

Self-Neglect and Hoarding Conference

06 November 2018 – A Summary

On 06 November 2018 the Suffolk Safeguarding Adults Board facilitated a Self-Neglect & Hoarding conference at Trinity Park, Ipswich.

The aim of the day was to highlight best practice across the Partnership.

150 delegates representing the many agencies that make up the Partnership heard presentations from national experts and local practitioners.



Key Note Speakers included;

Suzy Braye – Professor of Social Work at the University of Sussex
Highlighted the learning arising from Safeguarding Adult Reviews

Mark Hardingham – Chief Fire Officer; Suffolk County Council
Explored Hoarding and Fire Risks

Dr. David Orr – Senior Lecturer in Social Work at the University of Sussex
Provided insight into Understanding Hoarding

Other Talks and Workshops were facilitated by;

Amanda Takavarasha – Adult Safeguarding Manager Suffolk County Council
Introduced Suffolk's Self-Neglect and Hoarding Policy and Risk Assessment

Carole Balding – West Suffolk Councils Senior Public Health and Housing Officer
Explained Environmental Health and Housing Legislation

Superintendent Simon Osbourne - RSPCA
Clarified situations regarding Hoarding and Animals

Olive Quinton – Lofty Heights
Discussed Decluttering to Support Families & Individuals

Sam Hall and Fiona Green – Suffolk Community Health
Described the Impact of Hoarding on the Whole Family – including Children

Slides used by the Key Note Speakers can be accessed below;

[Learning from SARs](#)

[Hoarding and Fire Risks](#)

[Understanding Hoarding](#)

[Self-Neglect & Hoarding Policy](#)

[Environment Health & Housing Legislation](#)

The Conference reinforced the need for a partnership approach across agencies when working to support individuals and families in situations of Self-Neglect and Hoarding.

Within their talks the facilitators reinforced the range of resources available to support practitioners along with the Self-Neglect and Hoarding Policy which can be accessed [here](#)

What People Said:

This was a truly excellent day. Often when one attends a day seminar there are aspects that leave you feeling that you would have better remaining in the office! The exact opposite was true in this case, the day was superb, well-constructed with the perfect balance between sensible and sound practical advice and policy and legislation.

The session by Dr David Orr helped me to gain an insight into why people might hoard and the language they used to describe their possessions was absolutely fascinating and gave me real insight into how I might support teams who are delivering direct care to people in their own home where hoarding is making care difficult.

The only fault that I could find was I had to chose two out of the four workshops when really I would have liked to attend all four – The R.SPCA session was brilliant...!

The day was fantastic. I was able to hear from current research – the voice of the adults we are there to support. Linking this with the Self-neglect & Hoarding Policy helped me to link up our concerns as professionals and how best to support the adults so that they achieve the outcomes they want – Making Safeguarding Personal.



The Suffolk County Council Fire Service Events Vehicle providing delegates with an opportunity to consider the fire risks and hazards that exist with the home.

The fire safety workshop was very good, it really made me think about customers we work with as well as my own home and that of friends and family regarding fire safety. The man who was showing examples of fire and what it can do to appliances was extremely passionate which was lovely to see.



If you are concerned that an individual is at significant risk of harm due to self-neglect or hoarding please see the referral information on the [Policies and Procedures Page](#) of the Suffolk SAB Website.

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