

# Ann Craft Trust

Latest Research and News on Safeguarding Disabled Children and Adults at Risk

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[www.anncrafttrust.org](http://www.anncrafttrust.org)

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# THE ANN CRAFT TRUST

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# Editors Note



**It is rather belated but this is the first opportunity I have had to wish many of you a Happy New Year. I think 2016 will certainly continue to be a challenging time for safeguarding as we continue to implement the Care Act and more specifically Making Safeguarding Personal which, however welcome, requires a real shift in thinking and practice. In recent weeks we have read that figures from local authorities have revealed advocacy referrals were less than a third of the expected level in the first six months of the reforms. Figures from 80 councils in England, obtained by Community Care under the Freedom of Information Act, found independent advocates were provided to 2.1% of 253,000 people assessed under the Care Act between April and September 2015. The government's impact assessment had estimated 7% would qualify for, and accept, support.**

And one of the new definitions of abuse in the Care Act has been evidenced here in Nottingham -

another example of modern slavery was revealed recently when a couple kept a woman with learning difficulties as a slave and forced her to sleep in a duck pen. The woman was subjected to beatings and threats and on one occasion she was attacked with a hockey stick. These situations continue to both shock and challenge and this case also raised the new and concerning issue about online safety as the young woman had been persuaded via social media to come to the house.



## Care Act 2014

**Modern Slavery is now recognised as abuse under the Care Act**

The ACT seminar took place on Tuesday 17th November and focussed on 'Safer Lives' covering sexual exploitation, disability hate crime and forced marriage. We were pleased that both our Patrons contributed to the day - Sir Roger Singleton chaired the day and Kate Spicer did the opening presentation and spoke about her family's experience of services supporting her brother in residential care. It raised the really important issue of the relationship between staff and family carers and recognising the role each can play and also how easily this can go wrong.

The day was well attended and as ever offered the opportunity for great networking and discussion on important issues that we are all concerned about. The AGM was held during the lunchtime and

sadly two of our trustees stepped down after many years with ACT - David Thompson, Vice-Chair, has left to go to Australia for an extended period and Bernice Taylor left in order to commit more time to her family. They will be missed but we have been fortunate to elect two new Trustees - Claire Bearder from Nottinghamshire County Council and Dave Marsland from Hull University who we are looking forward to working with.

We have also said goodbye to Joyce McGuinness who retired at the end of 2015 - she had worked for ACT for twenty years and as they say 'it will not be the same without her'. Joyce had been responsible for finance, membership and the production of the bulletin during her time with us and completed all tasks with both efficiency and professionalism. Amazingly in all that time - and 91 bulletins later - we can say that the bulletin was never sent out late!

Nicola joined us in November as Safeguarding Adults in Sport Manager and in January Nat Rock joined the team and she will be taking over from Joyce in managing the finances and will also be doing some work with Sarah on the European project.

I am pleased to hear that people are enjoying our new look bulletin and would encourage any of you who are doing new and innovative work with regard to safeguarding to contact us - we would love to include it in the bulletin. Your news and views are welcome.

**Deborah Kitson, ACT CEO**

# Safer Lives 2015: ACT Seminar & AGM

Exploring safeguarding around child sexual exploitation, mate crime and forced marriage of people with learning disabilities

**ACT's Safer Lives safeguarding seminar took place on November 17th with professionals from all over the UK listening to expert talks and discussing prominent issues and challenges around sexual exploitation, mate crime and forced marriage of people with learning disabilities.**

Safer Lives looked at safeguarding from the perspective of both adults and children focusing on the specific issues that people with learning disabilities have in staying safe whilst also achieving their life goals both socially and within the world of work and education.

**Our Patron, Kate Spicer**, gave a moving and enlightening talk from her perspective as a carer striving to give her brother the best access to services whilst also maintaining his independence, friendships and employment.

**The morning session by Sarah Goff** (in collaboration with Anita



Safer Lives 2015 was chaired by ACT's patron Sir Roger Singleton (above)

Franklin of Coventry University) led delegates through the complex issues of sexual exploitation discussing the risks faced by people with learning disabilities and the need to support them around dating and relationships whilst safeguarding against the dangers of exploitation from people they trust within their circle of friends and through dating apps/social media.

Sarah broke down the findings of 'Unprotected, Overprotected' a recent study led by Anita Franklin that looked into CSE of people with learning disabilities. Sarah also facilitated small discussion groups which explored the challenges safeguarding professionals face and strategies to make sure people with learning disabilities are safe when developing relationships.

## What worked to support the young people

- Access to specialist CSE service
- One-to-one intensive support, tailored to their learning needs
- Trust, positive relationship with worker who listened to them
- Working at child's pace to help them understand exploitation and what had happened to them
- Long-term input – not a quick fix
- Meeting a range of other needs – holistic and multi-agency
- Working with the whole family
- Building resilience, positive secure attachments, persistence and not giving up on a child

**Dr Anita Franklin** is co-director of Children and Families Research at Coventry University. Anita has over 20 years' experience of undertaking research within the field of children and young people's social care.

**Rod Landman** has worked for ARC for many years on a range of projects. Most recently he set up the first project in the UK concerning mate crime, and has been directing the Helping Each Other project.

**Rachael Clawson** is a lecturer at the University of Nottingham; she is recognised as a leading expert on forced marriage of people with learning disabilities

## Extent of mate crime: all crime



- 90% of PLD experienced harassment in the last year [Mencap 1999]
- 32% daily/weekly
- 50% of disabled people have experienced a disability hate crime [DRC 2004]
- 20% weekly attacks
- 75% PLD are victims of crime [UKDPC 2007]
- PLD are 4 times more likely to be assaulted than the general public [NACRO 2002]



Following the lunchtime interval Rod Landman (from ARC) talked about the impact of 'mate crime' and the stark differences compared to hate crime. Rod discussed the emotional abuse suffered by victims and how 'mate crime' is hard for victims to understand and recognise due to the trust and genuine friendship (on the victims part) that develops

with the abuser. Rod explored the 'positives' as seen by the victim like having friends, feeling needed and the impact that this form of exploitation can have on a person's emotional well-being after the 'friendship' is challenged. Rod also highlighted the warning signs of mate crime which included unaccounted spending and isolation from family or old

friendship groups. The presentation then looked at the challenges professionals face around assessing capacity of individuals and supporting individuals to make informed choices.

