

# Safeguarding Bulletin

Safeguarding adults and young people at risk

**ann craft trust**  
acting against abuse

**July 2021**

**Issue 116**

Bringing you the latest research and news on safeguarding adults and young people at risk.

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# Ann Craft Trust Safeguarding Bulletin

July 2021

Issue 116

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Jill Davies, Research Programme Manager at the Foundation for People With Learning Disabilities. From Issue 79 April 2012

## Editor's Note—Deborah Kitson, CEO

**Welcome to Edition 116 of the ACT bulletin, your quarterly source of safeguarding news, views and updates.**

I am writing this on one of the hottest days of the year to date, on the day named by many as 'Freedom Day' – 19 July.

Despite the very sudden disruption to our lives last March and the very difficult year that so many have experienced, I think this bulletin is evidence that we've all maintained our commitment to safe practice and meeting the challenges that face us each day. Indeed, reading about the new government legislation in relation to the domestic abuse, it feels like a huge amount of progress has been made.

We cover the new Domestic Abuse Act in a number of articles in this bulletin. We explore what has been included in the legislation, but also the areas where the new act falls short. You'll find results of our survey on domestic abuse that received a high number of responses, along with the personal experiences of Catherine Lawler who also featured on one of our podcasts. Catherine also shared with us how she has used her personal experiences to write books for children addressing this difficult topic.

“

*We are hoping that ACT's annual conference will be a face to face event in Nottingham.*

”

We also want to give a special thanks to Jess Phillips, MP. She joined us for a podcast in which she discussed her role in getting the new Domestic Abuse bill passed. She also contributed to the recent online launch of our film about the We Matter Too project, which explores the domestic abuse of young people with learning disabilities.

Reading this bulletin you'll see we have a lot of events coming up. This includes our annual conference, which we are hoping will be a face to face event in Nottingham. The day will focus on grooming and exploitation, with talks on radicalisation, doorstep scams and predatory marriage. There will also be the opportunity to discuss these important issues with colleagues – something that many of us have missed over the last year.

The conference takes place during this year's Safeguarding Adults Week, which I encourage you all to sign up for. Signing up means that we will send you all sorts of information about the week, along with free resources and plenty of ideas for how you can get involved.

So it leaves me to say that I hope you enjoy this summer edition and also to urge you to contact us if there is any safeguarding topic that you would like us to highlight. We would also really like your contributions to the bulletin – we know there is great work going on out there – we would love you to share it! So keep well and keep in touch!

# National Safeguarding Adults Week 2021

15 – 21 November 2021

#SafeguardingAdultsWeek

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## **Access your free Safeguarding Adults Week 2021 resources below.**

Safeguarding Adults Week 2021 takes place 15 – 21 November.

It's an opportunity for organisations to come together to raise awareness of important safeguarding issues. The aim is to highlight safeguarding key issues, facilitate conversations and to raise awareness of safeguarding best practice. So we can all be better together.

Each day we'll be focusing on a different safeguarding theme. You can learn more about the week's themes [here](#).

Below are some resources to help you raise awareness and start vital conversations online. We'll be updating this page in the months leading up to the week. So do check back periodically – or sign up to receive email updates [here](#).

## **Safeguarding Adults Week 2021 Posters**

To give a short introduction to the various safeguarding themes, we've prepared posters for each day of the week:

- [Emotional Abuse and Safeguarding Mental Health](#)
- [The Power of Language](#)
- [Digital Safeguarding](#)
- [Adult Grooming](#)
- [Creating Safer Cultures](#)
- [Safeguarding and You](#)

## **Social Media – Tweet Templates and Ideas**

We've created a list of ideas you might share on social media throughout the week, with some tweet templates to get you started.



[Download our Twitter campaign starter pack here.](#)

### **Social Media – Graphics**

We've also created graphics for Twitter, Instagram, LinkedIn, and Facebook. Click on the images below for full-size versions.

You can couple these graphics with the tweet suggestions we linked to above. You can also use them to accompany your own resources.

You can download these graphics, along with all of our other Safeguarding Adults Week 2021 resources, [here](#).

In the coming months we'll be updating this page with additional resources, as well as links to useful resources from other organisations.

[So bookmark this page to stay updated!](#)

Or, [sign up to receive Safeguarding Adults Week resources by email.](#)

Are there any resources you'd like to create? [Please get in touch and let us know.](#)

### **How Can You Support Safeguarding Adults Week 2021?**

There's no one way to support Safeguarding Adults Week. Each day of the week we'll focus on a different safeguarding theme. These themes are broad, and each one covers many different areas of focus.

Plus, these themes are not exhaustive. Our aim is to highlight certain causes, and to start some vital conversations. But if you want to use Safeguarding Adults Week to talk about a different aspect of safeguarding, please do so!

Here are five ways you can support Safeguarding Adults Week:

1. **Sign up** to receive your free Safeguarding Adults Week resources from the Ann Craft Trust! We'll email you free electronic resources throughout the year.
2. **Book onto** one of our [e-learning courses](#) or the Ann Craft Trust Conference (details to follow!) to develop your safeguarding knowledge.
3. **Share** our free podcasts, posters and resources within your organisation, or create your own, to raise awareness of safeguarding issues.
4. **Use** the hashtag **#SafeguardingAdultsWeek** on social media to tell the online community about your safeguarding initiatives.
5. **Learn** how to [recognise the signs of abuse](#) and how to record and report your concerns.

### **Need Some Inspiration?**

Want some inspiration on how you can support Safeguarding Adults Week?

We've been asking organisations to tell us

their plans for the week.

Northumbria Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust told us they plan on setting up a “market stall,” so they can discuss key safeguarding issues face-to-face with the public.

Leicester County Bridge Club are in the process of creating an adult safeguarding policy to link in with their current Conduct and Disciplinary policy. They’re going to use Safeguarding Adults Week as an opportunity to increase their knowledge and awareness. So they’re going to take advantage of our [eLearning courses](#), while sharing our podcasts, posters and other resources within their organisation.

Independent Age plan on developing their [Digital Safeguarding](#) resources, and to share their learning with the wider community. They also plan on launching a wellbeing process for Domestic Violence in the workplace, while developing an internal safeguarding culture promoting confidence and autonomy within their organisation.

If you’d like further ideas on how you could support Safeguarding Adults Week 2021, [take a look at our review of last year’s event](#). It includes the sort of organisations that got involved, the sort of content they created, and the sort of messages they put out.

Some organisations even showed their support by lighting up buildings in their

area in green or purple. So when planning for Safeguarding Adults Week 2021, don’t be afraid to think big!

And once more, you can [sign up to receive Safeguarding Adults Week resources by email](#).

# Grooming and Exploitation: Opening Eyes and Minds Conference

Thursday 18 November 2021

Crowne Plaza, Nottingham

09.30-16.00

#SafeguardingAdultsWeek



## Grooming and Exploitation: Opening Eyes and Minds Conference

As part of [Safeguarding Adults Week 2021](#), we are delighted to host our annual Safeguarding Adults Conference.

This year, the Ann Craft Trust are collaborating with [Small Steps](#), [Operation Repeat](#) and Daphne Franks who leads the campaign [Justice for Joan](#), to bring you a unique training opportunity which seeks to raise awareness of how adult grooming can be experienced across the life course.

## Objectives

The conference will explore forms of grooming and exploitation that adults are increasingly at risk from, but in many sectors are rarely discussed.

- **You will** go away feeling more confident about spotting the signs of adult grooming and how to make referrals.
- **You will** feel more confident about having difficult conversations to facilitate early intervention should you suspect someone is at risk of adult grooming.
- **You will** develop a greater understanding of how adults could become at risk from grooming and exploitation.
- **You will** learn how organisations and practitioners can adapt their practice to safeguard and support adults at risk of grooming and exploitation.

The conference will contribute to continued professional development for professionals and volunteers working with adults at risk across a range of sectors. Delegates will be provided with certification to document their attendance at the conference.

