



Safeguarding Adults Forum December 2025

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Safeguarding Adults Lead
Partners in Care





The views expressed by the presenters are their own and not necessarily those of partner agencies.



Safeguarding Adults Forum Dates 2026/2027



Online – Zoom (9:30am - 12:30pm)

- 18th March (Wednesday) 2026
- 24th June (Wednesday) 2026
- 10th September (Thursday) 2026
- 9th December (Wednesday) 2026
- 9th March (Tuesday) 2027

<https://www.partnersincare.org.uk/networking-events/meetings-forums-events/networking-meeting-for-trainers>



Agenda

Care Quality Commission - Safeguarding : a Regulator's Perspective -

Marie Martin (Senior Specialist – Safeguarding and Closed Cultures Team, Care Quality Commission)

Making Bravery Redundant - Karen Littleford (Safeguarding Adults Lead, Partners in Care)

SARS and DHR update – Lisa Gardner (Development Officer, Business Unit, Shropshire Safeguarding Community Partnership)

'Safeguarding Adults in Shropshire' – Hannah Williams, Team Manager DoLS and Adult Safeguarding, Shropshire Council)

Resources and Webinars - Karen Littleford (Safeguarding Adults Lead, Partners in Care)

WHAT WE DO IN CQC

- We register care providers.
- We monitor, inspect and rate services.
- We take action to protect people who use services.
- We speak with our independent voice, publishing our views on major quality issues in health and social care.



WHAT IS CQC'S ROLE IN SAFEGUARDING?



Ensure providers of regulated health and social care services provide safe, good quality care and treatment that does not expose people to the risk of abuse, improper treatment and neglect, and protects people from harm.

OUR ROLE IF WE SUSPECT ABUSE

We will :

- make a safeguarding referral to the local authority
- respond to identified concerns
- work with partner agencies.



We don't:

- have a statutory duty to investigate safeguarding concerns
- routinely attend multi-agency meetings.



What are CQC's role & responsibilities around MCA & DoLS?

CQC's role in relation to the MCA and DoLS is to:

- Check how registered health and care services apply the MCA and make sure **they** comply with the requirements of the Health and Social Care Act 2008 (Regulated Activities) Regulations 2014, Mental Capacity Act (2005), Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards and the Codes of Practice
- Monitor the use of DoLS in all care homes and hospitals
- Receive notifications from providers about the outcomes from DoLS applications
- Check on the use of DoLS by visiting the places where they are used
- Encourage improvement and take regulatory action where necessary.



WHAT WE EXPECT FROM SERVICES IN RELATION TO SAFEGUARDING

Regulation 13 –

safeguarding service users from abuse and improper treatment.

“Systems and processes must be established and operated effectively to prevent abuse of service users”.

Quality statement:

“We work with people to understand what being safe means to them as well as with our partners on the best way to achieve this. We concentrate on improving people’s lives while protecting their right to live in safety, free from bullying, harassment, abuse, discrimination, avoidable harm and neglect. We make sure we share concerns quickly and appropriately.”

FUNDAMENTAL STANDARDS/ REGULATIONS

Person centred care (Regulation 9)	Dignity and respect (Regulation 10)	Need for consent (Regulation 11)	Safe care and treatment (Regulation 12)
Safeguarding from abuse (Regulation 13)	Nutrition and hydration (Regulation 14)	Premises and equipment (Regulation 15)	Complaints (Regulation 16)
Good governance (Regulation 17)	Staffing (Regulation 18)	Fit and proper persons (Regulation 19)	Duty of candour (Regulation 20)

SAFEGUARDING FROM ABUSE (REG 13)



Service users must be protected from abuse and improper treatment in accordance with this regulation.

To meet the requirements of this regulation, providers must have

- zero tolerance approach to abuse, unlawful discrimination and restraint
- robust procedures and processes to prevent people using the service from being abused by staff or other people when using the service
- where abuse is suspected, or occurs, is discovered, the provider must take appropriate action without delay.

DIGNITY AND RESPECT (REG 10)



Service users must be treated with dignity and respect:

Including

- ensuring the privacy of the service user;
- supporting the autonomy, independence and involvement in the community of the service user;
- having due regard to any relevant protected characteristics of the service user.

WHAT DO WE EXPECT TO SEE FROM PROVIDERS...?



“CQC expects registered providers to have an open culture where workers feel able to report concerns and feel supported in doing that, without fear of recrimination. We also expect that these concerns are thoroughly investigated at an early stage and any issues resolved.”

WHAT DO WE EXPECT TO SEE FROM PROVIDERS...?



- Strong understanding of safeguarding & how to take appropriate action.
- People supported to understand safeguarding, what being safe means to them, & how to raise concerns when they don't feel safe or have concerns about the safety of others.
- Effective systems, processes and practices to make sure people are protected.
- Commitment to immediate action to keep people safe from abuse and neglect. This includes working with partners in a collaborative way.

WHAT DO WE LOOK FOR IN PROVIDERS...?



- People are supported when they feel unsafe or experience abuse or neglect
- Where applicable, a clear understanding of the Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards (DoLS)
- Safeguarding systems, processes and practices mean people's human rights are upheld & they are protected from discrimination
- People are supported to understand their rights
- Good partnership working

WHAT DO WE LOOK FOR IN PROVIDERS? CONTINUED

- Effective training
- Safeguarding on the agenda
- Staff knowledge and understanding
- Good governance – Audits/ Guidance/ policy
- Investigations and lessons learnt and embedded
- Legally compliant
- Least restrictive practice – no blanket restrictions
- Best practice
- Considering wider risks to others using the service
- Transparency.



WHAT DO WE LOOK FOR IN PROVIDERS – STATUTORY NOTIFICATIONS

1. ... the registered person must notify the Commission without delay of the incidents specified in paragraph (2) which occur **whilst services are being provided in the carrying on of a regulated activity, or as a consequence of the carrying on of a regulated activity.**
2. (e) any abuse or allegation of abuse in relation to a service user;



LOOKING FOR GOOD, AND FINDING IT!!!

“...exceptionally person-centred service, ... individual needs of each person were the central focus of their care. The service really understood what each person needed to thrive. “Leaders... have fostered a culture of openness, empathy and inclusion, ensuring people and their families are consistently involved in care decisions. Leaders prioritised people, placing them at the centre of their care. People ... felt listened to and respected, and this was clear in the compassionate, thoughtful care they received.”

Home care agency rated outstanding in caring...

“Staff demonstrated a high level of skill in recognising when people felt unsafe. They were proactive in challenging unsafe practices and were well-trained in safeguarding policies”

“People told us they felt valued, respected, and genuinely cared for.”

Care home rated outstanding in caring, good in safe.

Leaders and all staff had completed safeguarding training relevant to their role. Records showed they reported safeguarding incidents to relevant agencies and used these to learn lessons when things went wrong. People were safeguarded well....

The home had a positive safety culture based on openness and honesty. They encouraged feedback, incidents were properly investigated, and the home apologised when things went wrong.