**The University of Nottingham's Rachael Clawson** closed the day exploring the recent changes in

The definition as used by the Forced Marriage Unit is;

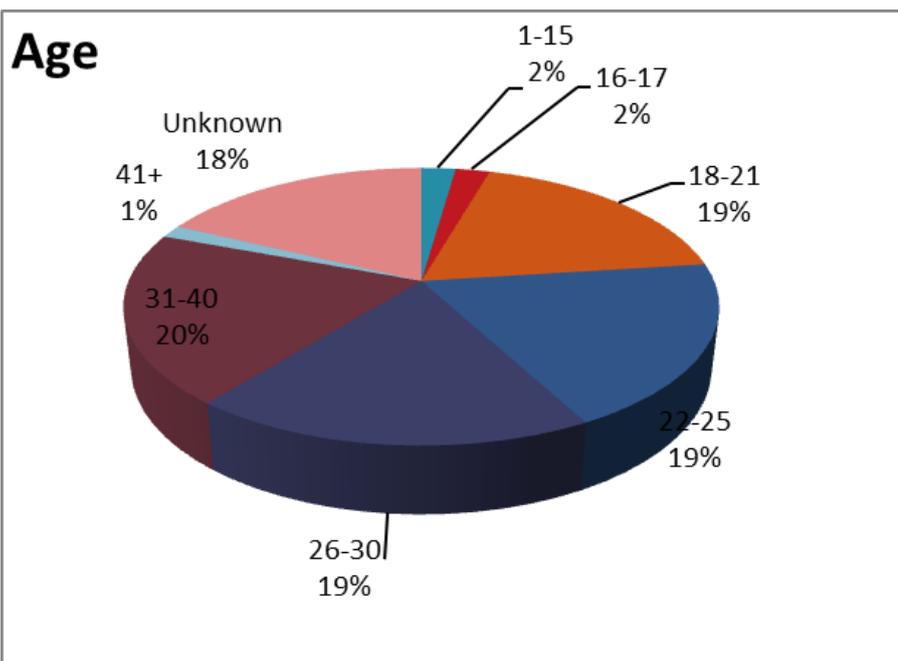
**'A marriage conducted without the valid consent of one or both parties and where duress is a factor.'**

the law relating to forced marriage and the latest findings in relation to forced marriage and people with learning disabilities.

The presentation explored the reasons for an increase in recent reporting of forced marriage of people with learning disabilities and the safeguarding aspects that need to be considered when working with people and communities who are often isolated from services.

Rachael concluded with an update on the law regarding Forced Marriage and the option that victims now have to pursue either a criminal conviction or a civil procedure. The change in the law is a way to avoid criminalisation of parents/carers who, for example, believe that they are safeguarding the future of their loved one through marriage (e.g. providing a carer).

The changes in the law allow, in the right circumstances, for the opportunity to work with a family and maintain the positives within an existing relationship between the carer and child.



**FMU statistics for ages of people with learning disabilities who have been victims of forced marriage.**



**Moving forward – Things to Consider around Forced Marriage**

**Range of issues need to be better understood** – eg assessing capacity, best interests (family/ children), cultural awareness - impact on frontline professionals, why families see forced marriage as an option, provision of care and support etc

**Need greater understanding** of the lived experiences of people with learning disabilities forced to marry

**Safeguarding Boards need to be aware** of issues of forced marriage per se - improved strategic planning

**Training** – consideration of specific training and issue of learning disability needs to be incorporated into all forced marriage training

The feedback from delegates for Safer Lives 2015 highlighted the opportunity the day gave to explore the challenges faced across both child and adult services and the quality of the presentations. The safeguarding topics covered on the day encompassed the latest theory, research and best practice. ACT would like to thank Kate Spicer, Sir Roger Singleton, Anita Franklin, Sarah Goff, Rod Landman and Rachael Clawson for their time and efforts in making Safer Lives a great success.

**As an ACT Supporter if you would like a copy of any of the presentations please email [ann-craft-trust@nottingham.ac.uk](mailto:ann-craft-trust@nottingham.ac.uk) or call 0115 951 5400**

**Running Order for the Day**

- Welcome and Introductions
- Sir Roger Singleton
- ‘Safeguarding – A Personal View’
- Kate Spicer
- ‘Growing Capacity & Resilience - Safeguarding against Sexual Exploitation’
- Sarah Goff & Dr Anita Franklin
- ‘Mate Crime: A Counterfeit Friendship?’
- Rod Landman
- ‘Forced Marriage – Reasons, Risks, Responses’
- Rachael Clawson
- Round Table discussion
- Review of the Day
- Sir Roger Singleton



Sarah explores the risks around CSE



Rod discusses the impact of mate crime



Delegates discuss forced marriage

**November 17th  
ACT Seminar and AGM**



**Safer Lives:**

**Safeguarding disabled children & adults at risk from Sexual Exploitation  
Mate Crime  
Forced Marriage**

Safer Lives has been designed to support a holistic understanding of current safeguarding issues and best practice.

Speakers include experts on the Disability Hate Crime, Safeguarding Children and Forced Marriage.

Each presentation will be followed by a round table discussion designed to support you in exploring your role as a safeguarding practitioner.



**TODAY**

Sarah Goff and Dr Anita Franklin will be leading this mornings session supporting you to explore how we as professionals support people with learning disabilities to develop positive relationships and protect against sexual exploitation.

Rod Landman, from ARC, will be discussing the impact of ‘Mate Crime’ and how it relates to Disability Hate Crime and what we can do as professionals.

Finally Rachael Clawson will be giving an update on practise and legislation on Forced Marriage, including changes to the law.

There will be opportunities throughout day for you to discuss your own experiences and challenges around safeguarding disabled children and adults at risk.

The Ann Craft Trust’s AGM will be held during the lunch break. All ACT members are invited to join.