### **Our Speakers**

**Professor Todd Landman** is a Pro-Vice-Chancellor at the University of Nottingham and will be chairing this event. Alongside his role as Pro-Vice Chancellor, Todd is Executive Director of the Rights Lab, where he is involved in carrying out research on ending modern slavery. Todd's current work on modern slavery includes engagement with organisations such as the Cabinet Office, the Home Office, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

**Daphne Franks** is our keynote speaker. Daphne set up the campaign 'Justice for Joan', after her Mum became a victim of predatory marriage at the age of 91. Daphne is dedicated to putting protection in place for all those who lack the mental capacity to marry and to safeguard others from abuse and exploitation.

Daphne is currently working with the Ann Craft Trust and the University of Nottingham as part of the research project 'My Marriage My Choice'. The research aims to raise awareness of predatory marriage and is lobbying to change the law so that marriage no longer automatically invalidates a pre-existing will.

**Small Steps** is an organisation run by former members of far-right organisations who have rejected violence and far-right narratives. They are now committed to exposing and eradicating far-right extremism in the UK.

**Operation Repeat** works in partnership with Community Police teams and Trading Standards to raise awareness of Doorstep Crime and Scam offences to members of the public who are at risk of becoming, or are already targets, of criminals who trade in this manner.

### **Programme**

The event will include a keynote session, breakout sessions and the opportunity to share best practice and ask questions. We have published a [DRAFT programme for the day](#). This may be subject to change. We will publish a confirmed programme in the next month. .

### **Who Can Attend the Conference?**

This conference is for anyone wanting to learn more about adult grooming.

Anyone could be at risk of grooming and exploitation regardless of their age, characteristics and personal circumstances. Therefore, it is vital that all organisations and individuals are aware of how to spot the signs and how to respond. Safeguarding is everyone's business.

People working in safeguarding, police personnel, health and social care, religious organisations, the third sector,

sport and activity and the private sector would all benefit from this event. The conference is suitable for those already in a safeguarding role alongside those with no prior knowledge of grooming and exploitation.

If you are unsure if the event is right for you, [please get in touch with our friendly team to find out more!](#)

### **The Venue**

The Conference will take place at the [Crowne Plaza Hotel in Nottingham](#).

We are currently planning to hold this event face to face. The hotel has enhanced cleaning policy during this time and does operate under the [IGH Clean Promise](#).

We will alter the format of the event and put additional measures in place in line with government guidance should things change in November.

**Address: Crowne Plaza, Wollaton Street, Nottingham, NG1 5RH, United Kingdom**

There is free parking available for delegates at the hotel. The hotel is a ten-minute walk from Nottingham railway station and approximately three-minute walk from the 'Centre Royal' Tram Stop.

Costs

**The event is £175 per delegate. This includes refreshments, lunch, car parking at the venue and access to all sessions on the programme.**

You will be able to cancel your place free of charge within twenty-eight days of the event taking place. If you cancel with less than twenty-eight days' notice, we will charge you a cancellation fee, however you will be able to send another delegate from your organisation in your place.

Should the format of the event change e.g. if we are required to move the event online, we will amend the cost to reflect this.

### **Book your place!**

We do have limited places on this event and we anticipate a high demand. Please book early to avoid disappointment.

[Head here to book your place](#)





## **Is It Abuse or Poor Practice?**

### **Online Safeguarding Adults Training**

**Thursday 16 September**

**10.00–13.00**

**Challenge preconceptions through examining the fine line between abuse and poor practice.**

- An exploration of safeguarding adults in relation to the Care Act (2014), the Mental Capacity Act (2005) and other relevant guidance.
- Discuss the fine line between abuse and poor practice, and the circumstances that may influence our determination.
- Learn when and how to report safeguarding concerns.
- Take part in interactive case studies for discussion.

This course is for support workers, managers, support managers, social workers,, designated safeguarding leads, and anyone else with an interest in or responsibility for safeguarding.

**For more information, and to book your place:** [Register Here >>](#)

# Landmark Domestic Abuse Bill Receives Royal Assent



## The Domestic Abuse Bill Passed Both Houses of Parliament.

It was signed into law on 29 April 2021.

## What will the Domestic Abuse Act do?

The Domestic Abuse Act is set to provide further protections to the millions of people who experience domestic abuse. It will also strengthen measures to tackle perpetrators.

You can read detailed factsheets on each new measure [on the government's website](#).

## How Will the Act Help Victims?

Among other things, the Domestic Abuse Act will:

- **Create a statutory definition of domestic abuse.** The Act emphasises that domestic abuse is not just physical violence. It can also be emotional, coercive or controlling, and economic abuse. This definition explicitly recognises children as victims if they see, hear or otherwise experience the effects of abuse.
- **Create a new offence of non-fatal strangulation.**
- **Extend the controlling or coercive behaviour offence to cover post-separation abuse.**
- **Extend the 'revenge porn' offence.** It now also covers the threat to disclose intimate images with the intention to cause distress.
- **Create a statutory presumption that**

**victims of domestic abuse are eligible for special measures in the criminal, civil and family courts.** For example, victims can now give evidence via a video link.

- **Establish in law the Domestic Abuse Commissioner.** Their role is to stand up for victims and survivors, raise public awareness, and monitor the response of statutory agencies and hold them to account in tackling domestic abuse.
- **Place a duty on local authorities in England.** They are now obliged to provide support to victims of domestic abuse and their children in refuges and other safe accommodation.
- **Provide that all eligible homeless victims of domestic abuse automatically have 'priority need' for homelessness assistance.**
- **Place the guidance supporting the Domestic Violence Disclosure Scheme ("Clare's law") on a statutory footing.**

### **How will the Act strengthen measures to tackle perpetrators?**

Among other things, The Domestic Abuse Act will:

- **Prohibit perpetrators of abuse from cross-examining their victims in person in family and civil courts in England and Wales.**
- **Bring the case of R vs Brown into legislation.** This will invalidate any courtroom defence of consent where a victim suffers serious harm.
- **Provide for a new Domestic Abuse Protection Notice and Domestic Abuse Protection Order.** This will prevent

perpetrators from contacting their victims. It may also force them to take positive steps to change their behaviour, such as seeking mental health support.

- **Introduce a statutory duty on the Secretary of State to publish a domestic abuse perpetrator strategy.**

### **Does the New Act Go Far Enough?**

ACT CEO Deborah Kitson says:

*"We welcome the new Act and the new definition of domestic abuse. It strengthens the protections of victims and also ensures that they will be able to access the support they need."*

*"But we also recognise the limitations of the Act as outlined by Jess Phillips in our recent podcast. So we will continue to campaign for their inclusion in future policy initiatives."*



### **"Names Written in Invisible Ink"**

Jess Phillips MP was instrumental in getting the new Domestic Abuse Bill through parliament.

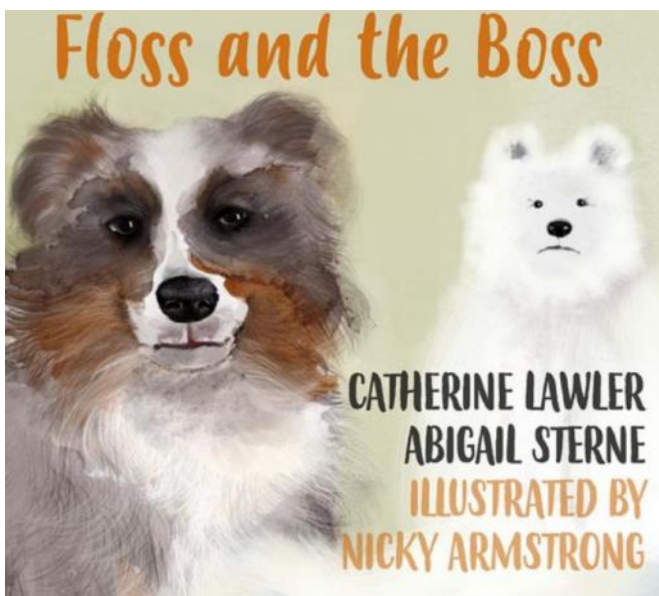


ACT's Sarah Goff spoke with Jess about the Bill, and about her long campaign to get it passed.

