

THE STORY OF THE

ann craft trust

SAFEGUARDING ADULTS AND YOUNG PEOPLE AT RISK



Welcome

On behalf of the Ann Craft Trust I would like to thank everyone for their support over the past 30 years which has helped the charity to grow into the organisation it is today. We have had quite a journey over the years. From the early pioneering research days to the training and influential work of the team today. All of which has helped to embed safeguarding adults and young people at risk in many diverse organisations and sectors.



This book is a snapshot of some of our work and achievements over the past 30 years. You can find lots more on our website too. We hope you enjoy our little keepsake to celebrate our 30th anniversary.

What has been achieved to date makes me very proud and I would like to think Ann Craft, herself, would equally be pleased to see her legacy continue.

Thank you,
Deborah Kitson (CEO)

Contents

- Welcome message page 2
- Who we are page 4
- Our vision, values & mission page 5
- The people that made the charity page 8
- A history of safeguarding page 14
- Our research in safeguarding page 20
- What the charity looks like today page 25
- The future challenges page 28
- Our patrons page 30



The Ann Craft Trust is a registered charity and a partner of the University of Nottingham.

Who we are

The Ann Craft Trust is committed to safeguarding adults at risk and young people from any form of abuse and harm. We are fortunate to work nationally with many individuals and a range of diverse organisations that share our commitment to ensuring that everyone can live their lives free from the fear of abuse. This book is dedicated to all those who believe that everyone deserves to be safe.

As a national charity our aim is to minimise the risk of abuse of adults and young people. Through pioneering training, audits and consultancy work we can educate and embed safeguarding to create safer cultures and communities. We contribute to world leading research that aims to discover insights and develop better practices in safeguarding.

We believe that everyone has the right to be treated with respect and dignity.

Everyone deserves to be safe.



Our vision, values & mission

OUR Vision

We believe that everyone has a right to live a life free from abuse and neglect.

OUR Values

Our values start from the position that:

- **Everyone** has a right to live a life free from abuse and neglect
- **Everyone** deserves to be treated with dignity and respect
- **Everyone** should be afforded equality of opportunity
- **Everyone** deserves to be recognised, valued and accepted for who they are.

OUR Mission

We are committed to supporting organisations to minimise the abuse and neglect of adults through influencing local, regional and national safeguarding policy and practice.

A brief history of the charity

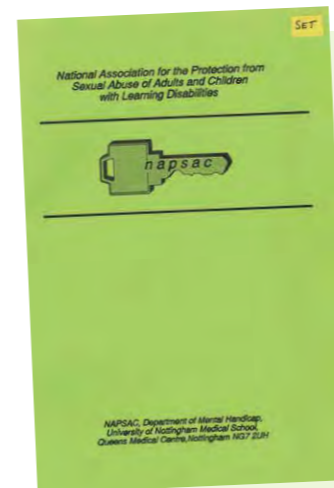
It begins with the National Association for the Protection from Sexual Abuse of Adults and Children with Learning Disabilities - NAPSAC - in 1992. This was an association concerned with facilitating the protection of all adults and children with learning disabilities who are vulnerable to sexual abuse.

The aims of the association were to set up and maintain an information exchange network for statutory and voluntary agencies, for professionals and individuals through a national office. It produced and circulated a newsletter to its members and covered topics that were of specific areas of interest at that time. In addition, it edited and updated an annotated bibliography and information sheets on specific topics. NAPSAC dedicated its work towards raising the general level of awareness of issues relating to the sexual exploitation/sexual abuse of children and adults with learning disabilities.

It connected with other relevant organisations, both specialist and mainstream. It organised events and contributed to conferences, seminars and training events as well as to public debate as appropriate when matters of concern arose locally or nationally. NAPSAC worked to an equal opportunities policy, facilitating protection to all people with disabilities, with attention and respect to race, culture, religion, gender, age and sexual orientation.

In 1998 the charity relaunched as The Ann Craft Trust in recognition of Ann's work and broadened its remit to include safeguarding from all types of abuse.

Extracts from the first bulletin (October 1992)



We are delighted to be able to send out the first NAPSAC Newsletter. We hope it will be the first of many!

As most of you will be only too aware, the now widespread "seeing" of the sexual abuse of children and adults with learning disabilities has a very short history. Before the mid-1980s we did not seem able, in Valerie Sinason's telling phrase, to "think the unthinkable", despite much anecdotal evidence and individual professional experience. However, we

should not be surprised at this - child physical abuse, then child sexual abuse, have similar "histories".

