

Community Safety – Safeguarding Adults at Risk

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Since the Soham murders and the subsequent Bichard Inquiry Report (2004) the vulnerability of some adults has become high profile.

Whilst the report focussed primarily on the safety of children a number of recommendations highlighted the need to safeguard adults from unscrupulous individuals seeking work within this field.

A plethora of reports and recommendations has emerged during the past 5 years. All Health Authorities in the UK and health and social care departments in the Channel Islands now have structures, policies and procedures in place to manage accusations and suspicion of adult abuse.

In tandem with the work involving vulnerable adults with have seen the emergence of a number of other structures -

Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA),

Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC),

Independent Safeguarding Authority (ISA).

All share common objectives of public protection.

The presentation will focus primarily on the subject of adult abuse, asking questions of –

What is abuse?

How do we recognise the signs?

Who are likely abusers?

How should we respond?

What are the Individual practitioner and employer responsibilities?

What structures should we adopt to manage the issue?

The Independent Safeguarding Authority is a newly introduced vetting and barring scheme. It will be the future body to have responsibility to manage the register for those working with children and vulnerable adults. It is estimated the register will contain approximately 11 million people across the UK working with these groups.