

## Protecting Adults with Learning Disabilities from Abuse

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### Staff and managers meet with the project

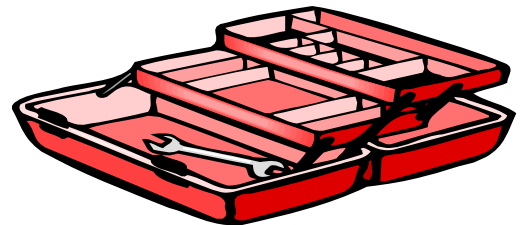


The autumn months provided the opportunity for the project to get out and about across the whole of the CAWT region. This meant that front-line staff and managers were able to find out about the work being done, and get involved in discussions relating to how adult protection worked in their services. Meetings were fairly well attended, and participants were not shy in discussing the issues that risk and adult protection raise for them in their work. Some of the issues were localised but there were others that were common across all meetings.

It appears that service personnel are very aware of the way in which the change in the provision of services has impacted on their roles, and the risks faced by their clients.

Notes from the meetings will be circulated back to the attendees in the next few weeks and will go towards the compilation of the final findings and recommendations from the project.

### Tool-kits to assist with informing service users about personal safety



Research has shown that people are sometimes the victims of abusive situations because they do not realise the negativity of what is happening. It therefore seems to make sense that people with learning disabilities might improve their chances of being safe from abuse if they were better informed. With this in mind, one of the objectives of the project was to develop teaching tools that would support service clients to understand issues relating to safety and abuse. To this end two such tool-kits have been developed: one relating to personal safety, and the other making an introductory exploration into relationships.

The tool-kits are each split into 4 sections that can be used in total or as individual educators. The project manager is offering 'train the trainer' sessions to services in order for them to be able to have staff who are able to use them effectively as part of their everyday work.

These sessions are available to services in the CAWT region from all sectors by contacting the project office

## Cross-border event



*(Brendan Johnston, Yvonne Gregory, Tadhg O'Brien, Austin Warters and Colm Lehane)*

December 7<sup>th</sup> saw the delivery of a cross-border event at the Cavan Crystal Hotel entitled 'The Barriers to Effective Cross-border Adult Protection'.

The aim of the day was to bring together a range of key personnel from both jurisdictions, to consider the issues raised for affective adult protection in relation to cross-border mobility.

The event was chaired jointly by Tadhg O'Brien from the HSE, and Yvonne Gregory from CAWT, facilitated by Colm Lehane, consultant and trainer, with presentations from Brendan Johnston of Northern Ireland Social Care Council, and Austin Warters of the Elder Abuse National Implementation Group.

Round-table groups, involving delegates from a range of agencies, services and both jurisdictions, discussed the influences of : information sharing, oversight of professional practice, developing policies and procedures, and shared learning.

A report from the event will be presented to both Departments and will be disseminated to ministers for advice, by spring.

## Information Sharing

One of the outcomes of the project is to enable the sharing of information and good practice ideas regarding adult protection.

If you wish to share or access information or practice ideas, then you can contact us by e-mail or telephone.



[pamela.hogg@westcare.n-i.nhs.uk](mailto:pamela.hogg@westcare.n-i.nhs.uk) or by telephoning **028 7186 0616 ext 8104** or 8591

Recent events in Cornwall's learning disability services led to a joint investigation into issues relating to abuse, negligence and poor practice. Such events cause alarm whenever they come to light, but history tells us that they are stories that are repeated over and over again.

The project has developed a training session for service managers to assist them in learning from the Cornwall Inquiry, and hopefully avoid making the same mistakes. This training will be available from March, and managers are encouraged to look out for announcements.

## Local Project Board contacts

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