Care home rated outstanding, good in safe.

FINDING OUTSTANDING!!!

The service protected people from the risk of avoidable harm and abuse by working closely with them and their relatives to identify risks and clearly add them into care plans. Staff also identified any risks people faced in their home environment and addressed them.

Home care agency rated outstanding, in safe!

The home's approach to safeguarding is robust and distinctive. The registered manager had a clear passion for improving the service and had used shortfalls found at the previous inspection to drive improvements.

Care home rated outstanding in safe!

WHAT DO OUR REGISTRATION COLLEAGUES LOOK FOR IN PROVIDERS?

- Interview & assess understanding
- Test systems & processes
- Carry out site visits
- Tailored questions
- Gatekeepers.



PROVIDER RESPONSIBILITIES RE: MCA & DOLS

- Knowledge and understanding
- Following the principles of the Act
 - Involving the person as much as possible
 - Considering less restrictive alternatives
- Time and decision specific decisions
- Evidence of decision-making process
- Advance care planning (obtain copies of LPA or advance decision)
- Consideration of capacity when obtaining consent
- Good governance – policies, procedures, audits.



PROVIDER RESPONSIBILITIES RE: MCA & DOLS. CONTINUED

- Recognising a deprivation of liberty and applying for an authorisation
- Considering less restrictive alternatives
- Knowledge and understanding
- Good application of the MCA and it's principles
- Applying for an authorisation
- Keeping in touch with the supervisory body (LA)
- Continual monitoring of and adapting care
- Safeguards while awaiting an assessment
- Adhering to conditions
- Providing info and support re rights
- Notifying CQC of the outcome of an application to deprive someone of their liberty..



SAFEGUARDING CULTURE



In a good safeguarding culture

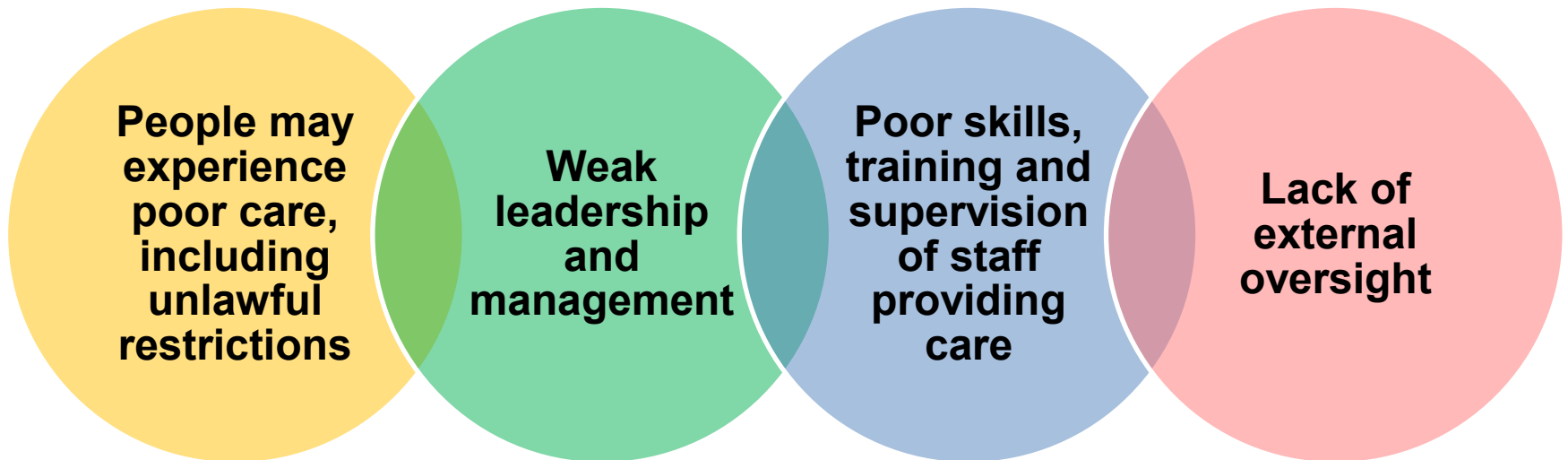
- Safeguarding is key to every aspect of the service.
- It can be found at the heart of values and ethos.
- It is reflected in environments and practices.

Effective safeguarding culture does not mean simply having policies in place!



CLOSED CULTURES

A poor culture that can lead to harm, including human rights breaches such as abuse. In these services, people are more likely to be at risk of deliberate or unintentional harm.



WHY DOES SPEAKING UP MATTER WITHIN REGULATION?

THE MID STAFFORDSHIRE
NHS FOUNDATION TRUST
PUBLIC INQUIRY

Chaired by Robert Francis QC



Cygnets Whorlton Hall

Quality Report

Cygnets Whorlton Hall
Whorlton Village
Barnard Castle
County Durham
DL16 9AG
NHS NUMBER 0376
Website: www.cygnetnhs.uk

Date of inspection: 11 to 17 May 2017
Date of publication: 24/05/2017

This report describes our judgement of the quality of care at this location, based on a combination of what we found when we inspected and a review of all information available to CQC, including information given to us by patients, the public and other organisations.

Ratings

Overall rating for this location	Insufficient
Are services safe?	Insufficient
Are services effective?	Insufficient
Are services caring?	Not sufficient evidence for a rating
Are services responsive?	Not sufficient evidence for a rating
Are services well-led?	Insufficient

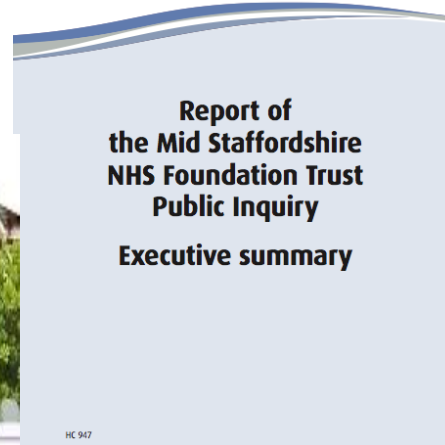
Mental Health Act responsibilities and Mental Capacity Act and Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards

We include our assessment of the previous compliance with the Mental Capacity Act and, where relevant, Mental Health Act in our overall inspection of the service.

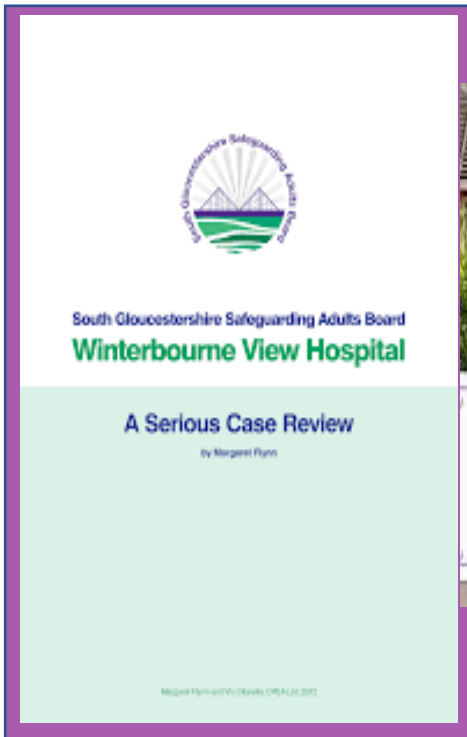
We do not give a rating for Mental Capacity Act or Mental Health Act, however we do use our findings to determine the overall ratings for services.

