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Welcome to our July 2024 Newsletter

In this newsletter we bring together information which we hope you will find useful and we highlight how the Partnership continues to communicate and keep in touch with all our agencies and provide guidance to support you in your role working with children and adults. In this edition, we bring you information about the DSP Self-Neglect and Hoarding conference held on 2nd July. And the new guidance documents launched this month. There is also information about Partnership work, safeguarding updates and new training dates.

Training dates are open for booking on
Me Learning.

All dates for children and adult safeguarding training until December 2024 are listed in the courses section of your Me Learning account.



In the Spotlight..... Self-Neglect and Hoarding Conference July 2024

On July 2nd, the Darlington Safeguarding Partnership hosted its first conference which focussed on self-neglect and hoarding. This was in response to work carried out after several learning reviews in Darlington that involved aspects of self-neglect.

The conference was formally opened by Ann Baxter, DSP Independent Chair/Scrutineer and featured a range of speakers including Professor Michael Preston-Shoot, Deborah Barnett, Professor Nick Neave, Dr Paul Walker, Sarah Litt – Fire Service and Barbara Beadle and Rachel Watt, Adult Social Care. Sessions included a focus on evidence-based research from Safeguarding Adult Reviews across the country, a focus on practice and trauma-informed practice in social working, hoarding disorder and health conditions and indicators linked to self-neglect and hoarding.

We welcomed over 130 delegates to the conference from a wide range of partner agencies which included; adult social care, Environmental Health, NHS providers, Childrens Services, Education, police, fire service, provider settings and voluntary/charity organisations covering a range of different roles. The conference supported multi-agency discussions and collaboration allowing delegates valuable insight into each other's work and enabled good links to be made.

Feedback from the conference has been extremely positive with many delegates having gained a significant amount of knowledge and insight into self-neglect and hoarding and ways to respond when supporting adults. Presentations shared at the conference will be available to view on the DSP website soon.





What is Self-Neglect?

There is no standard definition of self-neglect, but the Care Act 2014 Statutory Guidance provides the following definition:

“Self-neglect covers a wide range of behaviour neglecting to care for one’s personal hygiene, health or surroundings and includes behaviour such as hoarding”

Self-neglect is a general term used to describe how an adult who has care and support needs may put their health, safety and/or well-being at risk.

The Social Care Institute for Excellence (SCIE) describes self-neglect as:

- Lack of self-care to an extent that it threatens personal health and safety
- Neglecting to care for one’s personal hygiene, health or surroundings
- Inability to avoid harm as a result of self-neglect
- Failure to seek help or access services to meet health and social care needs
- Inability or unwillingness to manage one’s personal affairs

Self-neglect is a continuum of behaviours ranging from moderate to severe. It may be unintentional, such as not eating due to memory issues. Where self-neglect gets out of control, including an inability to avoid or control self-harm, it can lead to a high risk of death or serious harm to the adult involved and to others’ health and safety.

Self-neglect can occur as a result of mental health issues, personality disorders, substance abuse, dementia, advancing age, social isolation, and cognitive impairment (e.g. learning disability or brain injury), religious or cultural beliefs or through personal choice. It can be triggered by trauma and significant life events. It can also be a personal choice. It is an issue that can affect people from all backgrounds.

Partnership response to Learning

Through the Learning Lessons Reviews undertaken by the Partnership it was apparent that self-neglect and hoarding is a complex and challenging area and not always easily identified by practitioners and as a result established a self-neglect task and finish group to lead on the development of guidance, resources and tools to support practitioners working with individuals who experience self-neglect and hoarding and to help towards reducing the risk; and wherever possible prevent the serious injury or death of an adult at risk.

The self-neglect practice guidance has been revised and now includes information on:

- key characteristics of self-neglect and hoarding
- mental capacity guidance to help improve confidence in apply MCA into practice
- Examples of positive, flexible and creative approaches to support practitioners when refusal/resistance to support/service offer
- clutter scale tool
- issue of consent and choice
- Making Safeguarding Personal

The establishment of a Risk Enablement Forum to manage those complex and high risk cases including details of how to refer.

Provision of multi-agency Risk Assessment Tool and self-neglect pathway to aid practitioners.

The revised practice guidance and new resources for self-neglect have been published on the DSP website and can be found here:



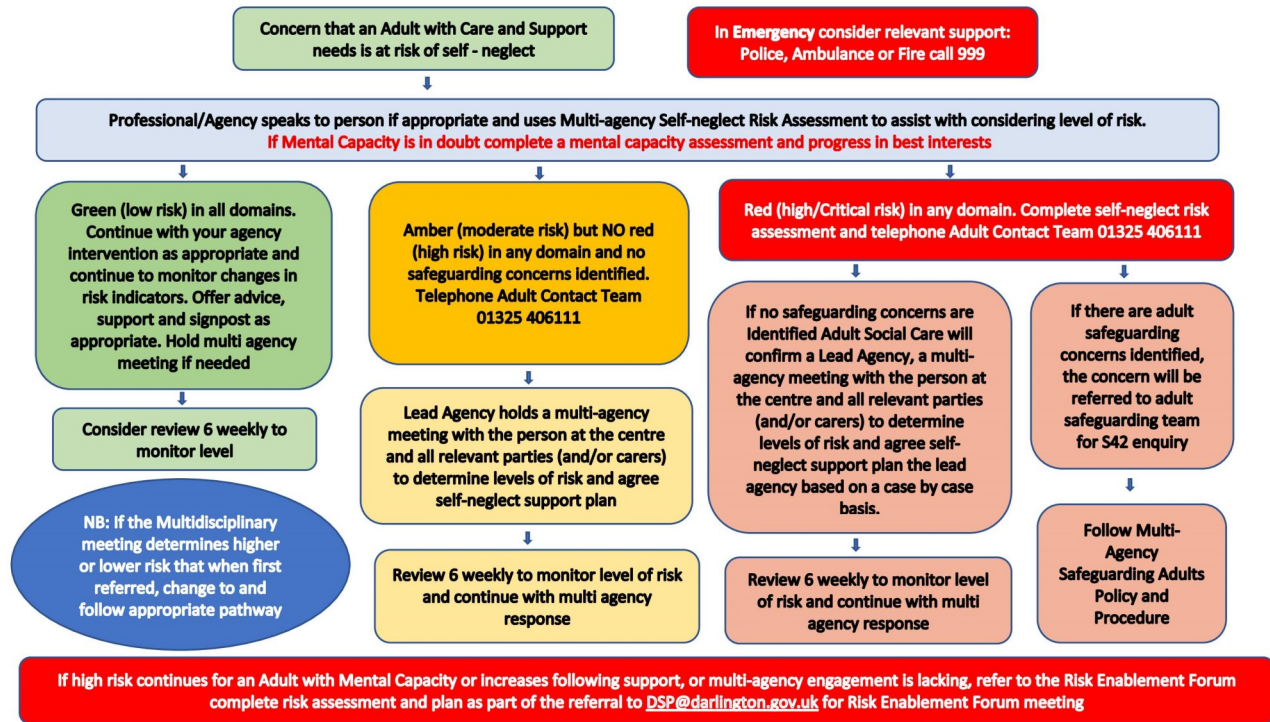
<https://www.darlington-safeguarding-partnership.co.uk/professionals/working-with-adults/new-self-neglect-and-hoarding-guidance-and-resources/>

Self-Neglect Process and Pathway Flowchart

This document was classified as: OFFICIAL



Self – Neglect Pathway Flowchart



Self Neglect Training

You can now access bespoke training /e-learning modules based on learning from the Learning Lessons Reviews which includes:

- Adult Self Neglect Awareness
- Mental Capacity Act Awareness
- Information Sharing Podcast
- Professional Challenge Youtube video

All available through DSP website [training pages](#)

A [Self-Neglect Briefing](#) on findings from DSP Learning Lesson Review

OUR PLEDGE

To be confident in having open and honest conversations with each other as multi-agency partners in order to do the very best we can for children, adults and their families in Darlington.

Multi-agency working is vital to maintain a focus on children and vulnerable adults while also keeping them at the heart of all decisions.

Our Pledge is an opportunity to:

- Seek out professional conversations with each other at the earliest opportunity
- Have a shared understanding of the strengths and risks within a family
- Actively listen to each other and share important information
- Respect each other's expertise
- Be open and empathetic to the professional views of others
- Be professionally curious and evidence what we say
- Use common language that everyone understands



Concerned about a child?

Contact the Children's Initial
Advice Team
Professionals on **01325 406252**
Public on **01325 406222**

Concerned about an adult?

Contact the Adult
Contact Team
on **01325 406111**



Statutory Safeguarding Partners

Ann Baxter, Independent Chair/Scrutineer

James Stroyan, Group Director of People

Nicola Lawrence, Detective Chief Superintendent

Chris Piercy, Director of Nursing and Quality