

Newsletter, October 2016

We hope this newsletter contains some items of interest – please feel free to ask us about anything in it, and/or to forward it to anyone else who you think might like to receive it.

New campaign – “Friends Against Scams”

Scammers often target vulnerable people such as the elderly, or people with learning disabilities or mental health issues. You know the kind of thing: a letter or email saying you have won the lottery, and if you’ll only send a small amount of money to cover administrative costs then your winnings will be sent immediately Well, Trading Standards have set up an excellent website and campaign to tackle this issue, called Friends Against Scams. [Click here for more details](#).

Places available: “Sexual Activity and the Mental Capacity Act”, London, 25th November 2016

We have had a lot of requests to run an open training session on this topic, so we’ve teamed up with our good friends at Mosaic to run it in London on Friday 25th November 2016. [Click here for more details and to book your place](#) before they all disappear!

Funding available to provide support for people with learning disabilities and/or autism

NHS England has announced that £100 million will be made available over 5 years to develop and strengthen good quality community support options. There is a 3 year target of reducing by half the number of people with learning disabilities and/or autism who are in hospital. For more details [please click here](#).

Are you worried about losing your 2017/18 training budget?

People often call us and say they have money to spend from this year’s budget, but they aren’t sure what they need at present. If you are worried about losing your

2017/18 budget (because you haven't spent all of your 2016/17 budget) then why not purchase a voucher from us? This voucher can be set against the cost of a future training session. Just [drop us a line](#) to discuss.

Multi Agency Safeguarding Learning Events

Under Section 44 of the Care Act, a Safeguarding Adults Board is **required** to commission a Safeguarding Adults Review (formerly a Serious Case Review) in certain situations. The Board also has the **discretionary power** to commission multi agency reviews and learning events in situations which aren't quite as serious, but which contain elements of learning for professionals. We have recently undertaken two of these: one for Isle of Wight Safeguarding Adults Board ([click here and scroll down to Mr V](#)), and the other for Sutton Safeguarding Adults Board (our report of this case has not yet been published).

In both cases we collated the information, then facilitated a multi agency event (with the professionals who were involved at the time), and then wrote a report outlining the issues and making recommendations for future improvements. The focus was on learning from what happened, rather than pointing the finger of blame. Both were very well received. If you would like us to do something similar for you then please let us know.

Incidentally the Isle of Wight SAB has now taken this one stage further, and has asked us to facilitate several learning events based on our original report. These events have been opened up to any professional on the Island, not just those who were actually involved, as a way of helping them to learn the lessons to improve their own practice in similar cases.

Suicide support and resources

World Suicide Prevention Day, which took place on 10th September, continues to generate much comment, debate and awareness. Here are some resources you might find useful:

- [Papyrus UK](#) campaigns for greater awareness, and offers support for young people who may be considering suicide
- [Mind](#) has some useful advice for anyone who supports someone who is suicidal
- [The Samaritans](#) have some interesting statistics on suicide in the UK and the Republic of Ireland
- [Harmless](#) provides support for people who self harm, as well as for people who are affected by suicide
- [Facebook](#) recently launched a tool called Facebook Safety which aims to support people who might be experiencing self harm or suicidal thoughts
- There are numerous smartphone apps available, for example [Suicide Lifeguard](#) for Apple iOS, or [Stay Alive](#) for Android

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