# Resources and Book Review

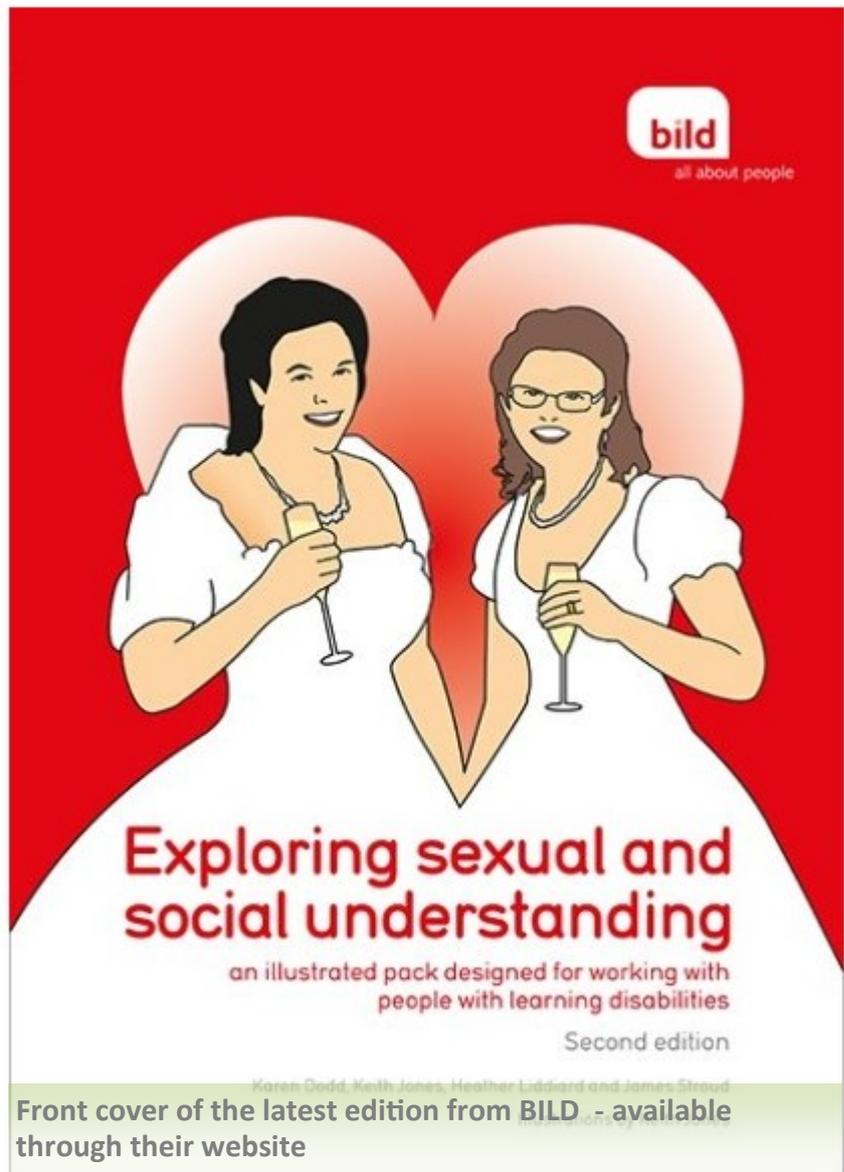
By Sarah Goff, Disabled Children's Manager  
Ann Craft Trust

## Review of BILD pack; 'Exploring sexual and social understanding' by Karen Dodd, Keith Jones, Heather Liddiard and James Stroud; second edition 2015.

"Exploring sexual and social understanding has been developed to provide a flexible visual resource that can be used to assess sexual knowledge and capacity to consent, and help to teach and discuss appropriate social and sexual behaviour."

Developing understanding and capacity to make decisions about sex is a significant challenge. The second edition of this much valued and used pack for working with people with learning disabilities, to both assess understanding and capacity alongside growing awareness and choice, is warmly welcomed.

Flexible and easily accessible, it is written by psychologists and a clinical nurse manager, contains a series of images of individuals, sexual and relationship behaviours and places. This allows the worker to work both verbally and through images to build social stories, have discussions and explore understanding. The pack consists of a book and a CD Rom containing a detailed series of images in a variety of sizes and formats which can be downloaded by the worker and used with adults. The pack includes very clear and well set out explanations for use. It is aimed both to assist assessment of capacity and also to explore in direct work identification of needs for sex education, risks/understanding of



power dynamics and the physical emotional consequences of unwanted or unpleasant encounters. The pack includes a clear and accessible "capacity to consent" assessment tool which was highly rated by Community Care at the release of the first edition in 2007.

The pack does not shy away from explicit images creating very clear guides which will greatly assist workers' ability to discuss sex and personal relationships. Its content allows very wide variety of scenarios to be explored;

- consenting mutual relationships
- wanted and unwanted sexual relationships
- choice about types of sexual activity
- gay, lesbian and heterosexual sex
- abuse, pressure and feelings in terms of lesbian, heterosexual and gay relationships
- places where it is ok and not ok to have sex
- masturbation

Key recent additions to the materials are the introduction of





© BILD 2015

### 3.2 John in a burger bar

#### One of the many images featured on the CD Rom supporting people with learning disabilities to explore sex and personal relationships

an image of a professional and the ability to explore abuse by those working in a professional capacity in positions of trust with adults and secondly, the introduction of images related to social media, the internet and use of phones. This is extremely helpful in exploring the wide variety of settings, choices and places where sexual relationships, exploitation and abuse take place.

Images enable a very wide variety of pieces of work to take place; exploration of different sexualities, of feelings, of rights, of both positive and abusive situations. In her recent study, 'Learning Difficulties and Sexual Vulnerability; a Social Approach' Andrea Hollomotz makes a key point that without understanding what feels good and is safe, many adults will find it harder to recognise what is abusive and

unsafe. This pack enables discussion of abuse and pressure and exploitation but also allows and enables exploration of what a person wishes and chooses.

A small criticism of the pack would be the lack of diversity within the images themselves. This creative and interesting resource could be further developed by expanding the ethnicity of the main characters. However, this pack is a very useful contribution to important rights enhancing work around supporting people with learning disabilities to develop their understanding of social relationships and sex.

"People with learning disabilities and people with autism want to make their own choices and decisions about the things that affect their lives. To help make this happen, BILD works to influence policy makes and campaigns for change"

#### About the Authors

Dr Karen Dodd is a Consultant Clinical Psychologist and Co-Director of services for People with Learning Disabilities.

