



Safeguarding MATTERS

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The Health and Social Care Bill Protecting adults from abuse or neglect

"The existing legal framework for adult protection is neither systematic nor co-ordinated, reflecting sporadic development of safeguarding policy over the last 25 years"

Commission for Social Care Inspection

In May 2013 the [Health and Social Care Bill](#) was published and will, for the first time, set out a clear legal framework for how local authorities and other parts of the health and social care system should protect adults at risk of abuse or neglect.

The legislation provides protection and support to the people who need it most and takes forward elements of the government's initial response to the Francis Inquiry. (Mid Staffordshire Hospitals).

This Bill aims to create a legal framework so key organisations and individuals with responsibilities for adult safeguarding can agree on how they must work together and what roles they must play to keep adults at risk safe and give people peace of mind that they will be treated with compassion when in hospital, care homes or in their own home.

What is 'safeguarding'?

'Adult safeguarding' is the process of protecting adults with care and support needs from abuse or neglect. It is an important part of what many public services do, and a key responsibility of local authorities.

Safeguarding is mainly aimed at people with care and support needs who may be in vulnerable circumstances and at risk of abuse or neglect by others. In these cases, local services must work together to spot those at risk and take steps to protect them.

What does the Bill do?

Safeguarding Adults Boards

Whilst Local Children Safeguarding Boards have been a statutory requirement for a number of years the same has not been true for adults. Our well established Safeguarding Adults Board will now be placed within a statutory framework.

This Bill requires in law that local authorities set up a Safeguarding Adults Board (SAB) in their area.

The Bill says that the SAB must:

- include the local authority, the NHS and the police, who should meet regularly to discuss and act upon local safeguarding issues
- develop shared plans for safeguarding, working with local people to decide how best to protect adults in vulnerable situations
- publish this safeguarding plan and report to the public annually on its progress, so that different organisations can make sure they are working together in the best way

Safeguarding enquiries by local authorities

The Bill also requires local authorities to make enquiries,

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or ask others to make enquiries, when they think an adult with care and support needs may be at risk of abuse or neglect in their area and to find out what, if any, action may be needed. This applies whether or not the authority is actually providing any care and support services to that adult.

What the Bill does not do though is give local authorities any new powers to enter a person's property. The Government consulted on whether there should be a specific power of entry. However, opinions were split on the issue and the Government decided that there was not a strong enough case in favour of a new law.

Safeguarding Adult Reviews

When there is any failure in safeguarding, the results can be severe and tragic and therefore demand a strong response.

An SAB must arrange for there to be a review of any case in which -

- a) an adult in the SAB's area with needs for care and support (whether or not the local authority was meeting any of those needs) was, or the SAB suspects that the adult was, experiencing abuse or neglect, and
- b) the adult dies or there is reasonable cause for concern about how the SAB, a member of it or some other person involved in the adult's case acted.

The Reviews are about learning lessons for the future. They will make sure that SABs get the full picture of what went wrong so that all organisations involved can improve as a result.

On the 10th May 2013 the Government published a Statement on its [policy for Adult Safeguarding](#). This document updates the Government's policy on safeguarding adults vulnerable to abuse and neglect. It includes the statement of principles for Local Authority Social Services, housing, health, the police and other agencies to use, for both developing and assessing the effectiveness of their local safeguarding arrangements. It also describes, in broad terms, the outcomes for adult safeguarding, for both individuals and organisations.



Child Neglect

Neglect of children and young people has been identified as both a local and national issue.

[Children first: the child protection system in England - Education Committee \(Summary\):](#)

The Committee's report examines three key themes:

- Neglect
- Older children
- Thresholds for intervention, taking children into care and adoption.

The Committee found evidence that children are left too long in harmful situations. To encourage earlier intervention, it calls for better training for all front-line professionals in child development and the long-term consequences of neglect.

The recent 'Dirty but Happy' conference hosted by Leicestershire County Council – as part of the multi-agency training programme - was an excellent opportunity for a range of practitioners from Leicestershire to work with partners, and gain useful information when thinking about safeguarding practice when working with neglect.

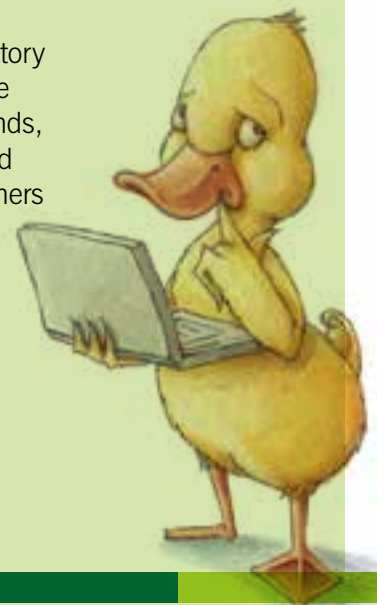
Other helpful information around neglect:

[LSCB procedures – signs and indicators:](#)

E Safety with Digiduck

Digiduck is a beautifully illustrated children's book created by Childnet, which can be read on line (click the picture) and is also available to order as a hard copy from Childnet.

