

**RAISING THE PROFILE OF SAFEGUARDING  
AND PROMOTING GOOD PRACTICE****INSIDE THIS ISSUE**

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**Chair's Introduction**

# Hi Everyone

Firstly, my apologies that there wasn't a newsletter in the summer this year - but we are hoping to get back on track from this issue onwards.

National Safeguarding Week is nearly upon us again and this year the daily themes are: -

- Monday – Developing Professional Curiosity
- Tuesday – Working in Partnership
- Wednesday – Establishing Professional Boundaries
- Thursday – Recognising Exploitation – The Ladder of Criminality
- Friday – Professional and Organisational Learning.

There are more details further on in the newsletter.

When I looked at Monday's topic I began thinking about professional curiosity and whether I could comfortably define what it means to me. I don't think I did too bad a job of explaining it to myself but the object of the exercise was really to consciously think about it and about how consistently I apply the principle.

Professional curiosity is often described as a 'golden thread' that runs through safeguarding and the blurb for Monday's theme references 'thinking outside the box' - which is a great if you can do it. But for me the really important things are looking beyond what is presented by individuals, by families or by organisations – asking searching questions, challenging where needed, and not accepting things at face value.

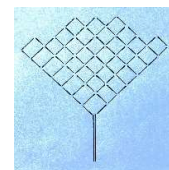
Most of you reading this will have a far greater understanding of professional curiosity than I do - which is why I am commenting from a personal perspective. However, I did find it genuinely useful to sit and consciously think about it within the framework of my own professional and personal life. I am often far away from the front-line but when I do go into people's homes or visit services or attend engagement events or visit people in residential homes - do I always put it into practice? When I'm reviewing case notes, Cause for Concern submissions or incident reports do I pay real attention to what has gone on? Do I ask enough difficult questions? Do I challenge if the evidence of my eyes contradicts what I'm being told? Do I think the unthinkable?

I have a slightly uncomfortable feeling that maybe - on those hectic days when time is running away from me that I need to make sure I remind myself of this exercise.

The lunch and learn session on professional curiosity is between 1 and 2pm on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> November and it's one I'm looking forward to.

As you'll see from the programme there are lots of interesting sessions across the week – I hope you can make one or more of them and also that you find the newsletter useful.

## Domestic Abuse Service



### **Working with those who harm**

We will be delivering CHOICES. CHOICES is a behaviour change programme delivered over 24-32 sessions on a 1:1 basis (groupwork will be available in the

future). CHOICES is premised upon a humanist philosophy which means that within each person there is a desire to live a good and ethical life.

We need to ensure that our responses to people who harm are inclusive and that we have a flexibility in our programme structures so that they are fully supported to engage with us effectively.

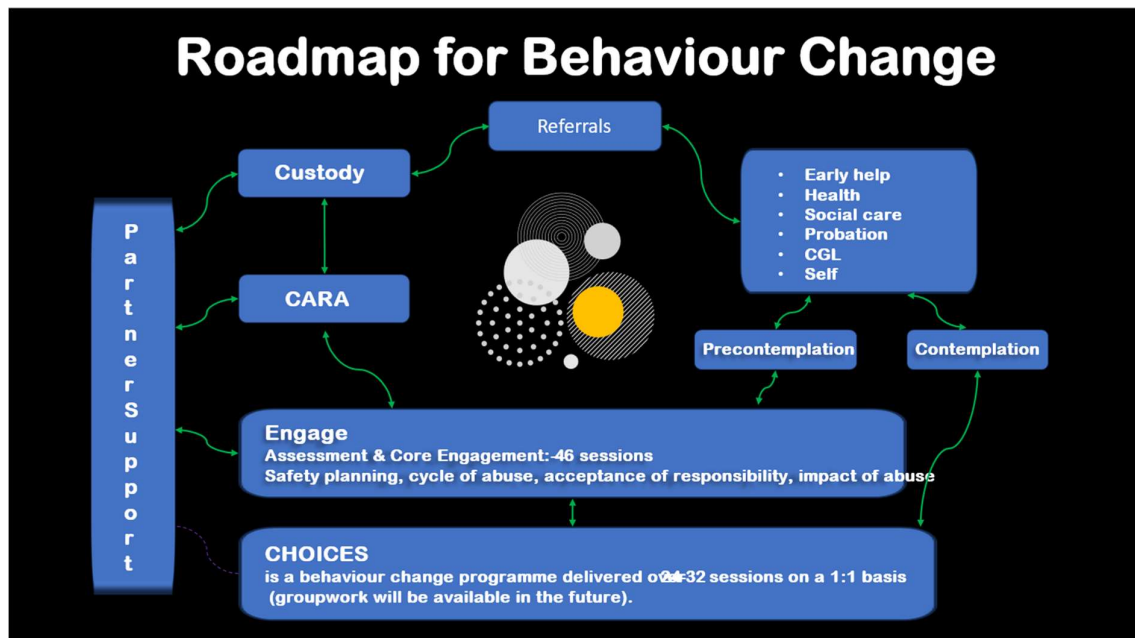
CHOICES incorporates Cognitive Behavioural Therapy (CBT), Narrative Therapy, is strengths-based solution focused and is trauma and attachment informed. It consists of overlapping components through which we explore our thoughts, values and beliefs, our actions and their consequences and skill developments. We also explore the impact of their actions have on external environment and vice versa.

