

Safeguarding Adults

News

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Alcohol Change UK

Guidance on Identifying and addressing cognitive impairment in dependent drinkers

We're delighted to share our latest guidance on [Identifying and addressing cognitive impairment in dependent drinkers](#). This guidance has been developed as part of a national, multi-partner initiative. It involved both national experts like Prof. Ken Wilson and Dr Julia Lewis, as well as partners from 25 local authorities and treatment agencies around England and Wales.

Cognitive impairment is very common in dependent drinkers. Therefore, anyone working with dependent drinkers needs to be aware of the impact it can have. Most practitioners, however, will not meet dependent drinkers with a diagnosis of cognitive impairment; they will instead meet dependent drinkers who are confused, impulsive and possibly self-destructive and who they suspect may have a cognitive impairment. The problem is that the next steps can be very difficult. Securing a diagnosis may be a challenge. The dependent drinkers themselves may be hard to engage. Their behaviour may be dismissed as a 'lifestyle choice' or attributed to intoxication rather than brain damage.

It is this situation that is the focus of this guidance. Its target audience is the practitioner struggling with an individual who finds it difficult to move forward because of cognitive impairments or the challenging requirements of other services.

[Read the guidance](#)

Open Access Blue Light training course

Mark Holmes, co-author of the Blue Light Manual, is running a one-day open access Blue Light training course on 6th July that organisations can send individual staff members on it if they don't have enough people needing to be trained for them to justify commissioning a day. Perfect for new starters. You can book places [here](#).

Vulnerable Adolescents Supported into Adulthood (VASA) Panel

The VASA panel is a partnership approach between organisations in the Kingston and Richmond boroughs to consider cases of adolescents who remain at high risk of contextual harm and exploitation despite previous intervention efforts at the point of transition into adulthood or up to 25 years.

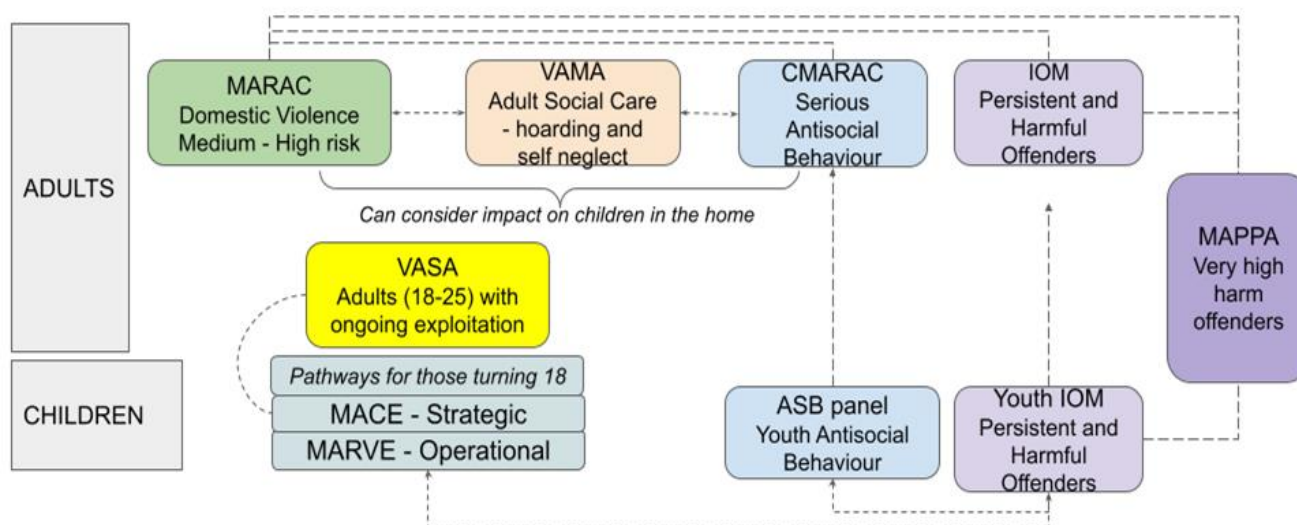
The purpose of the panel is to provide advice, guidance and signposting that prevents, manages or reduces contextual harm and exploitation for eligible adolescents.

Eligible adolescents must be:

- 18 to 25 years old (or transitional case 3 months before 18th birthday)
- high and ongoing risks present in regard to violence or exploitation.
- are not heard on any other panel (for example CMARAC, VAMA, MAPPA, IOM)
- consent to the referral for the panel or present with significant risk that necessitates the need to share information and seek additional support without consent (as detailed in the referral form)
- where a decision to share information without consent is made, a record of what has been shared should be kept and the reason documented.

