Derby Safeguarding Adults Board Newsletter

Issue 4 – August 2026

Introduction from Richard Proctor, Independent Chair of Derby Safeguarding Adults Board

Welcome to our Derby Safeguarding Adults Board's July newsletter.

The partnership that makes up Derby Safeguarding Adults Board (DSAB) continues to seek out new opportunities to support the strategic aims of the board. Recently at our development day we collaborated with colleagues from Derbyshire to hear from individuals with lived experience of the adult safeguarding system to help inform and improve future practice.

We are currently experiencing a period of change at the Board including preparation for Local Government Reform together with changes to the Integrated Care Board (ICB) structures and individuals working within them. The changes within the ICB have resulted in the Board having to say goodbye to Bill Nicol, who served as Deputy Chair of the DSAB and was also the long-standing Chair of our Making Safeguarding Personal Subgroup.

We have also said farewell to Zoe Rodger-Fox, who has moved on to pastures new after chairing the Policy and Procedures Subgroup.
We would like to thank Bill and Zoe for their commitment, contribution and support to the Board and wish them both every success for the future.
We are, however, fortunate to have been able to replace these individuals with two other excellent people from across the partnership.

The newsletter contains a whole host of information and guidance which I hope you will find helpful in supporting our collective efforts to safeguard adults at risk in our communities.

Richard Proctor

Independent Chair
Derby Safeguarding
Adults Board

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Derby and Derbyshire Safeguarding Adults Boards Decision-Making Guidance

We are pleased to announce that the Derby and Derbyshire SAB Decision-Making Guidance has been updated and is now available on both SAB websites.

The guidance has undergone significant revision to provide clearer advice and practical support for practitioners when considering and making safeguarding adults referrals. We encourage all partner agencies to familiarise themselves with the updated guidance and use it alongside the referral form to support consistent and effective decision-making.

The updated guidance can be accessed using the link below:

- Derby and Derbyshire Safeguarding Adults Board Decision-Making Guidance

Derby and Derbyshire Safeguarding Adults Referral Form

Following an Inquest held by the HM Coroner, the Coroner's Officer issued a Prevention of Future Death (PFD) report directing both Derby City Council and Derbyshire County Council to review the joint Safeguarding Adults Referral Form.

In response, both Derby and Derbyshire Safeguarding Adults Boards have worked collaboratively with partners across Derby and Derbyshire to review and strengthen the referral form, ensuring it meets the requirements outlined by the HM Coroner while also supporting practitioners in making high-quality safeguarding referrals.

The updated online referral forms went live on 1 August 2026:

- Derby City e-Form
- Derby City Word Form
- Derbyshire e-Form and Word Form

Policy & Procedures and Practice Guidance Update

The Policy and Procedures Subgroup reviews, develops and maintains safeguarding policies and guidance for the Derby and Derbyshire Safeguarding Adults Boards, ensuring they reflect current legislation, best practice, and support consistent safeguarding across partner agencies.

Recent updates made by the Policy and Procedures Subgroup include:

- Organisation Abuse Guidance – This new guidance has been developed to support professionals to understand organisational abuse, recognise indicators and risk factors, respond appropriately and collaboratively to concerns, apply relevant legislation and best practice, and promote a culture of safety, dignity and accountability.
- Self-Neglect Toolkit – This Toolkit has been updated to support practitioners working with people in Derby and Derbyshire who have been referred for adult safeguarding support due to self-neglect concerns.
- Initial Enquiries and Section 42 Enquiries - The practice guidance aims to provide information to support best practice for staff, from the point of receipt of a safeguarding referral, through to initial enquiries, Section 42 enquiries, safety planning and closure of safeguarding.
- Derbyshire and Derby Safeguarding Adults Boards Complaints Policy and Process - Provides a clear process for managing and resolving complaints and professional disagreements, ensuring concerns are addressed fairly and escalated where necessary.

The Subgroup has created two new guidance, included in the Practice Guidance document on:

- Fire Risk Assessment Guidance.
- Cuckooing Guidance

Derby Safeguarding Adults Review: Derby SAR04 'Dylan'

The Derby Safeguarding Adults Board (DSAB) continues to support learning and improvement across the partnership by promoting the key messages and recommendations arising from its published Safeguarding Adults Reviews (SARs).

To help partners embed this learning into practice, DSAB has developed a range of resources, including Learning Briefs and Learning on One Page (LOOP) documents. These provide a concise summary of each review, highlight examples of good practice, identify areas for improvement, and set out the key learning points for practitioners and organisations.

In addition to these resources, DSAB is now delivering a series of 30-minute Learning Briefing Sessions. These virtual sessions provide an opportunity for practitioners and partner agencies to explore individual Derby SAR cases in more detail, discuss the learning identified, and consider how the recommendations can be applied within day-to-day safeguarding practice. The sessions are designed to encourage reflection, strengthen multi-agency working, and support continuous improvement across the partnership.

All partner organisations are encouraged to access the published Learning Briefs and LOOP documents, attend the briefing sessions, and share the learning within their teams through supervision, training, and service improvement activities. By embedding the learning from Safeguarding Adults Reviews into everyday practice, we can work together to improve outcomes for adults with care and support needs.

The Learning Briefs, LOOP documents, and details of upcoming briefing sessions are available on the DSAB website.

- Derby SAR04: Learning Brief for Practitioners
- Derby SAR04: LOOP document
- Learning Briefing Sessions

Multi-Agency Case File Audits and Learning

The Derby Safeguarding Adults Board (DSAB) continues to strengthen safeguarding practice through its programme of multi-agency case file audits. These audits provide valuable opportunities for partner organisations to review safeguarding practice, identify effective multi-agency working, and highlight learning that can improve outcomes for adults with care and support needs.

Since the last newsletter, the Quality Assurance Subgroup has completed two further audit themes in 2026:

- Mental Capacity Act
- Adult Safeguarding Criteria Not Met

Each audit involved a review of randomly selected cases from across partner agencies, enabling practitioners to reflect on decision-making, information sharing, partnership working, and the application of safeguarding processes. The findings have informed Learning on One Page (LOOP) documents, which capture examples of good practice, key learning points, areas for development, and recommendations to support continuous improvement across the partnership.

Partner organisations are encouraged to review the published LOOPs, share the learning within their teams, and consider how the findings can be embedded into everyday practice through supervision, training, and service development.

Further information, including the latest LOOPs and previous audit findings, is available on the Multi-Agency Case File Audits webpage.

Derbyshire Fire & Rescue Service

Safe and Well Visits are becoming Home Fire Safety Visit

Derbyshire Fire & Rescue Service is changing the name of its Safe and Well Visits to Home Fire Safety Visits. The change is intended to make the purpose of the visit clearer for residents, families, carers and partner agencies, while continuing to support those most at risk of fire in the home.

The new name better reflects the core focus of the visit: helping people to stay safe from fire where they live. During a Home Fire Safety Visit, Derbyshire Fire & Rescue Service staff will continue to provide tailored fire safety advice, identify risks in the home, visit smoke detection, discuss escape planning and, where appropriate, fit smoke alarms or make referrals to other services for additional support.

This is a change of name rather than a reduction in the service offered. The visit will remain person-centred and risk-based, with a continued focus on identifying vulnerability, reducing the likelihood of accidental dwelling fires and supporting safer outcomes for people across Derbyshire.

Home Fire Safety Visits may be particularly beneficial for people who are older, live alone, have mobility difficulties, live with a physical or cognitive impairment, are dependent on alcohol or substances, smoke in the home, use medical equipment or emollient products, or are experiencing clutter, hoarding or other circumstances that may increase fire risk.

Partners play an important role in helping to identify people who may benefit from a visit. Where professionals have concerns about fire safety within the home, they are encouraged to make a referral using the Derbyshire Fire & Rescue Service referral process. Providing clear information about the person's circumstances, fire risks and any wider care or support needs helps ensure referrals are triaged appropriately and that those at greatest risk are prioritised.

Although the terminology is changing, the commitment remains the same: working with communities and partners to prevent fires, reduce harm and help people live more safely in their own homes.

For further information, or to make a referral, please visit the Derbyshire Fire & Rescue Service website and use the advice for professional's referral route link below:

- Referral Form for Adults

Derby Carers

Derby Carers Information, Advice and Support Service provided by Derbyshire Carers Association is the carers support service for Derby City. The Service provides a range of wellbeing, peer support and awareness raising activities for carers as well as being the initial referral point for all carers to start their carers support journey receiving information, advice and tailored support.

The Service works with carers to listen and understand their needs, taking a strengths-based approach to support including developing strategies to address unmet needs in the community. The Service plays a critical role in delivering our responsibilities to carers, helping carers to access timely and effective support.

It is important that we "Think Carer" at every opportunity, considering in all interactions with people drawing on care and support, whether they have someone in their lives supporting them and/or whether they themselves are providing that support to someone else (this is especially important where there might be a young carer involved).

Contact and referral information for the Derby Carers Information, Advice and Support Service:

- Telephone: 01332 315 777 (please note this is a new telephone number)
- You can refer carers for support via online
- E-mail: info@derbyshirecarers.co.uk
- Website: https://derbyshirecarers.co.uk/

Advice for Carers:

The help and advice you need to keep vulnerable people safe

Why it matters

A third of the people who die in fires every year are looked after by a carer, whether that is a family member, friend or a professional carer. We believe that by working together, we can reduce fire deaths and injuries of vulnerable people.

