



## Stop Adult Abuse Week Press Release

10 - 14 June 2019

**Stop Adult Abuse Week** is a local initiative that started in 2014 when five Safeguarding Adults Boards in the South West decided to join together to run a week raising awareness about safeguarding people from abuse and neglect.

For this year's **Stop Adult Abuse Week (10 – 14 June)** we are celebrating our fifth year working together with the aim of increasing knowledge of the **Mental Capacity Act 2005**.

Abuse exists in many different forms, such as financial abuse, physical abuse, and neglect. These types of abuse can happen to anyone, however those at greater risk include those whose care and support needs affect their ability to protect themselves, such as the elderly, people living with learning disabilities, mental ill-health or severe illness.

The Mental Capacity Act 2005 aims to protect people who lack the capacity to make certain decisions, and maximise their ability make choices about their own lives. The Act supports professionals to ensure that people's right to make decisions about their own care is respected as far as possible, and (if they do lack capacity to make decisions themselves) that any action taken is in their best interests.

Unfortunately, poor understanding of the Mental Capacity Act 2005 can lead to instances where someone at risk of abuse or neglect is not properly safeguarded, and leaves them vulnerable to abuse. Improving the local understanding of what the Act does and doesn't mean is vital to our safeguarding efforts.

The week long campaign across Bath and North East Somerset, Bristol, North Somerset, Somerset and South Gloucestershire will focus on the following:

Monday: Basic information about the Mental Capacity Act and Mental Capacity Act Myth Buster

Tuesday: [Domestic Abuse and the Mental Capacity Act](#)

Wednesday: Professional conference focussing on the Mental Capacity Act for people working with adults with care and support needs – now SOLD OUT

Thursday: Self Neglect and Mental Capacity

Friday: [Making Safeguarding Personal](#)

You can read more about the Mental Capacity Act and other safeguarding issues on the Bristol Safeguarding Adults Board website at <https://bristolsafeguarding.org/adults>.

If you're concerned about someone you know in Bristol being abused or neglected call Care Direct on 0117 922 2700, or if the danger is immediate call 999.

Join in the conversation on Twitter by using #stopadultabuseweek.

### Cross County Safeguarding Communications Team



**SOMERSET  
SAFEGUARDING  
ADULTS BOARD**