What we want them to achieve, is for them to develop a framework of meaning for the lives so they can understand their own behaviour. We want to help them to resolve past traumas whilst gaining cognitive skills and everyday skills, to think and learn about emotional regulation and to learn self-restraint whilst building their strengths and their resilience and modelling how to get on with others and developing social skills.

### Partner Support

It is best practice in the field of perpetrator work that support is offered to current and/or ex-partners of perpetrators that attend a programme. This includes signposting to suitable services where required; information on the contents of the programme; help in managing expectations of what the programme can achieve; immediate response if sessions indicate they or their children may be at imminent risk and the opportunity to access confidential information and advice.

Focusing on the safety and wellbeing of adults and children affected by violence is the main goal and priority at every stage of engaging with people who harm.



For further information, advice or to make a referral please do not hesitate to contact me:

<https://forms.haltonbc.info/app/forms/choices>

[warren.betts@halton.gov.uk](mailto:warren.betts@halton.gov.uk)

Telephone: 07584 183 163

*Article provided by Warren Betts: Working with Those Who Harm*

## IRIS PROJECT



### **Improving Health Care Responses to Domestic Abuse in Halton**

Halton have recently appointed an IRIS (Identification and Referral to Improve Safety) Advocate Educator as part of a 12 month funded project to improve healthcare responses to domestic abuse across the borough.

IRISi is a national social enterprise founded in 2017 with the vision of having gender-based violence consistently recognised as a health issue and bridging the gap between healthcare and domestic abuse services. IRISi currently operate in over 40 areas within the UK and have delivered training to over 3500 healthcare professionals.

As the IRIS Advocate Educator, I will be working with up to 25 health practices (primarily GP surgeries) across the Halton borough. I will deliver two 2 hour training sessions to the medical staff at each practice and an addition 1 hour training session for the reception and admin staff. Training will involve highlighting the prevalence of domestic abuse within Halton, the effects that domestic abuse has on the health (both physical and mental) of victims, how practitioners can have conversations with patients around domestic abuse, safeguarding/referral routes and challenging common statements such as “why didn’t she just leave?”.

Following the training, healthcare professionals within Halton will then feel fully equipped to identify risk factors of domestic abuse, potential signs to look out for and to start conversations with patients (and professionals) should they feel this is needed. They will also know where to refer patients too for support, if there is a domestic abuse disclosure.

As the IRIS Advocate Educator for Halton, I will also work directly with patients that are referred to me by the practice staff I have trained. I will work with and support

standard risk victims of domestic abuse, providing both emotional support, and practical support such as risk assessing and safety planning. Following further risk assessing from myself, if any patients are identified as high risk, they will be referred to the Halton IDVA team and MARAC.

For further information, please do not hesitate to contact me or check out the IRISi website:

**Email:** [Aimee.Fletcher@halton.gov.uk](mailto:Aimee.Fletcher@halton.gov.uk)

**Telephone:** 0151 511 7461

[www.iris.org](http://www.iris.org)

*Article provided by Aimee Fletcher – IRIS Advocate Educator*

## National Safeguarding Week 2024



National Safeguarding Week will take place this year on 18<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2024.

Safeguarding Adults Week is a time for organisations to come together to raise awareness of important safeguarding issues. We believe that working in partnership allows us to share our knowledge of safeguarding, learn from others and create safer cultures.

During Safeguarding Adults Week 2024, we'll be collaborating with our partners to explore a different safeguarding theme each day. The themes will encourage us to consider how we can work together to establish safer cultures within our workplaces and communities.

The daily themes for this years campaign are as follows:

### **Monday – Look, Listen, Ask – Developing professional curiosity**

Professional curiosity is where a practitioner proactively recognises and asks questions to try to understand what is happening within a particular institution, family or for an individual, rather than making assumptions or taking a single source of information and accepting it at face value.

To achieve safer cultures and communities, practitioners and members of the community should be professionally curious. This involves looking, listening, asking direct questions and reflecting on **ALL** of the information received. We need to be recognising signs that harm could be occurring, asking questions to learn more about what is happening and talking to others within and outside of our organisational context, where necessary, to follow-up concerns.

