

Safeguarding Adults

News

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Spotlight on...

New MCA Guidance Notes from 39 Essex Chambers

Alex Ruck Keene KC and colleagues from 39 Essex Chambers have published two Mental Capacity Act guidance notes on 12 May 2025:

- Mental Capacity Guidance Note: **Best Interests**
[Mental Capacity Guidance Note: Best Interests | 39 Essex Chambers](#)
- Mental Capacity Guidance Note: **Assessment and Recording of Capacity**
[Mental Capacity Guidance Note: Assessment and Recording of Capacity | 39 Essex Chambers](#)

The purpose of these is to provide for social workers and those working in front-line clinical settings an overview of the law and principles relating to the assessment of capacity. Its focus is on

- (a) how to apply the MCA 2005 principles when assessing capacity; and
- (b) how to record your assessment, primarily in the context of health and welfare decisions.

Training and resources

DBS Regional Safeguarding Outreach Service offers workshops for anyone who has responsibility for engaging with DBS processes and legislation. Check upcoming events [here](#).

Making Every Contact Count (MECC) training is a series of free online courses to help develop the skills needed to use your day-to-day interactions with the public, to engage in conversations about improving their health, addressing subjects such as vaccination hesitancy, loneliness and isolation, active travel, healthy weight conversations, suicide awareness, and more. Visit [MECC training - Wandsworth Council](#) or [MECC training – Richmond Council](#) to find out more.

New resource pack to help identify and support unpaid carers

A new resource pack, “Identifying and Supporting Unpaid Carers in England to Improve Integrated System Working”, has been published.

This pack will help health and care professionals better identify, support, and involve unpaid carers in their work.

It has been developed by the Carers Partnership (Carers UK and Carers Trust) as part of the Voluntary Community and Social Enterprise (VCSE) Health and Wellbeing Alliance and has been shaped by the insights of colleagues from the NHS, Department of Health and Social Care, unpaid carers, health and social care professionals, virtual wards leaders, local carers’ organisations, and local authorities.

This resource is now available to health and care professionals across England. To learn more and explore how it can be used in your work, you can access it [here](#).

Why This Matters

Unpaid carers play a vital role in the health and social care system, yet they often face significant health inequalities and lack the recognition and support they need. In Richmond, an estimated 14,000 people have unpaid caring responsibilities, and in Wandsworth this figure rises to over 19,000. These people provide essential care to family members, friends, or neighbours—often with little formal support—making it crucial that they are properly identified and supported within the health and care system.

This resource brings together statutory duties and best practice guidance to help professionals:

1. Better identify unpaid carers and ensure they receive the right support.
2. Reduce health inequalities experienced by carers.
3. Drive meaningful change by embedding best practices into local systems.

Train the Trainer - Relationships for People with Learning Disabilities Really Matter

Public Health are offering a Train the Trainer course in ‘Relationships Matter’

This Train the Trainer course, facilitated by Claire Bates from [Choice Support](#), is designed for people who support adults with learning disabilities and want to confidently deliver the Relationships Really Matter training pack-developed by the [U-Night Group](#).

This accessible and practical pack helps people with learning disabilities, and those who support them, to learn about important topics including relationships rights, sexual self-advocacy, dating, healthy relationships, good relationship support, understanding their bodies and sexual activity, and sexual safety. During the course, you will gain the knowledge, skills, and practical tools needed to deliver engaging sessions that empower people to understand and express their rights and needs around relationships and sexuality. You’ll also explore ways to create a positive and respectful space where everyone feels comfortable taking part in open and honest conversations.

There will be a small charge of £30 to attend, which includes the training, lunch and your own copy of the pack. You will be able to keep the pack to use again and again.

To sign up to the session please use the link below where you will be directed to make the contributory payment fee.

[Relationships Really Matter - Train the Trainer Tickets, Wed, Jul 2, 2025 at 10:00 AM | Eventbrite](#)

The training is kindly being hosted by [RUILs](#) in Teddington and is open to organisations and professionals in either Richmond or Wandsworth. Please sign up fast as there are limited spaces.