People who need extra consideration

Older people, people with disabilities, people with visual and hearing impairments, and people who are vulnerable for other reasons all need careful consideration when it comes to fire safety. There are 4 main reasons why:

- They may not be able respond to a fire as quickly.
- They may not be able to escape a fire.
- They may be more at risk due to lifestyle factors.
- They may use healthcare equipment such as oxygen or emollient creams that are flammable.

So, what do you need to know to give the best possible care?

We have created an easy-to-follow fire safety guide for carers. It brings together practical guidance to help you keep people safe in the home. It supports you to, Identify and reduce fire risks in the home, Plan safe escape routes and know what to do in an emergency, Ensure appropriate smoke detection and alarms are in place, Access additional support, including Safe and Well Checks, and Know where to go for help and access further support.

Our Fire Safety in the Home for Carers guide includes a visual resource, which you can find on our Advice for Carers Website, or by visiting our YouTube page. Additional Resources can also be found on our Derbyshire Fire and Rescue Service website.

Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards (DoLS) Update

On 2 June 2026, the Supreme Court published a judgment that changes the legal definition of a deprivation of liberty. In summary, the Court concluded that:

- The Cheshire West (2014) judgment was incorrect.
- We can no longer rely solely on the single “acid test”. Instead, we must consider multiple factors when deciding whether someone is deprived of their liberty.
- The starting point is the individual’s specific situation. We must look at the type, duration, effects and manner of implementation of restrictions. No single factor is determinative.
- Cheshire West wrongly assumed that if a person lacks legal capacity under the MCA 2005, they cannot give valid consent to their arrangements. The 2026 judgment clarifies that a person’s wishes and feelings carry significant weight.
- A person can give valid consent if they are conscious of their environment, have a basic level of understanding and can express that they accept and/or are content with the situation.
- Where there is serious doubt, we cannot conclude that consent is valid.
- The effect of restrictions may be different depending on whether the person is content with their arrangements. Cheshire West was wrong to say that a person’s lack of objection is never legally relevant.

Community Care have produced a helpful overview of the judgment The Supreme Court's reversal of Cheshire West explained - Community Care

The Department of Health and Social Care has published guidance UK Supreme Court 2026 judgment on what constitutes a deprivation of liberty - GOV.UK

Cranstoun Derby

Cranstoun Derby is a free and confidential adult service for residents of Derby who would like Alcohol and Other Drugs support. They inspire and empower people to live healthier and safer lives and deliver a wide range of interventions focusing on harm reduction and making positive changes.

How we help

Cranstoun Derby provides alcohol and drug support to adults (18+) in Derby. Whether you need advice for yourself or someone you care about, they are here to help.

Contact details:

T: 01332 416 139

E: derby@cranstoun.org.uk

Referral email:
derbyreferrals@cranstoun.org.uk

Accessing support & opening hours

We're open Mon & Fri (9am–5pm),

Tue (12pm-5pm), Wed & Thu (9am-8pm).

Find out more:
Scan the QR Code to access Cranstoun Derby web page and online referral form.

www.cranstoun.org

Derby Safeguarding Adults Board Training

The Derby Safeguarding Adults Board (DSAB) continues to offer a comprehensive programme of multi-agency safeguarding training to support practitioners across the partnership in developing their knowledge, skills, and confidence.

Partners are reminded that all DSAB training courses should be booked using the online Booking Tool. Step-by-step guidance is available to support users in accessing the system and managing course bookings.

DSAB has also published its latest Training Flyer, which includes all safeguarding t raining courses taking place throughout August and September 2026. The flyer provides an overview of available courses, dates, and booking information, helping practitioners to plan their learning and professional development.

The full Training Prospectus, latest Training Flyer, course information, and booking details are available on the DSAB Training webpage. Partners are encouraged to share these resources within their organisations and take advantage of the wide range of learning opportunities available.

For further information or any training enquiries, please contact Safeguarding.Training@derby.gov.uk or telephone 01332 642961.

Closing note

As we continue to work together to strengthen safeguarding across Derby, we encourage all partners to make use of the resources, learning opportunities, and guidance highlighted in this edition. Sharing learning, reflecting on practice, and working collaboratively are essential to improving outcomes for adults with care and support needs.

Thank you to all partner organisations and practitioners for your continued dedication, collaboration, and commitment to safeguarding adults. We look forward to sharing further updates, examples of good practice, and partnership achievements in our next edition.

For any questions or comments, please contact Sana Farah on DSAB@derby.gov.uk.