

# Safeguarding Current Awareness Bulletin

February 2018

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**Title: The shaping of safeguarding.**

**Citation:** The Journal of Adult Protection; 2017; vol. 19 (no. 6); p. 309-311

**Author(s):** Penhale, Bridget; Manthorpe, Jill

**Abstract:** For almost two decades, the work of the Social Care Workforce Research Unit at King's College, London, has investigated social care work in its many different roles and locations, highlighting the efforts that many local councils and care providers are making in local partnerships to address particular problems of poor care and abuse. Across the years, pressure ulcers have been seen as visible indications of poor care or neglect often in institutional settings; this paper takes the debate beyond individual culpability to explore the nature of support for home care workers and the adequacy of monitoring and interventions from community-based health care professionals. England is fortunate in decisions made over a decade ago to invest in good workforce data collection in social care - the National Minimum Data Set for Social Care (NMDS-SC) (run by Skills for Care), which celebrates its tenth anniversary in 2017. The paper reports on the development and evaluation of an integrated inter-agency approach, which was embedded within a police intervention model concerning elder abuse.

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**Title: Safeguarding practice in England where access to an adult at risk is obstructed by a third party: findings from a survey.**

**Citation:** The Journal of Adult Protection; 2017; vol. 19 (no. 6); p. 323-332

**Author(s):** Manthorpe, Jill; Stevens, Martin; Martineau, Stephen; Norrie, Caroline

**Purpose:** Being able to speak in private to an adult about whom there is a safeguarding concern is central to English local authorities' duty under the Care Act 2014 to make enquiries in such cases. While there has been an on-going debate about whether social workers or others should have new powers to effect these enquiries, it has been unclear how common obstructive behaviour by third parties is and how often this causes serious problems or is unresolved. The purpose of this paper is to address this knowledge gap.

**Design/methodology/approach:** A survey of local authority adult safeguarding managers was conducted in 2016 and interviews were undertaken with managers and social workers in three local authorities. Data were analysed descriptively.

**Findings:** Estimates of numbers and frequency of cases of obstruction varied widely. Most survey respondents and interview participants described situations where there had been some problems in accessing an adult at risk. Those that were serious and long-standing problems of access were few in number, but were time consuming and often distressing for the professionals involved.

**Research limitations/implications:** Further survey research on the prevalence of obstructive behaviour of third parties may not command greater response rates unless there is a specific policy proposal or a case that has "hit the headlines". Other forms of data collection and reporting may be worth considering. Interview data likewise potentially suffer from problems of recall and definition.

**Practical implications:** At times professionals will hear of, or encounter, difficulties in accessing an adult at risk about whom there is concern. Support from supervisors and

managers is needed by practitioners as such cases can be distressing. Localities may wish to collect and reflect upon such cases so that there is learning from practice about possible resolution and outcomes.

**Social implications:** There is no evidence of large numbers of cases where access is denied or very difficult. Those cases where there are problems are memorable to practitioners. Small numbers of cases, however, do not necessarily mean that the problem of gaining access is insignificant.

**Originality/value:** This study addressed a question which is topical in England and provides evidence about the frequency of the problem of gaining access to adults at risk. There has been no comparable study in England.

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**Title: The cyclical and intergenerational effects of perinatal domestic abuse and mental health.**

**Citation:** British Journal of Midwifery; Feb 2018; vol. 26 (no. 2); p. 85-93

**Author(s):** Moncrieff, Gill

**Abstract:** Domestic abuse and mental health disorders are particularly dangerous during the perinatal period, due to their effects on both the mother and the developing fetus. Furthermore, domestic violence and mental health appear to be linked, which can result in these issues being passed down through generations. In order for health professionals to respond efficaciously, pre-registration and ongoing training is needed on how to ask, respond, provide support and refer women on to appropriate supportive agencies. High-quality research is also needed to improve outcomes.

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**Title: Contextualizing case reviews: A methodology for developing systemic safeguarding practices.**

**Citation:** Child & Family Social Work; Feb 2018; vol. 23 (no. 1); p. 45-52

**Author(s):** Firmin, Carlene

**Abstract:** This paper introduces a systemic methodology for reviewing professional responses to abuse between young people. The approach, "contextual case reviewing," draws upon constructivist structuralism to assess the extent to which safeguarding practices engage with the social and public contexts of abuse. The paper conceptually compares the methodologies of contextual case review and other serious case review methods before drawing upon findings from 2 studies, which used the contextual case review methodology to explore the extrafamilial nature of peer-on-peer abuse and the ability of child protection practices to engage with this dynamic. Thematic findings from these studies regarding the practical interpretation of "significant harm" and "capacity to safeguard," as well as their use within child protection assessments, are used to challenge conclusions of other case reviews, which imply that child protection procedures are sufficient for safeguarding young people. Contextual case reviews suggest that safeguarding practices, and the legislation that underpins them, are culturally, procedurally, and organisationally wedded to the context of the home, whereas insufficiently engaged with extrafamilial contexts of significant harm. The application of these issues require interrogation if social work systems are to provide sufficient mechanisms for safeguarding young people and families at risk of significant harm.