Exploitation of Adults with Cognitive Impairment in England

Cognitive impairment is known to increase vulnerability to exploitation, but there has not been a significant academic study in the UK examining how these issues intersect across a range of impairment and exploitation types. Exploitation can include legal, physical, economic, social and psychological pressures used to limit the choices and infringe the rights of others. This includes actions ranging from human trafficking and slavery to situations that may cause distress or harm but are not currently offences in UK law.

A two-year study aimed to provide the first robust description of the intersection between cognitive impairment and the exploitation of adults in England.

[This presentation](#) from the Ann Craft Trust explains the study and findings.

To read the Executive summary, [please follow this link](#).

Refugee Week 2025

Refugee Week takes place from 16-22 June 2025, and the theme this year is 'Community as a Superpower'.

[Refugee Week](#) is a community-powered festival with arts and culture at the heart. From individuals to schools, libraries, arts venues, faith groups, local councils, sports clubs, and businesses, everyone is invited to take part.

The theme 'Community as a Superpower' reflects how communities can bring people together, bridging divides and offering support. They are spaces of resilience and places for healing. This Refugee Week everyone is invited to spend time with friends and build new connections in and beyond our neighbourhoods. Both Richmond and Wandsworth are proud to be Boroughs of Sanctuary, where all sanctuary seekers feel welcome, safe and have access to opportunities and support to thrive, somewhere that is an open and welcoming place for all and supports everyone who wishes to make Richmond and Wandsworth their home.

Refugee Week will showcase the warmth, unity, and support that exists across our boroughs.

In Wandsworth, the event will take place on Monday 16th June, from 6.00pm to 8:30pm at the Tooting Family Hub SW17 7BU.

In Richmond, the event will take place on Thursday 19th June from 6.00pm to 8:30pm at Clarendon Hall, York House, Twickenham TW1 3AA.

Self-Neglect and Hoarding Panels

With the steady rise in self-neglect safeguarding cases since the Covid-19 pandemic, we remind our partners that the relevant Richmond and Wandsworth Self-neglect and Hoarding Panels aim to facilitate multi-agency discussions to share information and formulate risk management plans.

Cases are escalated to this panel where the individual Safeguarding process has been unable to reduce or alleviate the risks due to challenges around engagement with the adult. The panel meets monthly to consider high risk, complex cases typically relating to self-neglect or hoarding.

The panel is chaired by a representative of the Local Authority Safeguarding Adults Team and is comprised of senior representatives from a variety of organisations including London Fire Brigade, Metropolitan Police, Housing, Community Mental Health Service and other health partners.

Actions will be assigned to relevant agencies or professionals to complete, and feedback will be provided by the agency's representative at the panel. Whilst the panel facilitates multi-agency dialogue, the case management responsibilities are retained by the front-line professionals.

You can visit these links – [Richmond](#) and [Wandsworth](#) – for more information of how the panel works.



Update from SAB Executive

The SAB Executive met in March via MS Teams and covered sub-group reports, and partner updates. Key issues discussed included the Refugee service and the changes to the MASH process. Updates were provided on interface with Children's Partnerships and issues arising from the National SAB Chairs' Network.

Quality and Improvement Sub-group



The Quality and Improvement Sub-group met on 3rd March 2025. Key discussions included considering the data up to Q3 2024-25, which showed a slight reduction in volume of concerns overall, which is welcome as volumes have been high over the year to date. Conversion rates remained consistent. Updates on training compliance were shared, with high compliance rates for safeguarding and mental capacity act training. Updates were presented on multi-agency working, self-neglect cases, and monitoring feedback from service users.

Safeguarding Adult Review (SAR) Sub-group



The SAR Sub-group met in March, April and May 2025. Three new referrals were received and discussed by the SAR Sub-group, all for Wandsworth, with themes around self-neglect. One of the cases met the mandatory criteria for a SAR, discussions are underway to see how to incorporate learning from the other referrals where relevant.

You can access via the website the [Published reports](#) and [7-minute briefings](#) for all SARs.

Richmond and Wandsworth Community Forums



The Richmond Community Forum met in March 2025 and discussed scams data, the performance dashboard and the draft leaflets around safeguarding and self-neglect. The Wandsworth Community Forum met in April 2025 and discussed the performance dashboard with particular focus on overall increase in referrals and the need to promote "what a good referral looks like".