Jess talked about the many “names written in invisible ink” throughout the bill—all the many case studies that suggested that the existing domestic abuse legislation was letting people down.

Jess also talked about how lockdown may have made many of us rethink our attitudes towards domestic abuse and safety. It forced many to reflect: What if I wasn't safe in my own home? What if I was forced to stay in a place where I was at constant risk of abuse?

[You can listen to our chat with Jess here.](#)



### **Coercive Control—Floss and the Boss**

Sarah also recently spoke with safeguarding specialist and author Catherine Lawler about domestic abuse

and coercive control.

Catherine spoke about her mother's long experience of domestic abuse, and how abuse can affect the physical and mental health of the whole family. Her story is harrowing. But Catherine has lots of useful advice for any families or individuals suffering from abuse in the home.

Catherine also talks about her Floss and Boss books, which she wrote to help children learn about domestic abuse and coercive control. [You can learn more about these books here.](#)

### **Need Support With Domestic Violence and Coercive Control?**

There's lots of help available:

- [When Home is Not a Safe Place](#)—A directory of useful contacts.
- [A directory](#) of support organisations for children and young people.
- [Ask for ANI](#)—the domestic abuse codeword scheme.
- [We Matter Too](#)—ACT project looking at how disabled children and young people experience domestic abuse.

# Would You Recognise Domestic Abuse if You Saw It?

## Untold Stories

### Domestic Abuse & Coercive Control

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**The government's landmark bill creates a new statutory definition of domestic abuse.**

But would you recognise domestic abuse if you saw it?

Throughout May and June 2020, we ran an online quiz featuring eight different scenarios. Nearly 500 people took part.

We asked participants to consider each scenario. They could either agree that the scenario constituted domestic abuse, or if they felt they needed more context, they could say they were "not sure".

For every scenario, participants had the opportunity to share their thoughts, to tell us why they chose their answer.

Over the next few pages, we'll explore

each scenario we featured in the quiz. With reference to the government's new legislation, we'll discuss whether each scenario constitutes domestic abuse, and look at some of the factors that might help us determine this.

We'll also share some of the responses we received to our quiz. Participation was completely anonymous. We're only sharing these responses to give an idea of the sort of discussions that can take place around domestic abuse cases, and the sort of questions we might ask ourselves when determining whether abuse is taking place.

## **Scenario 1—One Partner Prevents the Other from Seeing their Friends or Family.**

**This is domestic abuse.**

[Emotional abuse](#) plays a big role in domestic abuse situations, and abusers often isolate their victims from their friends and family. This makes it harder for the victim's family to spot the signs of abuse and intervene. And of course, it makes it almost impossible for the victim to find the help and support they need.

### **Some responses we received:**

*As an adult you have a choice to do things and make choices, even bad ones.*

*What if those friends or family were heroin dealers, and the partner was coming clean?*

*It will isolate them. It denies them freedom of choice over who they see.*

*They will be socially isolated and more dependent on the abusive partner.*

*Could be health-related  
(Covid - Self-isolation)*

*If there was a problem with your partner's friends or family, you could advise someone. But it is their choice if they want to see them or not.*

## **Scenario 2—One Partner Reads the Other Partner’s Messages on Their Phone**

**This could be domestic abuse.**

If one partner reads another partner’s messages on their phone behind their back, it shows a lack of trust and a lack of privacy. This could be part of a wider pattern of [coercive control](#).

**Some responses we received:**

*My wife and I read messages on each other’s phones and we are in a happy relationship.*

*This might be a trust issue rather than control.*

*It is an invasion of privacy and shows a lack of trust in the relationship.*

*In my relationship we both think of this situation as proof of complete honesty.*

*It’s the partner’s way of keeping track of their partner’s contacts and conversations.*

*This could be just a suspicious mind due to something that’s gone on before. It depends on what the person does with the information they gather.*

### **Scenario 3—One Partner Installs a “Find My Phone” App On the Other Partner’s Phone.**

#### **This could be domestic abuse.**

A “find my phone” app uses GPS to show your phone’s location on a map. If one partner installs such an app on the other partner’s phone, they might just giving their partner a means of finding their phone should they ever lose it.

On the other hand, the partner might be using the app themselves, to keep track on the other partner’s movements. Again, this could be part of a wider pattern of coercive control, which could indicate a domestic abuse situation.

#### **Some responses we received:**

*I have it on my phone so my husband can put the kettle on when I’m nearly home.*

*Depends on motivation and the way it is used.*

*What if both parties agree?*

*One partner might have dementia.*

*Depends whether the partner has a habit of losing it.*

*If I got a new £1000 phone, I’d want an app on mine - especially if it was a gift from my partner.*

## **Scenario 4—One Partner Changes Their Behaviour, As They're Afraid of What The Other Partner Might Say or Do**

**This could be domestic abuse.**

What might make a person in an intimate relationship start to change their behaviour? Perhaps they've learned over time that doing certain things, going to certain places, or seeing (or even mentioning) other people upsets their partner. Maybe it makes them angry. Or violent.

People shouldn't be afraid of their own partners. If someone's so worried about how their partner behaves that they change their behaviour, it might point to a wider pattern of coercive control.

### **Some responses we received:**

*My ex partner used to give me silent treatment and say cruel things if I went and saw my friends and family.*

*People should not have to behave differently to please others.*

*They might just be trying to please their partner.*

*They're afraid to be themselves - treading on egg shells to keep the peace.*

*Have they chosen to change, or do they feel forced?*

*Someone suffering from high anxiety and paranoia might worry about how their actions will come across.*

## Scenario 5—One Partner Controls all the Household Finances

**This might not be domestic abuse.**

[Financial abuse](#) is often a factor in abusive relationships. Abusers might control their partner's use of money, barely giving them enough to survive. This, of course, limits their independence, making them feel further isolated.

However, if one partner's just handling the finances for practical reasons, or for the sake of convenience, then it's probably not an abusive situation. The important thing is that both partners *consent* to this situation.

**Some responses we received:**

*The other person might have a habit of spending more money than they have, going overdrawn or buying things on credit.*

*Some partnerships work like this, with a split of responsibilities that is discussed and agreed.*

*My partner does this. But I have my own cards.*

*I choose to let me other half do all the money stuff because I just don't do it well.*

*It could be economic abuse or just sensible planning.*

*It means that the other person becomes totally dependent and is not an equal in the relationship.*

## **Scenario 6—One Partner Drinks More Alcoholic Drinks Per Week Than the Other**

### **This might not be domestic abuse.**

It's a myth that all domestic abuse situations involve drugs or alcohol. It's also a myth that drugs and alcohol tends to make people more violent.

Alcohol and drugs can make existing abusive situations worse. They can also act as a catalyst for abuse. But the vast majority of people who drink alcohol and take drugs do not abuse their partners.

### **Some responses we received:**

*One partner might be pregnant, or they might not like drinking. There are many reasons why this could happen that don't involve abuse.*

*Using alcohol to self-medicate could suggest an unhappy home life.*

*Alcohol is a catalyst, not a cause.*

*Depends if it leads to violent or controlling behaviour.*

*I drink more than my partner but I'm not abusing them.*

*One partner might be struggling with low self-esteem due to the other's controlling behaviour. They might drink to cope.*



## **Scenario 7—One Partner Lashes Out At The Other When Angry—But Only Once**

### **This might not be domestic abuse.**

If one partner gets angry and lashes out at the other, it's [physical abuse](#). It's illegal and unacceptable. But domestic abuse is not about losing control. It's about *taking* control.

Abusers tend to choose carefully how and when they abuse their partners. They might do it when there are no witnesses around, and they might harm their partner in such a way that it won't leave any marks. An isolated incident of violence might be inexcusable. But that doesn't necessarily make it domestic abuse.

