

## Newsletter, February 2024

### 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.

Previous newsletters can be accessed [here](#)

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

In this newsletter:

- Learning from Practice: Carol's Safeguarding Adults Review
- Learning from Practice: Communication Between Professionals
- Listening to Experts by Experience
- Working Together to Safeguard Children 2023 - updated statutory guidance
- Safer Internet Day 2024
- Harmful Sexual Behaviours
- Child Accident Prevention Trust
- Disclosure and Barring Service Regional Outreach Service
- Communicating with Children with Disabilities

**Partnership News:** Independent Scrutiny, Violence Against Women and Girls Practice Network newsletter, Child Exploitation Awareness Day, Safeguarding Partnership Induction Webinars.

### Safeguarding Partnership Training Offer

The Partnership commissions safeguarding specific training in line with Partnership priorities. This training is free to staff in the organisations who jointly fund the Safeguarding Partnership: NHS, Police, and Local Authority. It is open to other organisations, at a fee.

**You can book this training via this link:**

[Learning Zone: Safeguarding Partnership \(learningpool.com\)](https://learningpool.com)

If you do not have a Learning Zone account please [complete this form](#)

# Learning from Practice

## Learning from Carol's Safeguarding Adults Review

A discretionary Safeguarding Adults Review was completed following Carol's death to identify any learning for the safeguarding network in Hillingdon. Carol was a 77 year old white female. She lived with her partner of 35 years. She reportedly became reluctant to have visitors in her later years, becoming isolated and dependent on her partner.

In the months before her death, family members had noticed poor home conditions, significant memory problems, weight loss, and that she had sustained bites from her dog. A housing officer and a social worker visited her at home during this time.

Carol's partner called an ambulance when she became unresponsive. On attendance paramedics found that Carol was in a very poor condition, indicating that she had been seriously unwell for some time and that her care needs had not been met.

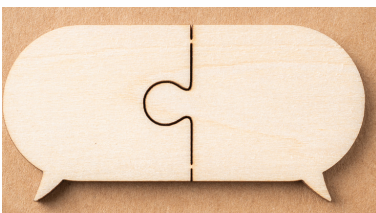
### Key messages from the review for professionals:

- Strive to understand people's day to day lived experience
- Working with carers is necessary to reduce risk of abuse and neglect
- Supervision and management oversight supports better safeguarding practice
- Correct application of the Mental Capacity Act can help keep people safe
- Partnership working is important to identify and manage risks

This briefing summarises the learning and gives you tips for how to improve the way you support people at risk of neglect and their informal carers.



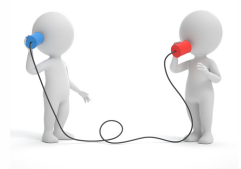
## Communication Between Professionals Builds a Clearer Picture



When a child or a vulnerable adult suffers serious harm because of abuse, neglect or self neglect, reviews of the ways that professionals worked together often identify concerns about missed opportunities to seek and share information between agencies, and missed opportunities to be curious and exploratory in conversations with children, adults and their families.

### Best Practice Tips

- Don't make assumptions about what other professionals are doing to support a child, adult or family. Pick up the phone and ask them.
- Always include other involved professionals in assessments and reviews - if you don't know who is involved, proactively find out by contacting other key organisations.
- If a person says they don't need help, reality check this against the other available information.
- If there are differences of opinion about risks and needs, talk about these differences with other professionals. Be curious about whether someone else has noticed something you have missed.
- If a professional has made a referral because they are concerned, make sure you discuss with them any decision not to provide a service.
- Make sure other involved professionals know when you are withdrawing support, and agree contingency plans.
- Use the Safeguarding Partnership Escalation Policy if it has not been possible to resolve differences of opinion about risk assessment and management plans through ordinary discussion.



# Listening to Experts by Experience



Hillingdon Safeguarding Partnership sought to understand how well children and adults are listened to when they receive safeguarding support in Hillingdon. We asked people directly about their experiences, and then produced a report, videos and practice guidance to amplify what we heard.

This new briefing summarises what we've learnt from listening to adults and children:

- Hear directly from adults and children
- Good listening: what adults and children tell us
- Useful communication resources to support your practice
- Children's Voices
- How safeguarding partners continue to listen to and amplify the voices of children, young people and adults



## Working Together to Safeguard Children 2023

Working Together to Safeguard Children is the multi-agency statutory guidance that sets out expectations for the system that provides help, support and protection for children and their families. It tells practitioners what is required of them individually and how they need to work in partnership with each other to deliver effective services.

The Government published an updated version of Working Together to Safeguard Children in December 2023. It is important to know how the new guidance affects your responsibilities.

The Safeguarding Partnership is in the process of reviewing our websites and all partnership strategies to ensure they are consistent with the new guidance.



## Safer Internet Day 2024

Children and vulnerable adults can be harmed online. There are risks of radicalisation, exploitation, bullying, sexual abuse, and financial and material abuse.

To mark Safer Internet Day 2024, the Safeguarding Partnership have produced this briefing to raise awareness of the risks and of how you can help to safeguard children and adults from online harms.