Keith Jones works as a Clinical Nurse Manager in Wales.

Dr Heather Liddiard is a Clinical Psychologist.

James Stroud is an Assistant Psychologist in Surrey.

**Exploring sexual and social understanding: an illustrated pack designed for working with people with learning disabilities, edited by Karen Dodd, Keith Jones, Heather Liddiard and James Stroud costs £30.00 and is available [here](#)**



# Safeguarding Adults in Sport

The Ann Craft Trust is the external representative on the Safeguarding Adults in Sport Safeguarding Group and has worked across the sports sector since 2010.

The Ann Craft Trust (ACT) now offers Safeguarding Adults in Sport Level's 1, 2 & 3 training for all sports coaches, NGB officers and senior management. Each course explores how the new Care Act, Mental Capacity Act and best practice in safeguarding relates to National Governing Bodies, Clubs and player welfare. Each course has been designed specifically to incorporate the demands of all roles and responsibilities with regards to safeguarding.

For more information on Safeguarding Adults in Sport Training please email [ann-craft-trust@nottingham.ac.uk](mailto:ann-craft-trust@nottingham.ac.uk)



## Level 1

### Aimed at:

Team managers, Coaches and Volunteers with direct responsibility for players welfare

### Covering:

- What is Safeguarding?
- Indicators of concern and types of abuse
- Your role within safeguarding
- How to make a safeguarding 'alert'
- You and the law

## Level 2

### Aimed at:

Club Safeguarding Leads and Club Welfare Officers, County Welfare Officers

### Covering:

- Best practice around Safeguarding in Sport
- Safeguarding and the law
- What to do when you receive an 'alert' from a coach/volunteer
- How to support the 'alerter' and make a safeguarding 'referral'
- Implementing safeguarding policies



## Level 3

### Aimed at:

Lead NGB Officers, NGB Board and Senior management

### Covering:

- Safeguarding Law (including the Mental Capacity Act and Care Act)
- Your role within the 'referral' process
- Recruitment and disciplinary processes
- Designing and implementing safeguarding policy
- Ensuring best practice in 'safeguarding' within organisations



# A Whole New Ball Game?

By Nicola Dean, Safeguarding Adults at Risk in Sport Manager

**The Ann Craft Trust has received funding from [Sport England](#) for a new post - Safeguarding Adults at Risk in Sport Manager.**

I was very pleased to be appointed to the role in November 2015.

For many years the Ann Craft Trust has been part of The Safeguarding Adults in Sport Steering Group which brings together a number of bodies, such as National Governing Bodies (NGBs), County Sports Partnerships (CSPs), [Sport England](#), [UK Sport](#) and the [Sport and Recreation Alliance](#) to focus on safeguarding adults at risk.

The main priorities for my role are: review and develop services in relation to adults at risk in sport; identify, plan and implement new initiatives in line with current practice; develop and deliver a training strategy; offer advice and information to sport and recreation organisations; and represent the sector at key consultations nationally.

One of my first actions is to survey sports organisations regarding their safeguarding adults at risk policies, procedures and training. The information gathered will then be used to inform the priorities for my role.

It will also assist me as I review and update the [resource pack](#)

that was developed by members of the Safeguarding Adults in Sport Steering Group. This pack offers helpful information and advice designed to support sports to develop the best practice for keeping adults safe and needs to be updated in the light of the implementation of the Care Act 2014 and the Making Safeguarding Personal agenda.

With the creation of my post I hope that safeguarding adults at risk will start to be recognised more widely within sports. Children's safeguarding is a paramount concern within sport. [The Child Protection in Sport Unit](#) (CPSU) is a partnership between the [NSPCC](#), [Sport England](#), [Sport Northern Ireland](#) and [Sport Wales](#) that has been working with NGBs, CSPs and other organisations for 15 years to minimise the risk of child abuse within sporting activity.

The appointment of a dedicated post to drive forward the agenda of the steering group has been very timely as the government is starting to map their agenda for a more active nation, increasing participation from across the whole of society. The Ann Craft Trust highlighted the needs of adults at risk by taking part in a consultation to inform the new government strategy on sport.

Published on 17<sup>th</sup> December 2015, the government's report '[Sporting Future: a new strategy for an active nation](#)' presents the outcome of the government's recent consultation on sport. The strategy aims to improve participation in sport with UK Sport, the organisation supporting Olympic Sports, helping to drive grassroots participation.

There is a shift in the strategy to making the nation more physically active. 5 key outcomes are set out: physical wellbeing, mental wellbeing, individual development, social and community development and economic development.

And perhaps most important of all for my new role is the emphasis on including people from all backgrounds, highlighting the duty of care that sports organisations have towards all adults. There is recognition of the need for sport to safeguard not just children but also 'people in a vulnerable situation'.

This recognition of the needs of adults at risk serves to demonstrate the need for my post. I will be supporting sports organisations to recognise their duties regarding adults at risk and hopefully embedding the concept of safeguarding within policies and practice.



# Safeguarding News Watch...

## **Council for Disabled Children and National Children's Bureau: Get your rights**

There is a new interactive website to explain to children and young people their rights when using the NHS. It includes videos from young people telling their stories about how the rights have made a difference to them, and messages from professionals explaining why they value young people's rights.

Click [here](#) for more

## **Pilot programme helps new mums with learning difficulties**

People with learning difficulties face a number of challenges when they become parents. For example, it is more difficult for them to learn the skills necessary for their children to grow up healthy and safe. Without additional support, parents are likely to lose their children into care.

Commissioned by Mencap and funded by the Department of Health, the Parent Pioneers programme was piloted between 2012 and 2015 in Northumberland and the Borough of Islington. The Mellow Parenting programme was adapted for parents with a learning disability with support from Mencap and a group of 'parent experts' from the Elfrida Society, who had learning disabilities. The mothers who took part were assisted by a volunteer mentor.

As well as meaning the mothers who took part were better equipped to look after their children, the additional support they received through the programme also provided potential cost savings for local authorities on child safeguarding, care proceedings and provision.

