

Welcome to the West of Berkshire Safeguarding Adults Board briefing. The West of Berkshire Safeguarding Adults Board meets four times a year and discusses how agencies should work together to keep adults at risk of abuse or neglect safe in Reading, West Berkshire and Wokingham.

The main objective of the Board, as set out by the Care Act 2014, is to gain assurance that local safeguarding arrangements help and protect adults with care and support needs who are at risk of or experiencing abuse. The Board aims to make sure that all the organisations involved have effective safeguarding policies and procedures and work together in the best way possible to protect adults at risk. The three core duties of the Board are to:

- Publish an annual strategic plan;
- Publish an annual report; and
- Conduct Safeguarding Adults Reviews of serious cases in specific circumstances.

Our Board last meet in December 2020, where the Board focused on its quality assurance process. It was agreed that it is not as effective as it could be and that a full review, of our quality assurance process will be considered, as a future priority for the Board.

Our current priorities can be found [here](#).

We are extremely proud to say that a member of our Board, Patricia Pease, who represents Royal Berkshire Hospital at the Board. Was awarded an MBE in the 2021 New Years Honours List, for dedicating more than 40 years to the NHS and for her efforts in the fight against coronavirus. Congratulations Patricia.

Our 2019/20 Annual Report was published in January 21 and can be found here:

<http://www.sabberkshirewest.co.uk/board-members/priorities-plans-and-reports/>

Contact the Board

If you would like any further information on the Board, please contact the Boards Business Manager Lynne Mason:
Lynne.Mason@Reading.gov.uk
or on 07718 120601

Scams and Fraud

Scams and frauds are financial abuse. The Care Act explicitly states that local authorities have a duty to protect their residents from financial abuse and even includes scams and fraud in its definition of financial abuse.

1. Scams cost the UK economy £5-£10 Billion a year.
2. 53% of people over 65 have been targeted by scams.
3. Vulnerable people are more likely to be targeted by scammers.
4. Only 5% of scams are reported, people may not be aware that they are a victim.
5. The average scam victim has lost over £3000.
6. Victims have been known to suffer from physical risks, loss of their home, depression, and even some have contemplated, or attempted suicide.
7. People that are victims of fraud are more likely to require Adult Social Care Services.
8. Scammers groom their victims, praying on their vulnerabilities.

The COVID-19 outbreak is being used by criminals as an opportunity to harness panic and fear and exploit the desire of individuals to do what they can to protect themselves and others. An example of this is scammers sending texts regarding Covid tests asking victims to pay for a test that never arrives.

The National Centre for Post-Qualifying Social Work and Professional Practice (NCPQSW) have published 'Scams: the power of persuasive language' a guide for community health and social care workers, to help identify and prevent scams in society. With the restrictions due to the pandemic meaning that people are more isolated than ever health and social care workers are vital in identifying potential scams in the community. Some of the advice offered by the guide is how to ask questions to help identify if a person is at risk of a scam or has been scammed. Such as:

- Start a conversation about the contact they have had with people that week.
- If they have been contacted by someone they do not know, they should talk to you or other members of their support network before making any decisions.
- Encourage them to never make any decisions on the same day they receive information.
- Tell them to keep communicating openly and sharing information with you, and their friends and family.
- Talk to them about the reality of scams.

The publication can be found here:

<https://ncpqsw.com/publications/the-language-of-scams/> along with other useful information such as: Financial scamming and Fraud, Cyber Fraud and Scamming. Other useful information can be found at: <https://www.friendsagainstscams.org.uk/>, <https://takefive-stopfraud.org.uk/>

Sexual Abuse and Sexual Violence Awareness Week

1st – 7th February 2021

A message from Detective Superintendent Rebecca Mears, Head of Protecting Vulnerable People, from Thames Valley Police:

"Our priority first and foremost is to protect people.

Whatever the circumstances are surrounding a sexual assault taking place, we urge victims to come forward and seek the necessary support and if possible, report the offence to us so that we can take action to protect others.

Please do not be concerned."

