age group and found that there may be issues around hidden adversity

Download the report from: <http://tinyurl.com/learningfromscrs>

Tri.x have published a Summary Briefing, download it from: <http://tinyurl.com/trixbriefing>

# My role

## Job title:

Jackie Wilkinson – Leicestershire Partnership Trust Safeguarding Lead

## Organisation:

Leicestershire Partnership Trust

## How long have you been in this role?

3 years

## Tell us about a typical day: What does typical mean?

The job is really varied and supports strategic delivery of children and adult safeguarding areas across the trust. My diary is full of LSCB or SAB meetings and internal safeguarding meetings with service areas. We are a large community trust who deliver mental health, learning disability services, community health services and children and young peoples' services. We employ over 6000 staff.

We have an open door policy, so members of the safeguarding team or wider quality team are able to discuss complex safeguarding areas and receive guidance and support. My typical day is juggling and prioritising the demands - it is often a very long day – but that goes with the job!



## Tell us about your responsibilities or duties

As trust lead for safeguarding I am responsible for leading the quality assurance processes – such as training, audit, policy development, investigations. I work closely with the named professionals across the trust and enjoy working with other agencies.

## What is your safeguarding best practice top tip?

“Keep calm and carry on”.....!

## What one thing would you find most beneficial to help you in your role (with regards to safeguarding)? –

The most important thing is supervision, identifying your support mechanisms and being able to discuss the “hard to sort” issues with someone who is credible.

## Get involved in Safeguarding Matters

We are interested in contributions for future publications: Book Reviews, Articles of Interest, Best Practice Tips. Don't worry about format as we can do that. Please email [SBBO@leics.gov.uk](mailto:SBBO@leics.gov.uk) or ring 0116 3057130

# Training Matters

## Children's Workforce Safeguarding Training

The Level 3 Interagency Training is for members of the workforce who work or volunteer predominantly with children, young people and/or their parents/carers and who could potentially contribute to assessing, planning, intervening and reviewing the needs of a child and parenting capacity where there are safeguarding concerns. These sessions are free of charge and open to staff and volunteers from statutory, voluntary and independent organisations working in Leicester, Leicestershire and/or Rutland. To see the latest version of the programme please visit: <http://www.childrensworkforcematters.org.uk/node/1634>

Level 1/2 is suitable for those who work or volunteer with children, young people and/or parents/carers who need to undergo basic Safeguarding awareness training. This training is available free of charge to people who work or volunteer for private, voluntary and independent organisations in Leicestershire and Rutland. To see a list of dates available please go to: <http://www.childrensworkforcematters.org.uk/node/1710>

## Contact us

[www.leics.gov.uk](http://www.leics.gov.uk)

Leicestershire and Rutland Safeguarding Children Board and Safeguarding Adults Board

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