### **Some responses we received:**

*The number of times it happens is not relevant and should never be used as an excuse.*

*Any physical violence is domestic abuse.*

*The violence may have been provoked.*

*If it happens once, it's likely to happen again.*

*If it's just once it's not abuse, it's a mistake.*

*The victim now knows their partner is capable of violence. The fear alone is enough for them to be controlled.*

## **Scenario 8—A Couple Splits Up, But One Partner Continues to Send Insulting Messages to the Other After the Separation**

### **This could be domestic abuse.**

The government's new Domestic Abuse Act extends the controlling or coercive behaviour offence to cover post-separation abuse.

Even if the two partners are no longer in a relationship – or even if they no longer live in the same country – if one partner continues to harass and emotionally abuse the other after the separation, then it may still count as domestic abuse.

### **Some responses we received:**

*The messages might just be one partner expressing their pain. It depends on how they affect the other partner.*

*Annoying and hurtful but not necessarily abusive.*

*You don't have to live with someone for it to be domestic abuse.*

*It depends on what sort of messages they send, and how many they send.*

*Domestic abuse does not end when a relationship ends. It often escalates.*

*Can't leave their partner in peace. Still controlling, even after the breakup.*



## **Effective Minute-Taking in Safeguarding Meetings Specialist Training**

**Monday 20—Thursday 23 September**

**Effective minute-taking is essential in a safeguarding meeting. It ensures that all concerns will be properly recorded, which will enable your organisation to truly learn from the incident.**

This practical training will focus on the role of the minute taker and provide you with an overview into how to succeed in your role.

You'll explore the true purpose of safeguarding meetings, and the vital role a minute-taker plays in proceedings. Learn how to ensure that your minutes accurately reflect the meeting, and how you can work alongside the rest of the team to effect lasting change across your organisation.

**For more information, and to book your place:** [Register Here >>](#)

## **My Marriage, My Choice Project Launches New Website**

# **Safeguarding vulnerable adults from forced, unlawful or predatory marriage and civil partnership**

### **The My Marriage, My Choice project explores the forced marriage of adults with learning disabilities.**

People with learning disabilities should be supported to get married if they choose to do so, and if they have capacity to consent to the marriage.

People forced to marry or to enter a civil partnership against their will, including when they don't have capacity to consent, need to be protected from harm and abuse.

The new My Marriage, My Choice website contains information and resources for people at risk of, or currently experiencing forced, unlawful or predatory marriage.

The website also provides information and

free training resources for professionals. So it's a great starting point for anyone who may be able to help prevent forced, unlawful or predatory marriages. This includes health and social care professionals, people working in education and youth services, the police and other criminal justice professionals, and marriage registrars.

Finally, the website offers information which may be useful for policy makers and researchers both in the UK and internationally.

**[You can access the My Marriage, My Choice website here.](#)**

## **More Forced Marriage Resources**

- We have a short guide to forced marriage, which includes a film exploring this issue in greater depth. [Find it here.](#)
- We've taken part in numerous forced marriage research projects over the years. [You can learn more about our projects and our findings here.](#)
- Predatory marriage is a form of forced marriage in which abusers target adults at risk for financial gain. We recorded a podcast with Daphne Franks, in which she talks about her Justice for Joan campaign. [Listen here.](#)
- An exchange in the Guardian from October 2020 offers an insightful case study into how forced marriage might happen. It also has lots of advice for anyone who's worried about a forced marriage situation. [Find it here.](#)

## What Does Inclusivity Look Like in Safeguarding?

Charlotte Brooks, Marketing Officer, ACT



**Anyone can be subjected to abuse, discrimination, and harm. Yet survivors will have different needs depending on their gender, sexuality, race, religion, culture and ethnic background.**

In response, safeguarding practitioners and services need to think critically about whether processes and practices are inclusive. This may involve asking and discussing why people with certain characteristics are not engaging in services rather than only describing these groups as 'hard to reach'.

Similarly, promoting inclusivity in safeguarding could involve using different language, providing additional training to staff or changing the format of support for people subjected to abuse. This may encourage more people to report abuse and access support.

### What does Inclusive Practice Look Like?

Below we share some examples of good practice where organisations have highlighted how services have been developed to meet different needs.

**Refuge** runs a number of [refuges](#) specifically for women of African and Caribbean descent, and for women of Asian descent. Refuges offer dedicated support to tackle domestic abuse, forced marriage and language support to name a few. Nine out of ten women in these refuges have said they preferred living in a specialist refuge.

**Galop** have produced a [toolkit](#) for organisations supporting people from LGBT+ communities that have been subjected to domestic abuse. The report provides practical guidance for organisations and explains the barriers

that people from LGBT+ may encounter when reporting and accessing support for domestic abuse. For instance, the toolkit highlights that people from LGBT+ backgrounds may be wary of reporting domestic abuse to non-specialist services for fear of discriminatory abuse from practitioners. Therefore, specialist support services could encourage people from LGBT+ communities to report abuse and access support.

**Respect** have set up a dedicated [advice line for men](#) subjected to domestic abuse. The advice line has the option for callers to request a telephone interpreter if English is not their first language and the Respect website provides details on how personal data is used to reassure callers.

**Women's Aid** have extended refuge provision at 22 of their sites to male survivors of domestic abuse. Additionally, the 'rail to refuge' scheme is available to men, women and children fleeing domestic abuse.

### **What Else Do We Know About Inclusivity in Safeguarding?**

**The Welsh Government** have commissioned [research](#) to explore the barriers faced by Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender People in Accessing Domestic Abuse, Stalking, Harassment and Sexual Abuse Services. The research recommended that:

- Organisations supporting survivors of abuse need to be transparent about who they are supporting. For instance, do

women-only services include everyone identifying as a woman?

- Training materials for staff should include incidents of abuse that involve people from LGBT+ communities, people from ethnically minoritised backgrounds and people with disabilities.
- Services need to be transparent about the level of confidentiality they provide. People from LGBT+ communities and people from ethnically diverse communities could have concerns about reporting domestic abuse due to fears about hate crime, racism and/or forced marriage and honour-based violence. Reassuring people about confidentiality on social media and on organisational websites could encourage more people to report abuse.

### **Contact Us**

Everyone has a right to be treated with respect and dignity. Everyone deserves to be safe. To do this effectively it is vital that we consider people's different needs within safeguarding practice.

Part of this is a continued commitment to sharing resources, learning about people's diverse needs and adapting our practices in response. If you have developed an initiative in your organisation, [let us know](#) and we would love to share this within our resources.





## **A Focus on Self-Neglect**

### **Join us for Three Dedicated Safeguarding Training Courses**

Learn more about this category of abuse. Explore who's at risk, and learn to spot the signs that someone might be experiencing self-neglect.

We'll discuss the key challenges associated with self-neglect cases, and help you determine the best course of action to help safeguard adults at risk in both the short term and the long term.

- **Tuesday 28 September—[An Introduction to Self-Neglect](#)**
- **Thursday 30 September—[An Appropriate Response to Self-Neglect](#)**
- **Monday 4 October—[Managing Risk & Autonomy in Self-Neglect](#)**



# Domestic Abuse and Higher Education



## How can UK universities develop a domestic abuse policy?

Pioneering research by UCLan’s Honour Abuse Research Matrix ([HARM](#)) has informed new domestic abuse policy guidance for UK universities.

Dr Roxanne Khan, Director of HARM, has worked in consultation with a multidisciplinary Expert Advisory Panel renowned for their work in raising awareness of domestic abuse. Their collaboration has resulted in the first ever domestic abuse policy guidance for UK universities.

## The Research Has Found That

- Over 185,000 university staff and students experienced domestic abuse in the past year.
- Disabled staff and students are twice as likely to experience domestic abuse.
- 10.5% of full-time female students experienced domestic abuse in the past year.
- Only 9 out of 133 UK universities currently have a specific domestic abuse policy.