In 1988 the first national conference on the sexual abuse of individuals with learning disabilities in London, jointly sponsored by the British Institute of Mental Handicap and the Education Unit of the Family Planning Association, with the proceedings being published in the following year (Brown and Craft 1989). In 1990 the Joseph Rowntree Foundation funded a three-year study, the first major British investigation of the incidence of sexual abuse of adults with learning disabilities, run by Hilary Brown at the University of Kent.

A study tour I undertook in 1991 showed that workers in services for people with learning disabilities in the USA and Canada were faced with very similar issues to those becoming increasingly evident on this side of the Atlantic:

- Heightened awareness of the possibility and incidence of sexual abuse among this population.
- A very variable response from staff and services to disclosures of abuse.
- High staff anxiety.

- Lack of expertise in disclosure/investigation/treatment/protection.

- Reluctance on the part of mainstream counsellors/psychotherapists to take on clients with learning disabilities.

- Difficulties relating to the law and the justice system.

In 1991 I was invited to speak at another conference on sexual abuse, this time in Durham. My subject was "Supporting adults with learning disabilities who have been sexually abused." As I prepared the talk I realised that unless those in services for people with learning disabilities were themselves well-supported in their work with sexually abused clients, support for those clients could be seriously jeopardised. This is not to decry the excellent work that has been done by individual members of staff, but a recognition borne of my consultation experience that such work frequently, perhaps usually:

- Is personally highly stressful
- Challenges the formal and informal ethos of service structure and management
- Marginalises the supporting staff member(s) and the clients getting protected.
- Leaves the staff member(s) "working alone in the dark".

Pursuing the themes of support for staff (and for services), I proposed the possible formation of a national coalition, which would establish a network and facilitate the exchange of information, experience and good practice.

The Nuffield Foundation kindly agreed to fund a pilot year for the scheme, now entitled the National Association for the Protection from Sexual Abuse of Adults and Children with Learning Disabilities. So here we are, an infant, but rapidly growing organisation.

**Ann Craft
Director
NAPSAC**

The people that made the charity

Dr Ann Craft

CEO 1992–1997



Dr Ann Craft's work on disability was ahead of its time throughout the 1980s and 1990s. Ann was a passionate advocate for people with disabilities to be seen as people first, with the same hopes and dreams as others in society. She engendered huge respect from the people she worked with. She was an incredibly knowledgeable and generous person who helped inspire many organisations and professionals.

Dr Ann Craft helped create a wealth of resources and training tools that are still used today across the UK. Anecdotal evidence suggests that her unassuming and gentle nature once created a confusing conundrum for airport customs when bringing her more revealing pictorial resources through passport control.

A social worker from Hampshire who championed the rights of people with disabilities and guided services, with a quiet enthusiasm, into the future. A well-respected professional and leading light in her field she was known across the world as a well-respected writer and educator on disability rights, with an emphasis on sexuality issues and safeguarding, who offered her time freely to those who needed it.

Dr Ann Craft was known for her sense of humour and passion, being a persuasive force and an inspirational figure for those following in her footsteps.

Who was Dr Ann Craft?

Below are just a few of the testimonials from friends, family and colleagues about someone who helped shape and redefine the theory and practice of supporting and safeguarding people with learning disabilities.

“

There was something refreshing about any encounter with Ann. She brought with her a broad-minded view of the world. She saw a wide world without boundaries, full of enriching experiences if you look at it in the right way.

Chris Burkimsher

I feel that without her expertise, dedication and unswerving determination, the development and teaching of health and sex education probably would never have happened. Ann inspired me and other people who worked with her depth of knowledge, professionalism, and ability to communicate with and understand people on all levels under all circumstances.

Michael Collins

Ann Craft was the greatest networker I have encountered - she introduced me to Linda Ward at the IASSID conference in Helsinki and we all went to Savonlinna to the opera - she was a wonderful friend, a pioneer in the field of people with learning disabilities, and I miss her greatly.

Susan Hayes

It was such a privilege to work with Ann and to have spent time with her as a friend over so many years. She would have been heartened to see how her work has progressed. I miss her but am inspired by her in my work.

Professor Hilary Brown

People rightly remember Ann for her pioneering work around education and awareness about sexuality and relationships for people with learning disabilities. But how many people remember that she was one of the very first people in the UK to write about the rights of adults with learning disabilities to be parents, and to publicly support them in their unequal battle over the fundamental human right to have, and hold onto, their children, and to be supported to do so successfully?

Linda Ward

Pam Cooke

CEO 1997–2002



In 1997 Pam Cooke was appointed Director of NAPSAC.

In 1998 NAPSAC relaunched as the Ann Craft Trust (ACT) in recognition of the enormous impact of Dr Ann Craft's work in the field and to reflect the broadening of ACT's remit to include safeguarding from all types of abuse.

