

Suffolk Adult Safeguarding Newsletter

Edition 8, Spring 2010



www.suffolkas.org



Welcome to this edition of the Suffolk Adult Safeguarding Newsletter

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Articles and comments for this newsletter are always welcomed and any submissions should be sent to Wendy.Winchester@suffolk.gov.uk

CQC Inspection Review and Scrutiny Report.

The CQC improvement plan was presented to the CQC in December 2009 and was signed off by the CQC. The service presented the response to CQC and answered specific questions at the Scrutiny Committee on January 28th. The committee welcomed the proactive approach of the service and supported the improvements achieved.

The action plan focused on the improvement of recording and the development of improved quality assurance systems and performance management. The plan commits the Safeguarding Board to develop an overview of policy and practice and the development of safeguarding policy through all organisations. Improved communication with customers and referrers and the development of further advocacy services are also being implemented.



A Big Thank You to All

The Performance and Quality Sub-group has confirmed a substantial improvement in recording activity on Care First 6 with virtually all recording of safeguarding now completed on the new system.

- Completion of minimum data - UP
- Number of cases completed in 5 days - UP
- Number of referrals with initial strategy discussion in 2 days - UP

We are now able to define outcomes for customers and perpetrators in line with the requirements of our statutory return. Social Workers are describing the new system in a positive way finding it quicker, more relevant and

easier to use. The quality of the recordings has also improved dramatically. Information is routinely collected that evidences why actions have been taken, who is responsible for completing action plans and what the views of the adult at risk were.

This has only been possible through hard work, training and supporting the new system. The training has been a substantial commitment from all involved. Thanks to the Adult Safeguarding Managers, professional advisors, Customer First and all Social Work teams.

Well done and let's now build even further on this Excellent work.

Dignity in Care

Applications for the 2010 Dignity in Care Awards Have closed. A panel has been formed to shortlist and it is hoped to involve customers in the final decision. The awards will be presented at the ACS celebration evening in April. Building on the World Elder Abuse Action Day last June SCC promoted the Dignity in Action Day on February 25th. A wide range of events were organised at various establishments and organisations throughout the County to promote dignified care throughout Suffolk. The Dignity in Action Day had a "Celebrate my Life" theme and the events included a street party, high tea, pampering events and customer consultation. In some locations staff and residents

dressed up in clothing relating to the era they felt was a special time for them. Cakes were baked to old favourite recipes, collages were made and much more. Thanks to all those who have given their time to support this important event.

The service will forward the excellent work completed by older people's residential homes through their dignity booklet and learning disabilities through their staff workshops to support the national Department of Health campaign.

Research and Audit reports confirm safeguarding progress

Two independent external reports have identified key issues relating to customer involvement and recording practice. University College Suffolk have produced a report that analysed safeguarding data and conducted in-depth studies into six cases from a customer perspective. NHS audit services also reviewed recording practice and files

to follow up from the CQC inspection. Both reports confirmed the progress that has been made since the CQC inspection and offered further recommendations to improve services. The full reports can be viewed on the Adult Safeguarding website: www.suffolkas.org

Successful sell-out Adult Safeguarding Conference and DVDs launched

A conference was held in November 2009 and attended by over 200 delegates confirmed the increased awareness and importance of adult safeguarding amongst staff, partners and the voluntary sector. The Adult Safeguarding Conference was opened by Temporary Assistant Chief Constable Stewart Gull. Keynote speeches at the event were delivered by Colin Noble, ACS Portfolio Holder, plus representatives from Action on Elder Abuse and the Alzheimer's Society. The Safeguarding team leads for the County Council in promoting dignity in care and the 2010 Suffolk Dignity in Care Awards were also launched at the conference. Dignified practice correlates with

safeguarding and the awards are a positive communication channel to support best practice. The conference also saw the launch of the services' two DVDs. The first DVD promotes good safeguarding practice and includes the views of a range of customers and partners. The second is an animation that supports learning disability customers to reduce risk and report abuse. Copies of the DVDs will be available shortly to support improved safeguarding practice throughout organisations.

Once ready for distribution the two DVDs will be advertised on the Adult Safeguarding website: www.suffolkas.org

The Independent Safeguarding Authority (ISA) implementation is underway! Danielle Munro



Increased safeguards have now been introduced under the Vetting and Barring Scheme (VBS). The new safeguards will help to make it more difficult for unsuitable people to work with children and vulnerable adults.