Further information about the legal relation to the Mental Capacity Act and Mental Health Act can be found later in this report.

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HC 947



HOW DO WE LOOK AT SAFEGUARDING CULTURE?

- Safeguarding policy
- Systems and procedures
- Roles and responsibilities
- A positive culture
- Management and supervision
- Reflective supervision



Partners in Care can offer a range training to address some of the areas in the CQC presentation.



- Promoting Dignity, Privacy and Respect in Adult Social Care
- Safeguarding Adults - your role as safeguarding lead
- Safeguarding Adults - Your Role as Safeguarding Lead a Refresher
- Adult Safeguarding - Developing a Positive Safeguarding Culture
- Safeguarding Adults Awareness
- Bespoke safeguarding training can be delivered
- Professional Boundaries in Social Care & Health Settings
- Understanding the Mental Capacity Act within Social Care
- Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards
- MCA and DoLS Webinars (previous webinars on our YouTube channel)
- Bespoke MCA training is available

<https://www.partnersincare.org.uk/training-courses>



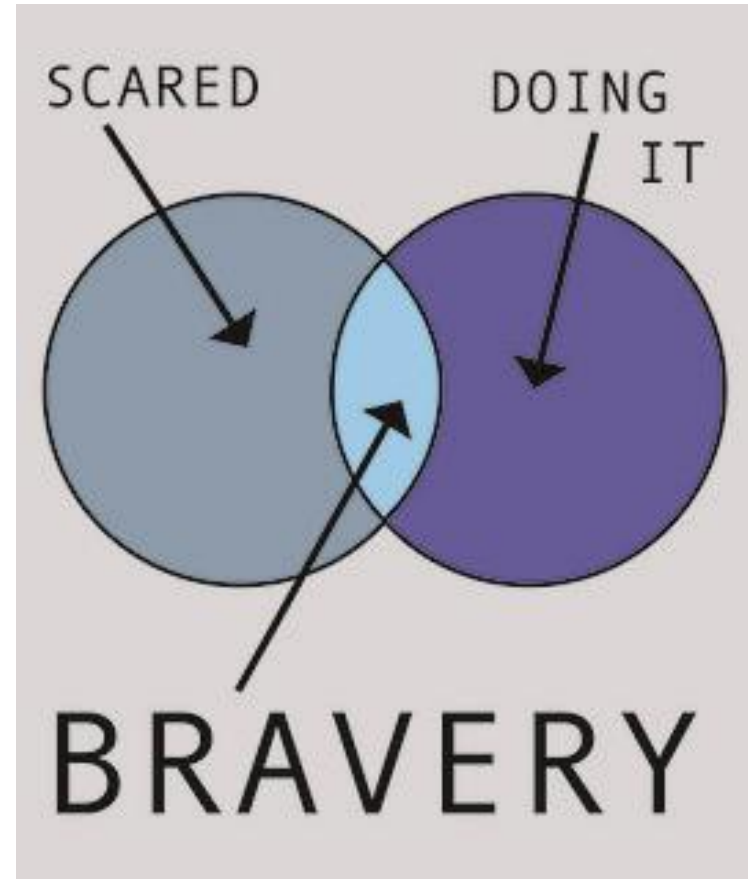
'Making Bravery Redundant'

Karen Littleford,
Safeguarding Adults Lead,
Partners in Care

Bravery

A question -

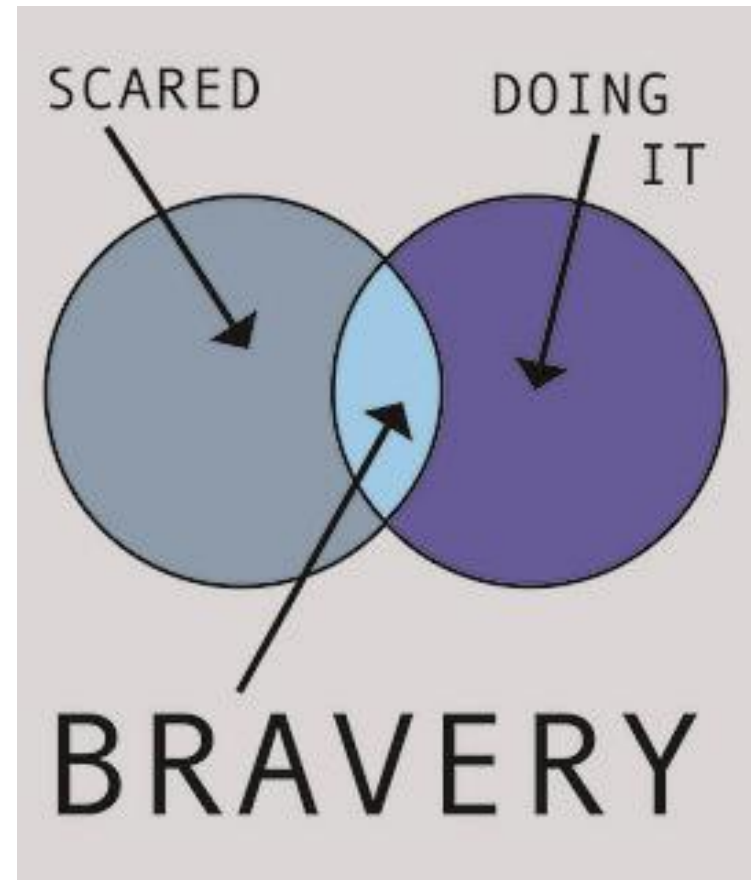
What does it mean
to be 'brave'?