Most universities either have no guidance relating to domestic abuse, or else they simply refer to domestic abuse in their broader safeguarding policies. These policies often lacked practical advice about how to respond to reported incidents of domestic abuse.

The report explores:

- The important role universities have in responding to domestic abuse.
- Practical information about supporting someone at risk of, or suffering from, domestic abuse.
- Information about how universities can develop and implement a domestic abuse policy.

**[Download the free resource:  
Domestic Abuse Policy  
Guidance for UK Universities.](#)**

**New from the Ann Craft Trust...**

**An Introduction to Safeguarding Adults in Higher Education E-learning Programme!**

**Launches July 2021.**

Designed in collaboration with university staff, the e-learning programme will:

- Explain how to spot the signs of abuse.
- Discuss your role in responding and reporting harm or abuse.
- Provide interactive case studies that encourage you to consider your role in keeping people safe on campus.
- Provide certification to document your participation.



**The Ann Craft Trust are excited to announce the launch of a new e-learning training course for July 2021: ‘An Introduction to Safeguarding Adults in Higher Education’.**

The ‘Introduction to Safeguarding Adults in Higher Education’ e-learning programme has been designed in collaboration with staff working in the higher education sector to provide you with a strong foundation for knowing your role in safeguarding within your university.

On completing the course, you will be confident in knowing how to spot the signs of harm and abuse and understand how to respond and refer should you have any concerns.

It is vital that higher education institutions commit to safeguarding. This starts with having an effective safeguarding policy alongside ensuring staff are trained to confidently respond appropriately when any issues arise.

At just £25 per person, this e-learning course is a cost-effective way to demonstrate an organisational commitment to safeguarding. You can also contact us to find out about our discounted rates for group bookings.

Everyone has a role in safeguarding. Knowing your role will create a safer environment for all staff and students that promotes wellbeing and in some instances could even contribute to saving a person’s life by minimising harm and abuse.

## Abuse in Higher Education

The extent of abuse in higher education settings is alarmingly high. Here are just some of the statistics featured in reports and newspapers.

“ An estimated 50,000 incidents of sexual abuse or harassment take place in universities in England and Wales every year. ”

“ More than 185,000 UK university staff and students suffer domestic abuse every year. ”

“ The scale of sexual harassment and gender violence by UK university staff has been likened to the scandals involving the Catholic church and Jimmy Savile in accounts shared by more than 100 women with the Guardian. ”

“ In 2019, Rethink Mental Illness surveyed 37,654 UK University students and found that almost 1 in 10 (9.4%) think about self-harming often or all the time. ”

“ In 2010, a National Union of Students report, Hidden Marks, found that 68% of students had experienced verbal or physical sexual harassment. ”

### Why Do We Need Safeguarding in Universities?

“Safeguarding” refers to measures designed to protect the health, wellbeing and human rights of individuals.

In 2018, [research](#) from Advance HE and the Office for Students identified that although universities were making encouraging progress in relation to safeguarding students, there remains work to be done to ensure staff and students feel safe and well supported on campus.

The research recommended that improving safeguarding policies and providing university staff with opportunities for safeguarding training could enable higher education institutions to create safer culture.

It's not enough for people to be aware of safeguarding measures. Safeguarding is about ensuring people understand what their role and responsibility is if they witness abuse or are informed that someone has been harmed or is at risk of

being harmed. For example: Do they know how and who to report to? What should they deal with themselves? Or should they even deal with it at all?

### Safeguarding Staff and Students

When we imagine someone who is experiencing harm and abuse, we may not initially think this is something that could apply to university staff and students.

Part of this could be because most university students and staff are over eighteen. Yet safeguarding still applies to adults and organisations should have safeguarding policies and practices for both adults and children.

Recent statistics shown below highlight the scale of harm and abuse occurring within universities. When we use the term 'harm and abuse', this could refer to a wide range of incidents from self-neglect, domestic abuse, financial abuse, discriminatory abuse, sexual abuse or emotional abuse to name a few.

## **Would You Know How to Respond?**

Despite the high volume of people experiencing harm and abuse in a university context, our conversations with university staff suggest many have not received safeguarding training. Therefore, many staff members feel they would struggle to spot the signs someone is experiencing abuse or find it challenging to know how to respond to a disclosure effectively.

The e-learning course is designed to be completed at a person's own pace, providing links to free resources and support, to ensure that everyone has the basic knowledge to fulfil their safeguarding role on campus.

By taking our Introduction to Safeguarding in Adults in Higher Education e-learning programme you will:

- **Learn** the essential information related to safeguarding adults.
- **Understand** how to recognise abuse and how to respond and report appropriately when a concern is raised.
- **Take part** in interactive case studies, quizzes and scenarios that encourage you to consider your role in keeping people safe in a university context.
- **Gain a certificate** to document your participation in the Ann Craft Trust safeguarding programme.

The e-learning course is designed to be relevant to staff in **all** roles. For instance, this could be academic staff who have regular contact teaching students or catering or estates staff who have informal contact with students and colleagues.





## **Safeguarding Adults at Risk Training for Managers and Safeguarding Leads**

**This online course will explore the roles and responsibilities of managers in terms of safeguarding adults at risk.**

We'll cover best practice, the expectations of regulators, and the lessons we learned from our safeguarding adults reviews.

Each course takes place across three sessions, lasting from 10.00 am–12.00 pm with a 15–30 minute working break:

**Wednesday 13 October—Wednesday 20 October 2021:** [Register Here >>](#)

**Tuesday 16 November—Tuesday 23 November 2021:** [Register Here >>](#)

**Wednesday 12 January—Wednesday 19 January 2022:** [Register Here >>](#)

**Wednesday 16 March—Wednesday 23 March 2022:** [Register Here >>](#)

# How Pet Fostering Services Can Support People to Leave Abusive Relationships

**Charlotte Brooks, Marketing Officer, ACT**



## **Pets can sometimes be a barrier to people leaving abusive relationships.**

This could be because people do not want to leave their pet behind, or because they are concerned about their pet's welfare once they have fled.

Research from the Dogs Trust has found that:

- Almost nine in 10 professionals working in the domestic abuse sector have seen cases where a pet has also been abused.
- Almost half (49%) of professionals working in the sector are aware of domestic abuse cases where the pet has been killed.
- In addition to the physical abuse that pets may suffer, 97% of professionals said

pets are often used as a means of controlling someone experiencing domestic abuse.

- More than nine in 10 professionals (95%) said that some survivors will not leave their home without knowing their pet would be safe.

## **What Support is Available?**

[Cats Protection](#) and the [Dogs Trust](#) offer fostering services to enable people to leave for safety knowing that their pet will be looked after in a loving home, until they are able to be reunited.

These services are free, confidential, and hugely important in removing one of the many barriers that people may encounter

when leaving an abusive relationship.

Currently, Cats Protection are only able to support people living in London and the Home Counties.

You can download their poster to learn more about the [“Paws Protect Service”](#).

The Dogs Trust offer their fostering services across Greater London & the Home Counties, East Anglia, Yorkshire, the North East, the North West, and Scotland.

### **Additional Support**

If you are experiencing domestic abuse, or concerned about someone who is, see our [advice and directory of useful contacts](#) for how to access support.



## Watch Our Short Film About the We Matter Too Project



**The We Matter Too! project addresses the needs of disabled young people facing domestic abuse.**

The project was funded by the [Lloyds Bank Foundation](#) as part of a series of projects looking at domestic violence.

It explored gaps in domestic abuse service provisions and awareness of practitioners working with disabled young people, as identified by [SafeLives](#) and [WomensAid](#).

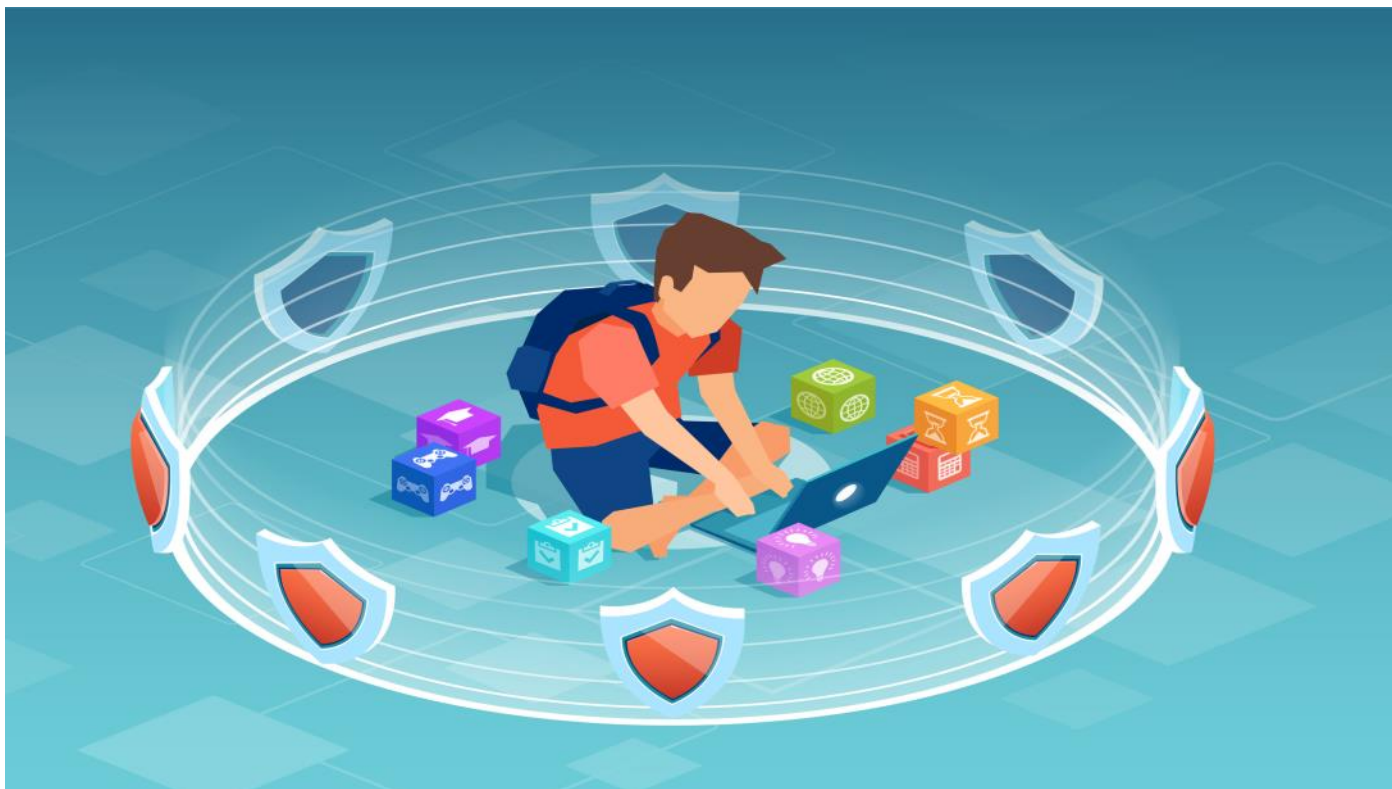
ACT, in partnership with Anita Franklin at Coventry University, carried out work that specifically addresses the needs of young disabled people.

You can read the project's full report, as well as an executive summary, [here](#).

We've also created a short film about the project that explores some of its key findings. The film also offers some advice on how we can help disabled young people facing domestic abuse.

**[Watch the We Matter Too Film here.](#)**

## Helping My Autistic Child Stay Safe Online



**ACT and The Marie Collins Foundation have collaborated to produce a resource to help parents and children understand various online risks.**

The resource is a leaflet called “Sexual Abuse Online – Helping My Autistic Child.” It’s available as an online PDF, but you can also [contact ACT](#) or [The Marie Collins Foundation](#) to request a hard copy.

[Download the leaflet here.](#)

### **Sexual Abuse Online – Helping My Autistic Child**

Parents and carers worry about online sexual harm, and what they’d do if it happened to their child. When you are caring for an autistic child, it can feel like

there are lots of extra things to worry about. How we respond to an autistic child who might have been sexually harmed online can affect their recovery. So it’s important to send the right messages from the start.

The leaflet begins by explaining the sorts of risks children and young people might face online. But the leaflet also lists the various ways being online can benefit autistic children. It can be fun and freeing. Also, as online chat doesn’t involve eye contact, it can give autistic children more space to process interactions.

So rather than advising parents to prevent their children from going online, it instead offers various tips on staying safe. For

example, it lists ways you can start essential conversations with autistic children to help them understand risk.

### Spotting the Signs of Online Abuse

The leaflet also lists some warning signs that might suggest that something's wrong. For example, the child might appear withdrawn, and unwilling to discuss what they do online. Or you might notice that they have new things – such as clothes, or even electronic devices – that they cannot or will not explain.

Finally, the leaflet offers advice on what to do if you suspect your child's been harmed online. And crucially, it also contains a list of things you should never do if you think something's wrong.

The leaflet ends with a list of additional resources, with contact details for organisations who can offer extra help.

### Download Your Free Online Safety for Autistic Children Resource

[Download the leaflet here.](#)

You can [contact ACT](#) or [The Marie Collins Foundation](#) to request a hard copy.

You can also listen to ACT's Sarah Goff and The Marie Collins Foundation's Rhiannon-Faye McDonald discuss this resource, and the wider issues of online safety, [in this episode of our Safeguarding Matters podcast.](#)

#### How do I talk to my child about this?

To start the conversation, you could ask:

- What are their interests and what websites, apps or games they use
- About their friends online and whether people they don't know try to talk to them.

Once you feel more confident, you can ask direct questions about specific concerns you might have. If you don't understand how something works online, ask your child to explain it or show you how to do it.

Talk to your child regularly about online issues. That way you will both start to feel more comfortable and they are more likely to tell you if something online doesn't feel right.

#### Top Talking Tips

Be clear and honest about what is ok and not ok online. Tell them they can talk to you about anything.

When talking about online safety it's important to be careful about the language you use.

Avoid saying things that imply that your child is to blame for being harmed online, such as "I told you not to do that" or "you shouldn't have been speaking to that person". If a child thinks that it is their fault and that they will get into trouble, then they won't tell us about it.

# #ACTSafeguardingHour

Every Wednesday

12.00–1.00 pm

@AnnCraftTrust

**ann craft trust**  
acting against abuse

## **Do you have any questions or concerns about Safeguarding?**

Join us for **#ACTSafeguardingHour**—every Wednesday on  
Twitter, 12.00–1.00.

This is an opportunity to discuss safeguarding matters with an  
online community of practitioners.

For more information, find us on Twitter:

[@AnnCraftTrust](https://twitter.com/AnnCraftTrust)



# Working Together to Create Safer Cultures in Sport

Join the  
**#SaferCultureSaferSport**  
Campaign  
ann craft trust  
acting against abuse

**The Ann Craft Trust has launched a new campaign for sport and activity organisations to create safer cultures.**

The campaign has been launched to support the sport and activity sector to develop their safeguarding practice. This will involve learning from poor practice, and recognising and celebrating successes, because these can be shared and learnt from to create safer cultures.

**What is #SaferCultureSaferSport?**

A campaign for sport and activity organisations to create safer cultures. Where welfare, safety and

wellbeing are at the heart of values and actions.

Unhealthy and toxic cultures in sport and activity increase the risk of abuse and impacts welfare, safety and wellbeing. Through the **#SaferCultureSaferSport campaign**, the Ann Craft Trust is asking organisations to commit to focusing on and improving their cultures, while providing the tools they need to help create an environment where participants, athletes, volunteers and staff feel empowered to recognise and report concerns without fear or judgement.

## To create a safe culture, organisations must listen, learn and lead:

- **Listen**—Create an environment where everyone is confident their concerns are welcomed, listened to and addressed appropriately.
- **Learn**—Encourage continuous learning and reflection at all levels in order to create and embed a safer culture.
- **Lead**—Lead with positive actions and values to empower everyone with the confidence to challenge and instigate change.