Pam Cooke together with Professor Penny Standen found significantly less intervention in respect of disabled children, especially regarding placement on child protection registers and protection plans. Attitudes and assumptions appeared to be a factor' (Cooke P, Standen P (2002), "Abuse and disabled children: hidden needs?", Child Abuse Review, Volume 11, 1-18).

Pam Cooke developed The Ann Craft Trust to become nationally renowned as a safeguarding expert and an advocate for equality and the rights of children with disabilities and adults at risk.

“ It was great to work with Pam at this time and she instigated the relaunch in 1998 that saw the charity widening its brief to cover all forms of abuse. The work that Pam undertook at this time in relation to the abuse of disabled children opened minds and had a wide reaching impact that is still referred to today. ”

Deborah Kitson

NAPSAC – Membership Review by Pam Cooke

Since we sent out the information sheet and membership form in early June 1992, we have had a tremendous response. Over 650 people have registered and many more have asked for membership forms. It is clear from this response and from the information which you gave on the completed forms that there is not only a tremendous need for such an association but also a great range of interest and expertise.

It is one of our aims to produce a **Membership Directory**, and we would also like to highlight particular interests so that members will become aware of others concerned with the same issue(s) and be able to make contact – individually, or perhaps in networks of local support.

The feedback given by you has been of great help in informing us about the work being done around the country. Requests for information covered a broad spectrum so that although a number of members wanted all the information we could provide a large number of people were quite specific.

The issues they raised included:

- Recognition of the need for counselling, advice and support for adults and children with learning disabilities who have been abused.
- The need for psycho/therapeutic treatment, not only for those who were abused, but also for perpetrators with learning disabilities.
- Also the need to know more about disclosure, interviewing and investigation techniques.
- How to recognise sexual abuse in both adults and children, particularly where there are communication difficulties.
- Legal issues were also high on the agenda: How to cope with the process, how to sustain the abused person, the family, and the staff involved in the legal proceedings and how to help if no proceedings were taken at all – if, in fact, the system fails to protect.
- Also in the area of protection: More information was requested on sex education programmes for adults, children, and particularly for adolescents. "Keeping safe," assertiveness and self-protection issues were mentioned frequently.
- Policy issues included questions on good practice, quality assurance, monitoring placement and screening staff.

- Many people from all over the country said they were in the process of/or would like to set up procedural guidelines on the abuse of adults with learning disabilities.
- Some members mentioned the protection offered to children by the Children Act, but there were still concerns that this might not always be sufficient to help children with learning disabilities.
- Information was requested on current research projects, case studies, resource materials, books and articles.
- And finally, there was a powerful plea for training, advice and support to be made available for staff and other carers.

With the majority of members requesting information, we were relieved to find that many others offered to contribute relevant information or articles. In addition, some interesting, helpful and supportive comments were made. Our thanks to all those who welcomed NAPSAC and to those who underlined the need for the association by expressing a wish to share experiences with others. We have noted a number of requests for conferences, meetings and training opportunities.

And I quote some members here – anonymously because permission was not sought!

"I needed an organisation like this two years ago. Now that it is formed I would like to join, network and maybe offer support to others who find themselves dealing with court proceedings for people with learning disabilities."

"Our team feel this is an important issue often left undiscussed. We welcome the opportunity to keep in touch with work being done in this area."

"We are continually concerned by the total lack of any effective response from the "authorities" to children and young adults with a mental handicap who have been, or are being, abused. I have sat through too many case conferences that have gone nowhere through a lack of proof that will stand up in court."

"Several students in our section have disclosed forms of abuse during the past year, indicating a new trend. We are responding to this by strengthening links with the local SSD and by providing specific support and counselling procedures in college. It would be most useful to share information with others working in similar situations."

Pam Cooke
Development Officer
NAPSAC

Deborah Kitson

CEO 2002–Present



In 2002, Pam retired after 10 years committed to the Trust and its work to safeguard people from abuse. Dr Deborah Kitson was appointed as CEO.

Deborah worked as a social worker with children and adults with learning disabilities, then for Nottinghamshire Social Services and Health Authority as Implementation Officer where she assisted in the production of guidelines, their implementation and revision. Deborah was also a consultant for other agencies developing policies and guidelines on sexuality and the protection of people with learning disabilities.

Deborah has continued to facilitate training on a wide range of associated issues and regularly presents at national conferences. She has represented the Trust on a number of government bodies and contributes to the planning and implementation of new national initiatives.

She was also a member of the Steering Group of ‘No Secrets’ and is the external representative on a number of Adult Safeguarding Boards.

In 2016 she was awarded an Honorary Doctorate by the University of Nottingham.

Over the past 20 years, Deborah has transformed The Ann Craft Trust into the flourishing and widely respected organisation it is today through hard work, determination and through inspiring not only the team but others across the social work sector and beyond.