Bravery

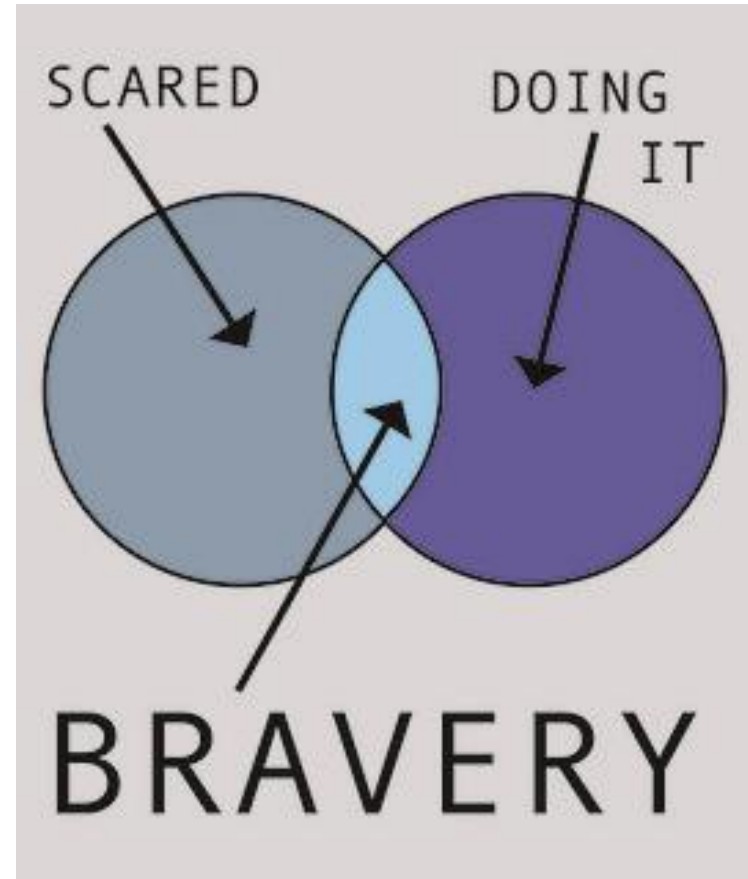
The quality or state of having or showing mental or moral strength to face danger, fear, or difficulty

Brave means Risk



Bravery

Do members of your workforce need to be 'brave' to speak up? What do you think?

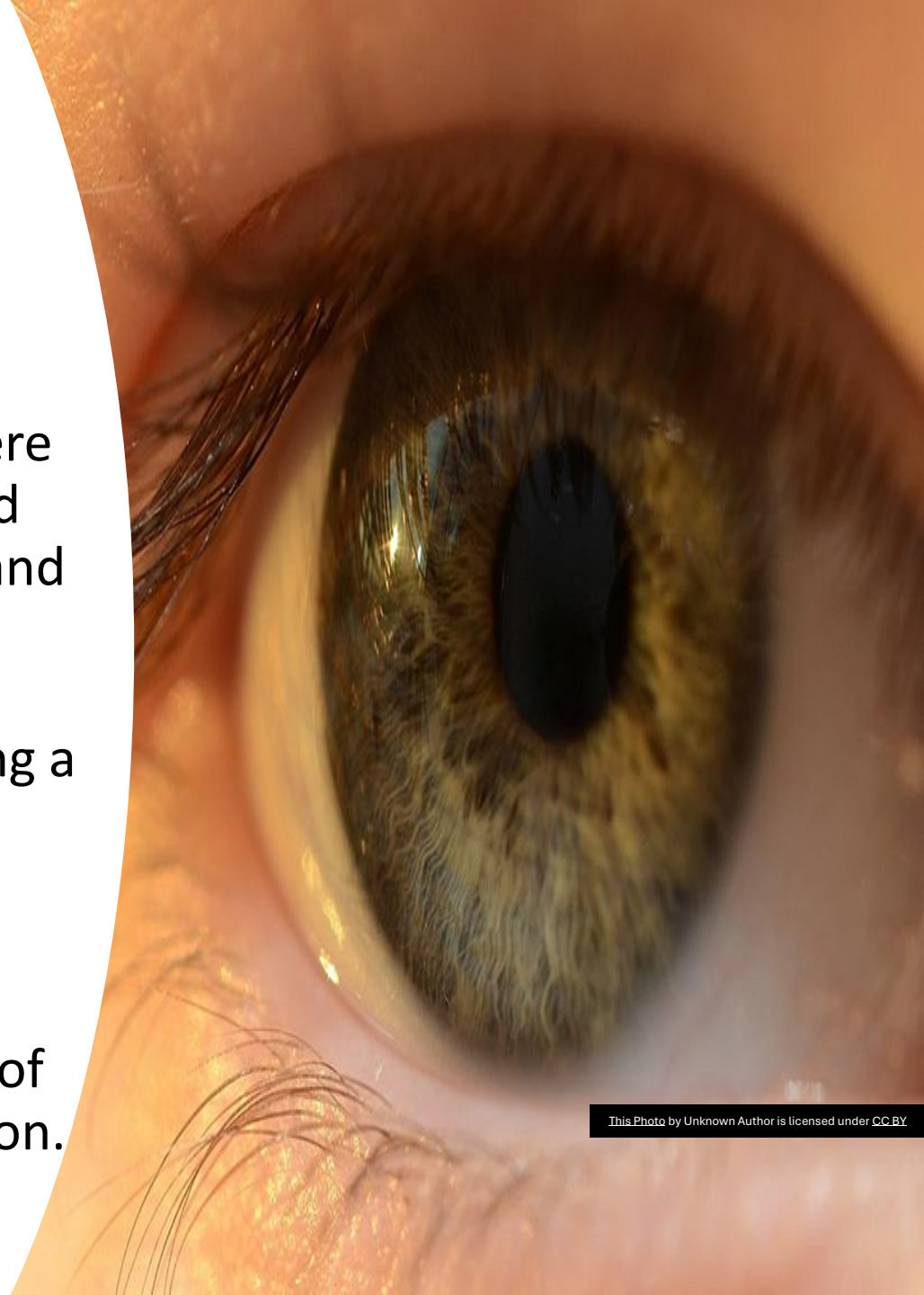


Culture of Vigilance

A "culture of vigilance" is an organisational environment where everyone is actively watchful and ready to take action to identify and address potential risks or harm.

In safeguarding, it means creating a system where all staff feel empowered and responsible for recognising signs of harm and acting appropriately, ultimately ensuring the safety and welfare of individuals within the organisation.

(McNeillie, 2017)



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Fostering a 'Just' Culture

- A 'just culture,' which balances accountability with an open learning environment, is critical.
- This concept does **not** advocate for a blame-free culture where all errors are acceptable, but rather a **balanced approach** where **the intent behind the action and the opportunity for learning are considered**.
- In a just culture, leaders encourage transparency and view errors as invaluable learning opportunities, not just potential reprimands.

(Verma, 2024)



Safeguarding Culture – a non-social care perspective



Wyberton and Frampton Churches, Lincolnshire, U.K -

Watch the video here –

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zeFo1I3SwMk>

Your Safeguarding Culture Check In

- Safeguarding Sunday (or Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday) is an opportunity to talk together about the culture at your organisation.
- What's your normal, think about the part **you each play** in creating your culture and in keeping it going

In your organisation:

- What do you believe
- How do you express yourselves?
- How do you behave towards each other?

Let's commit to create a safe healthy and open culture together so that our organisations can stay safer places for all of us



A Culture of Safeguarding – What?

Are the ‘expectations’ clear to your teams, Boards and management?

