

# SAFE Newsletter

January 2025

Welcome to our New Year 2025 newsletter

It is that time for us to hold on to some of those grand plans we had for the year as we made our resolutions less than a week ago. It may be that those plans to train for the marathon haven't got as far as putting on trainers yet (I'll get some new ones in the sales), or that dry January came to an abrupt end with some wine that needed finishing on the 2nd. The point is, we aim to be our best selves and hopefully help others to be as well, and we keep hoping.

One way to do this is, of course, to commit to reading the SAFE newsletter.

This month we have some news from our first workshops which took place just before Christmas in Oldham. This is exciting as it means we are getting our first results and already achieving some significant insight into what safety means for older people.

Also this month is an appeal to **help with recruitment for our next workshops in Newcastle on 22nd and 23rd January.** We

would love them to be as successful as those in Oldham. Perhaps a good target for the start of the New Year. So, if you are in the North East (not only Newcastle) and can help with recruitment please get in touch.

Our staff profile this month is Jamie Scorer, Senior Lecturer in Social Work at the University of Sunderland who has been part of the project from the beginning.

Wishing you and all of your endeavours the best that can be as we move into 2025.

## In this newsletter:

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Welcome to our New Year newsletter

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Creative Workshops in Oldham

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**Help Needed** - Recruiting for Newcastle workshops

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Team profile: Jamie Scorer

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**SAFEGUARDING  
ADULTS  
FOR  
EMPOWERMENT**

Any comments or suggestions for the newsletter, or for more information about the research, contact:  
keith.chappell@sunderland.ac.uk

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## Creative Workshops in Oldham

On December 16th and 17th we held our first creative workshops at the Age UK centre in Oldham. Thanks to some great help with recruitment by Age UK Oldham and Made by Mortals we had sixteen people attend two sessions each over the two days.

During the sessions participants were led by Jess Dougherty and Paul Hines through a range of writing and art-based activities to explore what it means to feel and be safe in older age.

We are still in the early stages of analysing what came out of the workshops but many themes came up in the art work and during discussion with participants.

Concepts such as home, belonging, being visible to others and being respected in a changing and fast moving world were visited by many. Other themes will undoubtedly come up as we look more closely at the data. Encouragingly, the feedback from participants about their experience of taking part was overwhelmingly positive. A testament to the skills of Jess and Paul in leading the sessions.



SOME OF THE ARTWORK FROM  
THE OLDHAM WORKSHOPS

As we examine the data more closely and add to it from other workshops we will provide more detail in this newsletter and start producing outputs for journals and other outlets. Keep an eye out and check the article below for details of getting involved in future sessions.

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## Help Needed - recruiting for Newcastle workshops

**Our Creative workshops** move on now to Newcastle and will explore what safety means for older people through various creative media, just as we did in Oldham. The workshops will each involve 6-8 older people with care and support needs and will be led by Paul Hine (Made by Mortals) and Jess Dougherty (our team artist), supported by Sarah Lonbay and Keith Chappell (UoS).

The workshops will take place in central **Newcastle on 22nd and 23rd January. At present we need help with recruiting** so if you have any connections in the North East we would greatly appreciate your help.

We want to get people from as broad a range of experiences as possible involved so please do mention it to as many people as possible and encourage them to get in touch.

Criteria for participation are:

- To be over 65, with care and support needs
- To have capacity to give consent

### SUPPORT FOR PARTICIPATION

We have funding to help with support needs for participants, to provide interpreters if needed, and to cover costs of travel or other expenses necessary for someone to take part. If people need help booking transport we can also help with that. There are also vouchers for attending as a way of saying thank you to participants.

If you feel you could help in recruiting participants for Newcastle please contact Keith Chappell at:

[keith.chappell@sunderland.ac.uk](mailto:keith.chappell@sunderland.ac.uk)

Tel: 07354 481606



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## Team Profiles

### Jamie Scorer - Senior Lecturer in Social Work, University of Sunderland

Jamie has been part of the SAFE team from its beginnings and has a particular interest in adult law for social workers and mental health. His engagement with the University of Sunderland started in 2001 when he enrolled as a student on a social work course. He has worked in various social work teams over the years and enjoys opportunities to develop his professional skills and knowledge. He qualified as an Approved Mental Health professional in 2012 and a Best Interest Assessor in 2014. He became a Lecturer at the University in 2020.

Jamie walks the difficult line between working in Sunderland and being a dedicated fan of Newcastle United FC. In his spare time Jamie is a keen artist and writer of fiction.



**JAMIE SCORER**