Meet our team



Emma Gibson
Head of Safeguarding
Adults in Sport



Laura Thorpe
Safeguarding Adults
Manager



Lisa Curtis
Head of Safeguarding
Adults and Young People



Sarah Goff
Safeguarding
Young People



Nat Rock
Administrator



Nicola Dean
Safeguarding Adults in
Sport Manager



Joanne Pell
Safeguarding Adults in
Sport Manager



Kimberley Walsh
Safeguarding Adults in
Sport Manager



Catherine Sykes
Safeguarding Adults
in Unregulated Sport &
Activity Officer



Sarah Nolan
Safeguarding Adults in
Sport Administrator



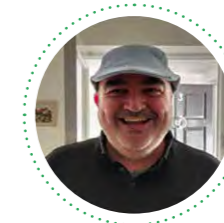
Elliot Davies
Marketing Officer



Charlotte Brooks
Marketing Officer



Hazel Rippin
Marketing Officer



Matthew Harrop
Finance



Julie Mather
Finance

A great big thank you to Justin Fletcher (and Mr Tumble!) for supporting the work we do and donating DVDs and autographed Mr Tumble pictures for ACT to auction.



FSI 4k and 10k challenge
7th June 2008

ACT
THE ANN CRAFT TRUST IS HOLDING A 21ST ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATORY DINNER ON FRIDAY 14TH JUNE AT THE EAST MIDLANDS CONFERENCE CENTRE, NOTTINGHAM - WE WOULD LOVE YOU TO JOIN US



ACT TODAY & STOP ABUSE
There are many different ways you can support ACT and make a difference. Which one works for you?
Give As You Earn
Raise money through...
Sponsorship
Just Text Giving by Vodafone
Your support makes all the difference and helps change lives



1992-2022

To all past and present staff,
thank you for your support
over the past 30 years.



2020 lockdown online
fitness challenge



Perfect tea every time!!



A history of Safeguarding

1885-2022

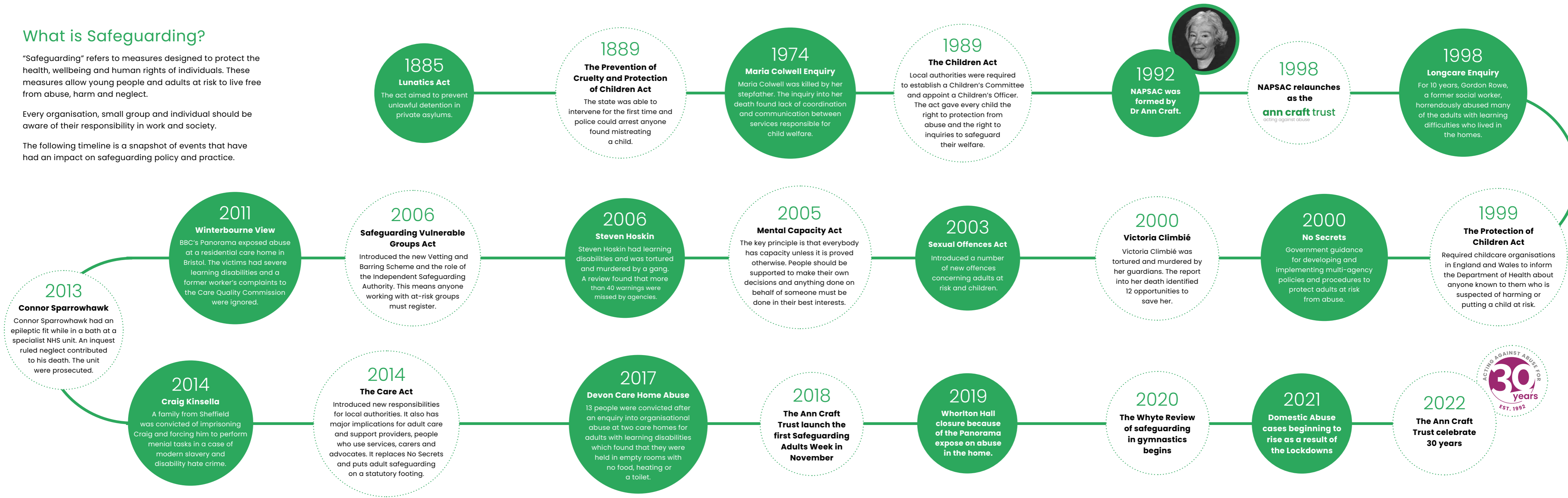


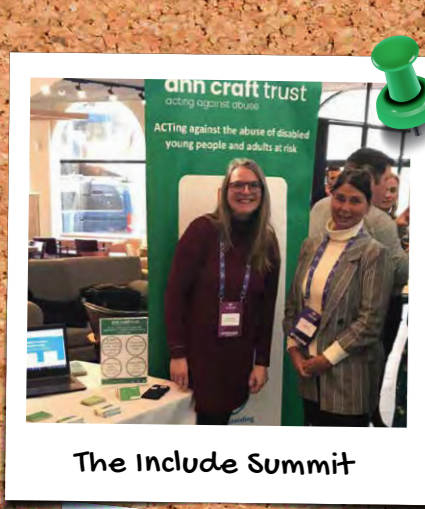
What is Safeguarding?