The panel will be required to:

- review the current safety plan in place and advise on any additional options from the partnership to support this.
- ensure the referrer is put in contact with the correct agencies.
- to sign post to additional resources committed by the partnership.



Referral process

All referrals should be completed and emailed to: RBK Kingston and Richmond VASA - kingstonandrichmondvasa@kingston.gov.uk

Referrals need to be received at least five working days before the panel occurs to allow sufficient screening time. You will be notified of the outcome of your referral before the next panel date. VASA Panel will occur on the **first Wed of every month** from 10am to 1pm.

All referrals will be reviewed by the Community Safety Vulnerability and Violence Prevention Coordinator to ensure it is appropriate for the panel and not already heard at another panel and that there is sufficient information on the referral form to enable partners to adequately prepare for the meeting.

Modern Slavery – new pathway and reporting

Community Safety have updated the Modern Slavery pathway in both Richmond and Wandsworth. To view the pathway and other relevant information, please follow the links below to the relevant Council's website.

Richmond

https://www.richmond.gov.uk/services/community_safety/modern_slavery

Wandsworth

<https://www.wandsworth.gov.uk/community-safety/modern-slavery/>

Free E-Learning: Supporting People Experiencing Homelessness in an Accident & Emergency Setting

The charity Pathway has collaborated with its Homeless Health Consortium Partners Groundswell and Homeless Link, Change Communication, and in association with the Royal College of Emergency Medicine, to develop and launch a [free E-Learning module](#) to help A&E staff to make some simple changes that can improve care for people experiencing homelessness. It has also been produced to coincide with the NHSE Urgent and Emergency Care toolkit '[Supporting people experiencing homelessness and rough sleeping](#)' (released in December 2022).

The importance of identifying self-neglect as a safeguarding issue forms a significant aspect of the course, and it features contributions from Professor Robert Preston-Shoot (Independent Safeguarding Adult Board Chair), in addition to Dr Katherine Henderson (former President of RCEM) and Pathway Expert-by-Experience Peter Bull. It also includes:

- An overview of the health issues and poor health outcomes associated with people experiencing homelessness.
- Why people experiencing homelessness often self-discharge, why this is a concern, and what can be done to help them stay.
- The difficulties that often present when undertaking mental capacity assessments for people experiencing homelessness, and what can be done to mitigate this.
- Other actions you can take to improve care for people experiencing homelessness in an A&E setting, including connecting patients with further health and social care services to help them out of homelessness.

You can click [here](#) to access the course on the [Fairhealth](#) website, and can also read this [blog](#) by Sam Dorney-Smith, Pathway Nursing Practice Lead and course author, talking about her own experience of treating patients experiencing homelessness in A&E, and the importance of this course to developing inclusion health care in emergency departments.

The work has been funded by the VCSE Health and Wellbeing Alliance, jointly managed and funded by Department of Health and Social Care, NHS England and UK Health Security Agency.

Safer Streets

Wandsworth, Richmond, Kingston and Merton Councils as well as the Metropolitan Police (South-West London Safer Streets Partnership) are working together to tackle violence against women and girls (VAWG).

For us, safety means ensuring every resident feels secure in our community. By working with our partners to address the root causes and behaviours that enable gender inequality, we can deliver on our commitment to make the South-West London Boroughs safe for everyone.

Please watch and disseminate the videos below to colleagues, businesses and the public.

Wandsworth

[How you can help make Safer Streets](#)

[How your business can help women feel safe](#)

Richmond

[How you can help make Safer Streets](#)

[How your business can help women feel safe](#)



Update from SAB Executive

The SAB Executive met on 23 May 2023. The independent reviewer of the ongoing Jamie SAR presented his draft report and some potential amendments were identified, before the report could be signed off. The Executive signed off the Business Plan 2023/24 and heard updates from the sub-groups and from the Executive members.

Performance and Workforce Sub-group



The Performance and Workforce Sub-group met on 12 June 2023. It heard update on training and audits from Workforce Development, looked through the Performance data and the annual SAC return and discussed the actions assigned to the sub-group in the Business Plan 2023/24.

Safeguarding Adult Review (SAR) Sub-group



The SAR Sub-group met on 09 May and 05 June 2023. The group discussed four new referrals, three of which did not meet the criteria for a mandatory SAR. One case was recommended as a SAR and is due to be considered at the SAB Executive at the end of July.

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

Communication and Engagement Sub-group



The Richmond Community Forum met on 21 June 2023 and the Wandsworth Community Forum is due to meet on 12 July 2023.

They discussed the Performance Dashboard, heard presentations on PREVENT and Hate Crime and discussed London Fire Brigade's changed approach to Home Fire Safety Visits and the referral process, as well as looked at the actions assigned to these sub-groups in the Business Plan 2023/24.