

Newsletter Issue 8, February 2023

The Safeguarding Partnership Vision

For every child and young person to be and feel safe, enjoy good physical, emotional and mental health, have pride in their unique identities, feel that they belong and have opportunities to thrive.

For adults, irrespective of age, race, gender, culture, religion, disability or sexual orientation to be able to live with their rights protected, in safety, free from abuse and the fear of abuse.

All previous newsletters can be accessed [here](#)

The Safeguarding Partnership produces and sources practice guidance, briefings and audit reports to support your safeguarding practice with children and adults.

In this newsletter:

Best Practice in Safeguarding Adults Enquiries

Keeping Children and Vulnerable Adults Safe Around Dogs: what you need to know

Domestic Abuse - New Resources

Fire Safety - Practice Guidance for Professionals and Volunteers

FGM Zero Tolerance Day

Cost of Living Crisis and Implication for Safeguarding Practice

Partnership News: Independent Scrutiny and New Training Opportunities



Best Practice in Safeguarding Adults Enquiries

This briefing has been developed by the Safeguarding Partnership for any practitioner who encounters adults with care and support needs through their work, whether it be housing, policing, healthcare, social care, care and support work, probation, education, welfare rights, advocacy, or advice services. Safeguarding adults is everyone's responsibility.



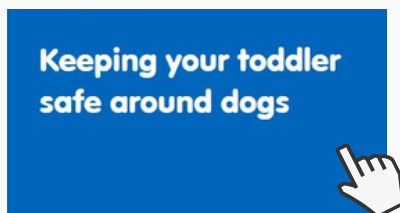
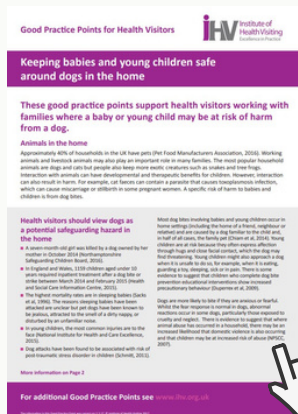
Keeping Children and Vulnerable Adults Safe Around Dogs

Dogs are an important part of many households. However, it is important to ensure that they are never left alone with young children to reduce the likelihood of harm. No matter how friendly or well-known to the infant the dog is, animals can be unpredictable and behaviour can change.

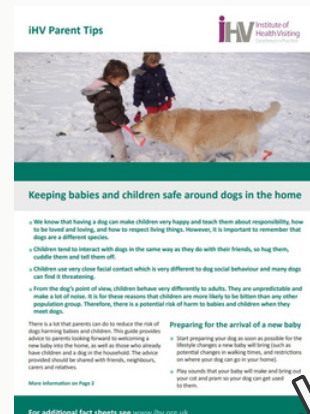
The ability of vulnerable adults to keep themselves safe with household dogs should be considered as part of any assessment.

Use the resources below to support families you work with to increase their knowledge and understanding of the risks and how to keep babies and young children safe with dogs.

Useful Resources:



Blue Cross guidance for families



IHV practice briefing for parents to keep their infants safe around dogs

Institute of Health Visiting (IHV) practice guidance regarding working with families that have dogs

Practice Guidance:

If you or your agency become aware that a dog could be **dangerous** or **prohibited**, gather as much **information** as possible:

- The dog's name and breed
- The owner's details
- Does the dog have a suitable environment to meet its basic needs?
- How do the family manage the dog with children or vulnerable adults in the household or wider family?
- Was the dog chosen for its breed or it's temperament?

If you consider a **dog is a serious risk to a child or a vulnerable adult**, contact the police.

Domestic Abuse - New Resources

Domestic Abuse is any incident or pattern of incidents of controlling, coercive, threatening behaviour, violence or abuse between those aged 16 or over who are, or have been, intimate partners or family members, regardless of gender or sexuality.

Two women a week die in the UK due to domestic abuse. Children are also victims if they see, hear, or experience the effects of the abuse.



Routine Enquiry briefing

Victims are more likely to disclose domestic abuse and seek help if asked a direct question. This briefing on Routine Enquiry will support all professionals to find the confidence to ask questions in order to support victim/survivors and their children to access safety.

The national Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel commissioned a thematic analysis of rapid reviews and local child safeguarding practice reviews in England where domestic abuse featured. This NSPCC briefing explains the key findings and recommendations.

Key practice messages:

- Recognise that domestic abuse is far more than physical violence.
- Coercion and control can have a profoundly damaging impact on adult and child victims.
- Do not place the responsibility for protecting the child from domestic abuse on the parent-victim. Multiagency professional help is needed.
- All professionals should seek the voice of the child and think about their lived experience when responding to a domestic abuse concern.
- When considering a domestic abuse concern, seek advice and support from a specialist domestic abuse service.
- In the serious cases where domestic abuse has been identified, children have been seriously injured or killed, or have taken their own lives in the context of domestic abuse.



Supporting women and babies experiencing domestic abuse

Women's Aid has produced this guidance for professionals working with women and babies who are victims of domestic abuse.

It is particularly useful for midwives, health visitors, social workers and mental health workers engaging with families during pregnancy and in the perinatal period.

Fire Safety - Practice Guidance

"The majority of people who die or are seriously injured in fires have common vulnerabilities and risk factors. They are often known to service providers and agencies. It is the responsibility of all of us to reduce these risks where we can and help prevent fires from happening."

