

# West of Berkshire Safeguarding Adults Board

**Briefing no. 5 – July 2017**



**The West of Berkshire Safeguarding Adults Board meets four times a year to plan and scrutinise how agencies work together to keep adults at risk of abuse or neglect safe in Reading, West Berkshire and Wokingham.**

Among the topics discussed at the June Board meeting were: the role of the voluntary sector in safeguarding adults, the governance structure for mental health in the local area, the availability of appropriate adults to support vulnerable adults at police interviews, and the action plan arising from CQC's inspection of Prospect Park Hospital. The Board also considered comments arising from a survey of practitioners and ways to involve providers in the work of the Board.

## **Involving Providers and Faith Organisations**

The Board knows that its membership needs to reflect a wider and more varied group of stakeholders. At its last meeting, members explored options for engaging with providers so that their views and experiences can inform the work of the Board. Each Council has been asked to nominate a Housing provider to represent the housing sector at Board meetings. Teresa Bell, the Board's Independent Chair, will be making contact with Provider Forums over the coming months in order to explore how provider organisations can be more involved in the Board and how we can learn more about the key safeguarding issues providers face and how providers are approaching safeguarding within their own organisations.

Church and other faith group members often visit people in their own homes and gain an understanding of people's care and support needs. The Board aims to engage more proactively with faith organisations in order to raise awareness of safeguarding adults so that possible abuse or neglect can be identified.

## **NHS Safeguarding app**

This useful app contains guidance and information on professional responsibilities, your role as an alerter, the Mental Capacity Act, DoLS, pressure damage, information sharing...and much more. Please follow this link:

[http://www.myguideapps.com/nhs\\_safeguarding/default/safeguarding\\_adults/?nocache=0.9013283207037812](http://www.myguideapps.com/nhs_safeguarding/default/safeguarding_adults/?nocache=0.9013283207037812)

## **Business Plan**

The work of the Board is driven by the priorities and actions set out in the [Business Plan 2017-18](#). The completed [Business Plan 2016-17](#) details what progress has been made in the last year.

This autumn, the Board will be consulting with practitioners, providers and the public in order to refresh its Strategic Plan 2015-18 in time for next April.

## **Easy Read Annual Report 2015-16**

An easy read version of last year's Annual Report has been produced by the Listen To Us group from CLASP (Caring, Listening and Supporting Partnership).

<http://www.sabberkshirewest.co.uk/media/1282/easy-read-annual-report-wb-sab.pdf>

The Board's Annual Report for 2016-17 will be available in October.

## **Pressure Ulcer Pathway**

If you are concerned about a pressure ulcer, do you know when to refer to the safeguarding adults procedures?

- [Appendix 5](#) of the Berkshire Policy and Procedures contains guidance and a pathway.
- These two leaflets include simple steps to reduce the risk of skin breakdown: [What happens if you don't move around enough?](#) and [React to Red](#).

## Learning and Development

### Joint Children's and Adults' Safeguarding Conference 2017

FRIDAY 22<sup>nd</sup> SEPTEMBER 2017

The Joint Children's and Adults' Safeguarding Conference is for practitioners from adults' and children's services within the statutory, private and voluntary sector; anyone working or volunteering with adults at risk, children, young people and their families in the Reading, West Berkshire and Wokingham areas. The cost is £60 per delegate.

The focus of this year's conference is **Mental Health** and topics will include: mental health versus mental illness; the impact of mental illness on individuals and families; local support services and referral routes; self-harm and suicide; bullying and cyberbullying; self-neglect and hoarding; early help.

[Conference Programme](#) and [Application Form](#)

### Bite Size learning sessions

The Learning and Development Subgroup is coordinating a series of bite size learning sessions for practitioners. Starting in September, the first topic will be **Learning from Safeguarding Adults Reviews (local and national)** followed by **Advocacy** and **Safer Recruitment**. Further details will be posted on the Workforce Development page of the website when available.

### Safer Recruitment e-learning module

A new online course has been launched for all staff and managers who are responsible for recruiting staff and volunteers to their organisation. Safer recruitment practice aims to minimise the risk of appointing someone unsuitable to a post where they will be in contact with children, and vulnerable adults, and could cause them harm.

After completing all the sections of this module you will:

- Know how Safer Recruitment contributes to Safeguarding.
- Understand the principles and application of Safer Recruitment.
- Understand your responsibilities.
- Know the benefits of getting interviews and checks right, and the risks associated with getting them wrong.
- Recognise the features of a safer culture and the need for remaining vigilant.

Contact the Learning and Development Team in your area for more information or to register:

Reading [training@reading.gov.uk](mailto:training@reading.gov.uk) 0118 937 2102

West Berkshire [training@westberks.gov.uk](mailto:training@westberks.gov.uk) 01635 519373

Wokingham [HREnquiries@wokingham.gov.uk](mailto:HREnquiries@wokingham.gov.uk) 0118 974 6116

<http://www.sabberkshirewest.co.uk/practitioners/workforce-development/>

napac

The National Association for  
People Abused in Childhood

The National Association for People Abused in Childhood offers support to adults who have suffered any type of childhood abuse, including physical, sexual, emotional or neglect.