“Safeguarding” refers to measures designed to protect the health, wellbeing and human rights of individuals. These measures allow young people and adults at risk to live free from abuse, harm and neglect.

Every organisation, small group and individual should be aware of their responsibility in work and society.

The following timeline is a snapshot of events that have had an impact on safeguarding policy and practice.





The Include Summit



Commonwealth games



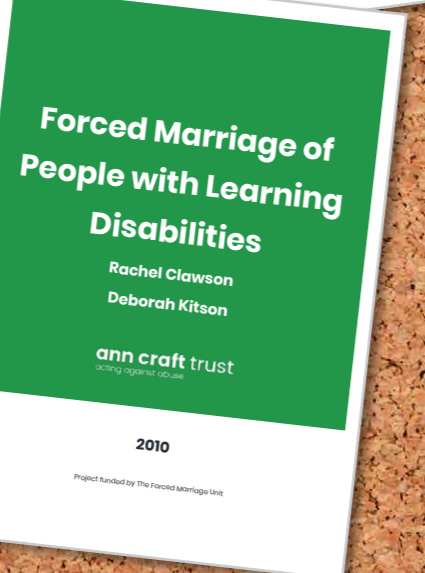
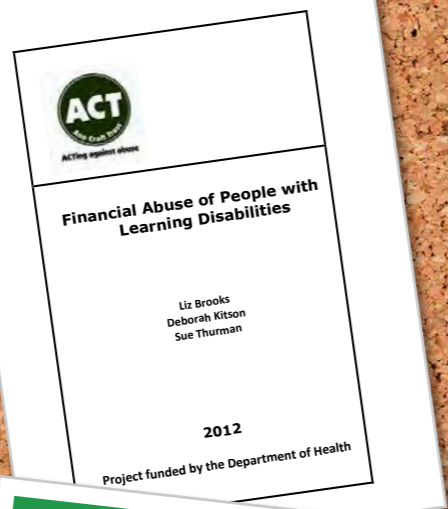
Official All Party Parliamentary Group on Wrestling



Safeguarding Adults Conference Birmingham 2019



Our "Safeguarding Matters" Podcast with Daphne Franks helps to raise awareness for predatory marriage.



Our research in Safeguarding

Many disabled young people and adults at risk face injustice. To tackle this, we use our safeguarding expertise to change things for the better. Research is at the core of the Ann Craft Trust. As we are based at the University of Nottingham, we contribute to research across the UK and EU. Over the decades we have contributed and delivered valuable findings through our research.

We have completed work in a variety of areas such as forced marriage of people with learning disabilities, child sexual exploitation, domestic abuse, and disability hate crime.

Here are just five examples of our work over the past 30 years.



Working With The Unthinkable - A Staff Training Pack on Sexual Abuse of Adults with Learning Difficulties - 1992

By Hilary Brown and Dr Ann Craft

"Uncomfortable and disturbing as it is, sexual abuse is not going to go away. It is a possibility or an actuality in the lives of people with learning disabilities who use our services. Agency structure and staff procedures need to fully recognise and respond to this fact to protect and support service users."

This training pack had four main sections: Recognising, Responding, Protecting and Supporting.

Recognising focused on moving from the anecdotal "knowing" to a systems level awareness that the sexual abuse of individuals is both a possibility and an actuality which has to be taken into account in all areas of service structure and service delivery. So it advised on best practice for writing policy, procedures and guidelines to offer clear frameworks within which staff and managers could operate. Crucially, it stated that policies relating to sexual abuse should give clear definitions of what counts as abusive.

Responding stressed that the mere existence of a policy does not necessarily mean that it's translated into good practice. There must be systems and procedures in place to ensure that the policies are put into action. This section looked at service ethos and management style, whistleblowing, and staff recruitment, training and supervision.

Protecting argued that staff and management have a responsibility for the personal integrity and safety of individuals within care systems, and made suggestions for various best practice safeguards. For example, ways of accommodating and responding to the needs of both victims and perpetrators, and the need for sex education and counselling to give individuals an understanding of what is "ordinary" and what is not, while validating a person's uneasy or uncomfortable feelings about particular behaviours.

