

Norfolk Safeguarding Adults Board Manager's Blog

December 2019

Knitting Norfolk's safeguarding jumper

Last week I was in London for a meeting of the homelessness & safeguarding national reference group. As the meeting was a short distance from Liverpool St and the city was heaving with office workers on their Christmas meals out and others doing Christmas shopping, I decided it was quicker to walk than use the tube. I wove my way through the crowds and over the river, I passed one large group all wearing their Christmas jumpers (some tasteful, other completely OTT).

As I passed, I heard the 'flashing Christmas tree' tell the 'reindeer' he had caught his jumper on something and pulled a thread. 'Just pull it', the Christmas tree said. 'No' exclaimed the reindeer 'it will only make it worse'.

While the origins of this Christmas 'tradition' are not completely clear, some have linked them with 1980s TV presenters such as *Gyles Brandreth* and *Timmy Mallett*. Others point to the Christmas specials of singers like *Val Doonican* and *Andy Williams*.

On the train home I was struck by this idea of how a single thread on its own is just that, a single thread. But bring lots of threads together and we get a fuller picture. This led me on to thinking about our 'safeguarding' year and how it is made up of lots of individual 'threads', including some these:

- **6** board meetings and **23** locality partnership meetings
- **2** Safeguarding Adults Reviews completed and signed off by board (to be published in the new year)
- we have developed a new way of working, standing down a number of subgroups and in their place brought in [3 new subgroups known as the PML](#)
- with Adult Social Care's support, we have a 6 month project to re-establish the data dashboard
- formal launch of our volunteer scheme – [Safeguarding Friends](#)
- relaunch the Self-Neglect and Hoarding Strategy at two events attended by **150** plus colleagues ([click here to download your copy of the strategy 2.1](#))

- we have published our [annual report for 2018-19](#)
- over 700 people attended one of five seminars on **Domestic Abuse and Coercive Control** with Luke & Ryan Hart ([also see my June blog – the power of the piece of paper](#))
- held 4 Train the Trainer events, training 30 colleagues for different agencies to delivery basic awareness training
- **200** staff have attended 5 seminars on working with people who choose not to engage
- published a flowdiagram on what happens when a safeguarding adults concern is raised to the local authority
- published guidance on [Making Safeguarding Personal - Best Practice \(Sept 2019\) | Medication error and Safeguarding: Guidance for Providers \(17 July 2019\)](#)
- from January to November there have been **19,210** users of the website (*it would be great to 20,000 for the year, please visit the website*)
- on Twitter @NorfolkSAB has gained **321** new followers (in the same period)
- I have posted 11 blogs ([click here](#))

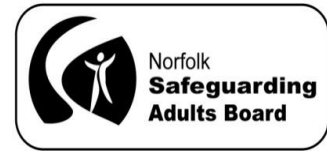
When you bring this together it starts to 'knit' quite a picture.

BUT add in everyone who has put up a Speak Up against abuse poster, given out the 'credit card' information, raised a safeguarding adult concern to the local authority, told a colleague about one of the NSAB events they have attended, a *really rich picture of work emerges* to protect those at risk of abuse or harm or to support someone who has experienced abuse.

Whatever you have done in 2019, thank you. Thank you for helping raise the profile of adult safeguarding across Norfolk (and beyond).

You can still help add a 'thread' before the year finishes. Here are 2 easy ways to help:

- 1) Complete the NSAB survey. It only takes 10 minutes and the information this will provide will be vital in informing our work in 2020. To help maximise the number of returns I have kept open the survey until Monday 13 January. (*Can you help us get to 1000 returns, that would be fabulous*)
- 2) Book on one of NSAB's events in January – don't miss the opportunity to be part of our seminar looking at safeguarding & homelessness on the 8th January with Dr Adi Cooper or



hear the very powerful story of coercive control and domestic abuse from Luke & Ryan Hart on the 9th and 16th January.

[Click here to book your place](#) and then encourage a colleague to book on, to add another 'thread'.

On behalf of NSAB I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a merry Christmas 🎄🍷🧑🏻 and I hope you have a restful break over the holidays.

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