



### Welcome from the chair of the HSAB (Visva Sathasivam)

Happy New Year! Welcome to the Winter 2018/19 edition of the HSAB's quarterly newsletter.

This time we are very pleased to provide information about the key role of the local Trading Standards Team (who are members of the HSAB) in the arrest and prosecution of criminals targeting vulnerable elderly people. There is also some information about coercive control and a successful prosecution last year which resulted in a custodial sentence for the family member who caused the harm to his parents. These 2 cases demonstrate that although it can be difficult and take time, justice can be achieved for vulnerable victims. Finally in our standing feature to learn from Safeguarding Adults Reviews, in this edition we have reproduced the key points from a SAR completed by Lewisham. The HSAB heard about a fatal fire in Harrow at its last meeting, so this is an important case to learn from in all our roles with prevention. Any comments or suggestions for the newsletter can be sent to either Sue Spurlock ([sue.spurlock@harrow.gov.uk](mailto:sue.spurlock@harrow.gov.uk)) or Seamus Doherty ([seamus.doherty@harrow.gov.uk](mailto:seamus.doherty@harrow.gov.uk)).

### Learning from Safeguarding Adults Reviews (SARs): "Mr S" (Lewisham)

Mr S was a hemiplegic resident of Manley Court Nursing Home, who could not stand or reposition himself on his own, nor propel his wheelchair. He was wheeled into the garden to smoke, a regular routine. He was assessed as safe to smoke on his own, but the staff were unaware that some of his laundered clothes had burn marks. He was known not to like supervision. He was left alone in the garden and it was not evident how he could summon help. At about midday he was seen to be on fire and immediate attempts were made to extinguish the fire by smothering and water, which was effective. The fire lasted less than five minutes and had been caused by the breeze fanning his smouldering clothes, burnt by his lit cigarette. Emergency services attended promptly and despite full resuscitation he died on arrival in hospital of extensive burns. Had he been supervised or had means of alarm call, he would likely have survived. Although not recorded, as evidence from the nursing home on the wearing of smoke aprons was not heard, Fire expert advice was accepted that had he been wearing a smoking apron, he would also have survived.

The London Fire Service offers guidance about how to identify a high risk smoker: do they smoke anywhere they may fall asleep?; do they smoke near any oxygen-based equipment?; have they dropped cigarettes on floors, furniture or clothing?; have you noticed scorch marks on the floor, furniture or clothing?; are their ashtrays overflowing?; are their ashtrays within easy reach?; could they respond to a fire or a smoke alarm without help?; could they escape from a fire without help?; do they use paraffin based products like emollient creams or use an airflow mattress?; how do they light their cigarettes – lighters are safer than matches, as a dropped match can start a fire?; do they smoke alone? **The London Fire Service** can offer advice about prevention and their website includes additional guidance for professionals and care home staff:

<https://www.london-fire.gov.uk/safety/carers-and-support-workers/caring-for-smokers/>

**Do you or your Team know anyone that might be at risk? Consider asking the LFB for advice.**



### Training 2018/2019

The final sessions of the 2018/2019 Harrow Safeguarding Adults Board training programme are available for booking. All the courses are free can be booked through: <http://harrow.learningpool.com/>



## Three men have been arrested on suspicion of defrauding six elderly victims out of almost one million pounds via a doorstep trading scam



The men, aged in their 40s were arrested following a series of early morning warrants carried out by the Metropolitan Police Service, in partnership with Brent and Harrow Trading Standards and South Wales Police on Wednesday, 9 May 2018. The early morning warrants form part of a multi-agency operation, which was set up to target a criminal network believed to be responsible for a series of frauds in which elderly homeowners have been convinced to pay huge sums of money for unnecessary building work to their homes and further scams.

The alleged victims, aged between 85 and 92, live in Harrow, Enfield, Hertfordshire and Essex, but the Met Police and Trading Standards are appealing for more potential victims to come forward.

Simon Legg, Senior Trading Standards Service Manager at Brent and Harrow Trading Standards said: "We wish to make it clear that those who prey on the elderly or vulnerable extracting money for unnecessary building works and other fraudulent scams will not be tolerated."

If you think you know anyone who may have been a victim then please contact the police on 101.

## Supporting people with social care needs who are experiencing coercive control

In December 2015 the criminal offence of controlling and coercive behaviour in an intimate or family relationship was brought into law under the Serious Crime Act 2015. This law covers the use of coercive control in relationships where people are 'personally connected'; that is the incidents of controlling and coercive behaviour took place at a time when the people concerned were engaged in an intimate personal relationship (whether they lived together or not) or they lived together and were family members, or they lived together and had previously been in an intimate personal relationship. The offence is defined as:

- i) behaviour on the part of the perpetrator which takes place 'repeatedly or continuously';

ii) that had a 'serious effect' on the victim; meaning that it has caused the victim to fear violence will be used against them on 'at least two occasions', or it has had a 'substantial adverse effect on their day to day activities'

AND



iii) the alleged perpetrator must have known that their behaviour would have a serious effect on the victim, or the behaviour must have been such that he or she 'ought to have known' it would have that effect.

The offence carries a maximum sentence of 5 years' imprisonment, a fine or both. Coercive and controlling behaviour includes behaviours that are crimes in their own right e.g. murder, rape, manslaughter, assault, threatening behaviour, criminal damage and theft which can be prosecuted separately AND behaviours that, if they take place in a different context, are not criminal offences.

The statutory guidance in relation to the offence of controlling or coercive behaviour states that it should be dealt with as part of adult and/or child safeguarding and public protection procedures.

In Harrow there was a successful prosecution (resulting in a custodial sentence) last year of a son who had systematically harassed his parents to give up both money and their home to him.

**LAST CHANCE TO BOOK!!!**

## Joint HSAB and Children's Safeguarding Board (HSCB) Conference 2019

**"invisible chains – the trafficking of adults and children into slavery and exploitation"**

Friday 25<sup>th</sup> January 2019 at the Harrow Arts Centre and there will be key note speakers and workshops.



in partnership with:

