**Safeguarding people who self-neglect: what works?**

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**Abstract**

This presentation draws on research evidence and evidence from safeguarding adult reviews to identify the challenges of working with self-neglect and the approaches that can achieve positive outcomes.

Self-neglect poses complex challenges to agencies engaged in adult safeguarding. Statutory guidance to the Care Act 2014 places it clearly with the range of circumstances that constitute abuse and neglect, thus placing an onus on Safeguarding Adults Boards to promote and facilitate interagency collaboration. A strong culture of working together and clarity about roles and relationships are crucial to ensuring a robust response to the challenges faced by practitioners across agencies. Equally important is the ability of those practitioners to engage people who may be reluctant and fearful, to build relationships of trust that can assist in negotiating the ethical dilemmas faced in direct practice, to adapt skills of assessment to incorporate understanding of individuals’ lived experience, and to apply sound legal literacy in devising interventions. Such approaches also require flexibility and adjustments within organisational systems so that they facilitate best practice.

**Research reports**

* **Braye, S., Orr, D. and Preston-Shoot, M. (2011)** *Self-Neglect and Adult Safeguarding: Findings from Research.* London: SCIE. <http://www.scie.org.uk/publications/reports/report46.pdf>
* **Braye, S., Orr, D. and Preston-Shoot, M. (2013*)*** *A Scoping Study of Workforce Development for Self-Neglect*. London: Skills for Care. <http://www.skillsforcare.org.uk/NMDS-SC-intelligence-research-and-innovation/evidence-impact/Research-reports/Workforce-development-for-self-neglect.aspx>
* **Braye. S., Orr, D. and Preston-Shoot, M. (2014)** *Self-Neglect Policy & Practice: Building an Evidence Base for Adult Social Care.* London: SCIE. (Summary reports also available) <http://www.scie.org.uk/publications/reports/69-self-neglect-policy-practice-building-an-evidence-base-for-adult-social-care/>
* **Preston-Shoot, M., Braye, S., Preston, O., Allen, K. and Spreadbury, K. (2020)** *Analysis of Safeguarding Adult Reviews April 2017 – March 2019: Findings for Sector-Led Improvement*. London: LGA and ADASS. (Full report and executive summary available) <https://www.local.gov.uk/analysis-safeguarding-adult-reviews-april-2017-march-2019>