Digiduck's Big Decision is a story for 3 to 7 year olds. It tells the story of Digiduck and his friends, and helps children understand how to be a good friend to others on the internet.



Private Fostering

Protecting Children and Young People

Following the death of Victoria Climbié in 2000 local authorities were given a duty to promote public awareness of the requirement to notify them of private fostering arrangements and where possible before they commenced.

What is Private Fostering?

A private fostering arrangement is essentially one that is made without the direct involvement of a local authority for the care of a child under the age of 16 (under 18 if disabled) by someone other than a parent or close relative for 28 days or more.

Privately fostered children are a diverse and sometimes vulnerable group which includes:

- Children who live with a friend's family as a result of parental separation, divorce or arguments at home, parental ill health or imprisonment
- Teenagers who, having broken ties with their parents, are staying in short-term arrangements with friends or other non-relatives

Responsibilities

- Private foster carers and those with parental responsibility? are required to notify the local authority of their intention to privately foster or to have a child privately fostered, or where a child is privately fostered in an emergency
- Children's Social Care has to satisfy itself that the welfare of the children who are privately fostered within their area are being satisfactorily safeguarded and promoted.
- All staff to familiarise themselves with the indicators of private fostering and what to do

Signs that a Child may be privately fostered?

In the neighbourhood:

- A child not previously known suddenly starts living with a neighbour
- A child who lives in the neighbourhood suddenly disappears
- A neighbour has a number of different children staying with them

At school, in an early years setting, or youth club:

- A parent has a 'niece' or 'nephew' staying with them for a while
- A child suddenly disappears without warning
- A child says they are staying with a friend or relative, or even a stranger
- A child says that there is another child staying at home with them

In the doctor's surgery or at a health clinic:

- A patient attends with a child who has not been seen before
- A patient attends regularly with different children who they refer to as their 'niece' or 'nephew'
- A child mentions that the person they are with is not their parent

What should you do:

- Talk to the adult(s) caring for the child. Check if they are aware of the legal obligation to notify the relevant Duty Team that they are caring for a child
- Give them a leaflet about private fostering - these are available on the LLR LSCB Website



- Reassure the carer that if they have been caring for the child for a while, they will be approached sensitively
- If the adults are aware of the need to notify but refuse to comply, then you should say you have a duty to pass on this information. Consent is not required
- If in doubt you should ask to see birth certificates and / or asylum registration cards, or refer directly to Children's Social Care

You also have a duty in relation to:

- Check to ensure that the arrangement has been notified to Children's Social Care
- Contribute to the assessment of the suitability of the arrangement by providing relevant information about the child or carer when this is requested
- Monitor the child's welfare and progress, and provide support and guidance to the child's carer in accordance with your agency's or practitioner remit

<http://www.lrlscb.org/index/publications/leaflets.htm>

Child Sexual Exploitation and Missing from Home - UPDATE

Earlier this year the 2012 Leicester Leicestershire and Rutland (LLR) Joint Protocol for 'Children and Young People who Run Away or go Missing from Home or Care' was launched at the Tigers Ground in Leicester. Shortly afterwards the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) announced a change in the Missing definition which:

- Removed the 'unauthorised absence' category and replaced it with 'absent'
- Created the need for the Police to be informed in each case following reasonable enquiries made by the parents or carer to trace the child

Each call about a child is risk assessed over the phone and a suitable response agreed thus freeing up officer time to target the higher risk cases but also creating a healthy environment of recording and review of risk.

Therefore the 2012 protocol was amended and reflected the changes in Working Together 2013 to create the draft 2013 version well ahead of 1st July 2013 when the new definition is to be applied by the police to calls about missing children and young people.

The Children and Young People who Run Away or go Missing from Home or Care Protocol will be placed on the LSCB website once it has been authorised.

Training Matters

Safeguarding Children

Level 3 Multi agency Training:

The multi-agency training programme offers themed events on a range of areas and topics that are relevant for Level 3 staff, ranging from effective partnership working to awareness sessions on Fabricated and Induced Illness. The programme is being constantly developed with

a wide variety of courses being placed on the programme on a regular basis.

<http://www.childrensworkforcematters.org.uk/safeguarding-children-and-young-people-training/level-3-safeguarding-training/>

Coming soon.....Best Practice workshops:

The multi agency programme will be running a series of best practice workshops, where local practitioners will run sessions on various topics, such as:

- Best practice in case conference
- Best practice in child protection investigations
- Best practice in core groups
- Best practice in managing complex and emotional situations
- Best practice in referral making

If you would like to be involved in the development and delivery of these workshops and have skills and experience in these areas, we would welcome the opportunity to discuss this further.....

Please email emma.ranger@leicester.gov.uk or call on **0116 2565029**

Safeguarding Adults

The Leicestershire Social Care Development Group (LSCDG) are now offering Safeguarding Adults Referrers courses. It is open to any organisation within the private and voluntary sector in Leicestershire and Rutland, and supports people to understand how and when to make safeguarding adults referrals if they are concerned that abuse has occurred. This is offered at a cost of £30 per place. If organisations do not want to access this training, they can use the 'Leicestershire and Rutland Safeguarding Adults Alerter and Referrer Training Manual' to cover the topic of referring. This is available electronically from LSCDG.

