



# SAFEGUARDING BOARD ISLE OF MAN

# Newsletter

## A Day in the Life—Named Professional for Contextual Safeguarding

The Isle of Man Safeguarding Board is made up of statutory partners. As a way of demystifying what each agency contributes to the work of the Safeguarding Board, it is the intention to publish a series of articles about colleagues and what their roles entail.

As a starter, Sam Holmes, the Named Professional for Contextual Safeguarding (Health Services, Manx Care) describes her role. My role commenced as part of the Vulnerable Adolescent Strategy launched in September 2022 to disrupt opportunities for children to be exploited. Child exploitation is defined as when a perpetrator uses a child for financial gain, sexual gratification, labour or personal advantage. The perpetrator can use harsh and violent behaviours to force a child to take part in criminal or sexual activities. This leads to physical and emotional harm to the child, to the detriment of their physical and mental health, education, and moral or social development.

There is no typical day in the role of Named Professional for Contextual Safeguarding, as no two safeguarding concerns are ever the same. The role involves responding to all safeguarding concerns in relation to exploitation and completing Return Home Interviews for children that are Looked After once they have returned home from a reported 'missing' event.

I am based in the Multi agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) alongside other health colleagues and multi-agency colleagues including Children’s Social Care and Police. Being situated in the MASH has had many positive outcomes for children and families due to immediate access to these colleagues and allows for timely information sharing.

The safeguarding Children Team have a Specialist Practitioner on duty every day who identifies any children that have attended with concerns for exploitation either within ED or within the wider hospital environment. Referrals are also received from the Daily Exploitation Meetings (DEMS) and Risk Management Meetings (RMM).

DEM’s are daily multi-agency meetings, where concerns for children at risk of exploitation are discussed, and level of concerns rated using recognised risk assessment tools. Each professional will share relevant information they hold regarding individual children, to ensure risk is fully understood and aid positive communication and information sharing. Dependent on the level of risk identified, a referral will be made to the RMM arena. A Risk Management Plan will be agreed by all professionals to ensure a multi-agency approach to minimise the risk of exploitation.

Cont...

### Inside this issue

- A Day in the Life..... 1
- A Day in the Life Cont ..... 2
- Training..... 3
- Isle of Man Safeguarding Week .. 4
- Child Exploitation Day..... 4
- Information Sharing..... 5
- In Other News..... 5

### Special points of interest

- Are you confident on when you can share information?
- Do you fancy becoming a pool trainer for the Board?
- The Board is on Facebook, have you liked our page?



# What a working day looks like—Named Professional for Contextual Safeguarding

I arrive at work at 0830 and review my diary for the day. Whilst my day may be pre-planned, I will routinely need to respond to any significant exploitation concerns identified out of hours. My day can be a mixture of undertaking safeguarding supervision within a supervisory role, attending Safeguarding Board Meetings, visiting children on a 1:1 bases to complete Return Home Interviews (RHI's) and Contextual Health Reviews. These direct contacts with children are vital in identifying any health needs and offers them the opportunity to share any concerns with a trusted person. The ultimate aim is to capitalise on reachable moments to keep children safe.

I attend the RMM's on a monthly basis to ensure a robust understanding of the current risks to children and allows me the platform to share relevant health information. I will go on to make contact with all the children discussed at this meeting to review their health. Consent is gained from children (where appropriate) to share the contents of health reviews with those professionals directly involved in their care such as the General Practitioner, Social Worker, Probation Officer and CAMHS with the aim again to ensure effective and timely information sharing.

Pivotal to my role is working closely with the Looked After Children Nurse and other members of the Safeguarding Children's Team to ensure no single point of failure. Health reviews take place at a time and place preferred by the children such as in their home, in the Police Early Action Team (PEAT) room or within the community such as coffee shops.

Building a trusting relationship with children at risk of exploitation is vital, and the uniform that I wear clearly distinguishes me from Police and Social Care. Children are more likely to disclose to a Health Professional. This is due to the Nurses uniform seen as trusted one and that I am there to nurture rather than because of any trouble. Nurses are sometimes in the best position to capitalise on the "reachable moments" as a consequence.

Being based within the MASH means I can be asked at any point to undertake a joint visit with either Police or Social Care, to visit children, with the aim of utilising the right person at right time approach to capitalise on those reachable moments.

A recent positive case outcome involved my collaborative working with Drug and Alcohol Team (DAT) key worker. A child identified to benefit from their support was nervous of working with new people, to such an extent that we ran the risk of them not engaging in the support offered. Talking this through with DAT ensured their response to the child was tailored to their needs and ensured engagement. My role in this case a conduit between the child and DAT was invaluable and resulted in positive outcome.