## Who is Supporting the Campaign?

The Ann Craft Trust is encouraging sport and activity organisations to use their [free resources](#) to commit to reviewing and improving their cultures to create a safer environment for everyone to enjoy sport and activity.

[Sport Wales](#) were one of the first organisations to register their support for the campaign. Sarah Powell, Sport Wales CEO said:

*“Sport Wales is proud to support Ann Craft Trust’s campaign to create safer cultures across the Welsh sporting sector. We commit to reviewing and improving our own culture while raising awareness amongst our partners to build a safer environment for everyone involved in sport”.*

We are also delighted to announce that [British Wheelchair Basketball](#) and [Badminton England](#) have

pledged their commitment to creating safer cultures.

If you would like to make a commitment on behalf of your organisation, we want to hear from you! We’d love to celebrate your commitment, [so please let us know](#) if you’re happy for us to announce your organisation is committed to focusing on your culture and add your logo on the [#SaferCultureSaferSport](#) landing page.

## How to Get involved

There are a number of ways organisations can get involved with the campaign:

- Use **#SaferCultureSaferSport** to join the conversation and share helpful resources on Twitter.
- Make the **#SaferCultureSaferSport** commitment.
- Listen to our new **#SaferCultureSaferSport** podcast series.

Explore our [resources and information](#) on how your organisation can create a safer culture for everyone.

[Find out more and make your commitment here.](#)



# #SaferCultureSaferSport—Not Just a Hot Topic in UK Sport

**Kimberley Walsh, Safeguarding Elite Athletes Lead, ACT**



**ACT became aware of a recent article in Canada’s Vancouver Sun newspaper.**

The article strongly resonated with our #SaferCultureSaferSport campaign reinforcing our messages of the need to improve culture within sport in order to make it safer for everyone.

**Read the article: [Vancouver Sun article by Jennifer Heil: Safety in sport is everyone’s issue](#)**

**“Participating in sport in Canada need not come at the cost of experiencing abuse and trauma or being a part of a culture that allows it to happen”.**

The article echoed similar concerns and highlighted gaps that we are hearing identified from athletes and people working with, and within, sport organisations in the UK who are trying to raise awareness and make sport a safer place.

Written by a former Canadian Olympic skier, the article demonstrates that issues in relation to athlete safety and the culture within sport is not an issue that one nation alone is experiencing. This in turn suggests the root of many problems often go beyond the behaviours of a

specific individual, event, organisation or country – and stems from the deep-rooted culture that has developed and evolved within sport over many years.

**“It is a system that accepts abuse under the facade of performance, compounded by the significant power imbalance that exist between athletes and coaches as well as athletes and their sport organizations.”**

The article shares recommendations that a group of 13 Paralympic and Olympic athletes are making to Canadian Members of Parliament with the aim of addressing identified gaps in the Canadian sport safeguarding systems.

Many of the recommendations being made are similar to those being talked about as areas to improve within UK systems with some additional ideas which give food for thought.

### **Examples of some of the recommendations:**

- “Single code of conduct with consistent language and definitions with supporting educational resources.”
- “Centralised adjudication process – fully independent from national sport organisations”.
- “Centralised sanctions database”

Hearing the views and ‘on the ground’ experience directly from athletes (or any level of participant) is invaluable learning and must continue to be encouraged and embraced. If we can’t learn and evolve from the past and the present, how will we ever make effective long-lasting change for the future?

**“Many of us have learned to normalize this psychological, physical and sexual abuse, and harassment as part of the culture of sport.”**

The article concludes with a plea to the Canadian Minister **“One more news headline exposing further horrific athlete abuse is one too many.”**

What can we learn from others, from the voice of those with lived experience, and what can be done in sport in the UK to address similar gaps as highlighted in the article?

# Introducing Catherine Sykes— Safeguarding Adults in Unregulated Sport and Activity Officer



**Cath is the newest member of the ACT team, taking up the role of Safeguarding Adults in Unregulated Sport and Activity Officer.**

I am a qualified youth and community worker with over 25 years' experience working in the voluntary and community sector. I've worked with young people and adults, leading on safeguarding, participation and governance.

In early 2021, I made the transition from the youth work sector to the sports sector. I took on the part time role of Lead Safeguarding Officer for Canoe Wales. Since then, I have quickly learned to apply my knowledge and skills to ensure that the governing body and affiliated clubs implement high standards of

safeguarding.

In my new position at the Ann Craft Trust, I'll be applying my knowledge of the unregulated sport sector to develop new resources and material to support those working in it.

My role involves reviewing and developing advice and support in relation to adults at risk in unregulated sport and recreation. I'll also be identifying, planning and implementing new initiatives.

Over the coming months I plan to build contacts and networks with the unregulated sector. Our aim is to develop a package of support and resources that focus on safeguarding adults at risk.

When I am not working, I love being outdoors and spending time with my family. I run three times a week, belong to the local tennis club and enjoy cycling and walking. I also have an allotment which provides us with lots of fresh vegetables and fruit.

**Listen to Cath discuss her new role, and the challenges of safeguarding adults in unregulated and unaffiliated sport and activity, [in this episode of our Safeguarding Matters podcast.](#)**

### **Got Questions or Concerns About Unregulated Sport?**

I am keen to develop links and gain an in-depth insight so that we can tailor a package of advice and support for those working in the unregulated sector.

So if you have any questions or concerns regarding safeguarding, [please get in touch.](#)



# Workforce Governance in Sport & Physical Activity—Phase 2 of Project



## **Supporting the sport and physical activity workforce to provide safe and high-quality experiences for all participants.**

Sport England’s [Uniting the Movement](#) strategy highlighted the importance of a sector-wide approach to ensuring that participants at all levels can enjoy safer sport and activity.

To help deliver on these aspects of the strategy, Sport England commissioned CIMSPA to lead on the second phase of ‘Workforce Governance: Sport & Physical Activity’.

The projects aims are as follows:

- Gain a deeper understanding of how organisations are currently supporting

the workforce in delivering positive experiences for all participants.

- Understand how organisations are already working to mitigate workforce related risks.
- Examine the role and existing methods of workforce regulation and registration.
- Appraise best practice in workforce governance from across the sector, alongside learning from other sectors and countries.

CIMSPA are inviting sport and activity workers from a range of roles to take part in their study. You can join online focus groups, complete online surveys, and register for updates.

[Head to the project website for more information, or to get involved.](#)

# Sport England & UK Sport Release Joint Statement on Race in Sport Review



**In 2020 Sport England and the other home sports councils began a review into racism and racial inequality in sport.**

As they publish the findings, they've issued a joint statement with UK Sport:

*"The findings make clear that racism and racial inequalities still exist within sport in the UK and that there are longstanding issues, which have resulted in ethnically diverse communities being consistently disadvantaged.*

*"The review also highlighted the detrimental impact this has had on individuals, leading to mistrust and exclusion, and makes clear areas where we must see change."*

You can read the full statement, as well as the full review, [here](#).



