

No Secrets feedback
April 2009

Introduction

- Newcastle Safeguarding Adult Board (NSAB) worked together with the Learning Disability Partnership Board to hold the event at Newcastle racecourse conference centre on 5 February 2009.
- 40 people and 20 support workers and facilitators at the conference
- Opened by Ewen Weir , Director of Adult Services who is Chair of the NSAB.

Introduction

Looked at three parts of the review

- Section 9 - How to make the meanings of the words clearer?
- Section 7 - How can the police and the law help Safeguard people?
- Section 4- How can we help people to choose how they are looked after and keep them safe?

Introduction

- We asked the Yip Yap Amigos to make a DVD to help the audience to understand forms of abuse.
- DVD was sent in as part of our Consultation
- DVD was very popular - more work for Yip Yap Amigos to develop the DVD to explain to people about the safeguarding process.

Question 9(a) Who do you think a Vulnerable Adult is?

- “People may think we are different and pick on us”
- “People don’t listen if we try to speak up for our selves, and we can only tell people who are close to us – like parents or staff. Not everyone listens to us first time- we need to get help”
- “Very hard for people who cannot talk or move – who do they trust?”

Question 9(a) Who do you think a Vulnerable Adult is?

- “If you have carers looking after you / but they are not looking after you”
- “If some one picks on you and you cannot stop them”
- “If you live on your own and have bad neighbours”
- “If you need someone to help you with your Money”

Question 9(a) Who do you think a Vulnerable Adult is?

- Vulnerable not a good word to use – too hard to understand”
- “People who can’t speak up for themselves”
- “People might **not** be vulnerable all of the time – it depends on time and place (like being on Metro late at night) **and** what support you get from others”

Question 9 (b) What do you think the word abuse means?

- Everyone was able to describe some aspects of abuse
- Everyone was able to contribute and there was a theme about rights
- **Comments included**
- “Need help with words like discrimination and psychological abuse”

Question 9 (b) What do you think the word abuse means?

- “People choosing to spend your money without asking you what to spend it on”
- “Picked on and singled out”
- “Harassment”
- “Sometimes other people make rules – I would like to make some rules”

Question 9 (b) What do you think the word abuse means?

Institutional

- “Being put in a home when you don’t need to be”
- “Being treated like children”

Neglect

- “Living in filth”
- “Left in your house all day”

Question 9 (c) What other words do you think we should use to describe what happens to people who are hurt?

- “Not trusting in anybody anymore”
- “At risk might be easier to understand”
- “Hurt “
- “Angry”
- Sad

Why at risk?

- “The way we talk”
- “People’s medical conditions like fits”

Section 7 How can the Police and law help safeguard people?

Question 7(a) How can we help people who are afraid to report a crime to speak up?

Listening

- “Home visits by police and time to listen to us”
- “Provide facilitators to help/support when there are communication difficulties”
- “People with learning disabilities to organise own support groups”
- “Police need to listen and understand how frightened people can be”
- Need time to listen and build relationship”

Question 7(a) How can we help people who are afraid to report a crime to speak up?

Asking others to help you to report

- “Tell some one you can trust and they can speak to the Police”
 - “Tell a doctor who can speak to the Police”
 - “Tell some one you can trust such as Advocate Social Worker, Doctor”
- ”

Question 7(a) How can we help people who are afraid to report a crime to speak up?

Making it easier to report

- Special phone number or place to make report to police
- “Special number for people to ring”
- “Set up a helpline”
- “Use 101 is good – they are helpful” (**local Council phone line to report noise, litter, etc in the neighbourhood**)

Question 7(a) How can we help people who are afraid to report a crime to speak up?

Making it easier to report

- “People who answer the calls are better trained and know how to speak to someone with a learning disability”

Question 7(a) How can we help people who are afraid to report a crime to speak up?

Having support

- “Support after reporting such as move people from area, more police on patrol in area”,
- “Know who you can trust and who you can speak to. Apart from police”
- “Use a buddy/police woman or man to help person throughout the process”

Question 7 (b) what can we do to let more people know that they can tell someone about a crime and be safe?

- Better information
- Information easier to get hold of like road shows
- Think about using the Blue Card Scheme
- “More support for witnesses to keep them safe”

Question 7 (c) How can we help the Police talk to and listen to people with learning disabilities about crimes?

- **“Training the Police” x 9 (all groups mentioned this)**
- Training BY people with a learning disability
- “Police spending more time with people with learning disability”
- “Build a trusting relationship with children with disabilities by visiting schools”

Question 7 (c) How can we help the Police talk to and listen to people with learning disabilities about crimes?

- “Use best evidence trained officers”
- “ Special team of people within each Police force that help people who are vulnerable speak up in different ways”

Question7 (d) What can we do to make it easier for people with learning disabilities and other people to get their problems heard in Court?

Courts

- “Need someone to tell us what is going to happen so we can be confident to peak out in Court”
- “Visits to courts”
- “Need to know we would be safe and no one would could and get us”
- “Use video to tell story” (**again mentioned by several groups**)
- “Need help and support at Court”

Question7 (d) What can we do to make it easier for people with learning disabilities and other people to get their problems heard in Court?

Courts

- “Need police to look for and get proof of what has happened”
- “Laws to help people speak out”
- “Harsher penalties and stricter laws" again mentioned by several people)

Question7 (d) What can we do to make it easier for people with learning disabilities and other people to get their problems heard in Court?

- “Courts equipped so they are accessible”
- “Training for judges”
- “Listen to victims”
- “Special solicitors who understands especially if you are going to be questioned and fair judges”
- “Support in the Court by some you can trust and understands “ **(this was mentioned by most groups)**

How do we build on the day?

- Further work - 2009
- better easy read leaflets
- a leaflet on the process of safeguarding.
- Review how well we do on safeguarding every year

All this will involve people learning disability.

How do we build on the day?

What do you think

- What would be better term for being vulnerable ?
- At risk - better term for being vulnerable