Supporting was not so much about the necessary support for the victim of sexual abuse so much as the support needed for the person or people who are working with the victim. This section recognised how stressful and alienating it can be to maintain a professional persona while supporting a victim of sexual abuse and argued for the need for safe spaces where workers can get support. It also argued that this sort of support should be an integral part of good practice rather than an ad hoc arrangement that's only offered when the worker reaches the end of their tether.

Blowing the Whistle on Abuse of Adults with Learning Disabilities – 2005

Rebecca Calcraft & Deborah Kitson

Blowing the Whistle on Abuse of Adults with Learning Disabilities was a 2005 research project by Rebecca Calcraft of the Ann Craft Trust and was funded by the Baily Thomas Charitable Fund.

Whistleblowing is the act of speaking out about wrongdoing in the workplace.

Adults with learning disabilities are particularly vulnerable to abuse and care staff play an important role in witnessing and reporting abuse. Research and inquiries into this issue reveal that whistleblowing on abuse is fraught with difficulties, but that it is essential in protecting vulnerable adults.

In response to the Public Interest Disclosure Act 1998, most employers have developed whistleblowing policies to enable workers to raise concerns. However, little is known about how whistleblowing legislation interacts with adult protection procedures, nor whether it is succeeding in protecting staff and the people with learning disabilities whom they work with.

Aims and Objectives

This study aimed to find out how whistleblowing in social care settings can help to protect people with learning disabilities from abuse.

The objectives of the research were to:

- Map current whistleblowing policy and practice.
- Explore the experience of care staff who have whistleblown on abuse of adults with learning disabilities.

- Identify the barriers to whistleblowing on abuse.
- Identify 'best practice', difficult issues and make recommendations on how whistleblowers and adults with learning disabilities can be best protected.

Excerpt from the report conclusion

"Looking back to the case study at the beginning of this report, hopefully Kate knows about adult protection policies and whistleblowing policies in the place where she works, and she knows where she can find them if needed. In the first instance Kate should report her concerns about her colleague's behaviour to her line manager.

But if she is dissatisfied with the response, or if she is uncomfortable with raising it with her manager, perhaps because her manager is close friends with her colleague, she could perhaps contact the local CSCI office to discuss her concerns, or the police if she believes that an assault has taken place. Social care workers have an ethical and professional duty to speak out about abuse and poor practice in the workplace and, under current legislation, employers have a duty to support and protect staff when they raise genuine concerns."

This study confirms that whistleblowing is a vital part of protecting vulnerable adults, but it continues to be an emotive and difficult issue. Implementing policies and procedures are only part of the solution. Safe services can only be developed where the organisational climate is such that workers can speak out without fear of reprisal and where they have the confidence that their concerns will be listened to. It is hoped that this research goes some way to getting this message across.

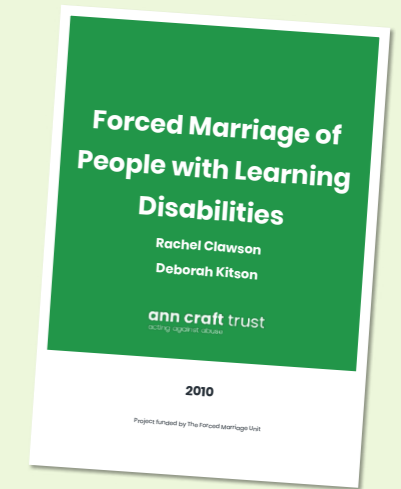
Forced Marriage Of People With Learning Disabilities – 2010 & 2017

Rachael Clawson & Deborah Kitson

Forced marriage is defined by the UK Government Forced Marriage Unit as a marriage without the consent of one or both parties and where duress is a factor. Our research explored the forced marriage of adults with learning disabilities and developed knowledge, policy and practice to keep people safe.

This project began in 2010 when we worked with other organisations, including Respond, the Judith Trust and the Forced Marriage Unit, to raise awareness of the problem of forced marriage and the issues involved.

The project allowed us to produce national guidance and good practice to equip professionals to effectively deal with forced marriages of people with learning disabilities.



My Marriage My Choice – 2017

Rachael Clawson, Lisa Curtis & Deborah Kitson

In 2017 we worked on a two-year study funded by the National Institute for Health Research – School of Social Care Research (NIHR-SSCR). The project is led by Rachael Clawson at the University of Nottingham, and we are working with colleagues from the University of Kent and RESPOND.

The project aims to build knowledge, policy and practice to support professionals to safeguard children and adults. In raising awareness of forced marriage we hope to empower those who are involved in education, care and support to recognise it and respond to individuals who cannot consent to marriage. We also aim to provide a framework for adult social care staff including the development of a tool for assessing capacity to consent to marriage.

