

Safeguarding and COVID-19

“During the COVID-19 crisis, it is particularly important to safeguard adults with care and support needs. They may be more vulnerable to abuse and neglect as others may seek to exploit disadvantages due to age, disability, mental or physical impairment or illness.

These groups may be targeted because of a number of factors. Generally speaking they may need assistance with some tasks, be less up to speed with technology, more welcoming of new contacts, more trusting and – for many older people – wealthier. There is evidence that social isolation increases the likelihood of abuse. Many older and disabled people spend long periods at home alone, and now as the whole nation is being asked to stay at home the same groups are more likely to be alone rather than in a family group

At a time of international crisis, those who seek to exploit these vulnerabilities are quick to act. We will all have been warned of new scams offering help and advice on COVID-19 or with financial assistance. Many of us will have concerns for family members who may fall prey to fraudsters.” message from Social Care Institute for Excellence (SCIE).

You can access SCIE’s full website briefing [here](#).

Volunteering – how can you do your bit?

If you or someone you know has any spare time outside of work and would like to volunteer, our voluntary and community sector partners can direct you to opportunities in your area. With the Government announcement that the most vulnerable in our communities will need to self-isolate for 12 weeks, your help is needed more than ever.

It could be delivering essentials, putting the bins out for someone, or being on the other end of a phone, there are hundreds of opportunities available across Oxfordshire for you to get involved. If you live in Vale of White Horse, South Oxfordshire, West Oxfordshire or Cherwell visit [Oxfordshire All In](#) , for Oxford City visit [Oxford Together](#).

Domestic Abuse

We know that this is a difficult and worrying time for everyone – but particularly so for adults and children living with domestic abuse, and the professionals working hard to support them.

There are three new resources to help support people through this time, and more will be added as things progress. As always, if you or someone else is in immediate danger please call 999 and ask for the police.

Reducing the Risk: www.reducingtherisk.org.uk/cms/content/reducing-risk-da-under-covid19-restrictions

Women’s Aid: <https://www.womensaid.org.uk/covid-19-coronavirus-safety-advice-for-survivors/>

SafeLives: <http://safelives.org.uk/news-views/domestic-abuse-and-covid-19>

OSAB Face-to-Face Safeguarding Training

Due to the Government’s announcement made on 16.3.2020 around the Coronavirus pandemic, OSAB are cancelling all face to face training sessions. All face-to-face course content is still available as e-learning and can be accessed via the training pages of the website.

The situation will be monitored closely and OSAB will provide updates as and when known.