- ✓ the extent to which leaders and managers create a positive culture and ethos where safeguarding is an important part of everyday life
- ✓ the content of safeguarding policies and procedures, and how well these are applied in practice
- ✓ how staff are supported to have a good understanding of safeguarding risks to adults, and evidence that they know what to do if an adult is at risk of harm

(Adapted from McNeillie, 2017)



A Culture of Safeguarding – How

- the quality of work that the organisation does with the local authority and other agencies, for example in making referrals and supporting adults who are identified as at risk
- whether the proper recruitment checks have been carried out for staff, volunteers and others
- what **adults say** about how safe they feel and how they are helped to understand safeguarding risks.

(Adapted from McNeillie, 2017)



A Culture of Safeguarding – Have We?

How well have [...] leaders and managers created a **culture of vigilance** where the adults **welfare is promoted** and where **timely and appropriate safeguarding action is taken** for adults who need extra help or who may be experiencing or at risk of harm....and **created a culture where staff are confident to challenge senior leaders over any safeguarding concerns.**

(Adapted from McNeillie, 2017)



'The process of Making Bravery Redundant'

Making bravery redundant as a culture change activity:

- **Where could you focus?**

Let's revisit **speaking up** –



Creating a speak-up culture: how to support and protect whistleblowers?



Watch the video here –

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Hp-qYHB7Qow&t=141s>

Actions - Making Bravery Redundant?



Action

- What can you/will you do to Make Bravery Redundant?
- Have you considered the 'additional vulnerabilities' of some staff?
- How can you **collaborate** with your teams to make it easier to speak up?
- How else can you involve the workforce to get 'buy in'?
- Can you look at existing practice - are you asking the right questions?



References

McNeillie, J. (2017) *A culture of safeguarding*. London: Ofsted.

https://www.birmingham.gov.uk/download/downloads/id/6050/ofsted_asm_notes_spring_2017.pdf

Verma, R. (2024) *The Dark Side of Safety Cultures: When Vigilance Leads to Fear*.

LinkedIn. <https://www.linkedin.com/pulse/4-dark-side-safety-cultures-when-vigilance-leads-fear-rakesh-verma-brwic/>

Videos:

EQS Group (2025) *Creating a speak-up culture: how to support and protect whistleblowers?* <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Hp-qYHB7Qow&t=141s>

Wyberton and Frampton Churches, Lincolnshire, U.K. (2022) *Safeguarding Culture*.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zeFo1I3SwMk>



Safeguarding Adults Reviews and Domestic Homicide Reviews

Lisa Gardner (Development Officer, Business Unit, Shropshire Safeguarding Community Partnership)

Lisa Jones (Telford and Wrekin Safeguarding Adult Board Manager, Telford and Wrekin Safeguarding Partnership) *information not in the PowerPoint*



Shropshire Safeguarding
Community Partnership

Learning from Case Reviews



Lisa Gardner



SAFEGUARDING ADULT REVIEWS

Since January 2025 we have had 8 referrals (for 9 individuals) 4 are awaiting a decision 1 is a SAR 1 did not meet criteria and 1 is still undetermined. Females 3 Males 6

8

Referrals have been received

9

Individuals were subject to referral's

5

3



6



Self neglect was a feature in 5 referrals. The type of self-neglect included alcohol and substance misuse, significant health issues not being managed, non-acceptance of services and homelessness.

3



2



1



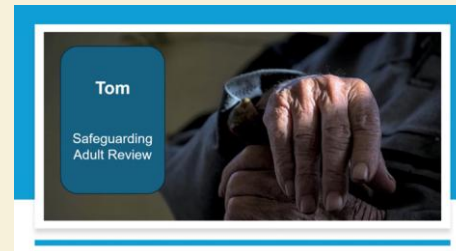
We have published 3 SAR's since August 2025
2 were family reviews

SAR's:

- [A Family Review \(Joint LSCPR and SAR\)](#)
- [A Family Review](#)

And a video about Tom

Watch it here - <https://youtu.be/nPQgoCtUHEQ>





LEARNING REFLECTIONS TOOL - TEAM EVENT

Safeguarding Adult Review

“TOM”



Safeguarding Adult Review for “TOM”

Front line teams learning reflections general instructions.

Context and Rationale: Safeguarding Adult Reviews (SARs) are statutory reviews governed by The Care Act 2004. Their purpose is to find out what lessons are to be learnt from multiagency reviews and then to apply that learning to future practice.

There is evidence from important national¹ research and our local diagnostic review which emphasised the vital need to embed learning as intensively as possible across all front-line teams.

Following consultation across key groups it has been recognised that the statutory partnerships in both Shropshire and Telford and Wrekin wish to support all relevant frontline teams with a SAR team led learning event. This will be an opportunity for all relevant teams across different agencies to have focused time in a team gathering to go through the case, discuss the learning and the actions and answer 5 questions. Having become better informed of the learning from the final review each team can decide how they should apply that learning to their work and then agree any team-based learning actions. Support is also available from your organisations safeguarding lead and the [Safeguarding Adult Board which is part of the Shropshire Safeguarding Community Partnership](#) as requested.

Steps to follow by business unit/partnership office:

1] The Business Unit/partnership office will share a copy of the SAR, including case summary, learning action plan/recommendations, the 7-minute brief and the author’s brief PowerPoint case summary.

Steps to follow by the organisations safeguarding lead:

- 1] On receipt of the SAR materials from the Business Unit the adult safeguarding/domestic abuse lead for that organisation will decide which teams in your organisation should use the [front line](#) teams learning reflections event tool based on the relevance of the issues to the work of that team.
- 2] They will then distribute the materials to those front-line teams explaining the rationale for this learning opportunity and support the teams as needed.
- 3] the organisations’ safeguarding team will then support front-line teams with any local actions and report back to the business unit / partnership office outcomes using the [return template](#).

¹ [Second National SAR Analysis](#) and [VKPP review of all DHRs over the last 4 years](#)

Name of Agency	
Name of Team	
Date of Team learning reflection session	
Date learning reflection returned to agency safeguarding lead	
Agency safeguarding lead name and contact details	

You should have received the following; the You Tube link to the “Tom” video

- 1.0 As a team please take a few minutes to watch the Tom video. This should be led by the “*case champion*.” Please share your whole team observations. As a team what are the most important features about Tom’s review. If you have any questions please liaise with your organisations safeguarding lead. Please record your observations about the issues here:

2.0 Given the information you have read, please carefully consider if things were missed or went wrong in the arrangements to support Tom. Please treat this as a reflective space to **explore your ideas and ask yourself could this have happened here. If it could what are the issues you have found? If you feel you have practice and processes which would have made this less likely here, please share those too.** Please record your comments:

If you attended the Forum this will have been emailed to you! The reflective questions change with each SAR so it is not on the Safeguarding Partnership websites.

