7 minute briefings are based on research which shows that 7 minutes is the ideal time span in which to concentrate and learn. Havering Safeguarding Partnerships regularly produce 7 minute briefings as a quick and simple way to share learning in team meetings, supervisions etc. We hope you find them useful. **Please share widely.**

Background
1

Telecare is way of providing support by using equipment which is monitored remotely by an organisation. Devices such as smoke alarms, fall detectors and pull cords alert the responsible organisation that a vulnerable person needs urgent assistance. When installed and operated in accordance to the relevant British Standards telecare can improve a resident's likelihood to survive a fire

The Role of Telecare during fires
2

Early detection of fire in the room of origin • Alerting the resident to escape or raise the alarm (if possible) • Alerting the onsite staff to take appropriate actions • Reduction of delays in summoning the fire brigade due to the automatic fire alarms • Provision of an emergency line of communication, which can facilitate vital fire survival Guidance during a fire.

Questions to consider:
7

- Would the resident benefit from receiving telecare? Do they have reduced mobility or mental health issues that could impair their ability to react to a fire appropriately or effectively?
- If they have existing smoke alarms, are they linked to the telecare system?
- Are telecare systems installed, monitored and maintained in accordance with the British Standards?

7 MINUTE BRIEFING
TELECARE AND FIRE
SAFEGUARDING BOARD PARTNERSHIPS
www.safeguardinghavering.org.uk

Why it matters
3

A significant proportion of people who die in accidental dwelling fires in London had telecare in place, but it was not linked to smoke detection, or operated in accordance with the relevant British Standards, Recurring issues include: • Fire detection not linked to a monitored telecare system. • Over-reliance on pendants, where fire detection would be more appropriate

What to do
6

These recommendations were issued by a coroner following the death of Elizabeth Griffin. **1**. All users of telecare should have some form of fire detection linked to FAMOs. **2**. Contractual requirement, for new/existing clients to have linked fire detection. **3**. Telecare system operators should apply the call handling protocol in British Standards. **4**. Telecare Providers should base staff training for appropriate response on British Standards. **5**. Training on what smoke alarms sound like in the background of a call to a client **6**. It should be recorded which clients do not have linked detection. The response in life critical situations should be based on this knowledge.

Fire Risk Assessment and British Standards
5

Telecare must be considered in fire risk assessments to ensure that all reasonably practicable steps are taken to reduce the risk of a fire occurring. These British Standards must be complied with to ensure a reduced probability of dying in a fire: **BS 9518:2021** Processing of alarm signals by an alarm receiving centre. **BS 5839 Part 6 2019** Fire Detection and Fire Alarm Systems for Buildings **BS 8604-1:2019** Social alarm systems Design, installation and maintenance of social alarm systems in specialized grouped living environments

More Home Care Predicted
4

In years to come the demand for adult domiciliary care is projected to increase, largely due to the England's ageing population. The Dept of Health & Social Care predicts that 57% more adults aged 65+ in England will require care in 2038 compared to 2018. The National Audit Office stated that there were 814,000 adults in England receiving domiciliary care in March 2020. The NHS Long Term Plan states that people will be increasingly cared for in their own homes with the option for their physiology to be effortlessly monitored by a wearable device. This means that the 1.7million people who receive Telecare in the UK is likely to rise