## Harmful Sexual Behaviours

Harmful Sexual Behaviour (HSB) means sexual behaviours expressed by children and young people under the age of 18 years old that are developmentally inappropriate, may be harmful towards self or abusive towards another child, or adult. HSB includes a continuum of behaviours.

This briefing serves as an introduction to the complex issue of Harmful Sexual Behaviour, offering essential insights for professionals. The key areas covered include:

- Examples of Harmful Sexual Behaviour.
- The significance of language in addressing and understanding this sensitive issue.

- Current research findings and the state of our knowledge.
- Differentiating between age-appropriate behaviour and harmful behaviour.
- Safeguarding Children with Disabilities in the context of sexual behaviour.
- Practical tips for effective safeguarding.
- Access to a variety of resources.



An important resource highlighted in this briefing is "Shore." Shore provides a safe online space dedicated to supporting children experiencing concerns related to sexual behaviour.



Subscribe to the Safeguarding Partnership mailing list here - it only takes a minute!  
You will receive new briefings and newsletters as soon as they are published.

child accident  
prevention trust



Sometimes children come to harm through preventable accidents. Being alert to the risks and sharing information from the Child Accident Prevention Trust can help families to keep their children safe.

They publish free educational guides that can be given out to families and come in a range of languages. Their website is packed with safety advice to reduce the risk of accidents in a number of different contexts such as around water, dogs, and fire.

You can sign up to their mailing list to receive updates and resources.



Disclosure &  
Barring Service

DBS Regional Outreach Service focuses on working collaboratively with safeguarding and recruiting organisations. The aim is to work closer with organisations and networks to build and develop relationships, acting as a single point of contact for all DBS related enquiries within their region.

Kiran Rehal is the DBS Regional Outreach Advisor for Greater London. She is available to discuss all matters in relation to DBS, as well as support you and your colleagues in safeguarding and safer recruitment. Click on the icon above to find out more.

Contact [Kiranpreet.rehal@dbs.gov.uk](mailto:Kiranpreet.rehal@dbs.gov.uk) / [DBSRegionaloutreach@dbs.gov.uk](mailto:DBSRegionaloutreach@dbs.gov.uk)  
Tel: 0300 105 3081

## Communicating with Children with Disabilities

This briefing supports learning to promote inclusivity and using respectful language when communicating with children with disabilities. Some children with disabilities have complex communication needs, and it is important to be aware of these needs and use appropriate communication methods. This better supports safeguarding practice, gathering information and obtaining a reflective picture of the child's lived experience

Key Points within this briefing :

- Use of inclusive language
- Seeking the views of children who use non-verbal communication
- Providing reasonable adjustments for parents and caregivers who require them
- Observations of children in different settings
- The value of independent advocacy services for children and their families
- Use professional interpreters for children and parents who use English as an additional language
- Inclusive language, avoiding medical labels and identifying children as individuals
- Some children rely on symbols, gestures, or other methods. Be patient and use appropriate methods
- Notice changes in a child's behaviour across different settings, as they may not be able to verbally express concerns





## Partnership News

### Violence Against Women and Girls Practice Network

The inaugural Hillingdon Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) Practice Network newsletter has been published. This communication series keeps professionals across Hillingdon informed about local and national developments, events, and resources related to VAWG. As the first output of the practice network, this newsletter marks the beginning of our collective journey towards creating a safer environment for all. You can subscribe to further issues of the newsletter [here](#)



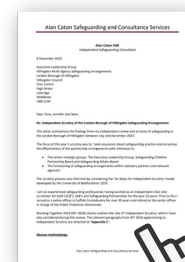
### Independent Scrutiny

In 2023 the Executive Leadership Group commissioned Alan Caton OBE to ‘seek assurance about safeguarding practice and scrutinise the effectiveness of the partnership arrangements with reference to:

- the senior strategic groups; The Executive Leadership Group, Safeguarding Children Partnership Board and Safeguarding Adults Board
- the functioning of safeguarding arrangements within statutory partners and relevant agencies’

The outcome of this scrutiny has been sent to the Executive Leadership Group and you can read it here.

*“The Hillingdon Multi-Agency Safeguarding Arrangements for both children and adults comply with their statutory responsibilities. The arrangements for both children and adults are clear and have been published in accordance with statutory guidance.”*



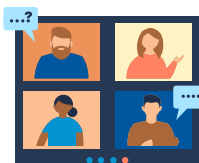
### Child Exploitation Awareness Day 18th March 2024

**STOPCE** AWARENESS DAY 18TH MARCH Save the date! March 18th marks Child Exploitation Awareness Day, and the Hillingdon Safeguarding Partnership is putting on a week-long initiative aimed at education and awareness. This year we are taking it back to basics and we kick off the week with an enlightening Myth Busters session - this will be available to book soon.

### Safeguarding Partnership Induction Webinars

The Safeguarding Partnership are delivering a series of webinars, every 6 weeks, which will provide you with information about our roles, responsibilities, priorities, and relevant legislation.

These induction sessions are suitable for professionals working with children and adults at risk across all local services. This includes social care, housing, education, policing, probation, health, voluntary and private sector organisations. New staff or people who want to refresh their knowledge are welcome.



Click on a date  
to register for  
a session

[28 Mar 2024](#)

[20 June 2024](#)

[9 May 2024](#)

[1 August 2024](#)