Domestic Homicide Review (DHR)



3



We have had 3 Domestic Homicide Review (DHR) referrals since January 2025

All three have been
suicides and for
females

One will not be
progressing and has
been ratified by the
home office

Another is
awaiting a
decision

The final is
awaiting further
consideration

We are due to
publish one shortly
which will be
shared



Some headline learning from recent cases
for you is about suicide prevention and
the impact of post separation domestic
abuse and the toll that this can take

See Resources
Slides for Suicide
Prevention Training



Webinars, Policy, Guidance, Resources and Reports



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Training – Suicide Prevention



MindEd
eLearning to support healthy minds



Zero Suicide Alliance Training

There are a range of free training courses offered by Zero Suicide Alliance to teach you the skills and confidence to have a potentially life-saving conversation with someone you're worried about. eLearning courses include - Suicide Awareness Training, Healthcare Staff and Suicide Awareness Training and Autism and Suicide Awareness Training you can access the courses here - <https://www.zerosuicidealliance.com/suicide-awareness-training-courses>

Staying Safe from Suicide: Best practice guidance eLearning

In the NHS England and MindEd eLearning session, you will learn and work through how to deliver the Staying Safe from Suicide guidance (NHS England, 2025) in your daily work and service. The Staying Safe from Suicide guidance applies to all mental health practitioners, including their clinical managers, in all settings; NHS, private, voluntary, education and care. The session explains why the approach is needed, the evidence behind it and its key principles. It then sets out the best way to implement the approach and provide case study-based exercises that allow you to develop your knowledge of how to put it into practice. Finally, it sets out what organisations should do to implement the guidance.

The Learning is designed for mental health practitioners working in the NHS as well as in private, voluntary, and charity care settings. [Registering and signing up](#) to complete the e-learning is simple and is available to all colleagues.

Find out more and access the eLearning here <https://www.e-lfh.org.uk/staying-safe-from-suicide-best-practice-guidance-elearning-launched/>

The Staying safe from suicide: Best practice guidance for safety assessment, formulation and management - This guidance supports the government's work to reduce suicide and improve mental health services. It promotes a shift towards a more holistic, person-centred approach rather than relying on risk prediction, which is unreliable because suicidal thoughts can change quickly. Instead, it recommends using a method based on understanding each person's situation and managing their safety. Read the guidance [here](#)

MCA Webinar 14 Challenges in assessing mental capacity 11th March- 11:00am-12:30pm. This session will look at some of the more challenging areas when assessing mental capacity. This will include fluctuating capacity, executive dysfunction, the misuse of the assumption of capacity and the role of insight and belief



Wednesday 11th March- 11:00am-12:30pm

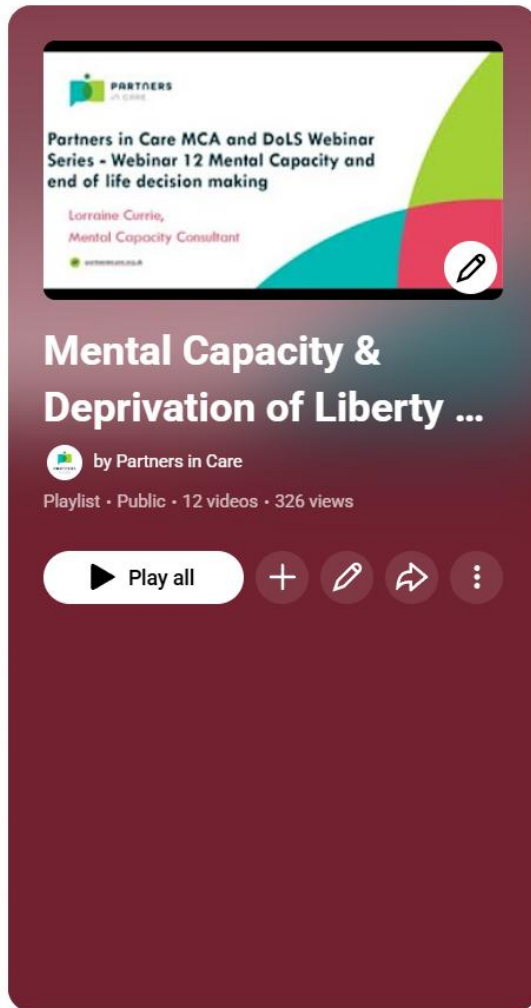
- £19 per learner (members) £26 (non-member)
- Book here <https://www.partnersincare.org.uk/training-courses/mca-dols/mca-and-dols-webinars>



**Partners in Care
Mental Capacity Webinar
Series - Webinar 14
Challenges in assessing
mental capacity.**

A webinar with
Lorraine Currie, Independent Mental
Capacity Consultant
These webinars are an opportunity to upskill around
the topics of Mental Capacity and the Deprivation of
Liberty Safeguards

Webinar Recordings

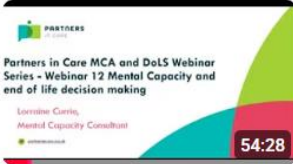


Mental Capacity & Deprivation of Liberty ...


by Partners in Care

Playlist · Public · 12 videos · 326 views


Play all

- Sort All Videos Shorts
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Partners in Care Webinar 12 Mental Capacity and End of Life Decision Making

Partners in Care · 13 views · 1 day ago
 - 


Partners in Care MCA Webinar 11 – 'Preparing to do a mental capacity assessment'

Partners in Care · 58 views · 2 months ago
 - 

Partners in Care MCA Webinar 10 – 'Contact and the MCA'

Partners in Care · 72 views · 5 months ago
 - 

Partners in Care MCA Webinar 9 – 'Managing Food and Diet'

Partners in Care · 110 views · 9 months ago
 - 

Partners in Care MCA Webinar 8 – Restraint in A Care Setting - What is...

Partners in Care · 112 views · 11 months ago

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLR7h4BzDDmvRKI8NFFtHQiRe4-HB3hRT1>

Mental Capacity and Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards Padlet (Partners in Care)



Karen Littleford • 1d

Partners in Care MCA and DoLS Webinar and Newsletter Resources

This Padlet is a Partners in Care resource for members and partner agencies. Scroll down in each section to access the resources. Access to these resources is a benefit of attending the live webinar, being provided access as a member of Partners in Care or a partner agency.

