



Hidden in Plain Sight

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RURAL SAFEGUARDING: MAIN POINTS

1. The main difference between urban safeguarding and rural safeguarding is the volume
2. Individuals who need safeguarding live everywhere in Suffolk e.g., neglect takes place in all families and tends to be more emotional neglect with increasing affluence
3. The CAS mantra – see it, say it, report it, so that safeguarding agencies stop it – remains true, however isolated the person or the property
4. The Suffolk Safeguarding Partnership has reviewed a number of cases over the last few years in which vulnerable individuals of all ages have been hidden in plain sight. Many of their stories are truly terrifying. We publicise the learning from all of these cases e.g., on our website

SUPPORTING THE SUPPORTERS

1. Whatever the size of your organisation, whatever your role, you become part of the team around the person at risk once you see a safeguarding concern
2. An outcome from the recent Appreciative Inquiry into the impact of Covid on safeguarding in Suffolk is to establish a community consultation line for small voluntary and community groups to access so they can discuss their concerns. This will be linked into the county's Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH)
3. We are about to convene a summit about mental health needs going unmet, including a lack of beds, people waiting for admission or discharge or coming to the attention of the police and for whom there is nowhere to go.
4. Do contact the Safeguarding Partnership when you need to. We are here for you.

OTHER RELEVANT RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE APPRECIATIVE INQUIRY

- 1 Develop the capacity and capability to respond to future 'black swan events' or to be able to cope with continuous pressure Senior leaders of each agency
- 2 Agencies take steps to understand the lived experience of their clients and customers during the pandemic, in order to learn the lessons and to build a greater understanding of lived experience into 'business as usual'
3. Tailor services more to the needs of specific communities such as black and ethnic minority communities
4. In any future lockdown, allow local people at risk in their current situation to move to go to a place of safety before being locked down
5. Improve triage processes
6. Extend the current inter-agency housing protocol to Suffolk charities working with housing issues