

SAEB Safeguarding Ambassador Bulletin May 2023

The Safeguarding Adults Executive Board (SAEB) are responsible for overseeing and leading on the protection and promotion of an adult's right to live an independent life, in safety, free from abuse and neglect across Kensington, Chelsea and Westminster.



Our Moto this year is **'Think Fire'** and together with the London Fire Brigade we have co-produced the briefing on Fire Safety and Safeguarding on pages 2 and 3 of this bulletin. The SAEB is committed to work in partnership with the London Fire Brigade (LFB) and other partner agencies to raise awareness of fire risks and the importance of prevention in fire safety.

It is everyone's business to **'Think Fire'** and practitioners should be particularly mindful of additional vulnerabilities adults with care and support needs may face around mitigating fire risks in their homes.



Mike Clarke, Borough Commander, London

Fire Brigade Kensington and Chelsea

shares his key **Fire Safety** messages for residents.

Mike's Top Fire Safety Tip's

1. Install smoke alarms on every level of your home, inside bedrooms and outside sleeping areas. Test smoke alarms every month. If they're not working, change the batteries. Talk with all family members about a fire escape plan and practice the plan twice a year.
2. Never leave cooking unattended
3. Don't overload plug sockets
4. Don't charge devices such as phones and tablets on soft furnishings
5. If you must smoke don't do so in bed; dispose of smoking materials carefully
6. Don't charge e-bikes near exits
7. Don't leave candles unattended.
8. Refer to the Fire Safety and Safeguarding 7-minute learning briefing to explore a range of fire safety resources to keep you safe at home.

Fire Safety and Safeguarding

1. Why is Fire Safety Important?

Many people who die or who are seriously injured in domestic fires have care and support needs and are often known to services. Building awareness of fire safety risks and how to reduce these is an effective way to help minimise risk for people who may be vulnerable to fire. LFB has focused on putting in place preventative measures to prevent fire outbreaks as well as building awareness of fire safety. Consequently, there has been a 64% decrease in fires in the past 10 years.

2. Factors increasing Fire Risks

Factors that may make someone more vulnerable to fire can include:

- Mental health conditions or cognitive impairment, such as dementia
- Mobility issues or history of falls
- Long term physical health problems
- Alcohol or drug misuse
- Self- neglect and hoarding behaviours
- Smoking
- [Use of emollient creams](#)

3. You can help to prevent Fire Risks by undertaking the following resources provided by the London Fire Brigade:

- [Recognising fire hazards and signs of previous fires](#)
- [Taking action to remove or reduce the risk](#)
- [Educating people of the risks of fires and how to reduce these risks](#)
- Familiarise yourself with the [LFB 'clutter' ratings](#) so you can recognise and report the fire risks from self-neglect and hoarding
- Familiarise yourself with [fire safety prevention](#)

4. Practical Steps

There are practical steps that can be taken to support residents that may be at risk of fire:

1. Familiarise yourself with different fire safety risks, such as recognising the difference between smoke and carbon monoxide alarms, burn marks or cluttered accommodation
2. One of the most effective prevention activities is to use LFB's [Home Fire Safety Checker](#) which provides tailored advice to improve fire safety measures within a person's home

3. Use this QR Code for direct Access from your smart Device

or Refer someone for a Home Fire Safety Visit: www.london-fire.gov.uk/safety/the-home/book-a-home-fire-safety-visit/



Fire Safety and Safeguarding

5. Engage with the persons support network and/or carer to identify further support that can be offered to them.

Contact Adult Social Care for advice where someone may need an assessment of their care and support needs.

Kensington and Chelsea

T: [020 7361 3013](tel:02073613013)

E: socialservices@rbkc.gov.uk

Westminster

T: [020 7641 2176](tel:02076412176)

E: adultsocialcare@westminster.gov.uk

6. Fire Safety E-Learning

This [FREE E-LEARNING](#) course produced by London Fire Brigade is for everyone that provides care and support to others in the community.

7. SAEB Resources

[Watch this short video](#) on Home Fire Safety produced by our Safeguarding Ambassadors

Download our briefings on 'Emollients and Smoking' and 'Telecare and Fire safety'

[7-minute briefing 'Emollients and Smoking'](#)

[7-minute briefing 'Telecare and Fire'](#)

We hope you find these Fire Safety Resources helpful.

To ensure that we keep up to date with all our safeguarding activities, we would love to continue to hear from you!

Please send your news, updates and comments to share in upcoming bulletins to:

makinsafeguardingpersonal@rbkc.gov.uk

The SAEB Safeguarding Ambassadors