VICTIMS FIRST



Please contact

campaigns@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk

with any questions.

Following their messages encouraging rape reporting during lockdown at the end of last year, Thames Valley Police are requesting that the partnership please join them in reiterating these messages during sexual abuse and sexual violence awareness week between 1 and 7 February 2021.

Please feel free to use the graphics along with the following message:

Seeking help in a national lockdown

It's Sexual Abuse and Sexual Violence Awareness Week. Please remember that you are able to leave your home to seek help if you are abuse or you're in danger.

Please don't sit in silence. We want to help you.

You can also reach out for support by contacting Victims First on 0300 1234 148 or using their live chat service on

<https://www.victims-first.org.uk/>

[#itsnotok](#)

Prevent

The Prevent strategy is part of the UK Counter Terrorism Strategy (CONTEST), based on the Counter Terrorism and Security Act of 2015. It requires public bodies, including local authorities, the police, prisons, providers of probation services, schools, colleges, and universities to act to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism, ensuring awareness of risks of terrorism.

Prevent has three main objectives:

- to respond to the ideological challenge of terrorism
- to support vulnerable people and prevent people from being drawn into terrorism
- to work with key sectors and institutions and address risks

It focuses on early intervention before any illegal activity takes place. The aim is to reduce the likelihood of individuals who support a violent extremist ideology of becoming terrorists.

Prevent referrals should be made via your local authority using the [National Prevent Referral Form](#)

The Board have a dedicated page on this subject with lots of useful information, including links to free online training: [Prevent | Safeguarding Adults Board \(sabberkshirewest.co.uk\)](#)

Seven golden rules for information-sharing

Please consider the following when sharing information:

1. Remember that the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) is not a barrier to sharing information
2. Be open and honest
3. Seek advice
4. Share with consent where appropriate
5. Consider safety and wellbeing
6. Necessary, proportionate, relevant, accurate, timely and secure
7. Keep a record

SCIE – social care institute for excellence, has a dedicated page on this subject: [Safeguarding adults: sharing information | SCIE](#)

Homeless Reduction Act 2017- duty to refer

From October 2018 The Homeless Reduction Act (2017) introduced a legal duty on specified public authorities to refer service users who they think may be homeless or "threatened with homelessness within 56 days" to local authority homelessness/housing options teams. These organisations include:

- Criminal justice institutions/services
- Jobcentres Plus
- Social services authorities
- Members of the regular armed forces
- Emergency departments
- Urgent treatment centres
- Hospitals –providing inpatient services

More information can be found here: [Homelessness: duty to refer - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)



ASK FOR ANI

From the 14th January 21, victims of domestic abuse can access support from thousands of pharmacies across the country with the government backed Asked for Ani scheme. The scheme allows those at risk or suffering abuse to discreetly signal that they need help and access support, by asking for ANI. A trained pharmacist will offer a private space where they can understand if the person needs to speak to the police or would like help to access support services. Participating pharmacies will display the ASK FOR ANI Poster on their shop front.

The scheme will work alongside the Safe Spaces scheme that some pharmacies are already operating, and those pharmacies will have a poster incorporating both schemes.

The Home Office are working with the police and national pharmacy bodies to ensure all pharmacies are aware of the scheme so that staff working in non-participating pharmacies know the codeword and understand that a safeguarding response is required if someone uses the codeword in their pharmacy.

Safeguarding Adult Reviews (SARS)

The Board has a legal duty to carry out a Safeguarding Adults Review when there is reasonable cause for concern about how agencies worked together to safeguard an adult who has died, and abuse or neglect is suspected to be a factor in their death; or when an adult has not died but suffered serious abuse or neglect. The aim is for all agencies to learn lessons about the way they safeguard adults at risk and prevent such tragedies happening in the future. The West of Berkshire Safeguarding Adults Board has a Safeguarding Adults Review Panel that oversees this work.

The Board has published three SARS recently: Carol, Michelle and P, copies of these SARS can be found on our website, along with 2-page practice note for the SARs in relation to Carol and Michelle, and an executive summary for P, to highlight learning for practitioners. Please do take the time to read them.

