

Essex Safeguarding Adults Board Bulletin



January 2010




Ask SAL— Safeguarding Adults Line 0808 80 10 345

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News in short:

CQC's inspection work will be taking place between the 23rd and 31st March 2010.

ESAB website

Please note that the board no longer uses the old web address (www.evapc.org) All new updates, information, and documents can be found at:

www.essexsab.org

Given a moment or two, most people can recall the names of children who have suffered as a result of abusive relationships, all of whom have their own tragic stories. Many have become household names because they have, rightly or wrongly, become the subject of wide scale and often national media campaigns.



Keeping adults safe across Essex

But what if we switch the focus to adults? Though modern media rarely focuses upon the abuse of vulnerable adults, it does happen, and we should not hide behind the smokescreen caused by a lack of media coverage. Everybody, regardless of age, possesses the right to live their lives without suffering at the hands of an abuser. Unfortunately this right isn't always realised; last year in Essex around 1500 referrals of adult abuse were made, and we'd be foolish to assume the abuse stopped there.

In June this year, a new helpline was launched called **Ask SAL** (the safeguarding adults line). This pioneering project comes as the result of a unique partnership between ESAB, the Southend and Thurrock adult safeguarding boards, as well as two national voluntary organisations who specialise in working to prevent the abuse of vulnerable adults: Voice UK and Action on Elder Abuse.



The helpline is operated by experienced and friendly helpline staff primarily as a source of information and advice in situations where callers have concerns that abuse may be occurring. Staff will however, when asked, and if necessary, follow the correct procedures to ensure that a safeguarding referral is made to statutory services. The 0808 number cannot be traced on electronic or paper telephone bills.

Continued overleaf...

Ask SAL story continued from front cover...

Can you help?

Save the number in your phone, this is vitally important if you have regular contact with an adult who may be at particular risk of suffering abuse of any kind. Start to think outside of the box; though you may not witness any form of abuse in person, there is no harm in keeping an eye out for certain signs, especially if you are concerned. Changes in behaviour can often occur as a result of different types of abuse, signs that somebody is being neglected are often the most obvious. But there are more subtle indications that other types of abuse may be occurring, for example are valuable items starting to go missing without explanation? This is just one potential sign of financial abuse but there are many more. For more information visit www.asksal.org.uk or become a fan of our Facebook page. To have the number sent to you in a text message, text ASK-SAL to 60777.



Help us to keep adults safe across Essex. **Remember, ignoring abuse is not an option** - Any person or organisation with knowledge of, or suspicion that a vulnerable adult may be at risk of abuse or is being abused must report their concerns.

Malcolm Morley - ESAB Chair

Malcolm Morley was elected as the Chair of the Essex Safeguarding Adults Board at its meeting in October 2009. Malcolm is currently Chief Executive of Harlow District Council.

Speaking about his appointment Malcolm said *"I am looking forward to taking a proactive role in the safeguarding of vulnerable adults through the board, and I am keen to ensure effective partnership working."*



Successful conviction

Anthony Osei, a church leader and care worker has been sentenced to 21 months in prison for sexually assaulting a patient with a mental health condition. Mr Osei, admitted two acts of sexual activity with a person with a mental disorder and was imprisoned for 21 months.

Malcolm Morley, chairman of the Essex Safeguarding Adults Board commented "The safeguarding of vulnerable adults in Essex is taken extremely seriously and the Safeguarding Adults Board has put in place multi-agency procedures to ensure that where incidents do occur, they are managed effectively. On behalf of the Board, I commend all the agencies involved in this case for their robust action in bringing Mr Osei to justice".

Practice Learning Section...

New!

SAFE Project—Safeguarding Adults from Exploitation

The SAFE Project was established at the beginning of 2009 initially for 12 months with the objective of seeking out vulnerable people who are living in accommodation that is neither accredited nor registered in the North of Essex. This type of accommodation could typically be Houses of Multiple Occupancy (HMO's), Bed & Breakfasts, and residential hotels.

The team have been gathering information since the recruitment of the operational team in August 2009. We know that in particular the Tendring area has a high number of vulnerable adults living in this type of accommodation who are unknown to statutory services and could be vulnerable to exploitation. It is the aim of the project to work in partnership with the individuals, empowering them to achieve and maintain independence and wellbeing through increased choice and control thereby improving people's quality of life.