### **Tuesday – Working in partnership: How to work effectively with the people you support**

Making Safeguarding Personal; Person-Centred Practice; Co-production – each of these approaches focuses on working in partnership with people who use services.

On this day, we will explore how we can embed these approaches successfully in our service design and every day practices. We are encouraging organisations to share challenges and successes about how to effectively partner with the people they support.

### **Wednesday – Establishing Professional Boundaries**

Developing good quality relationships are important across all organisations and communities. Professional boundaries help us to understand what good quality relationships look like both within and outside of work. Thinking about professional boundaries encourages us to establish clear foundations about the nature of working relationships from the outset.

On this day, we are encouraging people to think about what appropriate professional boundaries look like in your sector, organisation or community. What power imbalances exist that could impact professional working relationships? What could be the signs that professional boundaries are being blurred and how should you respond if you are concerned?.

Professional boundaries can also go beyond our relationships with colleagues or service users and include boundaries between our work and home life. We will also be exploring what good practice looks like in transitioning from work to home life.

### **Thursday – Recognising Exploitation: The ladder of criminality**

Criminal exploitation is the deliberate abuse of power and control over another person. It is taking advantage of another person or situation for criminal purposes or personal gain. Criminal exploitation could also include other forms of harm and abuse such as modern slavery, sexual exploitation or cuckooing.

On this day, we want to encourage people to think about how they would work together to recognise the signs of criminal exploitation and how to respond. Specifically, we will be focusing on how practitioners can spot the signs and respond to people with learning disabilities who are subject to criminal exploitation.

### **Friday – Professional and Organisational Learning**

To effectively safeguard adults and establish safer cultures, it is important for organisations and individuals to be engaged in a process of continuing learning and development.

On this day, we want to encourage organisations and individuals to reflect on their practice. What have been the successes and the challenges in safeguarding adults? What work do we still have to do and how can we continue to extend our learning?

A Task and Finish Group will be established shortly in order to prepare for National Safeguarding Week and how we would like to mark the week in Halton. If you would be interested in being part of this Task and Finish Group please contact Katy Rushworth via email: [katy.rushworth@halton.gov.uk](mailto:katy.rushworth@halton.gov.uk)

*Information of National Safeguarding Week Themes taken from Ann Craft Trust Website*

## Modern Slavery and Organised Immigration around the Care Sector

There has been considerable recent media coverage focused on allegations of exploitation within the Care Sector, we have also been notified of several forces undertaking investigations in this sector. MSOICU in partnership with the Clewer Initiative, have developed an awareness raising resource focused on the Care Sector to support forces. The resource is primarily aimed at raising awareness to those commissioning care, owning and running residential care properties or working in the care sector on how to spot and report possible exploitation.

### **Resource structure and Pilot:**

The resource is split into 2 parts: part 1 being a general overview of what modern slavery is and the different types of exploitation that can exist and part 2 focuses on specific scenarios within the care sector, that workers could observe or experience themselves. The resource has been piloted in the Southwest region to both domiciliary and residential care homes and to both care workers and management staff. This includes a slide pack, flyers and further resources document. The resource can be delivered as a Train the Trainer session and is accompanied by facilitator notes. The resource pilot has been evaluated by MSOICU Insight and Analysis Team. Following the session, care workers fed back they were more confident in their understanding of Modern Slavery and more confident in their knowledge of identifying and reporting of Modern Slavery.

### **Resource Access:**

The resource documents are available to download in the MSOICU website: [Modern Slavery in Care Sector Training - NPCC Modern Slavery & Organised Immigration Crime Programme \(npcc-msoicu.co.uk\)](https://www.npcc-msoicu.co.uk/modern-slavery-in-care-sector-training)

### **Communications Materials:**

An interview on why our new co-produced care sector resource is so urgently needed is available to view on youtube.com via the following link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SPSuGpTG1oA>.

The Clewer Initiative have produced flyers downloadable again from the MSOICU website and the blog posts below for further information on how exploitation is impacting this sector:

[The Clewer Initiative | The first ms investigation in the care sector](#)

[The Clewer Initiative | A shortage of care home workers drives modern...](#)

**Feedback Form:**

So that we can effectively evaluate the impact of the resource a quick feedback form can be accessed via the following link:

<https://forms.office.com/e/gDg6diPdUF?embed=true>

*Information provided by Cheshire Constabulary Modern Slavery and Organised Immigration Crime Unit*

## Become a Dignity Champion

**Would you be willing to:**

- Stand up and challenge disrespectful behaviour rather than just tolerate it
- Act as a good role model by treating other people with respect particularly those who are less able to stand up for themselves
- Speak up about dignity to improve the way that services are organised and delivered
- Influence and inform colleagues
- Listen to and understand the news and experiences of citizens

