

**Norfolk Safeguarding Adults Board Manager’s Blog**

**September 2015**

The first day in a new job is always a challenge. But my first day in the new role of Board Manager for Norfolk Safeguarding Adults Board (NSAB) just happened to coincide with the launch of our first NSAB Safeguarding Adults Awareness Week (7th to 11th September). Talk about having to hit the ground running!

The awareness week had two aims:

1. to meet and talk with the public, through a range of activities
2. to raise awareness of adult safeguarding in Norfolk.

I’m delighted that it turned out to be great success, thanks to colleagues across lots of different agencies. Here are just a few of the highlights:

* A seminar led by Claire Crawley (Senior Policy Manager Safeguarding Adults) from the Department of Health
* Good press coverage about the work of the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) , which [helps keep our **vulnerable adults** safe](https://www.google.com/url?rct=j&sa=t&url=http://www.edp24.co.uk/news/health/hub_helps_keep_our_vulnerable_adults_safe_1_4225405&ct=ga&cd=CAEYACoUMTI3Nzc5Nzg5ODU3MjAxOTg2MTAyHDZhZjU0ZjQ3ODAyMTg4MjM6Y28udWs6ZW46R0I&usg=AFQjCNESqsRlRADLbkMgPAawiQFPxDQ8_Q)
* Members of the locality partnership met the public in town centres and supermarkets and distributed our new leaflet
* A seminar in Great Yarmouth with Dr Mervyn Eastman at Great Yarmouth College (thanks to the generous support given by the College for this event)
* Events to publicise the Safer Places Scheme [Norfolk's Safer Places Scheme | Equal Lives](https://equallives.org.uk/norfolks-safer-places-scheme/)

(We couldn’t offer all the activities we’d hoped to, but will carry these forward to next year’s event. Watch this space...)

Since joining the team, I’ve also attended the first meeting of the Task & Finish Group, who are working to produce a **Self-neglect strategy** for Norfolk. This brings together a range of organisations, including housing, fire, health and the voluntary sector. Working with individuals with self-neglecting (or hoarding) behaviour can be particular challenging, particularly when the individual has mental capacity for these decisions. I’m grateful to **Paula Youell** (Head of Adult Suffolk Safeguarding Service) who has shared some of the work she has done in Suffolk.

The board has led with our first **Practitioner Learning Event,** as part of the current **Safeguarding Adult Review.** The Safeguarding Adult Review Group (SARG) has been working extremely hard to complete this review, following the extraordinary joint board meeting of both Norfolk and Suffolk.

Themes of work for the coming months include:

* A focus that enhances the authority and role of the locality partnerships and sub-groups of the board
* To continue to strengthen our links with Suffolk SAB
* Explore opportunities to develop safeguarding adult work in important sectors like further education and the business community
* Grow the function of NSAB’s website to help keep colleagues updated on the topic of safeguarding adults

The aim of this blog is to update all those involved or interested in safeguarding adults work in Norfolk on what’s happening locally. I’ll be aiming to post a blog at least once a month.

Meanwhile, all the colleagues I’ve met since starting have been very welcoming and full of encouragement. Abigail McGarry (Board Manager for the Norfolk Safeguarding Children's Board), Jon Shalom (Norfolk Community Safety Partnership) and Donna Monk (Norfolk Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements, MAPPA) were particularly supportive in my first few weeks in the job.

Thanks for reading

Walter Lloyd-Smith

Norfolk Safeguarding Adults Board Manager