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Welcome to our June 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 the Independent Inquiry into Child Sex Abuse and the DSP Self-Neglect and Hoarding conference. There is also information about Partnership work, important 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..... Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse

Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse (IICSA): a summary briefing on the IICSA recommendation for mandatory reporting of child sexual abuse:

Across seven years of investigation, the Inquiry heard the important testimonies and lived experience of over 7,300 victims and survivors, as well as considering the government's 2016 consultation on mandatory reporting of abuse and neglect. The evidence the Inquiry considered, which ranged from historical to contemporary accounts, demonstrated that when abuse was disclosed individuals and institutions often thought children were lying. In some cases, reputational concerns were prioritised over the safety of children, despite allegations or actual knowledge of sexually abusive behaviour.

After considering the issue across several of its investigations, the **Inquiry recommended in its final report to government that a mandatory reporting regime should be established in respect of child sexual abuse cases.** The duty proposed by the Inquiry would apply where a victim or an abuser discloses that a child is being sexually abused, as well as in cases where child sexual abuse is witnessed, or signs are observed that indicate that a child has been sexually abused. **It would be a criminal offence to fail to report a disclosure or witnessed incident of child sexual abuse.** The scope of the Inquiry's recommendation is broad, applying to anyone undertaking regulated activity with children, persons in positions of trust and police officers. The Inquiry's final report also sets out that specific protections should be in place for those under the duty when reports are made in good faith.

The Government will set out clear guidance (statutory or non-statutory) on the operation of the duty and will work with regulators and professional standards-setting bodies to ensure the new duty is clearly communicated ahead of implementation. The suggestion to include the implications of the duty for relationships, health and sex education (RHSE) curriculum requirements will be a question for the Department for Education to consider.

The 2023/24 Criminal Justice Bill, which contained the proposals for a mandatory reporting duty in England, did not complete its passage through Parliament and so did not become an Act prior to parliament being prorogued following the announcement of the General Election. Following the General Election, the new government is expected to use the King's Speech on 17 July 2024 to lay out its agenda for the next parliamentary session.

For further information see [Mandatory reporting of child sexual abuse in England | NSPCC Learning](#)

Self-Neglect and Hoarding Conference

Tuesday 2nd July 2024 9:15am–4:30pm

The Darlington Arena

Darlington Safeguarding Partnership is hosting a free in-person conference on adult self-neglect and hoarding which is open to all multi-agency colleagues working across Darlington. Whilst the focus of the conference is on adult self-neglect, the learning around this issue may also be of interest to those practitioners working with children, young people and families.

We welcome a range of speakers who will deliver on the different aspects of self-neglect and hoarding which include Professor Michael Preston-Shoot, Deborah Barnett, Professor Nick Neave, Dr Paul Walker and others and you will have opportunity to be involved in workshop activities.

TO REQUEST YOUR PLACE AT THE CONFERENCE, BOOK ONLINE ON YOUR ME LEARNING ACCOUNT. IF YOU DO NOT HAVE A ME LEARNING ACCOUNT, REGISTER [HERE](#).



Conference Learning Aims

- To raise awareness and understanding of self-neglect and hoarding for multi-agency practitioners across Darlington
- To consider the Mental Capacity Act and other relevant legislation for assessment and decision making
- To understand the lived experiences of those who have first-hand knowledge of self-neglect
- To gain knowledge around working with those individuals who are resistant to support and who may have additional complex needs or misuse substances
- To explore the resources and best practice guidance available for use across Darlington and how to use these collaboratively
- To use learning from DSP Safeguarding Adult Reviews to inform practice in relation to self-neglect

The Care Act — Ten Years On

**THE CARE ACT 2014
TEN YEARS ON FROM
ROYAL ASSENT**

#FutureofASC

A decade on since the Care Act received Royal Assent, the LGA's new publication - [Care Act: 10 years on from Royal Assent](#) - reflects on what has been achieved and the challenges facing the sector. We hear from a range of senior and expert colleagues including the four Ministers from the time, Chief Executive of the NHS Confederation, Matthew Taylor, Research Director at IPSOS Mori, Dr Margaret Blake and Chief Executive of Barnsley Council, Sarah Norman.

We also hear from people who draw on social care as well as the care workforce, drawing on their views, the report sets out recommendations for change. With the General Election on the horizon, we believe now is a good time for the LGA, councils and the wider sector to reflect on the serious challenges facing adult social care and how – collectively – we can tackle them, so that everyone who draws on care and support is able to live the life they want to lead.

This report summarises the response to an online survey completed by 49 lead members (response rate of 32 per cent) for adult social care at English single-tier and county councils in March 2024. The survey captured their insights on the impact of the 2014 Care Act a decade after receiving royal assent, their assessment of the current state of the adult social care sector, and their thoughts on what the sector's priorities for the future should be.

Safeguarding Children in Elective Education

The Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel has published a briefing paper about [safeguarding children in elective home education](#). This is the third in their series of 'briefing' publications, which aim to share learning in a faster and more informal way than a national 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

Dave Ashton, Detective Chief Superintendent

Chris Piercy, Director of Nursing and Quality