

SAFE Newsletter

November 2025

Welcome to our November newsletter

Our newsletter this month is timed to coincide with national Safeguarding Adults Week. The national theme this year is about prevention of abuse. This aim goes to the heart of the SAFE project and we are delighted to promote links to a number of activities and resources in the newsletter. The SAFE project aims to promote a more personalised understanding of safeguarding for older people through understanding and promoting safety as understood by older people.

We have gained some valuable insight into this through our workshops and interviews so far and each new person who takes part in the study provides vital insight into preventing abuse and improving responses to abuse and neglect. We are looking to recruit more people to participate so please see the information below, especially if you are linked to an advocacy service or a care provider. We have also launched a new website for the SAFE project to enable us to share information more widely.

At the moment the website contains both general information about the project and also information sheets for potential participants. If you know anyone who may wish to take part in the project please share this information with them.

The end of the year continues to be busy, as expected, and we have had several meetings to develop our analysis of data so far and begin writing up results. In the New Year we will add interviews with social workers and advocates to our ongoing interviews with older people and families. Watch out for ways to participate!

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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

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Safeguarding Adults Week 17-21 November 2025

Prevention - Act Before Abuse

National Safeguarding Adults Week this year is focused on prevention of abuse, something very close to the aims of the SAFE project. There are a number of events taking place nationally and locally, many of them online and free. We have listed some below, including those being held by our partner organisations in the North East and North West of England.

The week is led by the Ann Craft Trust (www.anncrafttrust.org) and each day of the week has a theme:

Monday - Change the Conversation. Today's about proactive intervention – about the good things we can do, as individuals and organisations, to create safer environments that actively work to prevent abuse. How can we amplify individual voices to reduce the risk of harm, neglect, and isolation?

Tuesday – Prevention in Practice. How does prevention work in practice? What role should leadership play in setting the tone and building more supportive environments?

Wednesday – Creating Empowering Environments. How empathy, understanding, co-production, and positive risk taking can help create trauma informed approaches. This can support staff to feel confident in enabling and empowering individuals.

Thursday – Trust Your Instincts. How we can build our courage and resilience as individuals to speak out. Looking at organisational and individual tools that help develop supportive cultures in which good safeguarding practices can thrive.

Friday – Celebrate the Safer Cultures. Shining a spotlight on examples of good practice, so that we can illustrate what we mean by “safer cultures”.

To sign up for resources from the Ann Craft Trust, go to:

<https://www.anncrafttrust.org/events/safeguarding-adults-week/>



Links to national events for safeguarding adults week:

<https://safeguardingsouthend.co.uk/national-safeguarding-adults-awareness-week-2025/>



For events and resources in Oldham, click here:

<https://www.osab.org.uk/post/?permalink=national-safeguarding-adults-week-november-2025>



For events and resources in Newcastle, click here:

<https://www.newcastlesafeguarding.org.uk/safeguarding-adults-week-2025/>

New Website

We have launched a new website for the SAFE project to share information about what we are doing. You can find copies of all our newsletters there, access information for potential participants and meet the team. As the project progresses, we will also be sharing outcomes and outputs from the project.

The new website can be found at:

<https://wp.sunderland.ac.uk/safe/>



Project Update

New Routes for Participation

After checking that our ethical provisions allow us to recruit more widely we are now able to recruit participants for interviews through advocacy services in any areas and from care homes. At the moment, we are particularly aiming to recruit older people who have experience of safeguarding processes or family members who have supported them. If you would like to help with recruitment, please contact Keith Chappell at: Keith.Chappell@sunderland.ac.uk or 07354 481606.

Interviews

We continue to interview older people and family members and want to say thank you to all those who have contributed so far. We are still looking to recruit many more participants so please encourage people to get in touch.

Talks and presentations

Over the last few weeks we have given webinars to the North East Enhancing Care for Older People (ENCOP) network and to the Care Home Leads Forum in North Yorkshire. The discussions have provided some very useful insights into potential areas of impact for the project and helped to spread the message of making safeguarding personal for older people.

If your organisation would like to hear more, please let us know.