



Suffolk Adult Safeguarding newsletter.

Edition 5, January 2009

www.suffolkas.org



Protecting Adults
at Risk of Abuse



Welcome to this edition of the Suffolk Adult Safeguarding newsletter, and happy new year to all of our readers.

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Articles and comments for this quarterly newsletter are always welcomed and any submissions should be sent to wendy.garrard@acs.suffolkcc.gov.uk



Suffolk Adult Safeguarding Services are pleased to launch their new and improved website.

**By Wendy Garrard; wendy.garrard@acs.suffolkcc.gov.uk
www.suffolkas.org**

This website will be updated regularly with a variety of information relating to keeping vulnerable people safe from abuse and harm.

There will be a wide range of material on the website including;

1. Public information.
2. Information on how to refer and referral form
3. Professional pages, with templates and useful downloads
4. Easy read page
5. Dignity and respect pages, including the latest Dignity Champions e-bulletin



6. Publications
7. Contact details
8. Training information
9. Latest news
10. FAQs
11. Information about us
12. Policies and procedures and much much more too....

Please add us to your favourites, www.suffolkas.org the site is being updated regularly.

Any articles for the website will be welcomed and should be sent to Wendy Garrard e-mail address as above.

THE ISA IS ON THE WAY!

By; Kala Nobbs, Safeguarding Manager
Children and Young People's Services Safeguarding Team

A new system for managing the safer recruitment of people working with children and vulnerable adults is on the horizon. Introduced as a direct result of the Richard Inquiry into the Soham murders, the Independent Safeguarding Authority [ISA] has already begun work and starts to become fully operational in October 2009. The ISA will be a one-stop shop for both pre-employment checks and ongoing monitoring of all people working with children and vulnerable adults. By 2012 all people who work with children and vulnerable adults, whether on a paid or unpaid basis, will have to be registered under the scheme. It will be a criminal offence punishable with up to five years imprisonment or a fine to employ someone in certain posts until their registration status has been checked and they are confirmed as clear to work. It is envisaged that eventually about 11 million of us will be on the ISA register!

The ISA process brings together criminal records with other records such as the Protection of Children Act and List 99 of those deemed unsuitable to work in education settings as well as 'soft information' provided by employers and police. Public sector employers will have a statutory relationship with the Scheme, referring relevant cases and acting on barring decisions where appropriate.

The scheme recognises two categories of employment activity; regulated and controlled. It will be mandatory for prospective employers to check the status of those to be employed in either category. However it will be possible to employ a barred person in a controlled activity provided sufficient safeguards such as a risk assessment are put in place.

Regulated activity includes:

- work that involves contact with children or vulnerable adults by virtue of the type of activity which employees carry out frequently, intensively or overnight. 'Frequently' means once a month or more whilst 'intensively' is defined as 3 or more days contact in 30 days.
- the setting in which the activity takes place, even if the employee is not working directly with young people administrative staff in a Children's Home for example.
- fostering and child care and
- the status and authority conferred by a particular position [e.g. school governor, Chief Officers etc]

Controlled activity includes:

- Ancillary support work carried out frequently or on three or more days in any 30 day period in general health settings, FE settings and adult social care settings e.g. cleaner, caretaker, car park attendant, receptionist.
- Work carried out frequently for specified employers, including local authorities, which gives a person the opportunity for access to sensitive records about children and vulnerable adults

From the autumn of 2009 all those starting new employment will be required to register with the ISA. At the same time existing staff working in regulated activities will be required to start to register, beginning with those who have never had a CRB check or who were checked a long time ago.

There will be two separate barred lists – one for children and one for vulnerable adults. It will be possible for someone to be barred from working with children but cleared to work with vulnerable adults but it is anticipated that the normal practice would be for someone to be barred from both.





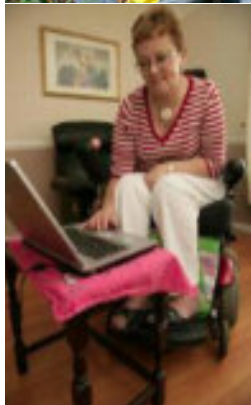
The ISA is on the way continued

But beware of relying too much on the ISA - they will only ascertain whether or not there is anything in an individuals' background that would prevent them from working with children/vulnerable adults. An applicant could have a significant criminal record for non-related offences yet still be considered suitable to be registered. For this reason, employers will still want to renew the enhanced CRB at regular intervals.

The ISA will be responsible for deciding who should be barred. Some offences will carry automatic barring whilst others will involve discretionary decisions by the ISA. There will be an appeals process and the opportunity for review after a defined period.

