

Norfolk Safeguarding Adults Board Manager's Blog

April 2021

Viking, North Utsire, South Utsire, Forties ... 'shipping forecast' for adult safeguarding

The skill to deliver complex and 'dense' information concisely is one I very much admire. The public presentation of data on the Coronavirus is essential to help us understand what has (and continues) to be happening and then how to beat it.

I was recently involved in a long and busy online meeting for the Norfolk Safeguarding Adults Board, which included a walkthrough of some complicated data on the virus impact on Norfolk's care homes. I talked with a couple of my senior colleagues afterwards:

'The delivery was so clear and ... rhythmic ... it really helped me follow what was being said,' I commented.

'Yes indeed,' a colleague replied ... *'such a lot of information given in a short time, just like the shipping forecast. You had such a clear picture it helped answer the question at hand.'*

Later, as I thought more about that conversation, I started to think about **an adult safeguarding version of the shipping forecast**. This would set out the picture of what is happening as we come out of lockdown #3.

BBC Radio's shipping forecast gives weather reports and forecasts for the 31 sea areas around the coasts of the British Isles. As Charlie Connelly comments:

'[its] rhythms and rituals have changed little since [it was first broadcast on New Year's Day 1924](#): there is poetry in the daily litany and mystery in its terminology' (see 'Moderate becoming good': my journey to every place in the shipping forecast, [Charlie Connelly, The Guardian 2 May 2020](#)).

The shipping forecast is produced by the Met Office and broadcast by BBC Radio 4 on behalf of the Maritime and Coastguard Agency four times a day. It is immensely popular with the British public and attracts hundreds of thousands of listeners – far more than actually require it!

[In a 2007 BBC news article the Controller of BBC Radio 4, Mark Damazer, attempted to explain its popularity:](#)

'It scans poetically. It's got a rhythm of its own. It's eccentric, it's unique, it's English. It's slightly mysterious because nobody really knows where these places are. It takes you into a faraway place that you can't really comprehend unless you're one of these people bobbing up and down in the Channel...'

Indeed, I know several colleagues who have shared that the 00.48 broadcast helps them get to sleep after a long day. We all know its rhythm and feel, and it is always read in the same order - starting with Viking, moving clockwise around the British Isles, and with the same structure (gale warnings in force - if any, general synopsis and area forecasts). See [What is the shipping forecast and how does it work?](#)

Thinking about some current NSAB work, the adult safeguarding forecast would need the following information for each topic:

	Descriptors
Current position	Live & ongoing work / complex case
Priority	Ongoing - statutory / new / key - emerging
Engagement	Reducing / maintaining / good / growing
Status	Paused / good / progressing / completed

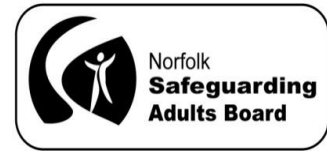
So, how would I forecast some current NSAB work? (imagine the voice of Peter Jefferson, who read the forecast for 40 years until 2009!)

Domestic abuse. *Increasing concerns, particularly for older adults. NSAB priority key now from lockdown. Working with Healthwatch. Good moving to progressing.*

New strategy document 2021-23. *Reviewed & redrafted. Ongoing to new. Good becoming growing. Final checks before publication.*

Volunteering, carers, day services. *Emerging issues from lockdown.*

LSAPs. *Developing nicely with leadership from deputy. Ongoing to key. Reducing in places but growing overall. Positive*



Framework document for Norfolk. Strong headwind 4 or 5, occasionally 6 later slowing progress. New. Engagement maintaining / growing through PML. Status paused but moving to good.

Annual report 2020-21. Document being written. Priority, ongoing. Good. Status, progressing.

Current Safeguarding Adult Reviews. First full draft completed but additional work on gaps: complex. Ongoing - statutory. Engagement good. Progressing (against agreed deadline).

Thank you.

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