

Welcome to the second West of Berkshire Safeguarding Adults Partnership Board briefing of 2023 and we apologise for not providing an updated in the Spring. Our partnership 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 June 2023 and the following was addressed:

- Endorsed a Safeguarding Adult Review (SAR) in relation to Sandra.
- Was provided with an update from the [Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire and Berkshire West Integrated Care System](#), our statutory partner and we considered how we can work more effectively together.
- Heard from the Department of Work and Pensions (DWP) and how their new Advanced Customer support team could support vulnerable people in our area.
- Agreed to the recommendation in a report from our Learning and Development Subgroup not to relaunch the safeguarding train the trainer programme.
- Discussed progress on our priorities and agreed to review our risk and mitigation log.
- [The Advocacy People](#) delivered a presentation to the Board on the provision of advocacy services across the West of Berkshire.
- Considered results and next steps from the recent Mental Capacity Act Survey undertaken by the Board.
- Discussed the recently published report from Healthwatch West Berkshire on [Asylum seeker experiences of living in West Berkshire](#).

The next Board meeting is scheduled for September 2023.

Mental Capacity Act April 2023 Survey

In April 2023 in response to our current priority to: Embed a good understanding of the Mental Capacity Act within the practice of our partners. We ran a Mental Capacity Act survey with the aim being for the board to better understand the current support available and the challenges within the partnerships for those supporting vulnerable adults in identifying and managing and supporting people with issues around mental capacity.

There was an amazing 199 responses to this survey and the results were considered by the Board in June 2023, this link provides a copy of the [presentation](#).

Key learning from the survey was that there is a lack of confidence in practice in the:

- Assessment of executive function when assessing capacity
- Understanding the criteria for referring to advocacy services
- Assessing capacity when the individual has or may have fluctuating capacity.

The key word when responding to the following question: What would help the wider safeguarding system to improve understanding and practice in relation to mental capacity? Was **training**, particularly scenario-based training.

In follow up to this survey the Learning and Development Subgroup will consider the partnerships training offer for mental capacity and provide recommendations to the Board.

Sandra Learning from a SAR

Sandra died in hospital from a sepsis infection acquired from an injury received in her home aged 65. Sandra had a number of long-term health issues and there was a pattern of her not attending or arranging appointments and then being discharged from services without the intended support being provided.

Concerns were raised 9 years previously that her son had moved into her flat after being evicted from his own accommodation. There were concerns about him physically assaulting Sandra and hoarding. Shortly after these concerns were raised, Sandra was evicted from the property due to its condition and was supported by the local authority in being rehoused.

Over the years further safeguarding concerns were raised about Sandra, all with similar themes relating to the risk of abuse from her son and the condition of her home.

Key Learning Points from this review were:

- **The Assessment of Safeguarding Referrals and Social Care Prevention Pathways**

Improvement is required in the way that referrals and contacts are initially assessed and allocated for further social work. New prevention pathways are required to ensure that social work teams are structured and resourced to manage cases of differing complexity.

- **The Quality-of-Care Act Assessments and Management of Risk**

Social workers and managers need further guidance in how to prepare person centred Care Act assessments and safeguarding plans.

- **Multi-Agency Information Sharing and Planning**

There is a need to promote the current multi-agency arrangements to share information and develop joint safeguarding plans. This should include improving the understanding of when a referral would still be appropriate in the absence of consent.

- **Developing Professional Curiosity**

Agencies have identified how a greater level of professional curiosity by their staff would have helped to better identify vulnerability and improve the submission of safeguarding referrals.

For further information on this SAR, the Board have published the full [SAR Report](#) and [Practice Note](#).

The Board have agreed for a task and finish group to be set up to consider and implement actions on the recommendations for this SAR.

Useful Publications

[Practitioners | West of Berkshire Safeguarding Adults Board](#)

[\(sabberkshirewest.co.uk\)](#) In May 2023, the Boards Website provider changed, some improvements have been made as a result of this, particularly the practitioner's section, please take some time to look at the information available. In addition a page containing recording of webinars and training sessions has been created [Recorded Webinars/Training Sessions - West of Berkshire \(sabberkshirewest.co.uk\)](#)

Executive Function a short [animation](#) has been produced for Worcestershire Safeguarding Adults Board, by their and our Independent Chair Prof Keith Brown.

Advocacy People in June 2023, the Advocacy presented to the Board their advocacy offer in the West of Berkshire, also highlighting the importance of advocacy in safeguarding. [Advocacy People Berkshire SAB presentation June](#)

MARM – Supporting Individuals to Manage Risk and Multi Agency Framework

In order to support the use of the MARM, each Local Authority have produced a pre-recorded video describing how the MARM works in their organisations which can be found here:

- [West Berkshire Council MARM Process Video](#)
- [Wokingham Borough Council MARM Process Webinar](#)
- Reading Borough Council MARM Process – in development

[Quality Assurance Framework](#)

The Board have reviewed and updated its Quality Assurance Framework

[DWP Presentation June 2023](#)

The Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) have introduced Advanced Customer Support Team, whose role is to offer more support vulnerable individuals which will sometimes overlap with safeguarding interventions. In June 2023 the DWP delivered a presentation to the Board detailing the function of this new team.

The [safeguarding strategy 2021-24](#) outlines what the Board aims to achieve in the next three years. The Board identifies strategic priorities that shapes its work. These are reviewed each year, most recently in March 2023, and are revised to reflect findings from performance information and case reviews.

Priority 1: To seek assurance that quality of health and social care services delivered in the West of Berkshire or those commissioned out of area for West Berkshire residents is monitored effectively and there is a proportionate response to concerns.

Priority 2: Embedding a good understanding of Mental Capacity Act within the practice of our statutory partners.

Priority 3: Serious Violence and Exploitation, understanding the gaps from an adult safeguarding perspective.

Priority 4: Review and relaunch of the SAB Quality Assurance Framework

Details on how the Board aims to achieve these priorities can be found in our [Business Plan](#).



Safeguarding Adults Week – November 2023

The West of Berkshire Safeguarding Adults Partnership Board are supporting the [Ann Craft Trust](#) Safeguarding Adults Week running from the 20th November – 24th November 2023.

Throughout the week we plan to host a wide variety of free webinars to explore effective strategies for how individuals and organisations can promote the wellbeing of staff, volunteers and the people they support.

These are open to all health and social care practitioners and volunteers within the West of Berkshire. The week will include practical information as well as hearing from people with personal experience in safeguarding.

The Programme of events will be published on our website: [Home | West of Berkshire Safeguarding Adults Board \(sabberkshirewest.co.uk\)](#)

The Ann Craft Trust have a range of resources available to those that wish to host their own safeguarding awareness events during this week: [Safeguarding Adults Week 2023 - Links, Resources, and More - Ann Craft Trust](#), do let the partnership know what your organisations are doing to promote adult safeguarding during this week by contacting Lynne.Mason@Reading.gov.uk

#SafeguardingAdultsWeek

Pauline Safeguarding Adult Review

The author of this SAR has produced a 30 minute webinar on the learning from this review, which can be found here:

[Safeguarding Adults Reviews | West of Berkshire Safeguarding Adults Board \(sabberkshirewest.co.uk\)](#)