<http://www.sabberkshirewest.co.uk/practitioners/safeguarding-adults-reviews/>

Learning from all SARS is used by the Board to set our priorities.

For a SAR to be considered by the SAR Panel a notification needs to be made, notifications can be excepted from anyone including members of the public. Further information on submitting SAR notifications can be found on our website.



Berkshire West Children's and Adults Safeguarding Partnerships launched a safeguarding campaign during the first national lockdown. The "**Be Brave Speak Up**" message remains just as important, please do promote across your organisations. A short video has been produced which we urge to be shared as widely as possible.

[An important message about safeguarding - YouTube](#)

Upcoming Awareness Events

- 1st February, [Dignity Action Day](#)
- 1st February – 7th February, [Sexual Abuse & Sexual Violence Awareness Week](#)
- February, [LGBT History Month](#)
- 9th February, [Safer Internet Day](#)
- 16th March, [Young Carers Action Day](#)
- April - [Stress Awareness Month](#)



Free LGA webinars and live Q&A sessions

Against the backdrop of the frameworks 'Understand what constitutes a safeguarding concern' and on 'Making decisions on the duty to carry out Safeguarding Adults enquiries'.

The LGA is pleased to announce the roll out of a pre-recorded webinar and a series of live Q&A sessions against the backdrop of the framework 'Understand what constitutes a safeguarding concern' and the framework on 'Making decisions on the duty to carry out Safeguarding Adults enquiries'.

The pre-recorded webinar, which aims to provide a foundational understanding of what constitutes a safeguarding concern and will introduce quick guides and case studies to support the framework. This webinar is intended to be for professionals and staff across **all sectors** who support individuals and communities who may be in need of safeguarding support. This webinar is available from November 20 and prior viewing of the pre-recorded webinar is recommended for those joining one of the live virtual Q&A sessions.

The Q&A sessions, which will be delivered between December and March are aimed at: safeguarding strategic and operational leads in all organisations (including local authority and health providers and police commissioners, voluntary sector, advocacy, independent health and care providers, and homelessness providers/organisations, CQC, etc.). These sessions will provide an opportunity to explore the framework through group discussions and provide an opportunity to engage in a Q&A session.

If you are interested in attending a workshop, please send your expressions of interest to chip@local.gov.uk indicating which webinar you would like to join. Remaining dates for the live Q&A sessions are: 12th February 2021, 10:00-12:00, 17th February 2021, 10:00-12:00, 15th March 2021, 10:00-12:00, 22nd March 2021, 10:00- 12:00



Under Thames Valley Partnership and working in partnership with Oxfordshire Sexual Abuse and Rape Crisis Centre (OSARCC) and Trust House Reading, the **Victims First Specialist Service** provides much needed specialist support for victims and witnesses of serious crime including Rape & Sexual Abuse and Exploitation & Modern Slavery. Commissioned by the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner, the service is available to those living in the Thames Valley area of Berkshire, Buckinghamshire (inc Milton Keynes) and Oxfordshire.

Offering a holistic approach, this service helps those with longer term or more complex needs. The service provides crisis intervention and ongoing support to help those with multiple and/or historical experiences of crime, and those who have had a traumatic response to a single recent crime. When appropriate, our service will provide, family-oriented support when several members of the same family (or a couple) have been directly or indirectly affected by crime.

Our support is person centred and focuses on the individual and the impact to them. We encourage activities that are designed to increase confidence, build resilience and improve future safety; and we promote improvement in physical and mental health & wellbeing, including developing coping strategies and daily living skills.

Our support service has no time limits and can range from a single incident of support to long term support. Long term support enables us to build relationships of trust with our clients which can help empower people to break the cycle of the impact of crime.

We believe that our experience and expertise, coupled with our passion and heart for victims and the vulnerable, ensures the people we support have compassionate support in a professional and caring way.

If you wish to speak to anyone for further information about the service, please contact:

Nicola Bell, Service Manager - 07780 433683 or visit: [Support for Victims of Crime in Berkshire](#),