



Adapting Services to Protect Adults at Risk

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BASW
The professional association for
social work and social workers

Presentation

- How we have adapted and developed since 2000
 - The Human Rights Act 1998 and related legislation
- Contemporary context and challenges
- Data and Trends
- Learning from the impact and legacy of Covid
- *Revisiting Safeguarding Practice*: building on updated guidance from Chief Social Worker
- Culture and workforce development for better safeguarding: final thoughts
- Key sources of information: LGA website, DHSC, BASW, SCIE

How we got here – a brief summary



The Human Rights Act 1998
(in force 2000)

No Secrets: Guidance on developing and implementing multi-agency policies and procedures to protect vulnerable adults from abuse (2000) v (reviewed 2008)

Care Standards Act 2000: regulation of care homes; statutory regulation of social work; Protection of Vulnerable Adults (2004)

Mental Capacity Act 2005

Putting people first; a shared vision and commitment to the transformation of adult social care.
HM Government; 2007.

Health and Social Care Act 2008: Care Quality Commission remit

Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards 2007

Equality Act 2010

Law Commission review of adult care legislation (2012)

Francis Report into Mid-Staffs Hospital (2013)

Care Bill (2013) leading to Care Act (2014)

Making Safeguarding Personal develops and diversified, specific safeguarding guidance and related legislation evolves

The Human Rights Act 1998

- Enables individuals to enforce 16 of the fundamental rights and freedoms in the [European Convention on Human Rights](#) (ECHR) in British courts.
- Including rights that impact directly on service provision in the health and social care sector.
- Freedom from torture, inhuman and degrading treatment (Article 3)
- Liberty (Article 5)
- Respect for private and family life, home and correspondence (Article 8)
- Not to be discriminated against in relation to any of the rights listed in the HRA (Article 14)

Contemporary adult safeguarding: *diverse types, complex context*

- Homelessness
- Domestic violence
- Child/adult transition & exploitation
- Modern Slavery
- Hate crime
- Mental health
- Isolation and loneliness
- Covid-19: impact during and after height of pandemic
- Poverty and inequality
- Staff shortages
- Carer pressures
- Funding
- Social care financial and eligibility reform
- Upcoming inspection in LAs

Trends 2021/22

There were an estimated 541,535 concerns of abuse raised during 2021-22, an increase of 9% on the previous year, which is slightly above the average annual growth rate per year for the previous four years (8% per year on average between 2016-17 and 2020-21).

Most common reason: neglect and acts of omission (31%)

The number of enquiries that commenced under Section 42 of the Care Act 2014 during the year increased by 6% to an estimated 161,925, following a similar decrease the previous year, and involved 129,685 individuals.

NHS Digital 21/22 Report

Learning from Covid – *Summary of DHSC Insights highlights (3rd report Dec 2021)*

- Long term upward trend in referrals reversed in lock down
- Referrals went up as lock downs lifted
- Later/delayed concerns increased severity and need for enquiry rather than casework
- Some types of abuse exacerbated: domestic abuse & self-neglect:
- More ‘hidden harms’
- More concerns in own homes (50% in 20/21)
- Councils reported more complexity/interrelated concerns
- Care & support access was reduced for person using services (and carers/families)
- Referrals of 85+ down; 16-65 up
- Technology innovations enabled interdisciplinary working
- More partnership working

Revisiting Safeguarding Practice – Jan 2022

- *Social workers, and other safeguarding practitioners, must always remember that people are the experts of their own lives and it is our role to work alongside them to identify strengths-based and outcomes-focused solutions - making safeguarding personal. We must work in a way that enhances individual involvement, choice and control as part of improving quality of life, wellbeing and safety.*

Lyn Romeo, CSW

Everybody's business

Myth:

Once a concern has been raised with the local authority, it is their responsibility to resolve the situation

Reality:

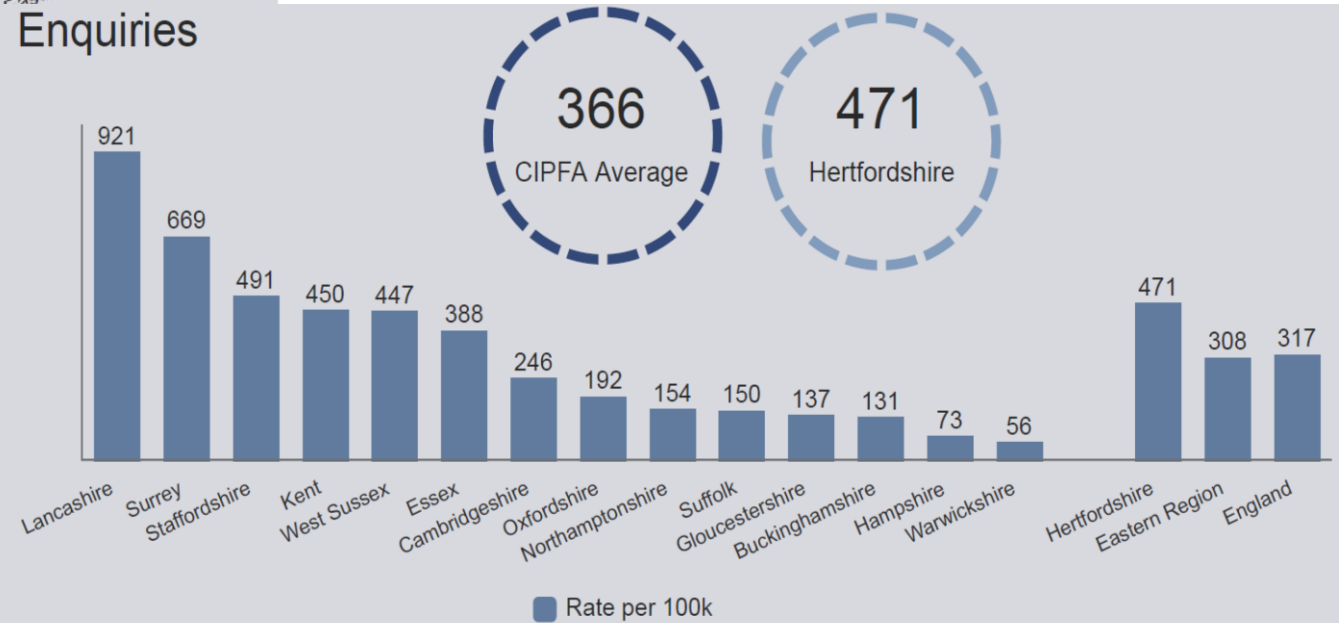
Safeguarding is a collective responsibility working across multiple partners who can help address safeguarding concerns

