



NEWSLETTER

Spring Edition
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HSAB priorities:

Wide awareness of adult abuse and neglect and its impact and engaging local communities.

Prevention and early intervention – promoting well being and safety and acting before harm occurs.

Well equipped workforce across all sectors.

Safeguarding services improved and shaped by the views of service users, carers and other stakeholders.

Clear, effective governance processes are in place within and across organisations.

Learning from experience - mechanisms to gain learning from serious cases and promote service and practice improvement.

'Working together to safeguard adults at risk' <http://www.hampshiresab.org.uk/>

Identifying and Reporting Self Neglect

Self-neglect manifests in many different ways. A person may experience physical or mental health issues within their lifetime as a result of suffering a trauma or loss and become incapable of meeting their own needs. If there is a lack of support, the individual may not be able to recognise their own neglect and situation.

Hoarding is a common outcome that is associated with self neglect. This disorder can stem from social isolation or becoming emotionally attached to possessions resulting in the individual being distressed when parting from the item, regardless of its value or practicality. Self neglect may have an impact on a person's health, wellbeing or living conditions and could potentially have a negative impact on family, friends and those they may live with. Often in these circumstances people may be unwilling to acknowledge their own self neglect and may well become reluctant to be open to receive to improve their circumstances.

Assessment

Where a person with needs of care and support is self neglecting and/or refusing services and in doing so placing themselves or others at risk of significant harm, a multi-disciplinary approach should be adopted. Information shared with the service user about the risk(s) of non intervention/intervention. A risk assessment will need to be undertaken which gives consideration to the following aspects of the person's life:

- Observation of home situation
- Engagement in activities of daily living
- Functional and cognitive abilities of the person
- Family and social support networks
- Underlying medical conditions
- Underlying mental health conditions or substance misuse issues
- Environmental factors
- Domiciliary care and other services offered/in place
- Environmental health monitoring
- Neighbourhood visiting by voluntary organisations
- Money management and budgeting.

This assessment may identify the need to refer people with self-neglect for a more specialist assessment. Where there is actual self neglect or significant risk of it, the practitioner will, carry the assessment, and need to make and record of their judgment about the risks and what an appropriate response to these should be.

Take a creative and flexible approach. Think about different ways of engaging the person in support to reduce the risks around self-neglect. This could involve thinking about who might be the best professional to get the best engagement with the person, or exploring different service options that may reduce risks.

Reporting Abuse

The well-being and safety of local people is our main concern and we adopt a zero tolerance stance on the abuse, neglect or discrimination of any person but particularly people at risk or in vulnerable situations in whatever setting.

There is good partnership working at the local level when concerns are raised and services work together effectively to ensure a co-ordinated approach. Any suspicion of abuse or neglect should be reported either to the Hampshire Adult Services on **0300 555 1386** or the police on 101. In an emergency and if it is suspected someone is in immediate danger, 999 should always be called.

What will happen next?

If you report concerns because you suspect that a vulnerable adult is being abused or you are being abused yourself: You will be listened to and your concerns will be taken seriously.

Your concerns will be looked into fully and fairly.

You will be involved in decision making and trained staff will work with you to stop the abuse and agree with you steps to protect you from further harm.

You will get advice about the help and support available.

This guidance is likely to be useful to any professional who is working with adults experiencing an unmanageable level of risk as a result of circumstances which create the risk of harm but not relating to abuse or neglect by a third party such as:

- Vulnerability factors placing them at a higher risk of abuse or neglect including mate crime, network abuse, etc.
- Self neglect including hoarding and fire safety.
- Refusal or disengagement from care and support services.
- Complex or diverse needs which either fall between, or span a number of agencies' statutory responsibilities or eligibility criteria.
- On-going needs or behavior leading to lifestyle choices placing the adult and/or others at significant risk.
- Complex needs and behaviors leading the adult to cause harm to others.
- 'Toxic Trio' of domestic violence, mental health and substance misuse.
- Risks previously addressed via a section 42 enquiry but for which the need for

Financial Abuse

Earlier in 2017 Hampshire Safeguarding Adults Board ran a campaign on financial abuse. There are other resources available to promote awareness of many other types of abuse. To learn more please visit: <http://www.hampshiresab.org.uk/report-abuse/keeping-safe/>

Examples of financial abuse can include:

- Theft of money and benefits, property, possessions, insurance
- Removal or control of the person's finances without permission
- Blackmail or taking advantage
- Pressure in connection with wills, property or inheritance or financial transactions.

Signs and symptoms of financial abuse can include:

- Unexplained inability to pay for household shopping or bills
- Withdrawal of large sums of money which cannot be explained
- Personal possessions go missing from the person's home
- Living conditions are low compared to the money the person receives
- Unusual and extraordinary interest and involvement by the family, carer, friend, stranger or door to door salesperson in the subject's assets.

Reporting

- Contact the Police – 101 (or 999 in an emergency)

See it, Stop it! Is intended to provide you with an understanding of safeguarding adults and what to do if you are worried.

This App is designed to work in line with the Alerters Guide and training materials developed by Hampshire County Council in conjunction with the Hampshire Safeguarding Adults Board.



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