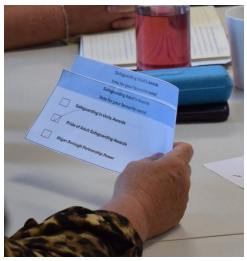
Wigan Safeguarding Adults Board Newsletter

Welcome to the Summer 2025 addition of the Wigan Safeguarding Adults Board Newsletter. We hope you find this newsletter useful and we welcome any feedback which you can send to us by emailing

wsab@wigan.gov.uk

What'sUp Champions Update

In April 2025 we held the What'sUp Champion Network Meeting at Molyneux House. We welcomed more new champions and the meeting was really well attended.



What did we get up to?

- Welcomed new Champions
- The Champions received their What'sUp Champion Packs
- Kieran Davies (WSAB Service Manager) spoke to the Champions about the Pride of Adult Safeguarding Awards and their involvement in this and they got the opportunity to decide on the WSAB Awards title via a voting activity.
- The Champions participated in an activity called 'what does safeguarding mean to you.' This was fed back to the group.
- The Champions completed a wish list of what they would like to see at future meetings.

WSAB Strategy

Wigan Safeguarding Adult's Board published their renewed strategy for the next 3 years. The strategy has been developed in collaboration with our board partners, building on previous efforts and steering us towards an exciting future.

As Wigan Safeguarding Adult's Board we will work together to achieve our mission.

'Working together with our communities, helping people live safer, happier lives.'

In line with Progress with Unity, we have a unique and genuine commitment to work together as a collective for the good of our borough.

Through 'Progress with Unity' we will strengthen the way we work through the following six tried and tested ways of working to achieve long-lasting change and will be adopted as WSAB's values and behaviours.

You can view the WSAB Strategy on our website here.

Our Strategic Priorities:

Prevention

'Reducing inequalities and keeping people safer through early intervention before the situation reaches crisis.'

Quality Assurance

'An effective Board with strong leadership and governance, promoting accountability and continuous learning within set policy and procedure to keep people safe.'

Making Safeguarding Personal

'Listening deeply and utilising asset-based approaches to safeguarding practice, doing the right thing for individuals at the heart of our work.'

Transition into Adulthood

'We will work together to have a seamless move into Adult Services.'

Digital

'Ensure we harness the power of new, innovative and creative digital and artificial intelligence solutions and products. We will harness the power of data and offer new ways partners and communities can link in with WSAB.'

Social Work England 'Change the Script' Campaign

The second phase of the national campaign to 'Change the Script' on social work has now launched. The campaign aims to tackle negative perceptions of social workers by sharing the real story of social work.

Please read and share our new reframing guide

Social Work England have collaborated with social workers, national organisations and people who have experienced social work to create a new reframing guide. This included representatives from the Education and Training Advisory Forum and National Advisory Forum. It provides information and practical suggestions to transform how the public, organisations and the media write and talk about social work.

The guide aims to set a new narrative for social work that:

- Builds more accurate and balanced views
- Improves public understanding of the profession
- Recognises the positive impact social work makes to millions of people every day.

Please watch and share the new film

There is also a new short film as part of the campaign. It features award-winning author Beth Moran, who is also a foster carer, meeting social workers and people they have supported to tell the real story of social work. It builds on the phase 1 film that highlighted other stories showing the positive impact of social work in different areas, for example palliative care.

Together we can Change the Script on social work

There is a toolkit on the Social Work England website which includes assets and guidance for sharing the campaign. Please contact the communications team at stakeholders@socialworkengland.org.uk if you have any questions about the campaign and how to promote it. Thank you for your support with the campaign.

Hoarding Champions

Recruiting…

We are looking to recruit Hoarding Champions from across all partner agencies and organisations. Being a Hoarding Champion is an informal volunteer role that runs alongside your usual day to day job. We ask you to commit ½ a day per month.

Supporting with things such as developing and delivering training, attending community events, promoting best practice and helping to run our monthly peer support group 'Belongings'.

If you'd like more information please contact Lena Gibson l.gibson@wigan.gov.uk

Section 42 Training

WSAB Business Unit have been working with the Advanced Practitioners from Adult Social Care to refresh the Section 42 training package. This learning is an opportunity to support in embedding good practice and understanding regarding the Section 42 process across the partnership. The sessions will go live in Autumn and you will be able to secure a place soon.

To help embed the key messages from the learning we have produced a number of resources which are designed to help professionals when referring into the local authority with a safeguarding concern, which you can find below:

The Adult Safeguarding Risk Assessment Tool supports staff in decision making in risk management, responding to safeguarding concerns and in undertaking triage of adult safeguarding concerns / referrals. This can be used as a guide for practitioners in decision making about whether a particular circumstance requires a formal safeguarding response or an alternative risk management response.

The Section 42 Eligibility Criteria Fact Sheet helps to explain in more detail how decisions are made by the local authority when a safeguarding concern is raised. It can also be used to understand when Safeguarding referrals should be considered and sent into the Local Authority.

Bitesize Learning: How to make a good safeguarding referral is now running and places are filling up fast. These sessions cover the following areas and places can be booked here.

What the training covers:

- Understand when to refer a safeguarding concern to the local authority using the WSAB Screening Tool.
- Understand the importance of good quality referrals.
- Explore the Section 42 process and what to expect when you make a referral.
- Understand how people can be supported outside of the Section 42 process.