Some of the key recommendations from this report include:

- All local safeguarding disabled children and vulnerable adult policies should include information on and procedures to follow in cases of suspected/actual forced marriage of people with learning disabilities.
- Training on forced marriage of people with learning disabilities should be mandatory for frontline professionals (e.g. social workers/social care workers, health professionals, police and educational professionals)
- A helpline for people with learning disabilities themselves, staff supporting them, families and carers and the general public.

In partnership with the Forced Marriage Unit, we have developed the national guidance document Forced Marriage and Learning Disabilities: Multi Agency Practice Guidelines.

We Matter Too – Disabled Young People and Domestic Abuse – 2019

Sarah Goff

We Matter Too is a project that 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 Women's Aid.

The Ann Craft Trust's safeguarding young people manager Sarah Goff, worked in partnership with Anita Franklin at Coventry University, to carry out work that specifically addresses the needs of young disabled people.

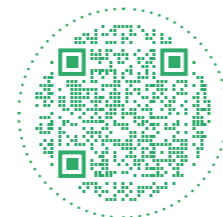
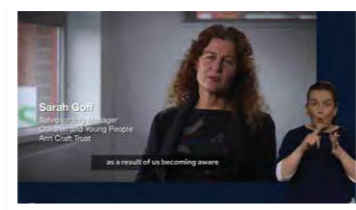
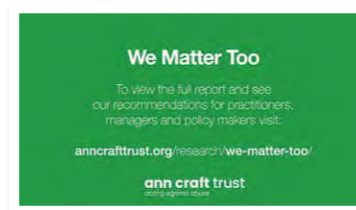
Excerpt from the Executive Summary

The work of several organisations including Safelives and Women's Aid has highlighted that domestic abuse services are less effective in reaching some sections of the population. The Safelives Spotlights report, 'Safe Young Lives' highlights that of all those experiencing domestic abuse, young people aged 16-20 and 21-24 years face the highest risks.

Disabled people also face far higher risks of domestic abuse compared to non-disabled people. The Nottinghamshire Independent Domestic Abuse Service found that there were very high levels of family members with a disability within the families they supported. In addition, Galop in their 2018 study, 'LGBT+ people's experiences of domestic abuse', found that 55% of participants self-identified as having a disability.

This research project, 'We Matter Too', specifically explores the experiences and needs of those who are both young and disabled experiencing domestic abuse in order to address the gap in our understanding of the specific needs of this group.

Funded by Lloyds Bank Foundation for England and Wales, the 'We Matter Too' project has undertaken; in-depth interviews and discussion groups with disabled young people aged 17-30, and interviewed 37 practitioners, including managers and those in leadership roles in national organisations and from a range of statutory and voluntary services across children's and adult's social care, health, education and criminal justice. This includes services that address domestic abuse and those working with disabled children and young people.



Scan this QR to watch our short film about the We Matter Too project

What the charity looks like today

Having started working within the care sector, we have since built long standing partnerships to form a network that offers additional support and guidance via our website resources, training events and consultancy. We offer free assessment tools and today have a dedicated e-Learning platform that is designed to deliver training at an introductory or complementary level within safeguarding. Over the past few years, we have seen a large increase in enquiries from other sectors including housing, performing arts, recreation and leisure. Most recently we supported the Commonwealth games in Birmingham in summer 2022. Our reputation continues to grow thanks to the hard work of our dedicated team.



Safeguarding in sport

Thanks to funding from Sport England, Sport Wales and UK Sport we work closely with the National Governing Bodies and Active Partnerships across the UK. We have a dedicated safeguarding in sport team that is helping clubs from grass-root to elite level embed safeguarding in their organisation.

In 2019 we launched our Safeguarding Adults in Sport Framework, an online tool that allows sport and activity organisations to assess their safeguarding policies and procedures. Completing the Framework now forms part of the funding agreement for certain organisations.



In 2021 we launched our "Safer Culture Safer Sport" campaign to encourage sport and activity organisations to put safeguarding at the core of their visions and values. The campaign aims to support the sport and activity sector to develop their safeguarding practice. This will involve learning from poor practice

while recognising and celebrating successes. We ask clubs to take a pledge of commitment to ensure their sport is encouraging a safer sport culture throughout.



How we continue to reach the community

Our annual conference is held every year during Safeguarding Adults Week. This allows us to bring the community together and raise awareness of new topics relating to safeguarding, from legislation changes to current types of abuse and scams. Every Wednesday at 12pm we run our dedicated Twitter hour, a weekly online discussion of the latest safeguarding news and research. This has allowed us to partner with other organizations like the Marie Collins Foundation and Broxtowe Women's Centre to focus on issues such as online safety and domestic abuse.



