

## SAFEGUARDING

Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council

# See Something Do Something- Safeguarding is Everyone's responsibility

In June 2015, the highly successful "See Something Do Something" campaign was launched within our Neighbourhoods directorate. This project aimed to train every member of staff to recognise and report any safeguarding concerns, and develop an internal process for reporting, encourage more joined up working with our partners in Children's Services & Adult Services. Since 'go live' in September 2015, 655 safeguarding concerns have been reported which has resulted in our most vulnerable citizens being protected or supported.

Frontline services have a key role to play in keeping our most vulnerable residents safe, they interact daily with customers in their own homes and potentially could **see something** in regard to safeguarding issues. What was missing was a process that allowed them to **do something**. The See Something Do Something campaign has embedded the ethos that "Safeguarding is Everyone's business" by developing an internal reporting process, underpinned by appropriate training to give confidence/support to all our employees around safeguarding.

Our workforce (1400 employees) has a key safeguarding role to play alongside colleagues in statutory services. Our trade teams go into tenant's houses (stock of 28,000 properties) every day. They are sometimes the only people who are allowed in when other services have failed.

We developed a single point of contact where operatives can report their safeguarding concerns through a dedicated number, then carry on to their next job. Our Neighbourhood officers and specialist teams, receive the reports and have a more specific safeguarding role by working in partnership with our Adults and Children's services colleagues. Ensuring information is shared, referrals made in order to safeguard, our most vulnerable adults and children.

Over two years on, the campaign is fully embedded. Safeguarding understanding has increased amongst employees, they are now equipped with skills, confidence to recognise when "something is not right" and work in partnership with our colleagues in Adult's and Children's services.

The campaign branding has been adopted by both Sandwell Adult's and Children's Boards, and a film is available on YOUTUBE.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l1f0WZEuKno>

We are developing a See Something Do Something program to roll out to the rest of the council and act as an umbrella for all emerging safeguarding priorities e.g. Child Sexual Exploitation, Modern Day Slavery, Female Genital Mutilation.

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