

Welcome to the first West of Berkshire Safeguarding Adults Partnership Board briefing of 2023. The partnership, which covers Reading, West Berkshire and Wokingham has a large workplan with several themes to help better support and protect vulnerable members of the community. This is overseen by a management board which meets four times a year.

The management Board last met in December 2022 and the following was addressed:

- Endorsed a Safeguarding Adult Review (SAR) in relation to Pauline.
- Considered recommendations from the SAR Panel in regard to the SAB priority: The Board to review its Safeguarding Adult Review (SAR) process, in order to ensure that it is timely and good value for money.
- Assurance provided from partners that actions have been taken to address the risks attributed to a significant increase in out of scope safeguarding concerns.
- Agreed options will be explored to relaunch the safeguarding train the trainer programme.
- Agreed to fund a free webinar on self-neglect for the voluntary care sector.
- Considered the impact the newly established Integrated Care Boards may have on the Pan Berkshire Safeguarding Adults Policies and Procedures.
- Agreed options for commissioning of a new Board website.
- Endorsed our annual report for 2021/22. Which can be found [here](#).
- We said thank you and goodbye to three Board members who are moving on from their organisations:
  - Seona Douglas, Director of Adult Care and Health Services, Reading Borough Council
  - Jo Lappin, Assistant Director for Safeguarding, Reading Borough Council
  - Andy Sharp, Executive Director - People, West Berkshire District Council

The next Board meeting is scheduled for March 2023.

### **Safeguarding Learning and Development Events Schedule**

The Learning and Development subgroup have an events schedule, which lists all training/events relevant to safeguarding adults, that are open to all of the workforce and volunteers, across the West of Berkshire.

The schedule will be continuously updated and can be found here: [Workforce Development | Safeguarding Adults Board \(sabberkshirewest.co.uk\)](#)

In response to our priority on self-neglect we have held 2 webinars:

- Prof Keith Brown, our independent chair, delivered a webinar to 195 people in October 2022 on Self-Neglect and the Mental Capacity Act, the recording of this webinar is on our website and can be found [here](#).
- In January 2023, Sue Brain Sue Brain, Service Manager – Safeguarding Adults, West Berkshire District Council and Sara Ross, Quality and Development Manager – Adult Safeguarding, Wokingham Borough Council, delivered a webinar to 115 people, on the [Self-Neglect and Hoarding Safeguarding Pathway Toolkit](#) which has been created to support professionals across the West of Berkshire in their decision making when considering if a safeguarding concern should be raised in response to concerns in regard to vulnerable adults that are or are at risk of self-neglecting and/or hoarding.

On the 8<sup>th</sup> February 2023, at 10am, Suzy Braye will be delivering a free webinar for the voluntary care sector on: Identifying and responding to self-neglect. Click here to [register](#) for the event.

Where possible learning sessions will be recorded and added to our website.

Contact the Board Via the Boards Business Manager: [Lynne.Mason@Reading.gov.uk](mailto:Lynne.Mason@Reading.gov.uk)  
or on 07718 12060

## Pauline – Learning from a SAR

Pauline lived alone in her own home. She was a local well-liked character; friendly, chatty and cooperative, but fiercely independent and someone who, despite increasing frailty associated with aging, remained very active and physically able. Pauline died at home in late 2021, having fallen resulting in fatal injuries. Pauline had several known conditions (including dementia) that impacted on her ability to manage daily living activities.

Concerns had been raised by Pauline's neighbours and a number of professionals over recent years that, as she had grown increasingly frail with age, and her choices which may have been present throughout her life.

The SAR clarified Pauline did not die because of abuse or neglect and partners had complied with their duties to assess and offer support in a manner that complied with her human rights. There was evidence of good practice from professionals throughout.

### Key Learning Points from this review were:

**Balancing risks and rights:** those working with Pauline demonstrated persistent, compassionate concern. The risks to Pauline remaining within her own home were well understood, but consideration was also given to the harm that compelling her to receive care against her will would cause.

**Caring Communities have a valuable role:** People with dementia wishing to remain at home for as long as possible, have the easiest course when they have family, friends or neighbours supporting this choice.