The above is just a snapshot of how Health and my role contributes to the safeguarding of children through the lens of contextual safeguarding. There is no predictable day, there are no 'same' situations. The role is rewarding, challenging, and requires a multi-agency approach. It is a privilege to wear the uniform that I do and work with the young people that are at risk of exploitation and ensure that their voices are heard.





*Training in action*

## News from the Training and Development Officer

The training schedule for April 2024- March 2025 is being finalised and will be published on the Safeguarding Board's website. The core and specialist training offer is, as ever, in line with the Board's priorities. Neglect had been identified as an issue following a recent SCMR and specialist training has been commissioned. 'The Essentials of Neglect' is a Level 2 course and will be run as three half-day sessions on 21-23 May and there are still places available on this course. The Level 3-4 course 'Assessing and working with families where neglect features' is full but if you wish to be added to a waiting list please contact [safeguardingboard.co@gov.im](mailto:safeguardingboard.co@gov.im) .

A current priority for the board is vulnerable adolescents. We have commissioned training for child exploitation. There are available places on both the Level 2 and Level 3 training. The Level 2 training will be held 8-10 July and the Level 3 will be held 25-27 June. Safeguarding Adults Level 2 has been scheduled on 14 May and 18 June and further dates will be added when possible. The Board is reliant on our multi-agency pool trainers to support delivery of our core training offer, however there is a need for pool trainers from adult service providers.

We are planning to add to the schedule domestic abuse training, professional curiosity workshops, lunch and learn online training on Information Sharing and, once the updated threshold has been ratified, information and training for practitioners. Last year saw learning opportunities for practitioners from our partners during Safeguarding Week. It is our intention to see more of the same this year.

Evaluation measure the effectiveness of our. We already have evaluation forms completed onsite and follow up evaluation interviews seeking to measure the impact on practice are now an expectation. Training needs to be changing and improving practice for front-line practitioners. If you book onto an Isle of Man Safeguarding Board course you could be contacted for feedback.



## Isle of Man Safeguarding week 20-24 November 2023

The Safeguarding Board hosted the first ever Safeguarding week for both children and adults practitioners. As a multi-agency partnership, we agreed an ambitious plan to promote and raise awareness of various aspects of children and adult safeguarding across the Island hosted by Government departments, schools, voluntary organisations, faith sector and charities.

There were numerous activities arranged during that week, consisting of formal workshops and presentations, social media and community campaigns, including a podcast by the Constabulary, events and pop up activities in the hospital, Ramsey Town Hall, and the Well Being Partnership hubs.

Some partner agencies collaborated on activities which added to the richness of the offer. Events were offered to the community and others bespoke to practitioners.

Sessions varied from trauma informed practice, safeguarding in churches, keeping sport safe in the community, adult safeguarding, impact of self-harm in families, mental capacity and eating disorders, learning from adult and children reviews, domestic abuse, feeling safe in the community including 'Ask Angela' Campaign. Along with advice sessions and pop ups regarding housing issues, financial abuse, children safeguarding and exploitation.

The sessions were positively received and feedback highlighted much was gained by those that participated and attended.

The Board plans to host a further event later in the year, and plans will be shared via the Newsletter, Website and Facebook page.



## Child Exploitation Day

Child Exploitation Awareness Day happens on 18 March each year. The National Working Project (NWG) is a charitable organisation formed as a UK network of over 25000 practitioners who disseminates information to professionals working on the issue of child exploitation and trafficking within the UK. The NWG organises Child Exploitation Day and its purpose is to raise awareness of Child Exploitation happening each day and the young victims of this. This year the Isle of Man Safeguarding Board helped to raise awareness of the warning signs of exploitation through posts on our Facebook page.

The campaign focuses on these key messages:

- Recognise and respond to all forms of exploitation.
- Transition periods are a time of increased vulnerability.
- The right support of children and families at the right time by the right people.

Children who are groomed and exploited often can't or don't speak about their fears. Looking out for signs and changes in children's behaviour is an adult's best chance of spotting the issues. Child Exploitation can be a particularly frightening subject for Parents leaving them feeling isolated and helpless. Knowledge is power and those wanting to find out more about Child Exploitation could look at the [Ivison Trust](#) website (formerly Parents Against Child Exploitation PACE) which has information about the signs of Child Exploitation and Child Sexual Exploitation and many articles of interest. In addition both professionals and parents may wish to access the [NWG \(National Working Project\)](#) and [STOP CE](#) websites for information, real stories and helpful guides.