The new system should have a number of advantages:

- ISA registration will be fully portable – it will reduce the need for repeat CRB checks.
- The system will always be up to date and available for instant on-line checking
- Anyone who has registered an interest in a person will be informed if that person subsequently becomes barred.
- The new duties on employers and on those who are barred should result in a more robust system which offers far greater protection to children and vulnerable adults.



A statutory duty has been placed on the Safeguarding Children Board to ensure that all organisations in Suffolk are kept up to date with the requirements of the new legislation and have safe and secure recruitment and employment practices. Watch out for more information items and training opportunities over the next year.



Visit the www.suffolkscb.org.uk website for more information on 'safer recruitment guidance' [Procedures page] or availability of current Safer Employment – Recruitment and Selection training dates [Training page].



Kala Nobbs
Safeguarding Manager
Children and Young People's Services Safeguarding Team

Adult Protection and the Law, New training dates for 2009

Courses take place at Kerrison Conference and Training Centre on the following dates;

2nd April, 23rd June and
29th September: 9.30AM – 5.00PM

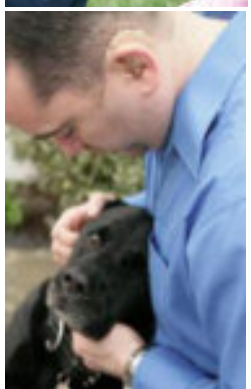
AIMS: For participants to gain knowledge of:

A wide range of legal statutes and their relation and relevance to the protection of vulnerable adults from abuse
Including;

Consent and Capacity
Guardianship
Court of protection
Mental Health Act
Police and Criminal Evidence act
No Secrets

Achieving Best Evidence

For further details visit the Adult Safeguarding website www.suffolkas.org. Course information and application forms can be found on the training page



New Deprivation of Liberty leaflet from the Department of Health

This leaflet provides a brief general introduction to the MCA DOLS and has been specifically designed for care homes and hospitals to help staff understand what the MCA DOLS will mean for them and for their service users.

To download the leaflet in English and a variety of other languages follow this link;

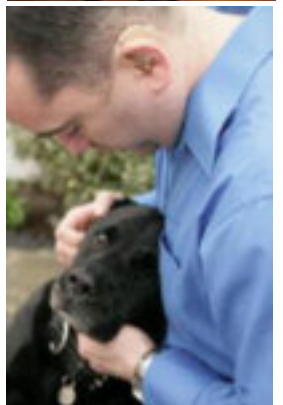
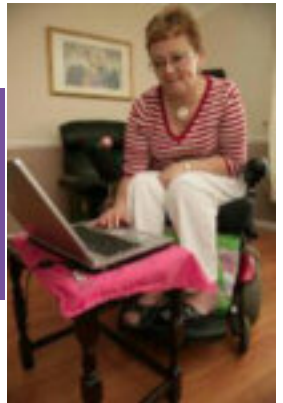
http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_091868

**Profile of: Daphne Savage, Adult Safeguarding Board Member
and CEO of Age Concern Suffolk**
Daphne Savage, daphne.savage@ageconcernsuffolk.org.uk

Daphne comes from a background of management and public relations in a variety of areas such as community work, small business, fundraising and the voluntary sector. The longest section of her career being 18 years 'hands-on' local community work (for a national charity) around the UK, including work with children and families, young adults and older people. This involved periods, each of several years, working in Northern Ireland and then in two inner city areas. She joined Age Concern Suffolk in 1992 and has been its chief executive since 1994.

Age Concern Suffolk is among the largest of the 400 independent charities that form the Age Concern Federation in England, having grown over the last 14 years to a team of more than 1,000 people (420 paid staff and 700 volunteers) committed to improving the lives of older people and their family carers in Suffolk. Daphne says, "Our philosophy is simple, ageing is a normal process and each person remains an individual with different needs and desires and the right to stay in control of their lives. Just because you are getting older does not mean that you should not continue to have a life that is as enjoyable, fulfilling and productive as possible within your personal circumstances." The team offers a range of information and support including Help Centres, Benefits Advice, Independence Advisers, Befriending, Day Care Centres, Home from Hospital Service, support for people with dementia and their family carers and much more. Many services are based on home visits, enabling the organisation to reach the oldest, frailest and poorest older people in Suffolk.

Daphne is the Chair of the Suffolk Older People's Partnership Board and proud of the fact that 50% of its membership is what she calls 'real' older people. The Board recently launched the Older People's Charter, with its key strength being that responding to the Charter will not cost money for any organisation signing up, just basic but important changes in the way older people are treated.





Profile of Daphne Savage continued

Daphne on Adult Safeguarding, in her own words;

Age Concern nationally has been involved in preventing the abuse of older people for many years being a co-founder and funder in 1993 of the charity Action on Elder Abuse, established in response to the growing concern about the lack of information and assistance for those who were being abused. I personally have been involved with adult safeguarding services in Suffolk for about 12 years, starting with a small inter-agency group that met in the old Suffolk Health building to draft policy and procedures. This aim was achieved but there was no money at that time to implement all the training required! With that experience, anyone reading this page will understand how much I value the progress made over the past few years, led by Bill Nichol and his team, and the investment of funding by the county council which enabled it all to begin.



Suffolk Adult Safeguarding has 'powered up' real partnership working among all the agencies involved, always found creative solutions to the problems and frustrations that have arisen, trained 1000's of staff to know what to do if they suspect abuse, and, most importantly, has made a huge difference for those people in our community who have been, are being, or are at risk of being, abused.

Press release, Adult Safeguarding research project



Adult Safeguarding Research

Suffolk County Council Adult and Community Services has commissioned a research project from our partners University Campus Suffolk to look in depth at what our service users are telling us about the way in which we provide safeguarding services across Suffolk.

The lead researcher is Dr Catherine Theodosius, and she may contact either you or your colleagues for assistance. It is important that she is given proper access to our resources in order that she can complete her role efficiently, and if problems arise then Seb Smith, Safeguarding Manager for the North should be contacted in the first instance.



The project will run for one year and will include in-depth interviews with both those who have used the service as well as social workers and other professional partners.

We are all looking forward to seeing the results of this fascinating project, and wish Catherine and all her colleagues at UCS the best of luck over

PROTECTING ADULTS AT RISK OF ABUSE & HOW TO BECOME A DIGNITY CHAMPION

Bill Nicol, Head of Adult Safeguarding.
Bill.Nicol@socserv.suffolkcc.gov.uk www.suffolkas.org



Since the publication of the government's No Secrets in 2000 the protection of vulnerable adults from abuse has gained in national prominence.

A series of public scandals, raised awareness through media campaigns, and a growing interest from academic research has resulted in an increased social awareness of this dreadful problem.

PROTECTING ADULTS AT RISK OF ABUSE & HOW TO BECOME A DIGNITY CHAMPION continued

Within Suffolk much is being done in order to protect the most vulnerable people from experiencing abuse. Organisations have been working together to recognise abuse and have systems in place to respond should abuse occur.

Recently Suffolk County Council's Adult Safeguarding Service was pleased to announce the launch of its E-Learning programme. This means that any organisations which have a responsibility for the care and protection of vulnerable adults can now access free introductory training for all their staff and volunteers.

Other recent initiatives include the production of a booklet for staff and customers. Entitled "Adults are abused too" the booklet provides general information about abuse and its causes. This reinforces the clear message that abuse is never acceptable in any form and it will not be tolerated.

The Board are also pleased to announce that a new version of the Adult Safeguarding Policy and Operational Guidance is now also available. This policy must be adhered to whenever an incident of abuse is suspected, alleged, or witnessed.

The new & revised policy and further information about the e-programme, booklets, newsletters and many other related items of interest can all be found on the safeguarding team's website at www.suffolkas.org Please visit the website to keep abreast of all these and future developments. Contact details for the safeguarding team are available on the site and we would be happy to provide advice and information in relation to keeping our most vulnerable citizens free from abusive practice and behaviour.

Recently the then Minister for Care Services, Ivan Lewis said

"Our challenge is to put dignity at the heart of care services"

The "dignity challenge" states that any service must ensure that people's dignity should be respected at all times. In order to do this then organisations should follow the 10 point plan below:

Have a zero tolerance to abuse

Support people with the same respect you would want for yourself or a member of your family

Treat each person as an individual by offering a personalised service

Enable people to maintain the maximum possible level of independence, choice, and control

Listen and support people to express their needs and wants

Respect people's right to privacy

Ensure people feel able to complain without fear of retribution

Engage with family members and carers as care partners

Assist people to maintain confidence and a positive self esteem

Act to alleviate people's loneliness and isolation

Last year in Suffolk the safeguarding team received over 2,000 referrals. We can all play our part in ensuring that these statements of intent are realised.

You and your staff can become dignity champions today. Go to our safeguarding website for more details or just ring 0207 9724007 or sign up online at www.dignityincare.org.uk

