

# Lambeth Safeguarding Adults Board: Safeguarding Adults Week

## Self-neglect

### What is self-neglect?

Self-neglect is extremely difficult to define given it takes several forms. It can be found in all areas of society and needs to be understood in the context of each individual's life experience.

[The signs of self-neglect](#) often include a dirty or squalid home circumstances, poor hygiene, and personal care, dirty, unchanged or inappropriate clothing, signs of weight loss, lack of evidence of food in the house, untreated injuries or skin breakdown, or poor dental care.

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### How do we respond to self-neglect?

Many professionals working with adults have encountered cases of self-neglect or hoarding. This is a challenging area of work because often there is no simple way to help. This [short animation](#) highlights the challenges we face when working with someone who can self-neglect.

To help you and your agency play your part, the LSAB has also developed a simple guide with the [key messages when working with people who self-neglect](#).

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### Multi-agency guidance

The Care Act 2014 places duties on *all professionals* to respond to people who self-neglect. The LSAB is currently trialling our new [multi-agency self-neglect guidance](#), which outlines the different ways in which we can support people. This guidance also outlines what to do when cases are more complex and require formal multi-agency response.

We want this to be a tool which works for all organisations and services and encourage everyone to download a copy and share their feedback by emailing [LSABAdmin@lambeth.gov.uk](mailto:LSABAdmin@lambeth.gov.uk)

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### Home Fire Safety Visits

Where a person's home environment becomes cluttered through the excessive hoarding of items, the risk of a fire occurring increases, and it is more difficult for those living within the property to evacuate safely. With the consent of the adult, the London Fire Brigade will undertake a home safety visit and provide the necessary guidance and advice regarding fire safety, and also where necessary will install smoke alarms and /or other specialist equipment.

Any individual or partner agency can make a referral for a home safety visit by contacting the [London Fire Brigade](#). The adult, or a friend or family member, may also make a self-referral. The London Fire Brigade also have some [useful tips for carers and support workers](#).

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### Safeguarding Masterclass on self-neglect

In 2018, the LSAB hosted a masterclass on self-neglect, led by Professor Suzy Braye. We were lucky enough to be able to create a permanent resource, based on the key content, learning and discussion from this masterclass series. This booklet captures the essential knowledge and legislative frameworks that can guide professionals working with adults at risk. It also provides links to further resources and research on best practice. To access the booklet, [click here](#).