London Fire Brigade

Click here for
specialist guidance



Dementia, learning disabilities, reduced mobility, and a range of medical equipment can increase the risks of fire and can make it much harder for someone to protect themselves from it. Professionals providing support of any kind must be alert to the risks and take prompt action to manage the risks wherever possible.

Indicators of fire risk:

- Burn marks on carpets, furniture and clothing
- Any history of fire or near misses
- Any behaviours that increase the risks of fires starting and spreading.
- Presence of specialist medical equipment that increases the risk

Specialist medical equipment which increases the risks of fires include:

- use of emollients and other skin creams
- incontinence products stored at home
- use of air flow pressure relieving equipment
- Use of oxygen therapy.

Risk assessment and safety planning saves lives.

Behavioural and environmental factors:

- Hoarding
- Leaving pots and pans unattended during cooking
- Leaving things such as plastic kettles and tea towels on the hob
- Leaving the hob on when not cooking - particularly when a person forgets to turn it off
- Using heaters to dry clothes
- Placing heaters too close to furniture or too close to where a person is sitting or sleeping
- Leaving candles on unstable surfaces or too close to furniture/fabrics/people
- Substance abuse

Best Practice

- Report any fire safety concerns to your line manager and take urgent action to manage and reduce risks. Share your concerns with relevant others involved in the person's care.
- Arrange a Fire Safety Check by the Fire Brigade
- Unmanaged fire risk is a safeguarding concern. Report it
- If a person is reluctant to reduce fire risk in their home, give careful consideration to mental capacity, and engage in frank discussion and challenge.
- Fire risk is a public safety matter. Explore legal mechanisms available to landlords and environmental health officers to enforce safety mechanisms.
- The Community Risk Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference (CR MARAC) may be an appropriate place to discuss unmanaged fire risk. Contact ESTark@hillingdon.gov.uk

FGM Zero Tolerance Day 6th February 2023



The Safeguarding Partnership is delivering free Female Genital Mutilation awareness-raising workshops, developed with the National FGM Centre. The workshops are for any professionals, volunteers and foster carers who come into contact with women and girls. The first session is on 6th February 2023 and will be running monthly thereafter.

Book onto a workshop via this link:
[Hillingdon Learning Zone: Safeguarding Partnership](#)
 If you do not have a Learning Zone account, please [complete this form](#) or email
learninganddevelopment@hillingdon.gov.uk

Cost of Living Crisis and Implications for Safeguarding Practice

The national cost of living crisis has implications for safeguarding children and adults. Many households are struggling with rising bills and food costs. These additional pressures increase stress for parents and carers, and can increase the risk of safeguarding issues developing for children and adults.

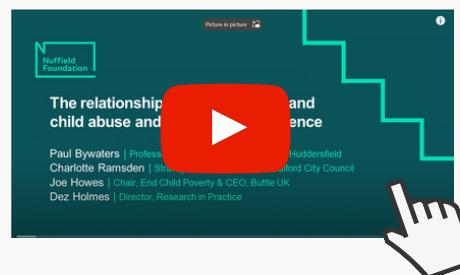
Here is a report from the Nuffield Foundation on the relationship between poverty and child abuse and neglect



The Safeguarding Partnership has created a briefing to support your practice.



This webinar by the Nuffield Foundation outlines research findings about the relationship between poverty and child abuse and neglect.



H4All has created a comprehensive resource directory for the public, and professionals working with individuals or families.

The [Winter Wellness Directory](#) is available in six languages and as an accessible version.





Partnership News

Independent Scrutiny

In 2022 the Executive Leadership Group commissioned Alan Caton OBE to scrutinise the impact of the Safeguarding Partnership on key areas of practice. The focus of this year's scrutiny was on the arrangements for protecting vulnerable adolescents and the effectiveness of the Adult Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH)



"All the 'Areas for Consideration' following last year's scrutiny have been considered by the partnership along with being actioned and progressed where necessary... I found that good relationships have been built between partners, both statutory and non-statutory, and that there is a real willingness for the safeguarding partners to work together to seek out vulnerable children and adults and to provide them with the best possible services. It is apparent that there is a strong sense of partnership across Hillingdon and a desire to continually improve services."

Safeguarding Partnership Training Offer

The Partnership commissions safeguarding specific training in line with local priorities. This training is free to staff in the organisations who jointly fund the Safeguarding Partnership: NHS, Police, and Local Authority. Some courses are chargeable to organisations that do not contribute financially to the partnership, and some courses are free to all.

The courses suit practitioners working with children and adults at risk across all local services. This includes social care, housing, education, policing, probation, health, and voluntary and private sector providers.

Some new courses are available:

- Supporting Older Survivors Affected by Domestic Abuse
- Adultification Bias and Safeguarding Children
- Female Genital Mutilation - Multiagency Awareness Raising Workshop
- Safeguarding Adults from Neglect
- Contextual Safeguarding Awareness Raising Workshop
- Managing Allegations against staff and volunteers/LADO training



You can book our training via this link:

[Hillingdon Learning Zone: Safeguarding Partnership](#)

If you do not have a Learning Zone account, please [complete this form](#) or email learninganddevelopment@hillington.gov.uk



Webinars

Hillingdon Safeguarding Partnership produces webinars to support safeguarding practice with adults and children. Click [here](#) to see what is available.