Channel 4 News (Domestic Abuse Rates in Wigan)

Some of you may have seen that Wigan was on Channel 4 News on Tuesday 10th June in the evening. Sadly Wigan have very high rates of domestic abuse, and you may be aware that Wigan is an area where the Domestic Abuse Protection Orders (DAPO's) are being piloted. It is a really good piece on the news about the great work being done, along with the demands on services as well as some real life experiences. You can watch it via Channel 4 on Demand and it is about 30 minutes into the programme. Here is a link to channel 4 on demand.

Channel 4 News - Series 2025: Episode 161 | Channel 4

THE PRIDE OF ADULT SAFEGUARDING AWARDS

We are delighted to introduce the inaugural Pride of Adult Safeguarding Awards, a powerful new initiative developed in collaboration with our What's Up Champions. These awards are a celebration of the dedication, compassion, and collaborative spirit shown by our partners and communities in achieving positive safeguarding outcomes.

Guided by our renewed focus, Progress with Unity, the awards reflect our unwavering commitment to the six key principles of safeguarding, as well as the values and behaviours that underpin all our work. In particular, this initiative highlights our shared belief in "doing the right thing" and "showing our love and pride."

More than just a celebration, these awards are an opportunity to raise awareness of safeguarding and its transformative impact when done well.

Over the coming weeks and months you will have the opportunity to nominate individuals or teams from across the partnership or in the community.

Do you know a local hero who goes out of their way to protect and support others?

Someone who helps people feel safer, more valued, and happier in their community?

Do you know someone in your team or community group who champions safeguarding and consistently goes the extra mile to make our borough a safer, better place to live?

Are you aware of a piece of work, project or initiative that has delivered truly exceptional safeguarding outcomes?

We want your nominations!

There are 7 award categories, and each recognises our local safeguarding hero's.

To nominate visit: Pride of Adult Safeguarding Awards

Nominations for 2025 are open and will close at midnight on the 1st October 2025.

The awards ceremony will be held on Friday 30th January 2026.

Ruby's Story

Ruby's Experience:

Ruby became known to the Independent Domestic Violence Advocate (IDVA) service in October 2024.

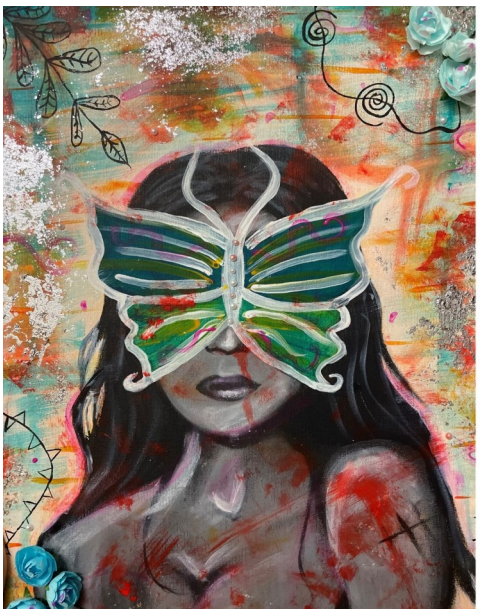
Upon initial triage, she was at home with her mum sharing the same room and there was ongoing harassment and stalking from her ex-partner. Ruby had reported him to the police but at that stage she didn't have the confidence to provide a statement for support with a prosecution.

Ruby was on a fine art course at Bolton university which she stated was her 'dream course' but due to the behaviour of her ex-partner and the impact on her mental health she hadn't felt up to attending and was at risk of losing her place.

Ruby made her IDVA aware of a meeting with university and stated they weren't aware of her circumstances.

Outcomes:

- Ruby attended the university meeting with the IDVA and university lecturers were really supportive once they knew her situation and allowed her to stay on the course.
- Ruby was placed in refuge accommodation to help to keep her safe.
- Ruby made a statement to the police once safe which led to a charge decision.
- Ruby attended court for the trial but on the morning of the trial the defendant entered a guilty plea and a restraining order was imposed.
- Ruby has positively reported a breach of the restraining order as well as historic incidents which she hadn't previously disclosed.
- Ruby has engaged in therapy and this has helped to improve her coping mechanisms.
- Ruby has since designed the below image and wants people to see this and show them that you 'can learn to love yourself after trauma'



'The scars represent the physical pain and damage caused.

The butterfly represents transformation and growth.

This painting all together means growing stronger through the pain endured. It's about learning to love yourself and making a beautiful life after trauma, something that is possible.'

WSAB Safeguarding Adults Procedure and Practice Standards

WSAB have recently updated their Safeguarding Adults Procedure and Practice Standards.

You can find them on our website, and we encourage you to take a look.

The Procedure has been updated to further embedded our approach to safeguarding which ensures the adult is at the centre of any action we take.

WSAB Safeguarding Adults Procedure

The Practice Standards have been refreshed to reflect the 6 ways of working which is reflected in our strategic plan for 2025-2027.

WSAB Practice Standards

Spotlight on Services

In future editions of our newsletter we would like to shine a spotlight on our amazing services that help to safeguard adults across the borough.

Please could we request agencies to send a brief update covering the below points to wsab@wigan.gov.uk

1. Who you are
2. What services do you offer and how do residents access your service?
3. Any recent success or learning stories that can be shared
4. Any other information

A photograph of the team would also be beneficial.