

## Housing and adult safeguarding

October 2013

### Information from Imogen Parry, Independent Safeguarding Adults Consultant and Trainer for the Housing Sector

#### Purpose

1. To supply brief information on my recent research on: '*Adult Serious Case Reviews: lessons for housing providers*'.
2. To supply a list of my recent articles on housing and adult safeguarding

#### Background

Since retiring from erosh and sheltered housing consultancy nearly three years ago I have studied for the MA in Safeguarding Adults: Law, Policy and Practice at Keele University (<http://www.keele.ac.uk/pgtcourses/safeguardingadultslawpolicyandpractice/>) . I chose the dissertation topic (to identify lessons for housing providers from Serious Case Reviews (SCRs)) to help address the lack of engagement of housing in adult safeguarding in England.

The wider context of this research:

- The Care Bill - Safeguarding clauses , in particular 43 and 44. See the Action on Elder Abuse website for further information:  
[http://www.elderabuse.org.uk/Mainpages/Aboutus/aboutus\\_campaigns.html](http://www.elderabuse.org.uk/Mainpages/Aboutus/aboutus_campaigns.html)
- The Department of Health (DH) have commissioned the Social Care Institute for Excellence to write safeguarding guidance for the housing sector. Contact Elaine Cass for more information and to offer comments and good practice: [Elaine.Cass@scie.org.uk](mailto:Elaine.Cass@scie.org.uk)
- The DH funded PASAUK to run a workshop on housing and safeguarding in June – see <http://www.pasauk.org.uk/upload/public/PASAUK%20Report%20'Adult%20Safeguarding%20and%20Housing'%20final%20pdf.pdf>

#### Materials included in this pack include:

1. Abstract of the dissertation
2. List of my published articles in 2013 on housing and safeguarding

**You are welcome to distribute this material for training and learning purposes. I am willing to send a pdf of my full dissertation (which includes detailed information and analysis of the SCR's studied) on request but that would not be for circulation, but for personal use only.**

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Dissertation: 'Adult Serious Case Reviews: lessons for housing providers'

ABSTRACT

Adult Serious Case Reviews (SCRs) are conducted when there are concerns about adult protection failures resulting in people not being adequately protected. Their primary aim is to enable lessons to be learnt. This dissertation aims to identify lessons for housing providers from SCRs by: appraising the Government's approach to SCRs and the academic literature on SCRs; locating then quantitatively and qualitatively analysing all English housing related SCRs.

The Care Bill proposes a statutory basis for adult safeguarding including SCRs (to become Safeguarding Adults Reviews). This may address two weaknesses of SCRs: their lack of legislative basis and common blueprint; the lack of obligation on agencies to co-operate. Newly developing systems methodology may address two other weaknesses: failure to disseminate learning and poor quality.

The analysis of all housing related SCRs suggested three internal lessons for housing providers: poor data bases; poor monitoring; narrow focus, poor understanding or not referring. Three external lessons were: exclusion from information sharing; high thresholds; poor Adult Social Care (ASC) assessments. Although described as 'external', these themes are relevant for housing providers as they point to problematic areas in their partnership working with ASC.

The dissertation concludes with a discussion on whether lessons *can* be learnt from SCRs, exploring the difficulties presented by the complexity of safeguarding and the often intractable problems of partnership working. Particular difficulties for lessons being learnt by housing and ASC staff are suggested, along with strategic, policy and practice examples illustrating how these difficulties can be overcome.

## IMOGEN PARRY

### PUBLICATIONS ON ADULT SAFEGUARDING 2013.

1. **January:** 'Adult safeguarding and the role of housing', *Journal of Adult Protection*,(1), pp.15-26. <http://www.emeraldinsight.com/journals.htm?issn=1466-8203&volume=15&issue=1&articleid=17077552&show=abstract>
2. **April:** 'How social workers can help housing staff understand safeguarding', *Community Care*, 2.4.2013. <http://www.communitycare.co.uk/articles/02/04/2013/119061/how-social-workers-can-help-housing-staff-understand-safeguarding.htm?cmpid=NLC|SCSC|SCDDB-20130402-GLOB|news>.
3. **June:** 'Adult safeguarding – the need for all staff to engage' in Thornhill, J.(ed.) 'Learning today, leading tomorrow – skills and learning for the housing industry of the future', Coventry, Chartered Institute of Housing. <http://www.cih.org/resources/PDF/Policy%20free%20download%20pdfs/Learning%20today%20leading%20tomorrow/05%20Adult%20safeguarding%20Parry.pdf>.
4. **June:** (with Morgan, P.) 'Report of a workshop 'Adult Safeguarding and Housing' London, 4 June 2013'. PASAUK, sponsored by the Department of Health. <http://www.pasauk.org.uk/upload/public/PASAUK%20Report%20'Adult%20Safeguarding%20and%20Housing'%20final%20pdf.pdf>.
5. **July:** 'Hidden agenda' *Inside Housing*. 26.7.2013. <http://www.insidehousing.co.uk/home/blogs/hidden-agenda/6527912.article>.
6. **August:** 'Adult safeguarding: engagement issues for housing providers'. *SITRA bulletin*. [http://issuu.com/sitra.org/docs/sitra\\_bulletin\\_august\\_final](http://issuu.com/sitra.org/docs/sitra_bulletin_august_final)
7. **September:** 'The need for adult safeguarding specialists within all housing organisations'. *CIH blog*. [http://www.cih.org/news-article/display/vpathDCR/templatedata/cih/news-article/data/All\\_housing\\_organisations\\_need\\_adult\\_safeguarding\\_specialists](http://www.cih.org/news-article/display/vpathDCR/templatedata/cih/news-article/data/All_housing_organisations_need_adult_safeguarding_specialists)
8. **September:** 'Adult safeguarding – towards better outcomes' *Nuisance News*. Social Landlords Crime and Nuisance Group. <http://www.slcng.org.uk/news/1396>