As of 12th October 2009, it is a criminal offence for individuals who are barred by the ISA to work, or apply to work, with children or vulnerable adults in a wide range of posts. Employers face criminal sanctions for knowingly employing a barred individual across a wider range of work (regulated activity). The three former barred lists (POCA, POVA and List 99) are being replaced by two new ISA-barred lists. Employers, local authorities, professional regulators and other bodies have a duty to refer to the ISA, information about individuals working with children or vulnerable adults where they consider them to have caused harm or pose a risk of harm.

What this means is that from October 12th 2009 recruiting managers are recommended to request an enhanced CRB disclosure, with a barred list check, for all new staff starting in posts deemed as a "Regulated" or "Controlled" activity. This would include volunteers and apply to those changing posts within the organisation as well as new starters. You can then be sure that your new member of staff is not on the ISA barred lists. Suffolk County Council (SCC) has produced a simple Manager's Guide available on its website to help determine whether staff are in a "Regulated" or "Controlled" activity.

Coming up:

From July 2010, new starters in regulated posts will need to be ISA registered.

From April 2011 (over a period until 2015), all existing staff in regulated and controlled posts will need to be ISA registered.

Have you seen the GET SECURE get ISA Registered pages on the SCC web site, where you can find more information about how SCC is planning to implement the ISA scheme?

GET SECURE
get ISA registered



Provider Review Sub-group Launched.

All providers in Suffolk have been alerted to a new project to refine and improve safeguarding practice and improve communications with providers. A standard template has been sent out to ten providers to complete and has so far been returned by seven. Three initial meetings have been held and the discussions have been informative and beneficial.

A report will be produced for the May Safeguarding Board and followed up by a review meeting for all those involved. Thanks to the Safeguarding Board members who have volunteered for the meetings and to the providers involved for their positive approach to the initiative.

One Big Goodbye and Four Big Hellos!

This is the first newsletter since Bill Nicol moved to Derbyshire. We have heard that he has settled in well and is enjoying the new challenges. Bill was responsible for the development of adult safeguarding practice in Suffolk and vulnerable adults became much safer due to his efforts, professionalism and specialised knowledge. The number of messages of support and thanks demonstrated the high esteem in which Bill was held.

Interim arrangements have been put in place and Paula Youell has accepted the challenge of maintaining safeguarding's profile and further developing practice and communication.

At the same time the new Safeguarding Senior Practitioners have started and are already making a positive impact.

Thanks to Julie, Sue, Suzanne and Val for taking to the role so well and allowing the service to continue to develop.

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Training

SAFEGUARDING TRAINING SEPTEMBER 2009 TO JANUARY 2010

The Adult Safeguarding courses shown on the chart over the page have been run since September.

West Suffolk College have been contracted to deliver carers and provider managers training. Establishments that can guarantee 10 participants will be offered the opportunity to host training.

The course time will also be reduced to 2 hours from the normal 3 if participants can read either the workbook or the e-learning package in advance. A full councillor training programme will start at the end of February. Building on the information provided through the councillor induction programme the training will support the Councillor's governance and community leadership/advocate roles.

Course and target audience	Number of courses	SCC Staff	PVI Staff	Total	Anticipated number by April 2010
1/2 day course for carers, all sectors	26	126	218	344	450
1 day course for managers, all sectors	8	18	82	100	150
“ Telephone “ safeguarding CSD and Business Support	6	37	0	37	80
Safeguarding Protocol and CareFirst6 recording, Access and partnership staff	14	c200	0	c200	400
Safeguarding for AMHPs	3	37	0	37	37
Safeguarding and the Law	4	79		79	79
Totals	57	497	300	797	1236

Government Response to “No Secrets”

The government has responded to the No Secrets review with a statement that proposes making Adult Safeguarding Boards a statutory requirement.

The full response can be found at:
http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Consultations/Responsestoconsultations/DH_102764

Channel – A partnership Approach to Support Individuals Vulnerable to Recruitment by Violent Extremists Julie Baxter

Julie.Baxter@suffolk.gov.uk

Julie and colleagues from the Adult Safeguarding Team attended a half-day presentation held at Martlesham Police Headquarters on the Channel Project.

