



# SAFE Newsletter

June 2025

## Welcome to our June newsletter

Summer is with us, and we enter a different time on the University campus. Students are focussed on assessments and things feel quiet. Sunderland as a city, however, is buzzing with the excitement of the football team being promoted to the Premier League and Roker beach looks fabulous in the sun. A few more weeks warming up and it may be worth a paddle in the North Sea.

It remains a busy time for the SAFE project as we continue with our second phase of the project.

Interviews are continuing and we are busy with analysis of the both the first and second phases. Since our last newsletter we have also delivered a public lecture as part of the Centre for Applied Social Sciences series and spoken at a conference of the British Association of Social Workers (BASW).

In the newsletter this month we have a summary of the lecture and a poem sent to us by someone who attended BASW meeting. Both events have provided some very useful feedback

for the project and indicate a wider interest in what we are doing.

Also this month, we have a profile of team member James Babyk-Glynn from Oldham and some information about upcoming events.

If you have anything you would like included in future editions of the newsletter please don't hesitate to get in touch. We have many partner organisations who are interested in events and issues related to adult safeguarding.

### In this newsletter:

Welcome to our June newsletter

Public Lecture

Poetry on safety and age

Team profile: James Babyk-Glynn

Other News



### SAFEGUARDING ADULTS FOR EMPOWERMENT

Any comments or suggestions for the newsletter (including being removed from our circulation list), or for more information about the research, contact: [keith.chappell@sunderland.ac.uk](mailto:keith.chappell@sunderland.ac.uk)

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## Public Lecture

On April 30<sup>th</sup> the team delivered a public lecture as part of the Centre for Applied Social Sciences (CASS) series at the University of Sunderland. The lecture was well attended both in person and via online streaming. We received some great feedback and very helpful questions.

In the lecture we summarised the approach of the project and summarised our initial insights from Phase 1 - the workshops on safety with older people. We were able to share some of the artwork and poetry that we have included in previous newsletters and also some of the comments from participants. Our key insights so far from the analysis indicate three themes relating to safety for people as they get older:

1) Redefining agency with a changing self - adapting to an ageing body and retaining a sense of still being a valuable person when the things you can do change.



2) Redefining agency in a changing world - actively responding to a changing and coping with feeling left behind when things such as technology, language and values change so quickly. Key to being safe is the power of relationships and mutual understanding.

3) Negotiating safety in place - taking precautions to ensure risks are managed through choosing places and times to go out, people to mix with and putting in place systems to help keep safe (such as call buttons and letting people know where you are).

Each of these aspects highlighted the importance of relationships for safety and how important they are for professionals working with older people to be able to establish trust and relationships in order to support them.

This is only a brief summary and we are now in the process of writing up an article for publication that goes into more depth on these matters. We will keep you updated on this.





## Poem

### Safeguarding the elder.

Where to start; is aged 60 the right place?  
When perhaps the 'unreal' aspirations of the elder  
Gather pace,

A time when the elders voice becomes a buried treasure,  
If safeguarding be true to purpose, goodbye ageism,  
A wrong by any measure.

A time perhaps to consider possible ills in store,  
Like powers of attorney, helpful maybe, not so when,  
malpractice is to the fore.

A time when hidden strengths and resilience are permitted to boast,  
If necessary confronting coercive control and dismissive action,  
To that we'll raise a toast.

A time to reflect on intergenerational complexity,  
None falling neatly into their assumed demographic sphere,  
All embraced by Safeguarding activity.

A time to milk the experience and celebrate the wisdom in the elders frame,  
It's rich, it's varied and it's uniquely portrayed,  
Caught in Selfhood, Its new found name



**April 2025. Participant in BASW Meeting.**



## Team Profiles

### James Babyk-Glynn, Business Manager, Oldham Safeguarding Adults Board

Following roles with Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Service and Bury Safeguarding Partnership, James joined the Oldham Safeguarding Adults Board (OSAB) Business Unit in April 2020 (at a very interesting time as covid lockdowns began!) and was promoted to the Business Manager role just over two years ago.

OSAB is a statutory multi-agency partnership responsible for leading strategic and operational safeguarding adults work within Oldham to make sure adults at risk are cared for somewhere free from abuse and harassment, in their daily lives. The board is made up of senior people from various agencies involved in preventing the abuse and neglect of adults including Adult Social Care, Police, the NHS and voluntary sector organisations. James is responsible for strategic business planning processes and the legal operations of the Board and facilitating links with services and multi-agency partnerships across Oldham to promote and embed adult safeguarding practice. James is also the main point of contact for the Board's business programme and strategy, data, and service user engagement mechanisms.

James contributes adult safeguarding expertise to the SAFE Project research team and facilitates the involvement of Oldham's partner agencies and residents.

In his spare time, James enjoys taking Billy, his Jug (Jack Russell/Pug cross) for long walks, getting to as many concerts and gigs as he can and escaping to Wales as often as possible!



**JAMES BABYK-GLYNN**

### THE STATE OF AGEING 2025

**The centre for ageing better has released its report on the state of ageing in England. It makes pretty interesting reading. link below:**

**<https://ageing-better.org.uk/summary-state-ageing-2025>**

"I actually feel comfortable and I feel safe where I live, and I think that's because of the neighbours and the neighbourhood, because everybody kind of looks out for one another, makes sure everyone is ok, keeps everywhere clean and tidy in the close."

**Man in his seventies,  
Knowsley  
(from The State of Ageing  
2025)**

## **OTHER NEWS**

### **SPREADING THE NEWS**

Later this month we will be presenting some of our results to the NHS Safeguarding Network - they have shown a great interest in the project and we hope to collaborate more with them in the future.

As we complete our analysis of the first phase of data collection we are keen to share our outcomes with other groups. If you would like us to come and talk about safeguarding older people, please get in touch via the email at the beginning of the newsletter.

### **AUDIO CASE STUDY**

The development of our audio case study for use later in the project with practitioners such as social workers is now well underway by our partner Made by Mortals. We will keep you up to date with the developments and may be looking for some people to listen in and give feedback as we develop it.



**Image courtesy of Age Without Limits  
<https://www.agewithoutlimits.org/>**