

# Adult Safeguarding Bulletin for Norfolk & Waveney GPs: December 2018(02)

Welcome

Please find attached a copy of the latest updates and news relevant to GP practice.

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## Your Appraisal and Adult Safeguarding Training

The Royal Colleges have finally published an intercollegiate document which has set out their guidance for the requirements of Adult Safeguarding Training.



PDF-007069  
safeguarding adults ii

It makes a recommendation that *GPs/Nurse Practitioners* have training equivalent to Level 3 to fulfil their obligations as the potential "decision makers" when using the Mental Capacity Act or recognising and acting on adult safeguarding concerns.

When, as GPs, we work in a CQC registered organisation, we are obliged to prove to the inspectors that the organisation is assured that we have had appropriate training in this area. Completion of e-learning modules with an associated Certificate of Training is probably the most common mode of assurance.

Similarly, practice managers can record attendance at in-house face-to-face training events and record attendance at multi-disciplinary meeting when "adults at risk of abuse" are discussed with associated discussion and learning. *This new document has stipulated that GPs should have a total of 8 hours of adult safeguarding training/learning across a 3-year period and at least 50% of this should be face-to-face.*

However, the NHS England Appraisal Team have not yet adopted these recommendations and are still only looking for evidence of Level 3 Child Safeguarding training which includes a minimum of 8 hours across a 3-year cycle.

There are areas of crossover between Child and Adult Safeguarding training which can include domestic violence, female genital mutilation, "cuckooing" and county lines awareness, sexual exploitation and modern day slavery so this training can be counted towards both.

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At the moment, there is no formally CCG funded face-to-face adult safeguarding train training. However, I have been able to work with the Norfolk Adult Safeguarding Board (NSAB) who sponsored the free Mental Capacity Act Workshops which were well attended across the county at the end of October. Other training opportunities are listed on the NSAB website. These are provided by their current approved provider St Thomas Training <https://www.stthomastraining.co.uk/norfolk>

I have spoken to their lead, Mr David Thornicroft who advises that GPs would be welcome on any of these courses. These are aimed at social care workers but he advises that GPs would benefit from the following courses:

Learning lessons from safeguarding adult reviews

[Level 2]\*Complex Decisions

[Level 5]\* Best Practice for Best Interests Meetings and Decisions

[Level 6]\*Learning Lessons from Court of Protection Cases

*\*Ignore these levels as they do not apply to health and are not linked to the intercollegiate document but all these courses would be equivalent to "level 3 clinician training"*

Alternatively, he would be happy to arrange bespoke in-house/locality training which could meet all the practice staff training needs in a half or full day sessions.

Other options for keeping up to date are reviewing the published Safeguarding Adult Reviews (SARs) and Domestic Homicide Reviews (DHRs) on the NSAB website. I have summarised the GP relevant learning from [SAR Mr AA](#) and [SAR Mrs BB](#) under the "professionals" tab and then "GPs and primary care practioners" tab.

You can summarise your learning/reflections using a Case Review template under "Quality Improvement Activity" within your appraisal toolkit. Dr Fiske does a similar thing on the Norfolk Child Safeguarding website <https://www.norfolkscb.org/>, saved under Serious Case Reviews and then select SCR Summary of Learning PowerPoint.

Going forward, the CCGs Adult Safeguarding team is applying for increased funding which could cover a more comprehensive training programme in-line with that currently provided by the Children's Team, so watch this space.

### Professional Curiosity

What is professional curiosity? Professional curiosity is the capacity and communication skill to explore and understand what is happening with an individual

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or family. It is about enquiring deeper and using proactive questioning and challenge. It is about understanding one's own responsibility and knowing when to take action, rather than making assumptions or taking things at face value. In order to use your professional curiosity, you need to:

- Have empathy and hear the voice of the person
- Know the factors that are barriers to professional curiosity and take steps to reduce them
- Be courageous and ask difficult questions
- Think the unthinkable; believe the unbelievable
- Consider how you can articulate 'intuition' into an evidenced, professional view and discuss 'gut feelings' with other professionals.

I have included a link to the full text of a very useful document on this subject accessed by NSAB website. You may want to use this article as a basis for discussion in a suitable in-house training meeting:



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riosity-Briefing(SUMM

### **Uncollected Medications: Doreen: A case for thought (see attachment)**

A recent Safeguarding Adult Referral considered the death of woman in her 40s who had learning and mental health issues but was living independently in the community. She had had insulin dependent diabetes and hypothyroidism since a child. She was found dead in her home nearly 2 months after she last picked up a weekly prescription for her insulin and thyroxine.

I have summarised the case in the attached document which I hope will remind us to use our **professional curiosity** if we are made aware that life sustaining medications such as these are not being collected either from your dispensaries or from the pharmacies. A recent CQC inspection of a dispensing practice wanted to know how the practice managed "uncollected medications", so it is important to have a protocol to follow for this scenario.

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### Hypothermia: the silent killer

Following the death of a patient in a care home from pneumonia and hypothermia in November 2016, the latest Safeguarding Adult Review, SAR E is published this month. Amongst the recommendations, GPs and nurses are encouraged to use our **professional curiosity** to allow us to raise an adult safeguarding concern if we notice that a patient's own home or care home feels significantly cold.

Please call 0344 800 8020 if worried.

END.