The Channel Project is a government led strategy designed to develop support for those who may be vulnerable to being drawn into extremism,

a key strand of the Government’s Prevention Strategy. This initiative applies to all areas of the country which requires the local authorities to design an action plan in some areas, this is known as Channel.

The speakers were informative and discussed successful partnership working with the aim of providing support for the most vulnerable in our society. (continued over the page...)

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The support is intended for those most at risk of being drawn into extremism, by diverting them away at an early stage.

There were speakers from Birmingham and Luton, examples were provided one such example was of where an individual with a learning disability (Asperger's Syndrome) who was detained under Section 2 of the MHA for numerous suicide attempts. The Individual spoke about terrorism and the Twin Towers 11 September.

Another example was of an 11-year old who wrote to Osama Bin Laden inviting him to the school. Referrals can be received from professional organisations or members of the public.

The above concerns were passed through the referral process which is police led. Screening and risk assessments are completed and information passed to more senior members of staff. The level of referrals currently received are about five to six a month. These appear predominantly to be teenagers mid to late teens with a learning disability.

There is a list of providers who provides intervention, The Channel project will provide advice to MAPPA one will complement the other.

Channel is not intended for the purpose of prosecution, but about communities working together to offer support at an early stage. It was clear in this presentation Violent Extremism is a threat to everybody which is why it is important for organisations to work together to protect those vulnerable in our society.

Julie Baxter

Vulnerable Adults and Forced Marriage By Bal Howard bal.howard@suffolk.police.pnn.police.uk

Definition of an Arranged & Forced Marriage

There is a clear definition between an arranged and a forced marriage. However, the distinction can be clouded by the use of subtle pressures or if a vulnerable adult is capable of making such a decision.

"In arranged marriages, the families of both spouses take a leading role in arranging the marriage but the choice whether or not to accept the arrangement remains with the prospective spouses".

"A forced marriage is a marriage conducted without the valid consent of one or both parties or where duress is a factor".
Duress can include physical, psychological, financial, sexual or emotional pressures. Vulnerable adults may also be forced into marriage for the same reasons that anyone is forced into marriage. However, there are reasons, which are more specific to these cases:

- Some vulnerable adults with mental health problems, learning disabilities and/or physical disabilities may not be able to give consent. They may be coerced into marriage or may not fully understand the decision to marry.
- Marriage can be seen as a means of providing a carer and continuing support. Parents may be

primary carers, and as they get older less able to provide support, they may view marriage as a means of ensuring continuing care for their son or daughter.

- A forced marriage is also a way of improving the chances of getting a visa to the UK. A person with learning disabilities may be seen as easier to deceive or coerce into such a marriage and into them acting as a visa sponsor.
- Families may believe that marriage will "cure" learning disabilities and / or allow a person with learning disabilities to lead a "normal" life.

Most cases of forced marriage involve a British citizen being sent abroad (a vulnerable person may disclose that they are going overseas on a "family holiday" and have concerns about this) or a partner coming from overseas, some take place in the UK with no overseas element. The majority of the cases in the UK involve South Asian families but can also involve families from Middle East, Europe and Africa.

What are the consequences of a forced marriage to a vulnerable adult?

- Sexual assault and rape
The expectation that marriage will be consummated and result in children means that vulnerable adults who are forced into marriage may be subjected to sexual assault and rape. (Continued over the page)

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They may be ill-equipped to handle unwanted sexual advances, not understand sex, or that they have a choice, be unaware of contraception or that children can be a consequence of sex.

- Domestic violence and abuse – families may keep from the potential spouse that a person has disabilities because of the stigma some attach to this. They may fear that openness will lead to a wedding being cancelled. Also, a spouse may have little understanding of disabilities and how they might support the person they have married. This may result in feelings of resentment and confusion that could lead to domestic violence and abuse.
- A double forced marriage – if a spouse has not been informed that their partner has disabilities, it is questionable whether they have given informed consent to the marriage. Questions about informed consent also arise if the spouse is unaware that they are being married into the role of full-time carer. The spouse may also be vulnerable to abuse from the family of the person with disabilities or the vulnerable individual themselves.
- Abandonment – A spouse may abandon a person with disabilities who is forced into marriage. This can create feelings of rejection, stigmatise the person and possibly lead to the loss of a primary carer.
This abandonment could be because (a) the spouse was unaware of all of the circumstances of the marriage and / or (b) they simply used the marriage to facilitate an improvement in their immigration status.