Beth Tarleton, from the Norah Fry Research Centre at the University of Bristol, evaluated the project. She said: 'The mothers who took part felt they had increased in confidence, both in themselves and in their ability to look after their babies. They also recognised that they had learned to trust others to look after their baby. It allowed them to make friends, and benefit from the experience

'The professionals who referred mothers to the programme reported changes including increased confidence, mothers making better life choices and more positive engagement with services.'

Lara Burnett, project manager at Mencap, said: 'Parents with a learning disability are more likely than any other group to have their child placed in child protection services. We think that this is partly because of lack of the right support, and we're pleased to see that Parent Pioneers made a difference to the people that undertook the course.

'The course recognised the needs of parents with learning disabilities for inclusion, for repetition to consolidate learning and support to transfer learning into practice. Parent Pioneers has helped a number of parents feel more confident and effective and given them a network of other supports. I would like to thank everyone who has been involved in this project.'

Press Release full story [here](#)

## **Public Hearing on the EP Report on Concluding Observations of the UN Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities**

The United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UN CRPD) ensures

that all persons with disabilities enjoy all human rights and fundamental freedoms.

The European Union (EU) has signed UN CRPD, and its efforts to implement the Convention have been reviewed by the United Nations Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities last year.

The Committee has reviewed measures taken by the European Union (EU) to ensure that the rights of people with disabilities are considered in policies and other relevant legislative proposals. After this review, the UN Committee published its Concluding Observations, stating that the European Union was systematically failing in certain areas and as a result, European measures were not good enough.

As a response to the United Nations review, the European Parliament (EP) is drafting a report on the implementation of the UN CRPD in the EU, with special regards to the Concluding Observations of the United Nations Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

Originally published 8th January

Full story [here](#)

## **Monitor is to take regulatory action at Southern Health NHS Foundation Trust.**

Southern Health NHS Foundation Trust will receive expert support to improve the way it investigates and reports deaths at the trust, particularly among people with a learning disability and/or those who are experiencing mental illness.

After considering a report by Mazars on Southern Health, which was published in December 2015, ➡

# Safeguarding News Watch...

the health regulator Monitor has stepped in to ensure the trust improves its reporting and investigations into deaths.

When investigating, the trust also failed to engage properly with families. This is particularly important when the individuals concerned had a learning disability and/or mental illness and may have been less able to speak up for themselves, because families are often closely involved with their care and may have important knowledge to support investigations.

Monitor has taken regulatory action and agreed a number of steps with the trust to ensure these issues are addressed as quickly as possible.

The trust has agreed to implement the recommendations of Mazars' report, and to get expert assurance on how well it plans and carries out those improvements. Monitor will appoint an Improvement Director for the trust, who will use their expertise to support and challenge the trust as it fixes its problems.

Claudia Griffith, Regional Director for Monitor, said:

The NHS should take every opportunity to learn from any mistakes that happen when caring for people, to ensure that they are never repeated again.

We have taken action to ensure that Southern Health improves the way it investigates deaths among people with a learning disability and/or those who are experiencing mental illness.

However, it is also clear that more work is needed across the NHS to identify and spread best practice for reporting and investigating deaths among people with a learning disability and/or mental illness.

Monitor will work closely with the Care Quality Commission to assess how deaths among people with a learning disability and/or mental illness are investigated and what further action is needed across the NHS and by the trust.

Originally published 12th January. Article [here](#)

## **February 10th London seminar: Offenders with a learning disability: Who cares and why bother?**

This free evening seminar will seek to offer insight into the key messages, how they may be put into practice and the implications for both those commissioning and delivering services.

Evidence tells us that offenders with a learning disability represent a major challenge to those working in prison and community settings. By sharing the lessons learnt from a recent project, joint funded by NOMS and Calderstones NHS Foundation Trust, this presentation will highlight how this challenge presents major opportunities. Opportunities which will not only benefit offenders with a learning disability, but may have a significant impact on service delivery and efficiency. Adopting a simple approach based on communication, the project has demonstrated not only how

frontline staff can be empowered but also how organisations can think more critically about how they seek to engage and inform offenders. This free seminar will seek to offer insight into the key messages, how they may be put into practice and the implications for both those commissioning and delivering services.

Full details including booking instructions [here](#)

## **All children's social workers will be assessed against the knowledge and skills statement developed by chief social worker Isabelle Trowler by the end of this parliament (2020) the government has announced.**

The assessment and accreditation process of children's social workers will be overseen by a new body that will be set up to take responsibility for all social work standards, training and regulation of the profession, including adult social work, education secretary Nicky Morgan stated.

In a speech about reforming children's social work, Morgan announced plans for the new body which would have "a relentless focus on raising the quality of social work, education, training and practice in both children's and adult's social work".

A statement said the new body "will also set standards for training and oversee the roll out of a new assessment and accreditation system for children and family social workers".

Originally published 14th January. Full article [here](#)



# ACT News

## Safeguarding Against Modern Slavery

In December a Nottingham couple were found guilty of modern slavery after imprisoning a young woman with learning disabilities for five months. This shocking case of abuse highlights the rising concern that people with learning disabilities are at significant risk if agencies are not vigilant in their safeguarding approach.

At the Ann Craft Trust (ACT) we believe that the modern slavery of people with learning disabilities is a statistically hidden form of abuse with parallels to disability hate crime and financial abuse.

Deborah Kitson, ACT CEO, said "This is the second high profile case in as many years. People with learning disabilities are at significant risk of modern slavery as they can often be isolated within communities, not deemed eligible for support services or simply overlooked due to not being viewed as a high profile concern."

Deborah adds "when the Care Act was first published the inclusion of modern slavery was questioned with people asking if it was a relevant concern. The case in Nottingham, following on from Sheffield last year, highlights the need for agencies and professionals to develop policies and awareness around this violent and horrific form of exploitation."

ACT strongly calls for more research, training and work to be completed around modern slavery to ensure that people with learning disabilities are protected. The case in Nottingham highlights a growing concern amongst professionals that modern slavery is potentially under reported and

hidden within communities and from safeguarding organisations.

At ACT we believe that everyone deserves the same rights, to be safe and have their voices heard. Modern slavery is an abhorrent practice that takes advantage of people with learning disabilities creating a long lasting and damaging impact on the victim.

## New Years Honours List

ACT would like to congratulate Annamarie Phelps on receiving a CBE in New Year's Honours list for services to British Rowing.