**Title: Exploring approaches to child welfare in contexts of domestic violence and abuse: Family group conferences.**

**Citation:** Child & Family Social Work; Feb 2018; vol. 23 (no. 1); p. 105-112

**Author(s):** Rogers, Michaela; Parkinson, Kate

**Abstract:** This article sets out to explore service provision for families affected by domestic violence and abuse. For most families where there are child protection concerns, there are possibilities for intervention from child welfare agencies and domestic abuse services, but these have been criticised as having distinct and disconnected practice cultures and orientation. Recognising this divergence, in this paper, we advocate for safeguarding children affected by domestic violence and abuse using the family group conference (FGC) model. This offers possibilities for a coherent response that integrates both child- and women-centred concerns in a holistic approach to family safety and well-being. Furthermore, it is well documented that safeguarding work involves professionally-led decision-making that is pre-occupied with the management of risk. FGCs, however, promote a partnership approach that engages families in a more democratic decision-making process. As such, FGCs offer families the opportunity to develop their own safety and support plans for the protection and care of children recognising the family's inherent strengths.

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**Title: Role of leadership behaviours in safeguarding supervision: a literature review.**

**Citation:** Primary Health Care; Jan 2018; vol. 28 (no. 1); p. 31-36

**Author(s):** Warren, Louise

**Abstract:** Effective safeguarding supervision reduces risk to children and young people while identifying their needs. Safeguarding supervision also helps front-line practitioners to provide high-quality care, risk analyses and individual action plans. This article is part of a wider study that explores the author's leadership behaviours and their impact on effective safeguarding supervision. The role of the safeguarding leader is evolving and the article explores relevant literature to support or refute the role of the leader in effective safeguarding supervision. A literature review was undertaken using Aveyard (2014)'s critical appraisal tool to provide structure and accuracy. The review showed the interconnection between positive leadership behaviours and effective safeguarding supervision. It also highlighted the positive effect on the practitioner's well-being of being supported by experienced, effective and compassionate leaders

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**Title: Neglect Toolkit: Guidance for Practitioners by Northamptonshire Safeguarding Children Board, 2016. Available to Download Free of Charge from: <https://www.northamptonshirescb.org.uk/health-professionals/toolkits-and-procedures/toolkits-professionals>.**

**Citation:** Child Abuse Review; Jan 2018; vol. 27 (no. 1); p. 85-86

**Author(s):** Hill, Wendy

**Abstract:** The article offers information on "Neglect Toolkit: Guidance for Practitioners" published by Northamptonshire Safeguarding Children Board which brings together information for understanding neglect. It mentions that sections in the "Neglect Toolkit: Guidance for Practitioners" focuses on risk and protective factors in cases of neglect and factors like parental substance abuse, mental illness and learning disability. It presents information on adverse impact of neglect like neglectful behaviors.

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**Title: Social workers' power of entry in adult safeguarding concerns: debates over autonomy, privacy and protection.**

**Citation:** The Journal of Adult Protection; 2017; vol. 19 (no. 6); p. 312-322

**Author(s):** Stevens, Martin; Martineau, Stephen; Manthorpe, Jill; Norrie, Caroline

**Purpose:** The purpose of this paper is to explore debates about the powers social workers may need to undertake safeguarding enquiries where access to the adult is denied.

**Design/methodology/approach:** The paper takes as a starting point a scoping review of the literature undertaken as part of a study exploring social work responses to situations where they are prevented from speaking to an adult at risk by a third party.

**Findings:** A power of entry might be one solution to situations where social workers are prevented from accessing an adult at risk. The paper focuses on the Scottish approach to legal powers in adult safeguarding, established by the Adult Support and Protection Act (Scotland) 2007 and draws out messages for adult safeguarding in England and elsewhere. The literature review identified that debates over the Scottish approach are underpinned by differing conceptualisations of vulnerability, autonomy and privacy, and the paper relates these conceptualisations to different theoretical stances.