One Chance Rule

There may only be one opportunity to help a vulnerable person. All practitioners need to be aware of their responsibilities and obligations when they come across forced marriage. Only rarely will someone who fears they may be forced to marry disclose – through fear of bringing “shame” or “dishonour” to their family and the consequences that may follow. It is important to be alert to signs of distress and indications such as self harm, absence from education or employment or unreasonable restrictions at home.

Case Studies

1. One recent case, which went to the Court of Appeal, involved a young British Asian man with autism and learning difficulties (known as IC), who was married by phone to a young woman who was to be brought to England from

Bangladesh. The judges dismissed the appeal of the young man’s father who had argued that he was the legal guardian and could consent to the marriage on his son’s behalf. Lord Justice Thorpe said that introducing IC to a wife whom he had never met would be “likely to destroy his equilibrium or destabilise his emotional state”. The judge continued that if the wife consummated the marriage, she would be “guilty of the crime of rape” and that the marriage was “potentially if not actually abusive”. The family are now considering appealing to the House of Lords.

2. “R” is a young woman with mental health needs and learning difficulties. She lives at home with her mother. Over a year ago “R”’s mother came under pressure to arrange a marriage to a young man who had come over from India. He wanted to marry a British citizen so he could live in Britain. “R”’s mother persuaded her to marry the young man. As soon as they were married, her husband started to steal her benefit money and post it back home. He also assaulted her on a regular basis and she asked her mother to help her. “R”’s family told her to put up with the abuse. “R” then had a miscarriage. Her husband became more aggressive. Then her husband obtained a visa to stay in Britain and wanted to divorce her. “R” has now moved back in with her mother.
3. A local authority sought leave to prevent a 17-year old deaf woman with learning difficulties from being sent to Pakistan to marry. The young woman communicates through British Sign Language, which her parents do not understand. The court emphasised that the young woman had a clear capacity to marry but did not want to move to Pakistan to be married and then to live. The court made an order requiring that the daughter be properly informed, in a manner that she could understand, about any future marriage plans.

The ACPO definition of Honour Based Violence is: “Honour based violence is a crime or incident, which has or may have been committed to protect or defend the honour of the family and/or community”

The use of the term “Honour” or “Izzat” is a word that describes the concept of a family’s prestige and reputation within its community.

A person’s entire life can be governed by a code of behaviour or perceived behaviour based on the need to maintain the “Izzat” of the family at all times.

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HBV is dominating, aggressive and an extreme form of behaviour and control used by one or several members of the family, extended family and community against an individual, whether it is physical, emotional, sexual or financial.

The vulnerable adult may not be aware or recognise that they are living with honour-based violence as they feel they have a duty to protect the "Izzat" of the family, which is preventing them from seeking advice and help.

If the vulnerable adult discloses information about honour-based violence or forced marriage to an agency, there would be growing concerns for safety of the person if the information was leaked back to the family. On receipt of information or mere suspicion that agencies are involved, the family can become hostile and abusive, which could lead to threats of violence, assault, imprisonment and worst case murder, as the individual would have perceived to have brought "shame" and "dishonoured" the family and community by voicing the allegations.

Where to go for help

In an emergency or if it is a police or ambulance matter, please phone 999.

Any concerns about forced marriage of a vulnerable adult should be raised as a safeguarding issue.

Further information

HM Government have published Multi-Agency Practice Guidelines for handling cases of forced marriage (Section 10 – Guidelines for Adult Social Care).

<http://www.fco.gov.uk/resources/ur/pdf/FM-Guidelines>

Suffolk County Council - Social Care Services
During office hours, please call:
Customer First - 0808 800 4005
(Freephone from landlines and some mobiles)

Suffolk Adult Safeguarding website
www.suffolkas.org

Suffolk Safeguarding Children Board website
<http://www.onesuffolk.co.uk/scb/>

Suffolk Domestic Violence Abuse Team
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www.breakthepattern.org.uk

Karma Nirvana
Honour Network Helpline Number
0800 5999 247
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7 days per week
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