Our quarterly bulletin distribution and monthly sports update continue to grow from strength to strength with a combined reach over 6,500 people. We also have a podcast Safeguarding Matters which is available on all major streaming platforms.



Launch of our podcast July 2019

The future challenges

Technology makes communication much easier. For example, we had a reach of over 79 million on social media with our hashtags during Safeguarding Adults Week 2021.

But new technology also brings new risks – and new forms of abuse. Also, we continue to see widespread abuse in many organisations – from churches to care homes. We still have so much work to do. But safeguarding is everyone’s business. Keeping people safe is a shared responsibility. We all have a part to play in preventing abuse – and in ensuring that those who abuse the most vulnerable individuals face justice.

Everyone should be able to spot the signs of abuse, and everyone should know which steps to take if they suspect that something isn’t right. At the same time, nobody should suffer in silence. Anyone who experiences abuse should feel safe and confident in reporting their abuse. And they should feel assured that, when they have the courage to speak up, those who can make a difference will listen, and act.



What will safeguarding adults and young people look like in the future?

Anyone can be at risk of abuse. Factors beyond your control can make you more vulnerable to certain types of abuse. For example, you may be forced out of your home and onto the streets; or budget cuts may make it more difficult for you to access the help and support you need to get by.

Anyone can be an adult at risk, and we have seen far too many examples where people were let down by the structures and the individuals that were supposed to protect them.

When thinking about the future of safeguarding consider the following questions:

Will the principals be the same?

- As long as we care about one another, then yes.

How transparent will organisations become?

- An organisation that adopts a more transparent attitude and listens, can develop a safer environment and culture.

How can we stay one step ahead of the abusers?

- Listen and educate more people so that they can spot the signs sooner.

In terms of government / legislation changes, what would we like to see happen?

- The government need to put safeguarding higher on the agenda in all sectors and set a standard that can be followed.

Who has the right to live safely and free from abuse?

- Everyone!

Special Thanks to our patrons



Sir Roger Singleton CBE

Roger Singleton has a background in education, children's services, management, mediation and safeguarding. He is a former chief executive of Barnardo's. Since leaving in 2005 he has been an independent consultant specialising in safeguarding and interim management. He is a consultant to charities and organisations on their safeguarding policies and practices; he trains board members and senior staff in safeguarding; and he carries out statutory and in-house reviews and investigations into child and adult protection issues.

From 2007-2012 he chaired the Independent Safeguarding Authority prior to its merger with the Criminal Records Bureau to form the Disclosure and Barring Service. He has been the Government's Chief Adviser on the Safety of Children; interim chief executive of the children's charity, Lumos; and the interim Director of Safeguarding at the Church of England.

“

I am delighted to have this link with the Ann Craft Trust and to share in the important work of helping protect people with learning disabilities from abuse.

”



Kate Spicer

Kate Spicer is a writer and filmmaker. She has two brothers, Will and Tom. Tom has Fragile X Syndrome and a learning disability. Kate and Will recently made a film about Tom, Mission to Lars.

She hopes to bring learning disability more into the view of popular culture. Much of her activism around this is found in her work with Mencap, her experience of life with Tom. But her awareness of the unacceptably high incidence of abuse of both learning disabled adults and children meant she was happy and excited to work with The Ann Craft Trust.



“ When we see people without a voice suffering, it is our human instinct and moral obligation to pipe up. ”

“ Ann was my inspiration, my mentor, and my friend. She encouraged and supported me to follow my aspirations and to specialise in the work that we both felt a great commitment to. Ann is remembered by so many because of her passion for her work and her generosity, kindness, humour and compassion to those who came into contact with her. ”

Deborah Kitson



The ROSE Project - 3 year campaign about sexual exploitation delivered by peer to peer mentoring.



Norman Lamb talks at our conference 2019



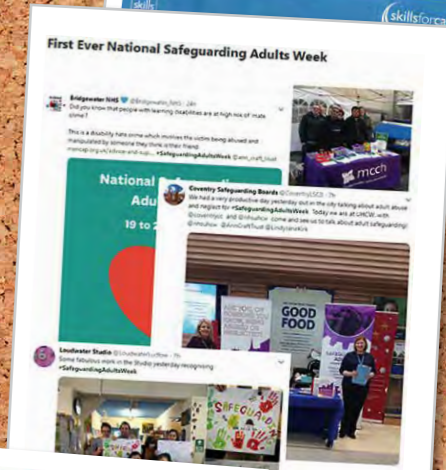
Safeguarding Adults Week 2020 in lockdown



Office days in A104



Recording our safeguarding matters podcast



First Ever National Safeguarding Adults Week



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acting against abuse

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