## Safeguarding News Watch: Safeguarding Young People

### **The 650 Lost Birmingham Children—How Country Lines Gangs Exploit City Kids**

6 July 2021 | [BirminghamMail.co.uk](https://www.birminghammail.co.uk)

### **Staggeringly High Number of Autistic People on UK Prevent Scheme**

7 July 2021 | [TheGuardian.com](https://www.theguardian.com)

### **Young People Give Evidence to MPS About Their Experiences of Mental Health Services**

16 April 2021 | [Committees.parliament.uk](https://committees.parliament.uk)

### **EHCP Figures for 2021—15,000 Disabled Learners, But No Provisions**

14 May 2021 | [SpecialNeedsJungle.com](https://www.specialneedsjungle.com)

### **Positive Outcomes Following Transforming Care Accelerator**

24 March 2020 | [Contact.org.uk](https://www.contact.org.uk)

### **Whistleblower Claims Children With Autism Abused at Cardiff Home**

9 June 2021 | [BBC.co.uk](https://www.bbc.co.uk)

### **Ask, Listen, Do—New NHS Project to Improve Experiences of People with Learning Disabilities**

June 2021 | [NHS.uk](https://www.nhs.uk)

## Safeguarding News Watch: Safeguarding Adults at Risk

### **Autism Spectrum Disorder and Criminal Law**

June 2021 | [LibertasChambers.com](https://www.libertaschambers.com)

### **Changes to Social Care Must Improve The Lives of Disabled People**

23 June 2021 | [DisabilityRights.org](https://www.disabilityrights.org.uk)

### **Fast-Tracked Access to Benefits for People With Terminal Illness Scheme Expanded**

12 July 2021 | [DisabilityRights.org](https://www.disabilityrights.org.uk)

### **Find Out If Someone Has an Attorney, Deputy or Guardian Acting For Them**

March 2021 | [Gov.uk](https://www.gov.uk)

### **Art Project Tells Stories of Lockdown in Wales's Care Homes**

8 July 2021 | [BBC.co.uk](https://www.bbc.co.uk)

### **Former Mental Health Social Worker: I Could Not Receive an Honour From This Government**

9 July 2021 | [CommunityCare.co.uk](https://www.communitycare.co.uk)

### **What Does the Health and Care Bill Mean for Social Workers?**

14 July 2021 | [CommunityCare.co.uk](https://www.communitycare.co.uk)

## Safeguarding News Watch:

# Safeguarding Adults in Sport and Activity

### **Tokyo 2020: ParalympicsGB Squad for Rescheduled Games**

8 July 2021 | [BBC.co.uk](https://www.bbc.com)

### **PODCAST: Choosing an Empowering Narrative to Handle Whatever Comes Your Way**

21 January 2021 | [BBC.co.uk](https://www.bbc.com)

### **PODCAST: Making Voices Heard During Lockdown**

November 2020 | [BBC.co.uk](https://www.bbc.com)

### **PODCAST: Active Partnerships Bring Communities Together**

29 June 2021 | [AnnCraftTrust.org](https://www.anncrafttrust.org)

### **Striking a Balance Between Media Obligations and Mental Health Concerns**

29 June 2020 | [AnnCraftTrust.org](https://www.anncrafttrust.org)

### **Bilingual eLearning Courses Now Available Through ACT**

20 May 2021 | [AnnCraftTrust.org](https://www.anncrafttrust.org)

### **Changes Made to Strengthen Code for Sports Governance**

2 July 2021 | [SportEngland.org](https://www.sportengland.org)

# Safeguarding Research and Resources

## **Keeping Children Safe in Education**

Statutory guidance for schools and colleges on safeguarding children and safer recruitment, produced by the Department of Education.

Read more: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/keeping-children-safe-in-education--2>

## **Hospital Care For Young People With a Learning Disability**

Easy-read guide from Mencap on moving from children's to adult services.

Read more: <https://www.mencap.org.uk/sites/default/files/2021-07/>

## **Locked Out: Liberating Disabled People's Lives and Rights in Wales Beyond Lockdown**

Welsh government report on the impact of lockdown on disabled people in Wales.

More information: <https://gov.wales/locked-out-liberating-disabled-peoples-lives-and-rights-wales-beyond-covid-19-html>

# Safeguarding Research and Resources

## **Disability Rights Handbook 2021/22**

A guide to benefits and services for all disabled people, their families, carers, and advisers by CPAG. Providing in-depth, comprehensive guidance on the benefits system, explaining how social care operates in the UK with information about other services and resources for disabled people.

Read more: <https://cpag.org.uk/shop/other-publishers/disability-rights-handbook-202122>

## **Autism and the Internet: Risks and Benefits**

Freelance autism writer examines the risks and benefits of the internet for autistic people and their families, including such issues as cyberbullying and hacking.

Access here: <https://www.autism.org.uk/advice-and-guidance/professional-practice/autism-internet>

## **Safeguarding Young People on the Autism Spectrum**

Free resource from the National Autistic Society.

Learn more: <https://www.autism.org.uk/what-we-do/education-professionals>

# Safeguarding Research and Resources

## **Dedicated Portal To Help Education Professionals Help Autistic Students**

Read stories from other professionals, find articles, good practice guidelines, and the latest training and conferences.

Read more: <https://www.autism.org.uk/what-we-do/education-professionals>

## **Tea, Smiles and Empty Promises**

Winterbourne View, and a decade of failures—a collection of family stories from Challenging Behaviour..

Access here: <https://www.challengingbehaviour.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/Tea-smiles-and-empty-promises-family-stories.pdf>

## **Engagement With Children and Young People Report**

Independent Inquiry—Child Sexual Abuse—the authors spoke to 56 victims and survivors of child sexual abuse between the ages of 11 and 21, and 77 specialist child sexual abuse support workers. The overwhelming majority shared negative experiences of their involvement with the NHS-run Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS).

Learn more: <https://www.iicsa.org.uk/document/engagement-children-and-young-people-report-24-june-2021>



# From The Vault: Information on Health

**Jill Davies, Research Programme Manager at the Foundation for People with Learning Disabilities**

From Issue 79, April 2012

**In spring 2012, Mencap revealed that over the previous decade the NHS has, appallingly, caused or contributed to the deaths of at least 74 patients with a learning disability.**

As if this wasn't troubling enough, across these 74 cases it was common that advice from the families of people with a learning disability – the people who know their loved ones' needs best – was ignored. Some health staff even assumed that the quality of life for some patients with a learning disability was so low that they were not worth saving.

These attitudes and behaviours are responsible for cultivating institutional discrimination in the NHS, and we must challenge and change these attitudes if we want to improve the quality of health care for people with learning disabilities and prevent further needless tragedies from happening.

If this isn't tackled, the situation will only get worse as the NHS will see increasing numbers of people with learning disabilities accessing their health services. This is due to the continuing trends of increasing survival rates among young people with complex health needs

and reduced mortality rates among older adults with learning disabilities. Add to the equation the deep financial cuts that the NHS is currently facing and we have an even bigger problem.

People with learning disabilities are far more likely to experience poor health compared to the rest of the population, yet the health care they receive is not as good as the health care that other people get.

We have worked with a number of Primary Care Trusts to address these health inequalities for our Better Health, Better Metrics project. At the moment I am working on a project called An Ordinary Life, which looks to improve the quality of life and care for children who depend on medical technology to live.

It is also important to tackle these inequalities by making information on health more widely available and accessible for people with learning disabilities themselves.

Last year, we launched a new set of Easy Read materials on a range of topics that are particularly important to the health of people with learning disabilities.

There are a number of other initiatives

around that can help NHS staff to better meet the needs of people with learning disabilities.

One idea is a Hospital Passport, which is designed to ensure people with learning disabilities are better supported when in hospital. It contains information that is unique to them, which should enable NHS staff to deliver personalised care, such as how they communicate, how they show pain and what medication they are on.

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Although we know that Hospital Passports can make a huge difference to the quality of care that people with learning disabilities receive, no health care professional has a statutory responsibility to implement them. If you're interested in Hospital Passports then your local Learning Disability Team can help or you can visit the EasyHealth website for Hospital Passport templates and a whole range of accessible information on health.

Also, many people with learning disabilities have better experiences using health services when a Health Liaison Nurse is in place, so be sure to ask if your hospital has one.

Understandably, Mencap's inquiry might make some people with learning disabilities and their families anxious about NHS care, but there is lots you can do to make sure you are well prepared for any GP or hospital visits.

People with learning disabilities can find accessible health resources using easy words and pictures on the CHANGE website, or if you are a health professional or a family carer and you want specific information or advice, you can use the UK Health and Learning Disability Network that is free to join and supported by the Foundation for People with Learning Disabilities.

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Everyone has a right to be treated with respect and dignity.

Everyone deserves to be safe.