Annamarie has, over the last few years, supported ACT in championing greater resources for safeguarding adults at risk within sport.

Our CEO Deborah Kitson said "Annamarie Phelps has received the CBE quite rightly for work within rowing but we should also acknowledge her efforts in improving the lives of vulnerable people within all sport"

"Safeguarding Adults in Sport exists as a national project because of the continued support of a handful of people. Annamarie has been an integral part of this support since the early days and is a great friend to the project today".

Everyone at ACT would like to thank Annamarie for her contribution to safeguarding and again congratulate her on being named in the New Year's Honours list.

## Safeguarding Adults in Sport

Safeguarding Adults in Sport is a brand new project funded by Sport England to help National Governing Bodies, regional partnerships and sports clubs to

develop best practice in safeguarding adults at risk.

To stay in touch with the latest safeguarding developments please follow ACT on twitter @ann\_craft\_trust, LinkedIn (Ann Craft Trust) and through Facebook.

We currently offer National Governing Bodies, regional organisations and sports clubs an introduction to Safeguarding Adults in Sport. The training outline can be downloaded as a pdf [here](#). For more information contact email ACT [here](#)



## Training Spotlight Appropriate Adults Training

ACT currently offers training for Police Forces across the UK around understanding learning disability, assessing mental capacity and engaging with appropriate adults. For more information about how ACT's safeguarding training and research can support your organisation

## Is this Abuse or Poor Practice?

This course explores the fine line between abuse and poor practice and examines what we have learned from recent safeguarding inquiries. It considers when formal safeguarding procedures should be implemented with reference to local thresholds, the Care Act and Making Safeguarding Personal.

For more information contact [matthew.parr@nottingham.ac.uk](mailto:matthew.parr@nottingham.ac.uk) (Communications & Development Officer) or call the ACT office on 0115 951 5400. 

# ACT News



## Welcome to Nat, our newest team member

I'm Nat Rock. I just started with ACT this month and very much looking forward to being part of ACT's good work. My background is Event and Hospitality Management which led to working for a full facility organisation. After a few years in operations I decided to specialise in Human Resource and Training and Development, which I loved. I

enjoyed this for many years before taking some time out to have our family and spend some time in Tokyo, Japan with my husband's, (Ben's), work. We spent four amazing years in Japan and returned for the children (Tom and Joe) to start school in England. I was then fortunate to find a job within Training and Development with Leonard Cheshire Disability in West Bridgford. During my seven years there we saw practice develop in a really positive way. I enjoyed working with the operational team to deliver mandatory training but what we really worked hard on was developing each individual to reach their potential, on a professional and personal level. This was so rewarding because it had such a significant effect on daily practice and life. Our clients and people who used our service enjoyed a person centred experience as a result, which was

incredibly satisfying for everybody involved. I now also work part-time on an organic farm in Hathern (Oakley Grange – pop by if you can, you'll love it)! I love to travel, enjoying food with friends, running (occasionally)!!, reading (although that only seems to happen when on holiday these days)!, watching the kids play rugby and football, great walks with the dog, Rocky, and every now and then a jolly good dance!

I am so looking forward to working with ACT and being part of a Safeguarding world, with exciting projects such as the European and Sport Project. Even after just a few weeks with ACT I already feel inspired, by the conversations taking place in the office and the projects people are part of. It feels good to be part of something meaningful and challenging.

My work hours are on a Tuesday from 9.00am-5.00pm.

## Research & Resources...



### New factsheets on money for family carers

Dosh has launched a new series of factsheets for family carers who manage their relative's money. Managing money for your relative

can be an important connection to them, but can also be stressful, worrying and confusing. Dosh have worked with family carers to find out what information they need to help them and written these factsheets based on this work.

Factsheets cover information on:

- benefits
- appointeeship
- mental capacity
- planning for the future
- checklist for financial health
- top tips for managing family money

- where does the money come from (infographic)

These are available to download for free from [here](#)

If you have any questions or concerns about managing your relative's money now and in the future, you are very welcome to contact Dosh via [www.dosh.org](http://www.dosh.org) or call 0300 303 1288.

Dosh hope these resources will be useful not only to family carers, but also to people with a learning disability and professionals working in the sector. Please do share them with your networks, colleagues, family and friends.

# Research & Resources...

## Keeping Safe

The Sense Safeguarding Board commissioned the Keeping Safe project to provide a web based resource for individuals who are deafblind, families & carers and professionals with information that will support people to understand how they can keep themselves safe.

‘Keeping safe’ means having a right to be safe at all times, whether that is being safe in your home, when working and when out and about in the community. Everyone should be enabled to say NO when someone does something to them that they do not like – this may include inappropriate touching, being hurt or being treated differently.

People with the most significant disabilities may be more vulnerable to abuse as this can affect a person’s ability to learn about how to keep safe. ‘Keeping safe’ will mean different things to different people. For some it is about learning how to report concerns and for others it may be learning ways to reduce their vulnerability. For all individuals it is the responsibility of the people who support them to become more aware of abuse and how it should be reported.

This information is designed to inform families and carers who are supporting a deafblind child or adult. We hope it will help by

providing resources that will support the individual in understanding their rights.

Information on the webpages includes – What is abuse, how to support individuals to Keep Safe, and a set of resources that can be used to support people covering – Accessible information

Learning packs on safeguarding  
Hints and tips for working with learners

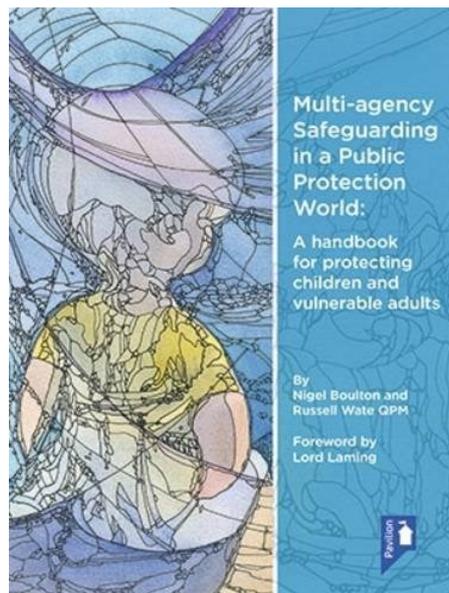
A positive approach to managing risk

Understanding what abuse is

Online safety

How to report abuse

The resource can be found [here](#)