Variations by local authority

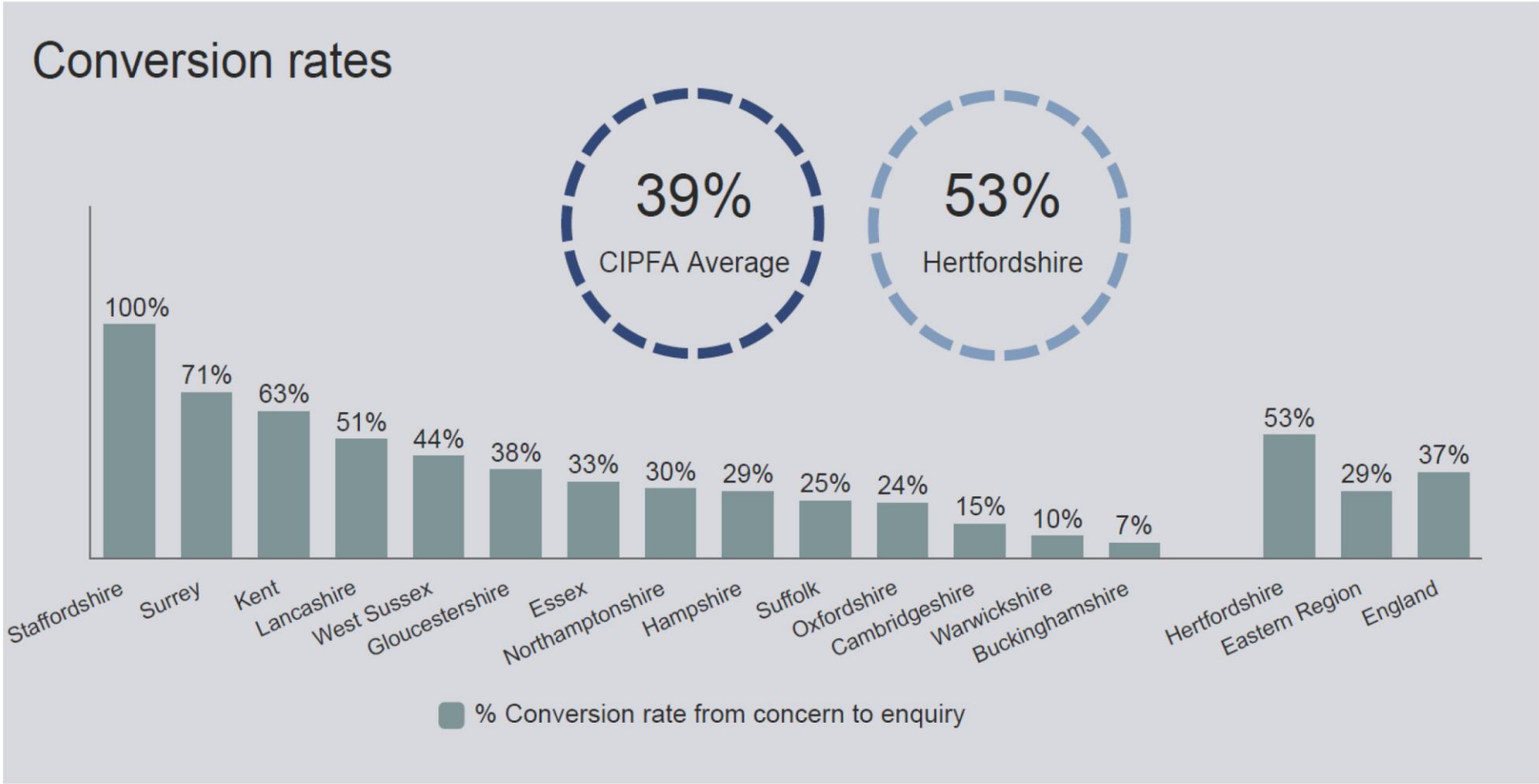
Concerns



Enquiries



Variations by local authority



Key messages – adapted from *Revisiting Safeguarding Practice* Jan 2022

Work with the person (and carers/families)

- Build mutual trust & understanding
- Maximise coproduction in practice, process and policy
- Take a positive risk approach
- People are experts in their own lives
- Support personal identity and characteristics

Social workers/practitioners

- Legal literacy
- Embody a person centred, outcomes approach
- Be interested
- Prevention focus
- Improve organisations
- Reflect on own practice
- Supervision
- Explore and use research, co-produced and practice evidence

Key messages – adapted from *Revisiting Safeguarding Practice* Jan 2022

Work with communities

- Raise awareness of types of exploitation & abuse
- How to raise concerns
- Accessible information
- Understand barriers
- Enable or commission access to community services
- Build relationships with community groups and leaders

Leaders

- Train and develop the workforce
- Embed collaboration ethos
- Ensure reasonable workloads
- Promote trauma informed practice
- Build and promote positive relationships
- Work across systems
- (Guidance for SABs)
- Develop leaders of the future from all levels of the workforce
- Promote equalities and anti-discrimination

Culture and workforce development for better safeguarding – final thoughts

- **Recruit and retain for values and skills:** lobby for widening the labour market domestic and international
- **Evaluate your culture:** language, processes, ethos, inclusivity/anti-discrimination the quality of relationships, how people using services and staff talk about the organisation, approach to evaluation and data, openness and transparency.....
- **Create better working conditions:** welfare, wellbeing, rewards and **Health and Safety Executive management standards:**
 - Demands – workload, work patterns and the work environment
 - Control – say in how work is done
 - Support – this includes the encouragement, sponsorship and resources
 - Relationships – promoting positive working, avoid conflict, dealing with unacceptable behaviour
 - Role – clarity of role within the organisation and avoiding role conflict
 - Change – how organisational change (large or small) is managed and communicated

Key resources

Dept of Health and Social Care and office of the Chief Social Worker

- **Revisiting Safeguarding Practice:** January 2022
- Bridging the Gap: **transitional safeguarding** and the role of social work with adults April 2022

Local Government Association local.gov.uk and ADASS adass.org.uk/

- **Making Safeguarding Personal** toolkit
- Quick guide to understanding what constitutes a **safeguarding concern**
- Decisions on **making safeguarding enquiries**
- Adult safeguarding and **domestic abuse**: a guide to support practitioners and managers: Second edition
- Adult safeguarding and **homelessness**: experience informed practice
- **Carers** and safeguarding: a briefing for people who work with carers
- **COVID-19** adult safeguarding insight project: findings and discussion
- Analysis of **Safeguarding Adult Reviews**: April 2017 -March 2019 | Local Government Association
- Emerging work on **discriminatory abuse**

BASW basw.co.uk

SCIE scie.org.uk

RiP researchinpractice.org.uk



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Thanks!