

## **Self -Neglect and Hoarding New Multi-Agency Resources for Practitioners June 2024 Briefing Paper**

Self-Neglect and Hoarding feature in a significant number of national, regional and local Safeguarding Adult Reviews, highlighting the fact that self-neglect is a complex area for intervention as issues of capacity, lifestyle and choice are often involved which requires the judgement of individual practitioners about what is an acceptable way of living and the degree of risk some choices pose to the individual and wider community.

Following a number of Safeguarding Adult Lessons Learned Reviews, Darlington Safeguarding Partnership has revised its Multi-Agency Practice Guidance on Self-Neglect and Hoarding to incorporate the learning which has been identified and includes examples of positive, flexible and creative approaches to support practitioners in engaging with people who are self-neglecting to help understand the barriers for those who consistently refuse support.

The partnership has also established a number of additional resources to support and enhance multi-agency working practice including the development of a multi-agency Risk Enablement Forum to manage those high risk and complex cases.

- **Self-Neglect and Hoarding Multi-Agency Procedure and Practice Guidance:** The revised guidance includes mental capacity and self-neglect, guidance on the key characteristics of self-neglect and hoarding, a clutter scale tool, the issue of consent and choice, Making Safeguarding Personal (MSP), key legislation, approaches to service refusal and risk assessment.
- **Self- Neglect Pathway Flowchart:** Outlines the process to be followed in referring concerns about self-neglect to Adult Social Care.
- **Self-Neglect Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Tool-** the tool supports practitioners in assessing risk in seven separate categories and identifying the level of risk and may be used to support a referral to Adult Social Care.
- **Risk Enablement Forum Flowchart and Referral Form and Manager checklist-** the partnership has also established a multi-agency Risk Enablement Forum to manage those high risk and complex cases where individuals with capacity are reluctant to engage with services and there is a risk to them or to others as a consequence of the self-neglect or hoarding.
- **The referral flowchart** explains the process and the circumstances in which a referral to the forum can be made.
- **The referral form and manager checklist** is a proforma which should be submitted via the Darlington Safeguarding Partnership Business Unit [DSP@darlington.gov.uk](mailto:DSP@darlington.gov.uk) if a practitioner and manager are of the opinion that a complex and high risk individual meets the criteria.

**The practice guidance and supporting tools and documents can all be found on the [Darlington Safeguarding Partnership website](#)**