Safeguarding Adults Training for Trainers is still offered by the LSCDG - this will skill people up to deliver a 'basic awareness' style course within their own organisation. This is open to any organisation within the private and voluntary sector in Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland.

E-learning is now available from LSCDG. There are a large range of modules to access, including safeguarding adults and children, medication management, dementia, health and safety and many more.

For access to the e-learning: <http://www.leicestershireandrutlandalc.gov.uk/uploads/learning-pool-self-registration-guidance-v1.pdf>

To find out more about the Safeguarding Adults Referrers or Training for Trainers course, contact the LSCDG:

lscdg@leics.gov.uk

0116 3057438 or **0116 3056368**

Domestic Homicide Reviews (DHRs)

Domestic Homicide Reviews (DHRs) were established on a statutory basis under section 9 of the Domestic Violence, Crime and Victims Act (2004) and came into force on 13th April 2011.

This required all Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs) to commission a DHR should they feel a homicide meets the definition outlined below.

The Leicestershire and Rutland Safeguarding Boards undertake these on behalf of the Borough and District CSPs

What is a DHR?

A DHR is a review of the circumstances in which the death of a person aged 16 or over has, or appears to have, resulted from violence, abuse or neglect by:

(a) a person to whom he/she was related or with whom he/she was or had been in an intimate personal relationship, **or**

(b) a member of the same household as himself, held with a view to identifying the lessons to be learnt from the death

Agencies that have had involvement with the perpetrator of the violence, the victim and/or the wider family would conduct their own internal agency review examining any work they have undertaken with one or more members of the family and their findings are drawn together under one DHR.

What is the purpose of a DHR?

The rationale for the review process is to ensure agencies are responding appropriately to victims of domestic violence by offering and putting in place appropriate support mechanisms, procedures, resources and interventions with an aim of avoiding future incidents of domestic homicide and violence.

The review will also assess whether agencies have sufficient and robust procedures and protocols in place, which were understood and adhered to by their staff.

The Home Office has produced an evaluation of the first set of DHRs. Although at an early stage, here are its comments on initial key findings.



- A lack of information sharing between the different agencies involved in a particular case, leading to an absence of a multi-agency view of risk
- Agencies have all had different information about the family, or individuals within or connected to the family, which, if shared, would potentially build a much fuller picture of risk
- The importance of checking addresses carefully before an offender's release
- Recognising those cases where domestic violence has occurred in a particular setting in the past when the offender returns to a family address on release
- In some cases a previous serious assault within the family has not been treated as a domestic violence case and so the perpetrator has been able to leave prison to move back into the victim's home
- Previous 'adult child to parent' abuse cases where assaults have not been recognised as domestic violence have placed parents at risk of further abuse or violence
- Violent offenders being released from prison without suitable accommodation and returning to the victim's home as a last resort

[The Home Office has provided statutory guidance](#) to complete these reviews, this guidance and more information on DHRs can be found on the Home Office website

My role



Andy Sharp

Job title:

Detective Chief Inspector

Organisation:

Leicestershire Police

How long have you been in this role?

(28 years police officer) Two years in current role

Tell us about a typical day

I am often in back to back meetings where the focus is related to developing practice often as a result of learning from internal reviews or Serious Case Reviews, or the ever changing landscape of policing (which inevitably means doing more with less!)

It is seldom that a day goes by without fielding calls for advice and decisions from colleagues that range from incidents requiring an immediate policing response through to on going complex investigations

Tell us about your responsibilities or duties

I am Force lead for Missing Persons, Child Sexual Exploitation, Mental Health and the Comprehensive Referral Desk and represent the force on a number of the Leicestershire & Rutland Safeguarding Boards' sub groups.

Each of these areas represents a great deal of risk to very vulnerable people which requires front line workers to understand their roles and responsibilities. The initial 'blue light' response and saving life will always be a police responsibility as will the prosecution of offenders, but on-going safeguarding strategies require working together to safeguard both in the short and long term and I take every opportunity to get this message across.

What are your safeguarding best practice top tips?

- Understand policy/procedures but be flexible when trying to address the needs of that incident or person
- Be 'person centred' in everything from writing policy to direct contact. Remember how you would want your loved ones to be treated
- Active listening: understanding the perspective of the individual and taking a broader holistic approach helps to identify the problem, assess vulnerability and manage risk appropriately.
- Always give 100% commitment to what you are working on

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

In the 90's I had the opportunity to be seconded to the National Criminal Intelligence Service (NCIS) working alongside other law enforcement professionals including HM Customs, Security Services, to tackle organised crime. This taught me that when you bring together professionals from different backgrounds with different skills but with a common purpose you can achieve great things (in that context disrupt and lock up some top level bad guys)

I know that when we throw some cops, social workers and health professionals at a safeguarding problem we see similar results.

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 or ring **0116 305 7130**

Contact us

Leicestershire and Rutland Safeguarding Local Children Board and Safeguarding Adults Board

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