**Good record keeping is essential to good risk enabling care:** Whilst there was an agreed multi-agency understanding of Pauline's capacity. Formal capacity assessment reports were not completed in line with policy. There are opportunities to improve recording and monitoring systems to ensure improved compliance with the Mental Capacity Act.

**Lessons learnt from Covid should not be forgotten:** The pandemic was undoubtedly a very difficult time to have additional vulnerabilities, but there was also remarkable effort from volunteers and key workers to reduce harm to adults with care and support needs.

For further information on this SAR, the Board have published the [full SAR report](#) and a [learning briefing](#).

The Board will be considering the recommendations in this SAR when setting its priorities for 2023/24.

## Useful Publications

- Our independent chair Prof Keith Brown in conjunction with the National Trading Standards Scams Team have published a paper on: [Coercion and control in financial abuse; learning from domestic abuse](#).
- We have published a [case study](#), which shares learning from a safeguarding enquiry where the use of clinical terminology led to confusion for individual and people supporting them.
- We have developed webpages dedicated to: [Fire risk awareness](#) and [Self-Neglect](#)
- Our [Supporting Individuals to Manage Risk and Multi Agency Framework \(MARM\)](#) was reviewed and relaunched in October 2022.
- There is new [guidance](#) on non-molestation orders, which may be of use to those working with Domestic Abuse victims.
- There has been an update to [Pan Berkshire Safeguarding Adults Board Allegations Management Framework/ Person in a Position of Trust \(PiPoT\)](#)
- [Safeguarding Adults: a guide for health care staff](#) - produced by NHS England this is a helpful pocket guide.

## [Could you or someone you know benefit from care technology?](#)

Reading Borough Council have produced a short video that demonstrates the use of simple tech to support someone to feel safe at home, after someone tried to break into their property. Link to video in title.

## Domestic Abuse and those who are blind or have impaired vision.

Please take time to review the [information](#) produced by Safelives.

You can also listen to an 18 minute [podcast](#) where visually impaired people share their experiences of domestic abuse.

## Mental Capacity Act

With Bournemouth University, The National Centre for Post-Qualifying Social Work and Professional Practice, our independent chair Prof Keith Brown has produced the following guides on the application of the Mental Capacity Act:

- [Advance Care Planning](#)
- [Scams - the power of persuasive language](#)
- [Next of Kin: Understanding decision making authorities](#)
- [Advance Decisions to Refuse Treatment](#)
- [The Mental Capacity Act requirements for clinical decisions regarding treatment and care](#)
- [The Mental Capacity Act requirements when an individual lacks the mental capacity to consent to treatment and care](#)
- [Guidance on the use of the Mental Capacity Act for decisions regarding clinical treatment and care: An introduction](#)

## Relevant History

In response from the [Adam SAR](#) the Pan Berkshire Policies and Procedures has updated the [website](#) to provide a definition of relevant history and prompts to consider relevant history during or when considering safeguarding intervention.

Relevant History - Is something that is relevant to a **situation** or person is **important** or **significant** in that situation or to that person, that may impact on the decisions made throughout the safeguarding intervention. For example, a past trauma effecting the individual and/or their loved ones that may impact on their engagement with services. Relevant History should also be considered when working with care and support providers.

## Mental Capacity Toolkit

In March 2022 Bournemouth University published a Mental Capacity Toolkit to support health and social care professionals working with individuals whose decision-making process is impaired.

The Mental Capacity Toolkit is a free resource for health and social care professionals and for friends or family who may have to make decisions on behalf of another person.

As part of a wider research project funded by the Burdett Trust for Nurses, BU developed the toolkit to enable ethical, legal, and informed professional practice and ensure professionals are confident in their understanding of the Mental Capacity Act 2005.

The toolkit contains sections of the Mental Capacity Act 2005:

- Reflecting on values and bias within mental capacity decision making
- The history and current context of mental capacity legislation and policy
- The concept of mental capacity
- Best interests
- Supporting decision making
- Deprivation of liberty: human rights
- MCA in clinical decisions for care and treatment
- MCA and the Office of the Public Guardian (OPG) role

These sections are underpinned by interactive user experiences such as videos and quizzes.

To access the Toolkit please visit: [mentalcapacitytoolkit.co.uk](http://mentalcapacitytoolkit.co.uk)