**Multi-Agency Safeguarding in a Public Protection World 2015: A Handbook for Protecting Children and Vulnerable Adults Paperback – 17 Apr 2015**

*by Russell Wate (Author), Nigel Boulton (Author)*

Any practitioner who begins work in the difficult and unique professional arena of public protection feels that they are entering a different world, made up of its own unique processes and guidelines and which, on many occasions, appears to have a

language all of its own. This book for the first time gives practitioners of whatever profession an overview of the major and very different areas of public protection practice. It aims to translate the processes, guidelines and language to enable them to have a workable understanding of the varied areas of practice that may impact their own working lives. As well as exploring the law and guidance for each, this book identifies some key learning points and case studies to assist practitioners to better understand the world of public protection in all its guises. This book contains a foreword by Lord Laming, who chaired the public enquiry into Victoria Climbié's death and conducted a progress report of the project of children in England after the death of Baby P.

**Safeguarding the Rights of Girls in the Criminal Justice System: Preventing Violence, Stigmatization and Deprivation of Liberty Paperback – 30 Jan 2016**

*by United Nations (Author)*

Gender-based violence is a pervasive and devastating manifestation of discrimination against women and girls. International human rights standards, including the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women, and the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, provide a solid framework for preventing and responding to violence against girls in both public and private spheres. Unfortunately, non-compliance with international human rights obligations to



# Research & Resources...

protect girls from all forms of violence remains a serious challenge. The present report seeks to contribute to the dissemination and implementation of the Model Strategies on VAC, adopted by the UN General Assembly in 2014. It also aims to support the implementation of the Post-2015 Development Agenda, which calls for an end to all forms of violence against children, equal access to justice for all, and effective, accountable and inclusive institutions.

## **State Powers and Private Rights in Child Protection and Safeguarding Assessments: Policing Parents 1 Mar 2016**

*by Lauren Devine (Author)*

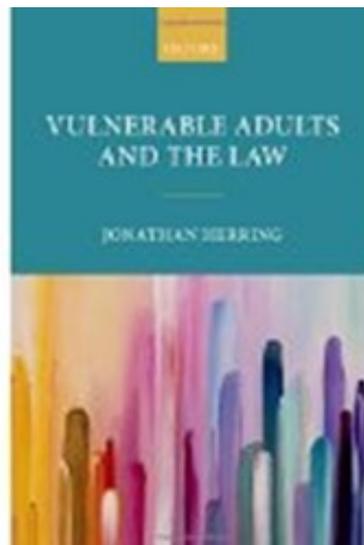
State Powers and Private Rights in the UK Child Protection System: Policing Parents examines in detail the UK child protection and safeguarding system, exploring its theoretical and legal basis and implications in modern society.

The main objective of this book is to tackle the difficult issue of the balance between the rights of the individual, and the power of the state to interfere with those rights. From this approach it is possible to critique several aspects of the system and consider the key issues of concern.

For example, a system of child protection might be considered successful from a social science perspective but not from a legal or financial viewpoint. This raises the issue of what measure should be used to evaluate the system given its multi-disciplinary implications. Filling a gap in the existing literature, the author considers different aspects of child

protection literature and has brought them together, providing a text which enables the reader to gain insight into seemingly diverse aspects and effects of the enabling statutory provisions.

The book will be of interest to academics, lawyers, theorists and social workers with an interest in child protection, privacy and state powers.



## **Vulnerable Adults and the Law Hardcover – 21 Jan 2016**

*by Jonathan Herring (Author)*

We are used to thinking that most people have the capacity to make their own decisions; that they should be free to decide how to live their lives; and that it is a good thing to be self-sufficient.

However, in an examination of the legal position of vulnerable adults, understood as those who have capacity under the Mental Capacity Act 2005 but are deemed impaired through vulnerability in their exercise of decision making powers, Jonathan Herring challenges that assumption. Drawing on feminist and disability perspectives he argues that we

are all in fact, 'vulnerable' and we need to replace the competent, able-bodied, independent person as the norm which the law is based on and instead fashion which recognises our interdependence and mutuality.



## **Sporting Future:**

*A New Strategy for an Active Nation*



#SportingFuture

December 2015

**Published on 17th December 2015, the Government's report 'Sporting Future: a new strategy for an active nation'** presents the outcome of the Government's recent consultation on sport. The strategy aims to improve participation in sport with UK Sport, the organisation supporting Olympic Sports, helping to drive grassroots participation.

There is a shift in the strategy to making the nation more physically active. 5 key outcomes are set out: physical wellbeing, mental wellbeing, individual development, social and community development and economic development.

Sporting Future: a new strategy for an active nation can be accessed [here](#).

## From the Vault...

# “They want to manage her, not to understand her ....”

By Anonymous

First published in ACT Bulletin 48 July 2004

**This email from a parent who wishes to remain anonymous was circulated on [www.ldforums.org](http://www.ldforums.org) and raised a great deal of discussion amongst members. ACT contacted the parent who agreed we could print this account of her experiences of battling for her daughter's rights and her feelings of disempowerment and frustration.**

### From: Anonymous

I am the parent of a daughter with learning disabilities who lives in a residential home in England. She is in her twenties. When she went to this house, they were given full information about how to support her successfully. They knew the things that she liked to do, where she needed support, how to communicate successfully with her, her need for respect and honesty, fairness and consistency. They were told quite clearly what would fail ie attempts to control her, putting anything in place which she did not fully understand and accept the reasons for etc. It was explained to them that she needed to work with reality more than most people - if something was not meaningful to her or she did not understand something, it seemed to affect her stability and her behaviour would deteriorate. The importance of meaningful activities was also stressed and agreed.

I understand that the experience and skill gained by other people are not immediately transferable to others and that it takes a period of time to understand a person, to make a few mistakes and learn from them. I also understand that

different environments can throw up different challenges.

