

Salford Safeguarding Adults Board Latest News

Dear Colleagues,

Firstly, we are pleased to share our very first news bulletin. We hope you find it interesting and useful and we welcome your feedback.

We hope you are all keeping well during this difficult and challenging time. The Spirit of Salford is incredible and we would just like to express our thanks to everyone for their continued efforts – it is appreciated and we will get through it together.

SSAB Website

Our [website](#) home page has been updated to include a link to the council website for general information on Coronavirus, which is being updated daily.

We have also created a new [coronavirus section](#) on our website, which includes more specific safeguarding and other information and links that may be useful at this time.

If you would like us to add anything to this page, please e-mail us at: ssab@salford.gov.uk

Care Act Easement

The DHSC has produced [new guidance on Care Act easements](#) introduced by the Coronavirus Act 2020.

Annex D provides specific guidance on safeguarding, and it states,

*'Safeguarding adults **remains a statutory duty** of Local Authorities to keep everyone safe from abuse or neglect. The Coronavirus Act 2020 does not affect the safeguarding protections in the Care Act, particularly at Section 42 of the Care Act. It is vital that Local Authorities continue to offer the same level of safeguarding oversight and application of Section 42. However, it is also important that safeguarding teams are proportionate in their responses and mindful of the pressure social care providers are likely to be under.'*

It is recognised that everyone involved in promoting the welfare, protection and supporting the most vulnerable members of the community are working extremely hard in the face of unprecedented challenging times but remember this is also the time when we must all be extra vigilant and try to pick up any early signs of abuse, exploitation or harm so if you think that something isn't right, **do not hesitate to [report it](#)**.

Safeguarding Information for Volunteers

Jointly with the Safeguarding Children's Partnership, we have produced a [fact sheet](#) and a [7 minute briefing](#) on safeguarding. There is also a [plain text version of the 7 minute briefing](#). These have been published on our website and whilst they were initially intended for volunteers, we think they will be useful for others.

Mental Capacity Act / DoLS

The DHSC has produced [new guidance](#) for health and social care staff who are caring for, or treating, a person who lacks the relevant mental capacity during the Coronavirus pandemic. The key points are summarised below:

- All MCA/DOLS duties remain in force: decisions should continue to be taken on the basis of a 'reasonable belief': lack of capacity and best interests. But managing authorities and supervisory bodies should take a proportionate approach and prioritise according to need;
- Decision-making has to focus on the individual; 'blanket' decisions re: groups of people are not acceptable;
- The individual and his/her family/friends should be engaged in the MCA process as much as is practicable (but 'blanket' decisions not to attempt engagement will not be acceptable);
- Patients in ICU being treated for COVID-19 infection (or anything else) will not need DOLS but the rest of the MCA still applies. Patients stepped down from ICU to HDU etc may need DOLS at that point;
- DOLS assessors should not be visiting care homes or hospitals but should be carrying out assessments remotely (this is now in place in Salford);
- If hospital patients or care home residents need to be restricted for their own safety and/or the safety of others then the MCA/DOLS framework should be used wherever possible;
- If residents in other settings (e.g. supported living, foster placements for 16 – 17 year olds) need to be detained then legal advice should be sought re: applying to the Court of Protection;
- If the MCA/DOLS framework cannot be used (e.g. a care home resident with mental capacity who declines to follow the public health protection guidelines) then the Health Protection Team should be contacted for advice.

Safeguarding Referrals for Children

Since the start of pandemic and restrictions on social contact, there has been a drop in safeguarding children referrals to the Bridge. We have therefore been asked to share the Safeguarding Children's Partnership bulletin below and remind everyone that safeguarding both adults and children is everyone's responsibility and requires people to be particularly vigilant at this time. Please see [worried about a child](#) for more information on how to report child safeguarding concerns.

Suicide

These times are especially difficult for some members of our community. It is important that people who are having suicidal thoughts get the help they need. We would encourage you all to watch / do the [Suicide Let's Talk 20 minute training](#), which will equip you to spot possible signs and have difficult conversations with people who might be thinking about taking their own lives.

If a person is at **immediate risk of harm to themselves or others** and need help from a mental health professional then you/they should **contact 999** or go the **nearest hospital A&E department** and ask to see a mental health worker. If they are **not at immediate risk** advise them to make an appointment with their GP practice. GP practices in Salford are still open, but they may have changed the way people can get an appointment.

[Shining a Light on Suicide](#) provides support for people feeling suicidal, bereaved by suicide or supporting somebody feeling suicidal.

They can also contact [Samaritans](#) - Tel: 116 123 (free to call) / Email: jo@samaritans.org (response time to email 24hrs) . Samaritans offer emotional support 24 hours a day.

[Papyrus HOPELINEUK](http://Papyrus.HOPELINEUK) – Tel: 0800 068 4141/ Text: 07860039967 / Email pat@papyrus-uk.org

HOPELINEUK is a confidential suicide prevention helpline service for young people, open 9am-10pm weekdays, 2pm-10pm weekends and 2pm-10pm bank holidays. For anyone thinking about suicide or for anyone concerned about a young person.

Domestic Abuse

With people spending significantly more time at home, these are particularly difficult times for those who are in abusive relationships. The [Salford Independent Domestic Abuse Support Service \(SIDASS\)](#) has extended its helpline operating hours.

If people require help outside of these hours, they can contact the [National Domestic Abuse Helpline](#) – 0808 2000 247.

[Silent solution](#) is a way that victims of abuse can contact the police via 999 and let them know they need help by pressing 55 on their mobile if they are unable to speak.

Scams

Unfortunately some criminals are using the current situation to scam people. Salford Council has been raising awareness through social media channels. They have also written to over 4000 vulnerable residents who are less likely to access social media to make them aware.

[Friends against Scams](#) is a National Trading Standards Scams Team initiative which is encouraging people to complete their online training and become a 'Friend against scams'. There is also lots of helpful information about scams on their website.

If you would like us to include anything in our next bulletin or have any feedback, please e-mail us: ssab@salford.gov.uk

Thank you and stay safe.