Newsletters **PowerPoint Slides** **Previous Webinar Recordings (available to all after 3 months)** **MCA Webinar Flyers** **MCA Tools, Templates and Resources**

- September 2025 MCA and DoLS Newsletter**
mailchl.mp
MCA Newsletter September 2025
- November 2025 - Webinar 13 - Mental Capacity, accommodation and residence decisions**
Partners in Care MCA and DoLS Webinar Series - Webinar 13 Mental Capacity and accommodation residence decisions
Lorraine Currie, Mental Capacity Consultant
PDF
Mental Capacity accommodation and residence decisions Final WEB
- Webinar 12 - Mental Capacity and end of life decision making**
Partners in Care MCA and DoLS Webinar Series - Webinar 12 Mental Capacity and End of Life Decision Making
Lorraine Currie, Capacity Consultant
YouTube
Partners in Care Webinar 12 Mental Capacity and End of Life Decision Making
- Webinar 14 - Challenges in assessing mental capacity 11th March- 11:00am- 12:30pm.** This session will look at some of the more challenging areas when assessing mental capacity. This will include: fluctuating capacity, executive dysfunction, the misuse of the assumption of capacity and the role of insight and belief
- ADASS community deprivation of liberty priority tool updated October 2025**
adass.org.uk
ADASS community deprivation of liberty priority tool - ADASS
- Webinar 11 - Preparing to do a mental capacity**

<https://padlet.com/klittleford2/partners-in-care-mca-and-dols-webinar-and-newsletter-resourc-e7qspc6fy3mmze8w>

DoLS at a glance cards – electronic version available soon

Understanding Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards (DoLS)

The DoLS scheme ensures that individuals who may **lack capacity to consent to their care and/or treatment in care homes or hospitals** are

DoLS explained

Who DoLS Apply to:

- Adults aged 18 and over
- Individuals with conditions like dementia, brain injury or learning disabilities
- Those living in care homes or hospitals under restrictive arrangements

How to Recognise a Potential DoLS:

- The Person is not free to leave the care setting
- Continuous supervision and control are in place
- The individual is unable to make decisions regarding their care or treatment due to lack of mental capacity

Your Role as a Provider:

- Identify** potential deprivation of liberty in care arrangements request authorisation from the authority
- Collaborate** closely with local authorities for DoLS authorisation
- Ensure** continuous supervisory control are in place when needed

DoLS legislation cannot be used as a means to limit contact with families or to prevent a person from living with their family or being discharged to the care of their family

Legal Bodies in relation to DoLS:

- Managing authorities:** Care homes and hospital settings which are responsible for identifying residents who may be deprived of their liberty and requesting approval
- Supervisory bodies:** Local authorities and Welsh health boards which are responsible for arranging assessments and granting approvals for deprivation of liberty

6 Assessments undertaken under DoLS

Age Assessment | Mental Health Assessment | Mental Capacity Assessment | Best Interest Assessment | Eligibility Assessment | No refusals Assessment

See reverse for more information. © A Shropshire, Telford & Wrekin MCA Multiagency group

Person's Rights once DoLS are authorised

- Access to an **Independent Mental Capacity Advocate (IMCA)**
 - 39A IMCA:** Supports the best interest assessment when there is no one appropriate to consult
 - 39C IMCA:** Steps in when the current RPR role ends and no appropriate person is available
 - 39D IMCA:** Assists the family in the RPR role
- Right to challenge an approval** within the Court of Protection, known as Section 21A challenge
- Right to request a review** to ensure necessity and that conditions are being met,
- Appointment of a **Relevant Person's Representative (RPR)** who advocates on behalf of the person
- Right to request details** about any conditions attached to the approval as outlined in Form 5 or equivalent documents from the local authority

What to expect from the DoLS assessments:

- The mental capacity assessment may be undertaken by a best interests assessor or a Section 12 doctor
- The mental health assessment will be completed by a Section 12 doctor
- The maximum authorisation period is 12 months, which will vary depending on the situation
- Conditions may be attached to the approval which will relate to the specific deprivation of liberty

Produced by Telford and Wrekin and Shropshire Councils



Improved Safeguarding and Protections for Vulnerable People

- Protections for people lacking mental capacity are due to be strengthened through major changes planned by the government to improve safeguarding
- The changes are expected to address deep-rooted issues within the system by reducing the need for intrusive processes, providing better support for families, carers and health professionals

Vulnerable people lacking the mental capacity to make decisions about their care are expected to benefit from major changes to safeguarding and protections, following a consultation announced by the Government on 18th October 2025.



Improved Safeguarding and Protections for Vulnerable People

The proposed Liberty Protection Safeguards (LPS) aim to deliver improved protection and an easier and improved system to allow carers, psychologists, social workers and families to provide care to vulnerable people in circumstances that amount to a deprivation of liberty.

The current Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards (DoLS) system is bureaucratic and complex, leading to poor understanding and application of the law by professionals, unacceptable distress for families and a backlog of 123,790 individuals, putting pressure on the social care system.

The implementation of the new safeguards is expected to streamline processes and reduce the backlog of applications – focusing on those most vulnerable.

A consultation on the Liberty Protection Safeguards will be launched in the first half of 2026, seeking the views of those affected such as families, carers and practitioners including social workers, nurses, psychologists and occupational therapists. It will be jointly run by the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) and the Ministry of Justice.

Read the press release [here](#)



Shropshire Safeguarding
Community Partnership

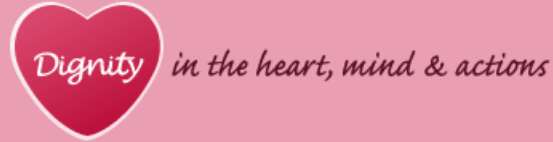


Interactive webinars - Learning from Case Reviews in Shropshire Events by Shropshire Safeguarding Community Partnership - Free to attend

People in Shropshire have died, and it's important to learn from these cases and understand what our services can do to prevent further serious harm and deaths. There are three different one-hour webinars which will be repeated between January and April 2026, which are intended to increase your knowledge, understanding and how you can make a difference in your everyday practice. The sessions are:

- Understanding Intrafamilial Domestic Abuse
- Domestic Abuse Related Deaths: Homicide & Suicide
- Domestic Abuse-Why do men not come forward?

[Click here access dates and book a place on the interactive webinars with Shropshire Safeguarding Community Partnership](#)

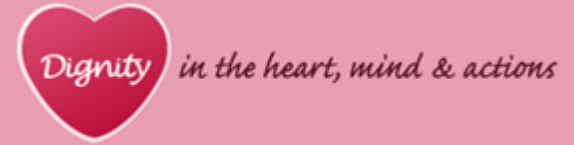


New Dignity Resources Launched

As part of the National Dignity Council AGM a range of new resources to help organisations champion dignity was unveiled.

Partners in Care can support your teams with Promoting Dignity, Privacy and Respect in Adult Social Care training, dates and learning objectives can be found here -

<https://www.partnersincare.org.uk/training-courses/safeguarding/promoting-dignity-privacy-and-respect-in-adult-social-care>



Dignity Competency Framework

The [Dignity Competency Framework](https://www.dignityincare.org.uk/Resources/Type/Dignity-Competency-Framework/) is a practical digital guide to assess and strengthen dignity practices. Already successfully trialled within care homes, the framework will be available for just £10. <https://www.dignityincare.org.uk/Resources/Type/Dignity-Competency-Framework/>

Workplace Dignity Do's

The new [Workplace Dignity Do's](https://www.dignityincare.org.uk/About/The_10_Point_Dignity_Challenge/) sit alongside the existing Dignity Do's, but focus on staff, and the key features of a culture that values and respects its staff team.

Also available as a handy credit card-sized tool that is free to download (there are limited hard copies). [https://www.dignityincare.org.uk/About/The 10 Point Dignity Challenge/](https://www.dignityincare.org.uk/About/The_10_Point_Dignity_Challenge/)

Easy Read Dignity Do's

[An accessible A4 version of the Dignity Do's](https://www.dignityincare.org.uk/Resources/Type/Dignity-Dos-Easy-Read-Version/), co-branded with Castle Supported Living.

Designed to help individuals who are neuro-divergent or may find words difficult.

<https://www.dignityincare.org.uk/Resources/Type/Dignity-Dos-Easy-Read-Version/>

Voices of Dignity Podcasts

[A new podcast series exploring the 10 Dignity Do's](https://www.dignityincare.org.uk/Resources/vod-pod/), featuring leading voices from across social care. <https://www.dignityincare.org.uk/Resources/vod-pod/>

Oliver McGowan Mandatory Training on Learning Disability and Autism

The Health and Care Act 2022 introduced a requirement that all CQC registered service providers must ensure their staff have training on learning disability and autism that is appropriate to their role. The Oliver McGowan Mandatory Training on Learning Disability and Autism is still the Government's preferred and recommended training for health and social care staff to undertake. The training is delivered in 2 Tiers; staff need to complete either Tier 1 or Tier 2 and both tiers consist of 2 parts.



Partners in Care is working with [First Response Training](#) to provide Part 2 Tier 1 and Tier 2 training from September.



Dates and booking online



Care providers must ensure that staff members complete the eLearning module before they attend either the Part 2 Tier 1 or Tier 2 training.



<https://www.partnersincare.org.uk/training-courses/oliver-mcgowan-training>



Funding



Funding Available for Oliver McGowan Mandatory Training (OMMT) on Learning Disability and Autism

The Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) has this week confirmed that £11.98m funding has been made available to support delivery of the Oliver McGowan Mandatory Training (OMMT) on Learning Disability and Autism to claim on the Learning and Development Support Scheme (LDSS) digital platform.

This funding is for adult social care (ASC) providers registered with the Care Quality Commission (CQC) and for OMMT completed between 1 April 2025 and 31 March 2026 eligible for reimbursement. The funding for OMMT is a separate pot to the overall LDSS funding already available for other training and qualifications.

Funding



Department
of Health &
Social Care

[LDSS guidance documents](#) have been updated to include information on making claims for OMMT such as eligibility criteria, maximum reimbursement rates and evidence requirements. Please refer to the updated [FAQs](#) which cover key questions around the funding for OMMT.

As a reminder, to submit claims for OMMT, providers will need to:

- Be registered with the CQC as a provider of ASC services.
- Make sure their organisation has an up-to-date ASC-WDS (adult social care workforce dataset) account which can be set up [here](#).
- Complete the LDSS [onboarding form](#).
- Submit a claim once OMMT has been paid for and completed, providing evidence to demonstrate this.

Funding is only being provided for OMMT as it is the Government's recommended training package for CQC-registered providers to meet the statutory training requirement under the Health and Care Act 2022. Providers may choose to undertake an alternative training package, which would need to meet expectations set out in the [Oliver McGowan Code of Practice](#).



Funding

If you have sent staff on Tier 1 and/or Tier 2 OMMT courses through Partners in Care since the beginning of September 2025, or have booked staff to attend upcoming courses up to the end of March 2026, you may be eligible to reclaim the cost of this through the LDSS. If you have any queries regarding bookings for OMMT courses made for through Partners in Care, please contact us via info@partnersincare.org.uk.

The maximum reimbursement amount for OMMT training courses paid for between 1 April 2025 and 31 March 2026 for procured training through an external company is as follows:

- Tier 1 – £25.00.
- Tier 2 – £90.00.

A care provider cannot submit claims for more than £25,000 total reimbursement for the period 1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026.

Adult Social Care Portal, Telford & Wrekin - a reminder!

www.telford.gov.uk/ascportal

A promotional banner for the Adult Social Care Portal. It features the Telford & Wrekin Cooperative Council logo in the top left, with the tagline 'Protect, care and invest to create a better borough'. The main text reads 'Adult Social Care Portal' in large white font, followed by 'The online referral tool for professionals' and the URL 'www.telford.gov.uk/ascportal'. The background is dark grey with a pattern of red and yellow hexagons. A small inset photo shows a man sitting on a sofa, looking at a tablet.

Telford & Wrekin
Cooperative Council

Protect, care and invest
to create a better borough

Adult Social Care
Portal

The online referral tool for professionals
www.telford.gov.uk/ascportal

Adult Social Care Portal for Professionals

The Adult Portal is a secure online platform designed to streamline the referral process into Adult Social Care for professionals. It offers a quick and straightforward way to submit referrals efficiently.

Why use the portal?

Efficient: reduce paperwork and delays with digital submissions directly to Adult Social Care. Save a referral and return to it later.

Intelligent: only relevant questions are shown based on previous answers.

Accessible: professionals can securely access the portal at any time, from any device.

Collaboration: designed in partnership with frontline professional.

Security: all data is protected and integrated with Council systems.

Feedback: use the portal to share feedback on functionality and user experience.

Where to access the portal:

www.telford.gov.uk/ascportal

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Safeguarding Adults Week Event Recordings

The programme was delivered

This years resources and webinar recording can be accessed on Padlet [here](#).

You can watch the events from Shropshire and Telford and Wrekin in 2024 on the Partners in Care YouTube channel [here](#)



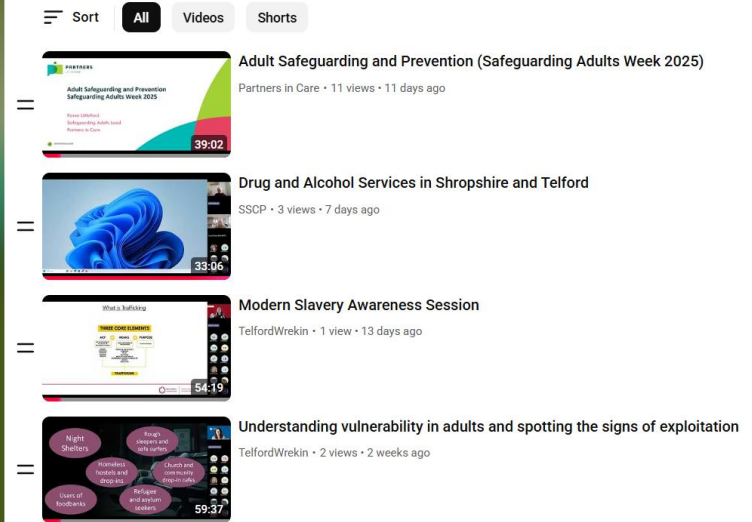
Shropshire Safeguarding
Community Partnership



Safeguarding Adults Week Event Recordings

This year's resources and webinar recording can be accessed on Padlet [here](#).

You can watch the events from Shropshire and Telford and Wrekin on the Partners in Care YouTube channel - 2024 [here](#) and 2025 [here](#)



Partners in Care YouTube Channel -



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A-Z ▾



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Playlists menu <https://www.youtube.com/@partnersincare8598/playlists>



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