



Norfolk Safeguarding Adults Board Manager's Blog

January 2017

A 'surge' against abuse – 'what can I do to help?'

Norfolk has just seen another storm surge. Watching the news coverage I was impressed by the multi-agency nature of the response: all sorts of people working together to keep everyone safe and protect our communities. Thankfully, the high tides of the weekend of 13th/ 14th January passed off without incident. The last major flooding incident was in 2013 and at the time I was working for the community health provider in Great Yarmouth. I was one of many staff from various agencies who worked through the night to help with the response.

As I left my last meeting on that Friday afternoon, an old colleague called my mobile. We talked about the coming storm surge and then I shared what I have been doing in my role as board manager. I remarked that in the same way as the storm surge had been met by a multi-agency response, we needed to harness the same concerted effort to tackle adult abuse and harm across our county.

My colleague asked, '*Well, what can I do?*'

Here is a few of the suggestions I made:

- Sign up to the [Friends Against Scams campaign](#). Financial scamming is often not reported and its impacts are devastating. **Friends Against Scams** is a National Trading Standards (NTS) Scams Team initiative, which aims to protect and prevent people from becoming victims of scams by empowering communities to "*Take a Stand Against Scams*".
- One of the well understood factors that increase the risk of being a victim of a scam is [loneliness](#). Make a pledge to Norfolk's [In Good Company](#) campaign against loneliness. To find out more about the issue and to get some inspiration for ways you can tackle it, visit [Campaign to End Loneliness](#).
- You can read the [Safer Lives report on older people and domestic abuse](#). You can also listen to the podcast about how services can reach more older victims.

- Make sure your service or organisation is plugged into a [Locality Safeguarding Adult Partnership](#). In the spring the LSAPs will be carrying out a public survey: can you help?
- Download one of the [posters](#) from the [Norfolk Safeguarding Adults Board website](#) and then take it to your local shop or pub and ask them to display it.
- Have a look at the [Safeguarding Adult Review](#) recently published by the board. Download a copy of the summary report and action plan and share with a colleague or your manager. What lessons could your service/agency learn?
- Read the [best practice fact sheet](#) on Making Safeguarding Personal.
- Send me an email at walter.lloyd-smith@norfolk.gov.uk to sign up to receive an email alert when new items are posted on the [Norfolk Safeguarding Adults Board website](#).
- Simply save the date of our next safeguarding adults awareness week (Monday 11 for Friday 15 September 2017) in your diary.

'Sounds good to me' my colleague replied.

If each of us did two of the above and then got a colleague, friend or family member to do the same, we could really build a 'surge against abuse' in Norfolk.

Go on, make 2017 the year we pushed back hard against adult abuse and harm.

Walter Lloyd-Smith

Norfolk Safeguarding Adults Board Manager

17 January 2017