

Lambeth Safeguarding Adults Board: May 2020

As a result of our changing world, much of our usual LSAB business looks different at the moment. Nonetheless, we remain connected with Safeguarding Leads across the partnership - this has enabled us to share resources, develop practice tools and revise protocols to support our joint response to this pandemic, especially for those who are most vulnerable. We remain fully committed to responding to adults in need of safeguarding now, and as the pandemic unfolds.

This bulletin outlines some key areas of support; all of the below and much more can be found on the [LSAB website](#), which is regularly updated with key information on coronavirus (Covid-19) as it links to adult safeguarding.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank everyone in the LSAB for all of their hard work in responding to this pandemic, from the community organisations that make up our Community Reference Group who continue to provide a vital support link to Lambeth residents, to the Performance and Quality subgroup members who have come together to create templates and guidance to support professionals. Finally, a thank you to all those working on the frontline who continue to play such an important role in protecting adults at risk.



*Siân Walker,
Independent Chair of the Lambeth Safeguarding Adults Board*

Supporting volunteers

In Lambeth, volunteers have played a crucial role in the response to this crisis particularly in delivering food parcels and medications to those are sick, self-isolating or most in need. This [short safeguarding awareness video](#) for volunteers produced by Waltham Forest has and can be used by any organisation/project/initiative that are recruiting volunteers to support during COVID. It explains the important role volunteers play in protecting adults at risk with the key message of: "If you see something, say something."

The Lambeth Safeguarding Adults Board and Lambeth Safeguarding Children Partnership have created a simple one page document to help volunteers spot the signs of abuse, available to [download here](#).

This is complemented by a [briefing on correct ways to handle money](#).

Mental Capacity Act Guidance

The Mental Capacity Act has not been altered by the Emergency Coronavirus Act, and the [Emergency MCA/DoLS Guidance](#) released by Government outlines the expectations around MCA/DoLS arrangements during the coronavirus pandemic. This guidance remains under review - so changes may be made in the future.

When carrying out a Mental Capacity assessment, no option is as good as face to face - but in the current context we need to be able to collect evidence in as many ways as possible. The Court of Protection has confirmed that carrying out video assessments is acceptable during this time. The LSAB's Performance and Quality subgroup have developed [guidance on options available for carrying out MCA assessments](#) including a template to support professionals completing assessments during this time.

[39 Essex Chambers](#) also regularly update their website with resources relating to COVID-19 and the MCA 2005.

Advance Decisions

Advance Decisions, are decisions where people make a formal record setting out exactly what medical care they would *not want* to have in the future, in specific situations. Compassion in Dying have released new information on [how to make your wishes known if you get coronavirus](#). They have also created a [new resource to support GPs](#) with advance care planning conversations over the phone or video, in the context of coronavirus.

Today also marks the beginning of Dying Matters Week and [Lambeth Advance Care Planning Consortium](#) is running several online/phone dial-in events and recruiting for advance care planning awareness-raising Champions to join their team.

Domestic Abuse

The news has highlighted how survivors of domestic abuse may feel particularly alone and at risk during self-isolation. In Lambeth, we want people to know that our Domestic Violence Provider [the Gaia Centre](#) remains open and can provide emotional and practical support to survivors in Lambeth via telephone, email or text – whatever the safest method.

Spires Streetlink would like Lambeth organisations to give out their number to vulnerable women who are involved in sex work or those who are sexually exploited, who need support. Spires can meet the women individually to give them condoms or essential food and toiletries. **Tel: 08081645246**

Boots Pharmacies are displaying domestic abuse support information in their stores and allowing customers to use a confidential room to make a call. This is in partnership with Hestia on their [Safe Spaces campaign](#). All Lambeth pharmacies, including Boots, have been provided with information about the Gaia Centre and guidance on how to respond to disclosures of domestic abuse from customers.

Lambeth Council's [Violence Against Women and Girls webpage](#) also has links to a wide range of resources to support our responses to domestic abuse.

Be Scam Aware

Most people offering to help vulnerable people in their neighbourhood are genuinely kind, honest and caring. Those self-isolating will be stuck for food, supplies and someone to talk to if they don't have friends, family or a nearby neighbour that they already know. However, some people may try to take advantage of the increased isolation faced by these vulnerable groups. [Friends Against Scams](#) have developed a quick guide to help people spot the signs.

[Lambeth Trading Standards](#) have also been working hard to tackle local scams.

Self-neglect

Individuals who may be [self-neglecting](#) at this time will be even more isolated from their usual support networks. This is always a challenging area of safeguarding; [guidance](#) has been written to help provide a clearer pathway for all staff and practitioners in Lambeth to follow when dealing with people who are self-neglecting or hoarding. [London Fire Brigade](#) are also continuing to provide support to the most vulnerable and we will make telephone contact to give fire safety advice and if necessary, will still attend to supply/install smoke alarms.

Support for those living with dementia

In Lambeth, we have nearly 2,000 residents with dementia and many of our residents have family members with dementia living outside the borough. The UK and global response to Covid-19 is particularly challenging for families and people living with dementia - The Alzheimer's Society received nearly 3,300 calls about coronavirus during March – roughly 100 a day - whilst its online community, Talking Point, saw a 600% increase in sign-ups.

Lambeth Dementia Action Alliance have put together some resources to help those with dementia and their loved ones. This can be found [here](#).

Local support

[Lambeth Council's website](#) is regularly updated with key information on coronavirus (Covid-19) including what you can do to protect yourself, support your community and the impact of the disease on local services. The council has also produced a [guide for residents](#) during the COVID-19 crisis which sets out the breadth of help out there during this crisis.