Within Pier Ward in Clacton on Sea, there are 89 HMO's with 885 bed spaces alone. The SAFE Team is working in partnership with Tendring District Council, The North Essex Mental Health Partnership Foundation Trust, North Essex Primary Care Trust and the Police to identify and support these people.

The Team is led by Angela Gibson, Senior Strategic Lead Manager and supported by Alison Ansell, Senior Lead Officer and a team of qualified practitioners and project support. SAFE recently held a half-day workshop for Essex County Council, Adults Health and Community Wellbeing staff and a range of partner organisations to raise awareness of the SAFE Project and, in consultation, plan how we can work with a more joined up approach to ensure the safeguarding of vulnerable adults in Essex.

The workshop had very interesting presentations from ESAB, The North East Essex Adult Social Care Team, The ECC Adult Safeguarding Unit, The SAFE Project, North Essex Partnership Foundation Trust (NEPFT) and ECC Internal Audit – Counter Fraud Team. All of the presentations demonstrated how joint working is essential to the success of protecting vulnerable adults.

The team will develop a strategy for promotion and information sharing both within and external to the Organisation.



If you would like further information about the Project, or indeed would like to work in partnership with the SAFE Team please email the Team Safe.Team@essex.gov.uk or contact them on 01206 266302.

SAFE Team:

Back Row: L-R Kathy Tyson, Ron Hull, Alison Ansell, Leanne Newell, Martin Weston.

Front Row: L-R Alison Fox, Angela Gibson, Meryl Woods.

Service Users Finance Document

The guidance document provides a comprehensive operational template for care providers and staff to use in all settings including: residential, nursing, domiciliary, and supported living. The document is intended to reinforce best practice when supporting a service user with finances and belongings.

The Safeguarding Board welcomes the introduction and implementation of the guidance, which is fully supported by Essex County Council and Health Trusts, as a means to formally safeguard service users from financial abuse.

The practice guidance for safeguarding service user finances and belongings can now be found on the ESAB website. The document can be found in the latest news section on the right hand side of the page.

Care Quality Commission Inspection

We have recently received notification that Essex County Council's adult social care services will be receiving a full CQC service inspection. The inspection fieldwork will be taking place between the 23rd and 31st March 2010.

The remit of all adult social care inspections includes Safeguarding, Leadership and Commissioning/ Use of Resources. CQC have selected two further areas for review; these are Improved Health and Wellbeing and Improved Quality of Life and will focus on how improved outcomes in these areas are delivered for older people. For adult safeguarding, partnership is key and CQC have already expressed that they will involve partners in the inspection.

The main focus areas of the inspection will be Basildon and Tendring.

Training

Basic Awareness Training

The following dates are currently available with spaces for basic awareness training, for bookings please contact Michala.jury@essex.gov.uk.

Date	Time	Location
8th February 2010	9:30-12:30 OR 1:30-4:30	Maldon
24th February 2010	9:30-12:30 OR 1:30-4:30	Brentwood
2nd March 2010	9:30-12:30 OR 1:30-4:30	Epping
10th March 2010	1:30-4:30	Chelmsford
15th March 2010	9:30-12:30 OR 1:30-4:30	Clacton-On-Sea

There are also spaces for the following train the trainers course:

17th, 18th & 19th May

in Chelmsford

Essex Safeguarding Adults Board

New Bridge House
60-68 New London Road
Chelmsford
Essex
CM2 0PD

Phone: 01245 506642
www.essexsab.org

E-Learning—In addition to conventional training ESAB now offers an on line basic awareness training package consisting of approximately 2 hours of core study material.

The training covers a range of topics including:

- Background to adult protection
- What is abuse (signs and indicators)
- Roles and responsibilities
- Case studies
- Reporting procedures

The programme links to useful documents, procedures and forms and concludes with an on line assessment which provides a random selection of 13 questions taken from a comprehensive question bank. User results will be recorded for management information and learners will receive a summary of their achievement and a certificate.

The package is suitable all for individuals who work directly with vulnerable adults.

Please note that to use this training package you will need a computer running Internet Explorer 5.0 or greater

To apply to use the training please complete the on-line application form and send this to the ESAB at ESAB@essex.gov.uk or by post to ESAB, New Bridge House, 60-68 New London Road, Chelmsford, CM2 0PD

Please direct any enquiries to the email address above or by telephone to 01245 506642.

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