**Social implications:** The paper concludes that the literature suggests that a more socially mediated rather than an essentialist understanding of the concepts of vulnerability, autonomy and privacy allows for more nuanced approaches to social work practice in respect of using powers of entry and intervention with adults at risk who have capacity to make decisions.

**Originality/value:** This paper provides a novel perspective on debates over how to overcome challenges to accessing adults at risk in adult safeguarding through an exploration of understandings of vulnerability, privacy and autonomy.

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**Title: Gambling and adult safeguarding: connections and evidence.**

**Citation:** The Journal of Adult Protection; 2017; vol. 19 (no. 6); p. 333-344

**Author(s):** Manthorpe, Jill; Bramley, Stephanie; Norrie, Caroline

**Purpose:** Opportunities to gamble have boomed in the UK in recent years, since the passing of the Gambling Act 2005. The implications of this for adults with care and support needs and for safeguarding services have not been greatly investigated. The purpose of this paper is to address the interface of how gambling affects adults with care and support needs in England and adult safeguarding.

**Design/methodology/approach:** This paper reports on the scoping review which focussed on adults with care and support needs and gambling-related harm. It also included literature

on perpetrators who exploit adults with care and support needs to fund their own or others' gambling. The overall aims of this scoping review were to explore what is known about gambling-related harm affecting adults with care and support needs, the gaps in the evidence base, and specifically to refine the interview questions for the wider study.

**Findings:** There is some evidence that adults with care and support needs experience or are at risk of gambling-related harm. There is, however, lack of data from safeguarding services about this affecting adults at risk and safeguarding practice and systems. A public health approach to gambling is advocated by some, as well as effective regulation and support for people who have problems with their own or others' gambling.

**Originality/value:** Industry operators, practitioners, and policymakers are increasingly paying attention to gambling-related harm but there is a lack of focus on adults with care and support needs or implications for adult safeguarding.

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**Title: Researching the financial abuse of individuals lacking mental capacity.**

**Citation:** The Journal of Adult Protection; 2017; vol. 19 (no. 6); p. 394-405

**Author(s):** Dalley, Gillian; Gilhooly, Mary Lynn; Gilhooly, Kenneth; Levi, Michael; Harries, Priscilla

**Purpose:** The purpose of this paper is to report on the aspects of an exploratory investigation into the scale and nature of the financial abuse of adults lacking mental capacity.

**Design/methodology/approach:** It uses mixed-methods study which comprises of: a review of safeguarding adults' statistics; analysis of court case findings; classification of types of financial abuse, victims and perpetrators; qualitative exploration of professional views of the nature of financial abuse of those lacking mental capacity; and a consideration of policy implications.

**Findings:** It demonstrates the significance of financial abuse within the spectrum of abuse experienced by adults at risk; the wide range of both victims lacking capacity being abused and type of financial abuse; its often hidden nature embedded within the family; and the limitations of processes designed to protect.

**Research limitations/implications:** The investigation reveals the paucity of statistical data available on the nature of financial abuse and the outcomes of official investigations into reported cases, both of which limit analysis and understanding of the phenomenon.

**Practical implications:** It demonstrates the need for greater transparency and consistency in the reporting of safeguarding and legal processes to enable practitioners and policymakers to fully understand the nature and significance of this abuse for both victims and society.

**Social implications:** It questions the extent to which existing protective processes are sufficient in terms of safeguarding victims and deterring perpetrators.

**Originality/value:** It involves original research that brings together data from a range of sources involved in the protection of a particular hard-to-reach group of individuals (those lacking capacity) from a particular type of risk (financial abuse) of increasing social significance.

**Title: Safeguarding vulnerable adults.**

**Citation:** British Journal of Nursing; Jan 2018; vol. 27 (no. 1); p. 67-67

**Author(s):** Foster, Sam

**Abstract:** The article discusses the author's views about the use of deprivation of liberty safeguards (DoLS) and the British Mental Capacity Act (MCA) to protect vulnerable adults, and it mentions competent medical care from health and social care staff members. Human rights and dignity protections are addressed, along with wellbeing, Great Britain's Care Quality Commission, patient restraint practices, and the use of patient surveillance technology in health and social care settings.