They offer training and support services including:

**National support line** for adult survivors of child abuse, offering emotional support and signposting  
0808 801 0331

Survivor support groups.

Series of 6 booklets for survivors, friends and family or professionals

**FIND MORE INFORMATION AT:**  
<https://napac.org.uk/about/#>

### What kind of things can be included in a carer's Care and Support Plan to meet their needs?

Carer's UK has a useful guide to Carers' Assessments, please follow link:

<https://www.carersuk.org/help-and-advice/practical-support/getting-care-and-support/carers-assessment>

### Hoarding

Birmingham SAB have produced a video to help raise awareness of what helps people who hoard:

[Keith's story: a personal and touching film about hoarding](#)

## Learning from cases

**Mrs H Case Review** The conclusion of criminal proceedings means that the Board can now share a case review completed in 2016. The lady involved was living in an annexe of her son's home. She had a private carer (a friend of the family) who visited four times daily to provide meals, housework and shopping. Mrs H's son was not actively involved in the care of his mother as he worked long hours and all care was being delivered by the one carer.

Over the course of a two and a half year period, Mrs H was seen periodically by a range of health and social care professionals starting in May 2012 when she was referred to the Council for an assessment for day services by the consultant at the Memory Clinic. In August 2012, a day service was offered but declined by Mrs H's son. The consultant was not made aware of this by the council and was therefore allowed to believe the arrangement for a day service was in place.

In the full knowledge that the caring arrangements rested solely with one unqualified individual, caring for someone with identified complex care needs, when the day service was subsequently declined, there was no recorded professional consideration of the impact on either Mrs H or her carer. The case was closed and transferred across to the long term team without any further action taken and the decision accepted without challenge. In terms of overall decision making about Mrs H, her mental capacity was not considered.

There was no further recorded involvement until over a year later when the GP surgery received an urgent referral for pressure sores. The surgery was involved in treating the sores and Occupational Therapists supported with the provision of a chair and mattress. A year later Mrs H was admitted to hospital where she was described as being severely malnourished, needing blood fluids and feeding. Sadly, Mrs H passed away in hospital.

A briefing note and the full report on the Case of Mrs H are available on the Board's website:  
<http://www.sabberkshirewest.co.uk/practitioners/safeguarding-adults-reviews/>

**The Case of X** In March the SAR Panel considered a case presented by Thames Valley Police, involving a man who had some degree of Learning Disability, lived a chaotic lifestyle and sadly died of an overdose.

The Panel considered all the information available and concluded that although, technically, the case met the criteria for a SAR, a SAR would not be a proportionate response and would be unlikely to produce new learning. In particular, the case of [Mr I](#) completed in 2016 contained similar themes. A summary of learning from this case and previous reviews of cases involving individuals with similar needs - chaotic lives, complex needs, substance misuse and sporadic engagement – is available here:  
<http://www.sabberkshirewest.co.uk/media/1291/cas-e-of-x-and-associated-learning-report-to-sab-june-2017.pdf>

## Opportunities to discuss complex cases

Recent cases have reinforced the importance of practitioners having access to a range of opportunities to discuss complex cases, access specialist support and reflective practice. Examples of formal and informal opportunities are:

Advice and support from the safeguarding team.  
Reflective supervision.

Board rounds on hospital wards.

Case conferences and multi-disciplinary team meetings.

Quarterly GP Safeguarding Leads meeting.

Named and Designated Professionals meetings.

Safeguarding Champions Forums.

### **Positive Risk Panel / Risk Enablement Panel**

The purpose of the Risk Panel is to provide a forum where staff can seek approval, support and decision making when the level of risk raises such a concern that advice above the Service Manager is needed. This could be:

- Where a support plan will not meet identified risks.
- Where an individual is putting themselves or others at significant risk by refusing services.
- All options have been explored and the level of risk is still high.
- Disagreement between staff on managing the level of risk.

Anyone can present a case to the Risk Panel where there is a complex or challenging risk issue and where guidance and decision making are needed.

The person does not have to be in receipt of Adult Social Care support; the reason for bringing the case to panel might be due to the individual refusing support.

Membership of the panel will vary to reflect the expertise and knowledge required when reviewing cases from different client groups.

What support will the panel give:

- Support, guidance and direction to staff in the management of complex cases, including conflict resolution.
- Agreement in the risk decision-making.
- Flexible and creative use of resources to respond to complex needs.
- A consistent approach to managing complex risk decision making, where risk to independence is balanced with the risk of not supporting choice.
- Demonstrate that the Local Authority has appropriately fulfilled its duty of care.

Contact your service manager or safeguarding lead for more information about local processes, or the Board's Business Manager  
[natalie.madden@reading.gov.uk](mailto:natalie.madden@reading.gov.uk)