I am very fortunate in that my daughter has an excellent social worker, who will follow up a placement and will ask awkward questions and will challenge people. We listen to my daughter and we listen to each other and this makes us a good team. So my daughter and myself are very fortunate in that we have some very good support. My daughter is also fortunate in having a mother whose job is supporting people with learning disabilities and therefore has a very clear understanding of issues around people's rights etc and the various difficulties around supporting people well. When my daughter went into this placement, I therefore knew all the right questions to ask and I asked them. I was given very encouraging replies. I then said that I did not want any spin. When I was speaking to my daughter, I spoke to her with total honesty and if I was going to say that something was available, I wanted to know it would be available. I was assured that there was no spin in what was said to me and to her.

It did not take long to find that there was a considerable amount of spin or downright dishonesty. When I have tried to face them with this, it has been very difficult. As a parent, you get very used to being given the run around and if you say what you really think, then you are emotional and unreasonable and you lose credibility - at least in their eyes - but as they have the power, that can be very important. And so, I

try to be very reasonable and understanding but even in spite of this, I am sometimes accused of being frightening. I had always found this quite difficult to understand as I never shout - I don't even raise my voice, I never say anything without supporting it by clear evidence, I always listen to others and answer their questions and change my own view if shown why I should etc. When I asked someone who I knew respected me why this was said, their answer was because you don't back off when they try to disempower you and therefore to them you are frightening. I found this quite sad.

As well as working with my daughter's social worker to try to improve things, I contacted an advocate who sees my daughter once every couple of months - she also attended a training day which was looking to improve the situation and she said there were positive outcomes from this - but to me it was again, until it is put into practice, just words. When I told her the very many things that have gone wrong from very basic personal care issues to matters which required more skill, she tells me that it is still one of the most successful placements for my daughter's particular condition - the others are less successful.

I have just attended another review and again raised my concerns and I have been told that this review was positive because the issues were raised and I have to give the organisation a chance to get things right - even although in essence we are covering the same ground all the time. I am



## From the Vault...

encouraged to hope that this time it might be different - and maybe with all the energy and support systems I build around myself and my daughter - including good staff on the ground - it might actually be different.

I however did not feel like being reasonable any more. I felt a deep sense of anger, an anger that I feel I cannot express outside my home because if I do, I will lose credibility and what benefit would be gained by the expression of my anger anyway. People may have lied about the service that they said they would provide and are being paid countless thousands of pounds to provide. This can be easily evidenced. There is however no easy mechanism for bringing people to task over their obvious and evidenced failures and if you do go down that path, where else is there which is going to even provide the positives that this service provides. This is a very disempowering place to be. I woke

up at 4am this morning and I really cried. I do not have the power to change all of this myself. Yes, I will continue to work to do so. Yes, I will go armed with my support team and my evidence and maybe slowly bit by bit it will all improve or maybe it won't because ultimately the success or otherwise is not in my control or my daughter's. It is in the control of people who are being paid so much money but do not seem willing to be fully accountable and who get off with it because there is nowhere better. They should hang their heads in shame.

I say thank you however to all of you who do really try hard to support people with respect and who challenge themselves to gain the understanding that it takes to support people well. I know that it is not always easy. To the others I will say that I will not give you the ammunition of seeing my anger or my tears because you will use that to disempower me further. I will

continue to be "credible" and hopefully a little more "frightening" in my quiet way - I will continue to build up the evidence until one day perhaps people might think it is in their best interests to provide my daughter with the service they are being paid to provide - even if just to get me off their backs.

Meanwhile, in the privacy of my own home, I will occasionally allow myself to feel my own anger so I can question whether I am really doing all that I can do or just allowing the weight of the system to disempower me. I will also occasionally allow the tears to flow as a pure expression of the pain I feel. I worked and listened and struggled for many years before I gained an understanding of my daughter - that was the really difficult bit for me. Now, it should be easy but no-one seems to want to hear. They want to manage her, not to understand her.



## We'd like to hear from you!

Everyone at ACT hopes that you enjoyed our latest e-bulletin. At ACT we want to make sure that everything we publish makes a difference and matters to you. We aim to publish stories, news, research and resources that support your day to day work. With this in mind if you have any ideas about how we can improve the bulletin please contact [ann-craft-trust@nottingham.ac.uk](mailto:ann-craft-trust@nottingham.ac.uk)

### Would you like to contribute to ACT?



We all know that reflecting on safeguarding practice is important. Championing the work we do and celebrating our successes helps us all to explore our roles fully. The ACT e-Bulletin is a great way to showcase what you do. If you'd like to write for ACT contact [matthew.parr@nottingham.ac.uk](mailto:matthew.parr@nottingham.ac.uk)

# COMING SOON...

## ACT's Open Training Programme 2016



## One Day Courses in:

- Safeguarding Disabled Children
- Sexual Exploitation of Children with Learning Disabilities
- The Impact of the Mental Capacity Act on Young People
- Is It Abuse or Poor Practice?
- Implementing the Care Act and Making Safeguarding Personal
- Safeguarding Adults at Risk in Sport

Each one day course uses the latest research, legislation and teaching methods delivered by trainers with backgrounds in Social Work, Youth Justice and Health.

ACT's Open Training has been specifically created to support professionals involved in all levels of safeguarding.

Each course costs £65 per person with discounts available for group bookings.

**Full Details coming soon.**

Email [ann-craft-trust@nottingham.ac.uk](mailto:ann-craft-trust@nottingham.ac.uk) to register your interest

# **THE ANN CRAFT TRUST**

## **ACTing Against Abuse**

**ACT is an association concerned with facilitating the protection of all adults and children with learning disabilities who are vulnerable to abuse.**

### **AIMS:**

**ACT maintains an information exchange network for statutory and voluntary agencies, for professionals and individuals through a national office and**

**the production and circulation of a quarterly bulletin**

**the compilation of a network of members and their specific interests**

**the editing and updating of an annotated bibliography and information sheets on specific topics.**

**ACT works towards raising the general level of awareness of issues relating to the abuse of children and adults with learning disabilities by**

**making links with other relevant organisations (both specialist and main-stream)**

**producing a wide range of publications**

**organisation of, and contribution to conferences, seminars and training events**

**contributing to public debate as appropriate when matters of concern arise locally or nationally.**

**ACT works to an equal opportunities policy, facilitating protection to all people with disabilities, with attention and respect to race, culture, religion, gender, age and sexual orientation.**

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**ACTing against abuse**