The Isle of Man Safeguarding Board is planning some further training for practitioners on Child Exploitation in the coming training year. Keep an eye on the IOMSB website and Facebook page for details.

**SAY SOMETHING  
IF YOU  
SEE SOMETHING  
SUSPICIOUS**

**THINK TWICE  
THINK ABUSE**



## Information Sharing

The Board continues to hear about professional worries regarding when to share information if there are safeguarding concerns about a child, young person or vulnerable adult.

The Board is planning a series of information sharing webinars as lunch and learn sessions to increase understanding and confidence when sharing information.

The Myth-busting guide is available on our website and can be found <https://www.safeguardingboard.im/safeguarding-children/information-for-professionals/information-sharing/> as well as the information sharing guidance and the signed information sharing guidance protocol.

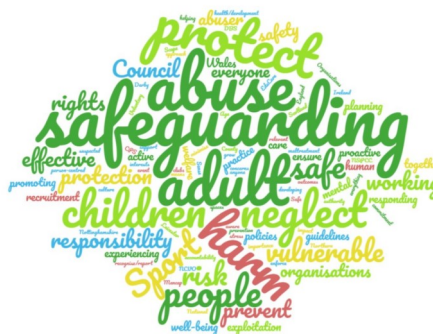
If you're still unsure as to when you can share information there is a video on the website and can be found here. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mplRePvm6w>



*Information sharing is critical to protect children and vulnerable adults from abuse and harm!*

## In other news

- The professionals only zone of the Safeguarding Board Website has been updated. This will be the place where you can find information which is not relevant to members of the general publication. If you require a log-on to the professionals only zone please contact [safeguardingboard.co@gov.im](mailto:safeguardingboard.co@gov.im) in the first instance.
- The Annual Report for 2022/2023 has been published and is available on the website. Preparations are now underway to produce the Annual Report for the year ending 31 March 2024
- The next newsletter is going to start the first in a series "A Day in the Life" series has started. If you would like to be included in this series please contact [safeguardingboard.co@gov.im](mailto:safeguardingboard.co@gov.im)
- If you have any newsletter items you would like to include, then again please contact [safeguardingboard.co@gov.im](mailto:safeguardingboard.co@gov.im)
- World Social Work Day was 19 March 2024. The theme this year was Buen Vivir: Shared Future for Transformative Change. Social Workers on the Isle of Man gathered together and had a morning session focusing on evidence-based practice and themes of good practice here on Island. In the afternoon they discussed wellbeing and promoting good physical and mental health for practitioners.



## What to do if you have a safeguarding concern

What to do if you are aware of something that worries you.

If there is an imminent risk to life then call 999.



If you are a child or young person and are concerned that yourself or a friend may be being abused, there is advice available on our [website](#). There is always someone to talk to and you can contact either of the numbers below and speak to a trained professional about your concerns.

If you work for or volunteer with an organisation and you are concerned about the safeguarding or protection of a child, you must inform your line manager or the safeguarding officer/lead in your organisation - and you should record that you have shared this with them.

If you are a member of the public then it is your duty to report it directly to Children and Families Division or the Police.

'Doing nothing is not an option.'

Contact details for concerns about children are as follows:

(01624) 686179 (Initial Response Team, Manx Care) during office hours

(01624) 631212 (Isle of Man Police Headquarters) out of office hours and ask to speak to the on-call social worker.

In an emergency always call the police on 999.

Alternatively you can email: [dutyinitialresponseteam.dhsc@gov.im](mailto:dutyinitialresponseteam.dhsc@gov.im) This email address is monitored by Children and Families Division (Social Care) during office hours only.



If you need to contact the Safeguarding Board, the easiest way is to email:

[Safeguardingboard.co@gov.im](mailto:Safeguardingboard.co@gov.im)

This is not monitored outside of office hours and is not to be used to report specific safeguarding concerns.

lows:

(01624) 685969 during office hours

(01624) 650000 (Nobles Switchboard) out of office hours and ask to speak to the on-call social worker

Alternatively you can email to: [ASTeam@gov.im](mailto:ASTeam@gov.im)

This email address is monitored by the Adult Safeguarding Team in Manx Care during office hours.

If you work for or volunteer with an organisation and you are concerned about the safeguarding of a vulnerable adult it is your responsibility to inform your line manager or the safeguarding officer in your organisation - 'doing nothing is not an option' and you should record that you have shared this with them.

If you are a member of the public then it is your duty to report it directly to the Adult Safeguarding Team (Manx Care) or the Police.

Contact details for concerns about an adult are as follows:



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