



Welcome from the chair of the HSAB (Visva Sathasivam)

Happy New Year! And welcome to the latest edition of the HSAB's quarterly newsletter. This one covers some important topics including "coercion and control" and "human trafficking" which are issues for Safeguarding Adults Boards to oversee where they affect adults with care/support needs. I am also delighted that another conference being jointly hosted by the Adults and Children's Safeguarding Boards in Harrow will take place in February. This follows on from the highly successful domestic abuse conference in 2017 and I encourage you to book a place – see below for details. As always, we are keen to receive any comments about the newsletter or suggestions for future editions which can be sent to either Sue Spurlock (sue.spurlock@harrow.gov.uk) or Seamus Doherty (seamus.doherty@harrow.gov.uk).

Human trafficking involves the use of force, deception or coercion to exploit someone to obtain some type of labour, crime or sex act from them. It is a hidden crime encompassing adult and child victims who rarely come forward to seek help because of language barriers, threats, fear of the traffickers, and/or fear of being criminalized.

Traffickers use force, deception, or coercion to lure their victims and force them into labour, criminality or sexual exploitation. They look for people who are susceptible for a variety of reasons, including psychological or emotional vulnerability or economic hardship. The trauma caused by the traffickers can be so great that many may not identify themselves as victims or ask for help. There are several broad categories of exploitation linked to human trafficking, these can include:

- sexual exploitation
- forced labour and domestic servitude
- organ harvesting
- child related crimes such as child sexual exploitation - CSE
- criminal exploitation - forced begging, illegal drug cultivation, organised theft, related benefit frauds etc
- forced marriage

Leaflets in different languages, can be downloaded without cost from this website:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/support-for-victims-of-human-trafficking>



Dignity Action Day 2018 – reminder!

Thursday 1st February 2018 marks the next Dignity Action Day.

As in recent years, the Harrow Safeguarding Adults Board would like to hear what events you might be running in your service.

There is a useful web page with information about champions and ideas about running activities:

https://www.dignityincare.org.uk/Dignity-in-Care-events/Dignity_Action_Day/



Coercion and Control

“I don’t want to badmouth my children you see.....
So really it is my problem”

Coercion, control or undue influence may prevent an adult from making use of their mental capacity to make their own decisions. In safeguarding work where adults with capacity determine what action they want taken in enquiries it is therefore particularly important to be aware of any undue influence being put on them.

Coercive control is now recognised as the behaviour that underpins domestic abuse. It is a pattern of behaviour which seeks to take away the victim’s sense of self, minimising their freedom of action and violating their human rights. The Serious Crime Act 2015 created a new offence of controlling or coercive behaviour in intimate or familial relationships. The new offence closes a gap in the law around this type of behaviour (in an ongoing relationship between intimate partners or family members) which:
(i) takes place “repeatedly or continuously”;
(ii) where the victim and alleged perpetrator are “personally connected” at the time; and (iii) which has a “serious effect” on the victim.



If an adult at risk retains mental capacity to make decisions but is unable to fully exercise this capacity due to evidenced coercion and control, an order can be sought from the High Court as a ‘safety net’ to allow them a period of decision-making without undue influence. For some excellent tools and information visit <http://coercivecontrol.ripfa.org.uk/>



Training

The Harrow Safeguarding Adults Board 2017/18 training programme still has some spaces available. All the courses are free and can be booked in the usual way through <http://harrow.learningpool.com/>

“Coming soon” on the programme are:

- Basic awareness – 6th March (a.m.)
- Basic awareness refresher – 6th March (p.m.)
- Domestic abuse & safeguarding – 8th March
- Human Trafficking/Modern Slavery – 15th March



Harrow LSCB & LSAB Annual Conference 2nd February 2018

“Sexual Abuse within the Family”

(Harrow Arts Centre, 171 Uxbridge Road, Hatch End HA5 4EA)

There are 8 workshops to choose from:

- Exploring Good Practice and Not-So-Good Practice at different stages in a case of intra-familial Sexual Abuse
- Impact of Sexual Abuse of Children presenting to CAMHS
- Police Investigation into Sexual Abuse (within the family)
- Sexual Abuse from an Attachment Trauma Perspective
- Sexual Abuse and People with Disabilities (Children & Adults)
- Making the Invisible Visible
- Sexual Abuse and Its Impact on Mental Health
- Applying Theory into Practice to Reduce Risks and Build Strengths
- Sexual Abuse and Older People - Exploring the Myths and Stereotypes and Responding to the 'Needs' of Older Victims

Booking forms can be requested from Seamus Doherty – see email address above



in partnership with:

