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Welcome to the newsletter from the Gloucestershire Safeguarding Adults Board (GSAB). The GSAB is a multi-agency partnership that is committed to promoting the health and well-being of adults at risk in our community.

As well as this newsletter, we also send out GSAB Alerts to those signed up to our mailing list. Alerts are sent via email and provide information on hot topics. To sign up for GSAB Alerts, please visit <https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/gsab/> and sign up in the top right hand corner of the homepage.

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### GSAB Vision

***“To provide assurance that adults at risk are safeguarded from abuse and neglect. All partner agencies of the GSAB will work together to assure that people who have care and support needs are empowered to be kept safe from harm, abuse and neglect and that when abuse occurs, partner organisations respond effectively and proportionately”.***

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### How to report a safeguarding concern

- Professionals: Use the Online Portal  
<https://forms.gloucestershire.gov.uk/AdultSocialCareReferral>
- Members of the public: Telephone 01452 426868 (8am to 5pm Monday to Friday). You can also email: [socialcare.enq@gloucestershire.gov.uk](mailto:socialcare.enq@gloucestershire.gov.uk)
- For out of hours, call the Emergency Duty Team on 01452 614194

Information that would be helpful includes:

- Why you are concerned
- The name, age and address of the adult at risk
- If anyone lives with them
- If they are getting help from any organisation
- Who may be causing the abuse

**Don't delay in reporting the abuse, even if you are not sure about some of these details.**

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## **Adult Safeguarding Decision Making Support Tool**

### **When to Raise a Safeguarding Concern**

Adult Safeguarding is for people who, because of issues such as dementia, learning disability, mental ill-health or substance abuse, have care and support needs that may make them unable to protect themselves from abuse or neglect.

Under the Care Act 2014 the local authority (Gloucestershire County Council) has a duty to make enquiries, or request others to make them, when they think an adult with care and support needs may be at risk of abuse or neglect and they need to find out what action may be needed to safeguard the person.

The adult safeguarding duties under the Care Act 2014 apply to any adult, aged 18 or over, who:

- Has needs for care and support (whether or not the local authority is meeting any of those needs) and
- Is experiencing, or at risk of, abuse or neglect; and
- As a result of those care and support needs is unable to protect themselves from either the risk of, or the experience of abuse or neglect.

Care and support needs are defined in the Care and Support (Eligibility Criteria) Regulations 2015 in terms of specified outcomes. The person may be regarded as having care and support needs if they are unable to achieve the outcome without assistance; doing so causes the adult significant pain, distress or anxiety; doing so would place them at significant risk; or, achieving the outcome without assistance would take significantly longer than would normally be expected.

The person does not need to be in receipt of a service, it is sufficient that there is a reasonable belief that the person is unable to achieve one or more of the

specified outcomes and that as a result they are unable to protect themselves from either the risk of, or experience of abuse or neglect.

The specified outcomes are:

- managing and maintaining nutrition;
- maintaining personal hygiene;
- managing toilet needs;
- being appropriately clothed;
- being able to make use of the adult's home safely
- maintaining a habitable home environment;
- developing and maintaining family or other personal relationships;
- accessing and engaging in work, training, education or volunteering;
- making use of necessary facilities or services in the local community including public transport, and recreational facilities or services.
- carrying out any caring responsibilities the adult has for a child

Your responsibilities as referrer

Before making an adult safeguarding referral:

- Where possible discuss your concerns with the person, their advocate or representative, and try to find out what their views and wishes are. While the person's consent, where they are able to give it, is preferable it is not essential.
- Take any actions you can within the boundaries of your role, to prevent harm/further harm occurring. It is not sufficient just to make a safeguarding referral.
- Consider whether a safeguarding referral is a proportionate response to the concern. What other options may be available? What is the nature and level of harm, e.g. would an assessment of their needs be more proportionate at this stage?
- Ensure that the organisations/agencies with immediate responsibility for ensuring the safety of the person have been notified.

- Ensure you have clearly documented what you have observed/heard as it may be required at a later date.

When making an adult safeguarding referral please use plain English to describe:

- What has happened, when and to whom.
- The nature of harm, or risk of harm, that the person has experienced or is at risk of experiencing.
- How this has affected the person.
- Why you believe the person has care & support needs (see above).
- Why you believe that the person is unable to protect themselves from either the risk of, or the experience of abuse or neglect.
- What the person has said and what they want to happen; their views and wishes.

To make a professional's referral to Adult Safeguarding to report abuse or neglect please use the link below:

<https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/gsab/contact-us/>

If you are a provider and wish to report an incident please use the provider portal via the link below:

[https://ppgcc.gloucestershire.gov.uk/ProviderPortal\\_AS\\_Live/](https://ppgcc.gloucestershire.gov.uk/ProviderPortal_AS_Live/)

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## Learning from GSAB Audits – Abuse in Own Home

A multi-agency audit was conducted in May on the theme of Abuse in a Person's Own Home. Below is the learning from this audit. This can also be found at: [learning-on-a-page-0524.pptx \(live.com\)](#)

## GSAB Audit Group – Learning on a page - Abuse in the home May 2024



## Second National Analysis of Safeguarding Adult Reviews (SARs)

The purpose of the second national analysis of Safeguarding Adult Reviews (SARs) was to identify priorities for sector-led improvement as a result of learning from SARs completed between 2019 and 2023, a period of time that included the COVID-19 pandemic.

The analysis builds on the findings of the first national analysis completed between 2017 and 2019, and published in 2020.

Taken together, the analyses provide a significant knowledge base about adult safeguarding in England, across all types of abuse and neglect. They highlight both the shifts that have taken place and the challenges that endure.

An Executive Summary has been produced, which identifies the headline findings, drawing on the detail contained in the three main reports, and six briefings aimed at different key stakeholders, including individuals and families, practitioners, elected members, SAB chairs and managers, senior leaders and SAB chairs and SAR authors.

The learning from the analysis includes priorities for improvements in safeguarding policy and practice across the sectors.

The Executive Summary, Full Report and Six Briefings can be accessed using the link below:

[Second national analysis of Safeguarding Adult Reviews: April 2019 - March 2023 \(executive summary\) | Local Government Association](#)

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## Healthwatch Gloucestershire Annual Report

Read the Healthwatch Gloucestershire Annual Report for 2023/2024 and find out how dedicated staff and volunteers have made a difference to health and social care throughout the year.



<https://www.healthwatchgloucestershire.co.uk/report/2024-07-05/annual-report-20232024>



## Protection from Sex-Based Harassment

The Protection from Sex-Based Harassment in Public Act received royal assent last year. The Act can be found here: [Protection from Sex-based Harassment in](#)

[Public Act 2023 \(legislation.gov.uk\)](#)

The Act introduces the offence of Public Sexual Harassment which will commence from 01/10/2024 and will see perpetrators facing up to two years in jail. The government will be publishing statutory guidance and working with the NPCC to understand any barriers to commencing this offence.

The statutory guidance for Stalking Protection Orders (SPO) will also be updated to ensure victim support at the earliest opportunity, advising officers that they will no longer need to meet the threshold of higher criminal standard of proof (beyond reasonable doubt) in order to apply for an SPO – instead the lower standard of civil proof (on a balance of probabilities) will be accepted by courts.

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## Gloucestershire County Council and NHS Gloucestershire invite unpaid carers and professionals to share their views on services to support adult carers aged 18+

Your feedback will help to shape future services and support for carers across the county.

Carer definition: *“An unpaid carer provides support or looks after a family member, partner or friend who needs help because of frailty, physical or mental illness, addiction, or disability.”* Regardless of whether a person receives Carers Allowance.

- **Carers can have your say by visiting [Carers Survey 2024 | Have Your Say Gloucestershire \(engagementhq.com\)](https://engagementhq.com)**
- **Professionals, who support carers, can have your say by visiting [Carers Professionals Survey 2024 | Have Your Say Gloucestershire \(engagementhq.com\)](https://engagementhq.com)**

**The carers survey closes on Wednesday 4 September 2024**

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## Illegal Money Lending Team - Cards advertising loans in shop windows project

The Illegal Money Lending Team are running a project in response to reports that loans are being advertised on supermarket/post office/community noticeboards.

The cards do not comply with credit advertising requirements and may even belong to unauthorised lenders.

The team are asking people to look out for postcards advertising loans on noticeboards. If you spot any, please take a photo of the advert and a note of where and when you saw it. This information, and the photo, can be submitted to [Card Campaign - Stop Loan Sharks](#) You can leave your details if you wish, but you can also choose to send the information anonymously.

Please do not approach the shopkeeper/owner of the noticeboard, they have done nothing wrong. Please do not contact the person advertising the loan, so they are not alerted to the project.

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## GSAB Updated Policies and Procedures

The Gloucestershire Multi Agency Policy and Procedures are currently being updated and the revised version will be available shortly. These, and all of the other GSAB policies, can be found at:

[Multi agency safeguard policy and procedures |  
Safeguarding Adults in Gloucestershire](#)



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*Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility*

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