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**Title: Implementing safeguarding and personalisation in social work: Findings from practice.**

**Citation:** Journal of Social Work; Jan 2018; vol. 18 (no. 1); p. 3-22

**Author(s):** Stevens, Martin; Woolham, John; Manthorpe, Jill; Aspinall, Fiona; Hussein, Shereen; Baxter, Kate; Samsi, Kritika; Ismail, Mohamed

**Summary:** This paper reports on part of a research study carried out in three local authority adult social care departments in England, which explored links between adult safeguarding and personalisation. The study included statistical analysis of data on safeguarding referrals and the take up of personal budgets and qualitative interviews with managers, social workers, other staff working on safeguarding and with service users. The paper reports the findings from 16 interviews with managers and social workers, highlighting their perspectives and experiences. Findings Five main themes emerged from our analysis: contexts and risk factors; views about risks associated with Direct Payments, approaches to minimising risk; balancing risk and choice; and weaving safeguarding and personalisation practice. Social workers identified similar ranges and kinds of risks to those identified in the national evaluation of Individual Budgets. They described a tension between policy objectives and their exercise of discretion to assess and manage risks. For example, some described how they would discourage certain people from taking their personal budget as a Direct Payment or suggest they take only part of a personal budget as a Direct Payment. Application This exploratory study supports the continued need for skilled social workers to deliver outcomes related to both safeguarding and personalisation policies. Implementing these policies may entail a new form of 'care and control', which may require specific approaches in supervision in order to ensure good practice is fostered and positive outcomes attained.

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**Title: Postpartum Domestic Violence in Homes With Young Children: The Role of Maternal and Paternal Drinking.**

**Citation:** Violence Against Women; Feb 2018; vol. 24 (no. 2); p. 144-162

**Author(s):** Mumford, Elizabeth A.; Liu, Weiwei; Joseph, Hannah

**Abstract:** There has been limited investigation of mothers' drinking patterns and their experience of domestic abuse while parenting young children, especially in the context of co-resident fathers' drinking. Using data representative of the 2001 U.S. birth cohort, the authors conducted longitudinal latent class analyses of maternal drinking over four perinatal time points as predictors of maternal victimization at 2 years postpartum due to intimate partner violence. Women classified as higher risk drinkers over the study period faced significantly increased risk of physical abuse while parenting a 2-year-old child. Among non-drinking mothers, paternal binge drinking signaled additional risk, with clinical and programmatic implications.

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**Title: Preparing supervisors to provide safeguarding supervision for healthcare staff.**

**Citation:** Nursing Management - UK; Dec 2017; vol. 24 (no. 8); p. 34-41

**Author(s):** Smikle, Marcia

**Abstract:** This paper outlines why experienced supervisors at a London healthcare provider received skills training so they could offer safeguarding supervision to front-line colleagues with case management responsibilities for vulnerable children and young people. It examines how supervisors use the main functions of supervision and a cycle of reflection in clinical practice with supervisees. As well as the professional issues encountered by supervisors in relation to the benefits, the challenges of providing supervision and the action required to make safeguarding supervision a part of the organisational culture are also explored.

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**Title: Safeguarding adults reviews: How can they improve practice?**

**Citation:** Practice Nursing; Dec 2017; vol. 28 (no. 12); p. 538-540

**Author(s):** Dalphinis, Julie

**Abstract:** Safeguarding adults reviews are a statutory requirement of the Care Act (2014). They take place when an 'at-risk' adult has died--or suffered permanent harm--from serious abuse and neglect, and there is concern about how the agencies involved in protecting the individual acted. The aim is to learn lessons to prevent similar circumstances happening again. This article provides an overview of a recent review of the process in London and provides recommendations for improving practice in primary care.

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**Title: Nurses at the forefront of fight against modern slavery.**

**Citation:** Nursing Standard; Nov 2017; vol. 32 (no. 14); p. 12-13

**Author(s):** Jones-Berry, Stephanie

**Abstract:** The article focuses on a Nursing Standard investigation which revealed that modern slavery victims have come into contact with National Health Service (NHS) health services in cities in Great Britain since 2015. Topics discussed include examples of modern slavery, role of NHS staff in the prevention of modern slavery, according to NHS England



director of nursing and deputy chief nursing officer Hilary Garratt, and remarks from anti-slavery commissioner Kevin Hyland.

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**Title: Introducing routine enquiry about domestic violence in a paediatric setting.**

**Citation:** Archives of disease in childhood. Education and practice edition; Feb 2018; vol. 103 (no. 1); p. 41-42

**Author(s):** Asiegbunam, Nkiru

**Abstract:** Implementation of routine enquiry (RE) about domestic abuse in the multidisciplinary Evelina London Guys and St. Thomas Trust (GSTT) Community Health Services (CHS).

**Sources Used:**

The following databases are used in the creation of this bulletin: Amed, British Nursing Index, Cinahl & Medline.

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