**The purpose of being a Dignity Champion is to:**

- Ensure everyone regardless of age, using health and social care services, in any setting, has their basic human rights upheld in a respectful and dignified manner
- Make sure dignity and respect is at the heart of everyday practice and isn't an addition to it
- Treat everyone as a unique individual
- Promote personal choice
- Promote independence, well-being and quality of care/life
- Empower people
- Make time to listen
- Challenge discriminatory attitudes, behaviours and assumptions

**Personal qualities that Dignity Champions should exhibit:**

- Show respect for people
- Confidence
- Patience
- Good communicator which includes being a good listener
- Empathic



- Understanding, caring and compassionate
- Honest
- Willing to get involved in discussion
- Sense of humour
- Non-judgemental
- Approachable
- Motivated
- Assertive but not aggressive
- Open
- Receptive to change
- Have a commitment to learn and develop
- Leadership – not necessarily be in a leader role, but lead by example
- Relate to others in a collaborative way

**As a Dignity Champion you would need to pledge to follow the 10 Dignity Do's:**

1. Have a zero tolerance of all forms of abuse
2. Support people with the same respect you would want for yourself or a member of your family
3. Treat each person as an individual by offering a personalised service
4. Enable people to maintain the maximum possible level of independence, choice and control
5. Listen and support people to express their needs and wants
6. Respect people's right to privacy
7. Ensure people feel able to complain without fear of retribution
8. Engage with family members and carers as care partners
9. Assist people to maintain confidence and positive self-esteem
10. Act to alleviate people's loneliness and isolation

**If you would be interested in becoming a Dignity Champion, you can register via the Dignity in Care website: [Become a Dignity Champion](#)**

## Discriminatory Abuse Survey

The survey has been created by a research team at Bournemouth University and Royal Holloway, University of London and is being circulated to national safeguarding adult board members, community safety partnerships and principal social workers.

Your responses will help to develop a snapshot of how hate crime and/or discriminatory abuse are addressed through safeguarding adults processes, establish current practice and practice development and understand the nature of partnerships safeguarding adult services have with other organisations to support safeguarding work.

If you would be interested in completing the survey, it should take approximately 10 minutes to complete and can be accessed via the following link:

## Upcoming Safeguarding Events and Training

### SAB Training 2024 / 25

The HSAB Training Programme for 2024 / 25 can be found at the below link:

<https://adult.haltonsafeguarding.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/05/HSAB-training-programme.pdf>

Or can be accessed from this attachment:



HSAB training  
programme 2024-25

This is **free** safeguarding training. What is available over the next few months is listed below and can be accessed via the Eventbrite link below:

**Bookings can be made through:**

<http://haltonsafeguardingadultsboard.eventbrite.com/>



#### **Safeguarding Adults: Awareness and Responsibilities:**

**Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2024 1.30pm – 4.30pm**  
**Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> January 2025 9.30am – 12.30pm**

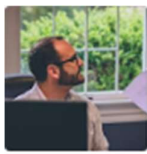
Grangeway Youth and Community Centre,  
Runcorn



#### **Financial Abuse:**

**Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> October 2024, 1.30pm – 4.30pm**

Grangeway Youth and Community Centre,  
Runcorn



### Provider-led Concerns and Enquiries – Local Policy and Procedure:

**Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> November 2024 9.30am – 12.30pm**

Grangeway Youth & Community Centre • Runcorn



### Self-Neglect Awareness:

**Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> November 2024 1.30pm – 4.30pm**

Grangeway Youth & Community Centre • Runcorn



### Mental Capacity Act – Working with Capacity:

**Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> October 2024 9.30am – 12.30pm**

Grangeway Youth & Community Centre • Runcorn

## Upcoming Dates of Note

|                 |   |                               |
|-----------------|---|-------------------------------|
| <b>November</b> | 6 <sup>th</sup> November 2024                     | National Stress Awareness Day |
|                 | 10 <sup>th</sup> November 2024                    | Remembrance Sunday            |
|                 | 11 <sup>th</sup> November 2024                    | Armistice Day                 |
|                 | 18 <sup>th</sup> – 22 <sup>nd</sup> November 2024 | National Safeguarding Week    |
|                 | 27 <sup>th</sup> November 2024                    | Fuel Poverty Awareness Day    |
|                 | 30 <sup>th</sup> November 2024                    | St Andrews Day                |
| <b>December</b> | 13 <sup>th</sup> December 2024                    | Christmas Jumper Day          |
|                 | 25 <sup>th</sup> December 2024                    | Christmas Day                 |
|                 | 26 <sup>th</sup> December 2024                    | Boxing Day                    |
|                 | 31 <sup>st</sup> December 2024                    | Hogmanay                      |