



I&RC Newsletter

Get it right, first time and every time

June 2026

Welcome to this month's edition of our free newsletter. This edition is our first in a series of special Investigative Safeguarding newsletters where we will discuss the nuts and bolts of a safeguarding investigation.

There will as always, be our regular top tip and a chance to give us some feedback, and a date for your diary.

We hope you enjoy it!

Investigative Safeguarding – Part 1

Across all sectors of life, there is the requirement to safeguard people from harm. The workplace, the gym, the football club or the classroom. Some individuals who work in these sectors have a statutory duty placed upon them to ensure they safeguard children, young people and vulnerable adults. Others do not necessarily fall into the category of statutory safeguarding, however, it is argued that everyone has a moral duty to protect people from harm.

Whether your duty is moral or legal, investigative knowledge and skills are essential in effectively protecting someone from harm. Whilst there is a wealth of exceptionally great work goes on in many environments to safeguard people from harm, there is also much work to be done around the investigative skills which are fundamental in ensuring the protection of people, especially children and vulnerable adults.

Our Investigative Safeguarding topics over the next few editions, aim to bridge the gaps between disclosures or recognition of a concern, to referral, and then, investigation and resolution. Whilst all of these concepts compliment the whole investigative process and are essential elements to protect someone from harm, there can often be a dearth of essential basic investigative skills that are necessary, from point of concern to the referral, the investigation and then finally, the resolution. Referral and resolution will be inadequate if the investigation is poor.

Many organisations who have the duty to safeguard, have progressed hugely in the area of investigations by carrying out regular training, employing experienced investigators, implementing robust triage and referral mechanisms, as well as strong case management oversight. However, within these organisations and elsewhere, there is often (in some cases too often) a skills gap in basic investigation and interviewing skills, which are essential.

Why are these skills essential?

Simple.....

Because without the skilful ability to respond to matters of concern, children and young people will continue to be harmed.

Women will continue to be sexually harassed in the workplace and your organisation's reputation will be dented.



In 2021, World Athletics published findings of research regarding abuse in sport with an emphasis on concerns within Europe.

The findings showed that 65% of adults (aged 18-30) had childhood experiences of psychological violence in sport and 20% reported sexual contact concerns (World Athletics, 2021).

Imagine taking your child to their sports club, only to later learn that whilst there, the coach was sexually touching them.

British Gymnastics (BG) have been amongst many other sports associations who have been hauled through the press regarding abuse on young gymnasts and their responses to concerns. This resulted in The Whyte Review, which encouraged BG to significantly alter methods of dealing with safeguarding concerns and pave a new process to deal with safeguarding matters.

Now whilst many matters of safeguarding do not amount to intentional abuse there are many cases that do. There is a clear distinction between poor practice by a sports coach and inappropriate behaviour. The ability to decide on these matters of concern cannot be based on assumptions, but must be based upon knowledge, coupled with a fact-finding exercise to establish what happened, i.e. An investigation.

If a concern is raised which results in identifying any form of abuse, then the earlier proactive concepts of preventing that abuse have failed. It is inevitable that this will happen and it absolutely does happen. When faced with this situation, one

cannot undo that abuse, but one can act professionally and deal with it as effectively as possible. The actions anyone takes at this pivotal moment has a significant impact on the outcome or resolution and the actions anyone takes cannot and should not be underestimated. When proactive measures have failed then the only way to deal with the concern is by reactive measures, that will sit squarely within your investigation.

Reactive Measures & Priorities

If you have a responsibility to safeguard vulnerable people (remember this can be wider than the statutory duty) there are number of investigation skills and priorities that are essential in dealing with the concern. These priorities and concepts will be topics of discussion over the next few newsletters. For now, keeping it simple, these priorities can be broken down into five categories as follows:

1. Protection of the person concerned.
2. Ensuring evidence is saved from the scene.
3. Gathering of the evidence.
4. Identifying victims and witnesses.
5. Identifying the subject of concern.

Each of these categories have a number of actions within them to ensure your investigation is robust and brings about a successful resolution and over the next few editions we will be taking a closer look at what should be your considerations when investigating the concern.

If you keep these five categories stored away in your head – or printed on your wall and always refer to them when investigating a safeguarding matter, you will be a much better opportunity to prevent further harm to someone and gain their trust, you will deal effectively with a subject of concern and your organisation will be much stronger regarding safeguarding approaches. Remember, proactive measures are good, but they will fail.

Join us on our next edition when will look more closely at category one, protection of the person concerned.

Top Tip – Make sure you accurately document what you are told. Your information could be part of a jigsaw which results in a crown court case.

Join us on Thursday September 3rd, 2026, for our repeat of “From Interrogation to Investigative Interviewing”.

Following the enormous success of this the first time we will be holding the webinar again, so register your place here.

Secure your place here!

Your feedback is always welcome!

For now, it's bye from us!
Keith and Laura.

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