



Newsletter

Working in partnership to enable adults in Somerset to live a life free from fear, harm or abuse



Richard Crompton
Chairman - Safeguarding Adults Board

Welcome to the first edition of the Somerset Safeguarding Adults Board Newsletter.

This quarterly newsletter has been created as a way of disseminating news and learning on behalf of the Board, and aims to raise awareness for everyone who has an interest in safeguarding and wishes to develop their knowledge and understanding of this issue.

As this is a new publication, we welcome your feedback, views and ideas for future content.

Please share this newsletter with colleagues or anyone you think would find it informative.

Contents

- Who we are and what we do – p1
- News from the Board – p2
- Thinking it? Report it Campaign – p3
- Spotlight on Modern Slavery – p4
- National Safeguarding News – p5
- Learning Lessons – p6
- Training and Development – p7
- Useful links – p7

Who we are and what we do

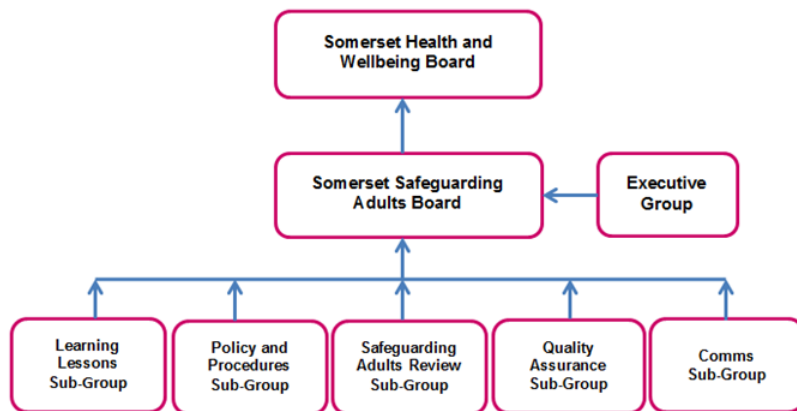
The Somerset Safeguarding Adults Board (SSAB) is a multi-agency statutory body working together to safeguard and protect adults with care and support needs.

Our shared vision is to '**work in partnership to enable adults in Somerset to live a life free from fear, harm of abuse**'. Our members work together and with local communities to ensure:

- There is a culture of not tolerating abuse;
- People work together to prevent abuse;
- People know what to do when abuse happens.

The Board is chaired independently, meets on a quarterly basis, and is supported by a number of sub-groups which meet frequently to progress our ambitions and objectives. *Continued overleaf*

Who we are and what we do - *continued*



Subgroup Purpose

Learning and Development subgroup

Establishing a multiagency perspective of Safeguarding Adults training, learning and development needs and ensuring lessons learned are reported to the Board and influence policy changes

Policy and Procedures subgroup

Producing policy, procedures and guidance that maximise outcomes for adults at risk

Safeguarding Adults Review subgroup

Ensuring the Board meets its statutory requirements in relation to Safeguarding Adults Reviews

Quality Assurance subgroup

Establishing and maintaining performance management arrangements for the Board

Comms subgroup

Promoting awareness of Safeguarding Adults within and across agencies and the wider community (ad hoc basis)

The Care Act 2014 outlined three primary functions for a Safeguarding Adults Board:

- 1) It must develop and publish a [strategic plan](#), setting out its objectives and how these will be met
- 2) It must publish an [annual report](#) detailing how effective its work has been
- 3) It must commission safeguarding adults reviews (SARs) for any cases meeting the criteria.

News from the SSAB

New in post Niki Shaw took up post as the SSAB's Business Manager in September 2015. She has previously worked within Somerset County Council's children's services, with project management experience and a strong performance management background.

Sue Follett now provides business support to the SSAB, having joined in the summer of 2015.

If you have any questions about the Board, both Niki and Sue can be contacted via ssab@somerset.gov.uk



Niki Shaw

SSAB website Work is underway to develop a dedicated website for the Board, which will house safeguarding information for the general public, as well as multi-agency professionals and SSAB members more specifically. It is hoped the website will be up and running later in the Spring, with the next newsletter edition featuring the new site and highlighting its content.

Safeguarding Adults Reviews The Care Act 2014 introduced a new name for the type of review undertaken by Boards when an adult at risk has died or suffered very serious harm through abuse or neglect. These are now called Safeguarding Adults Reviews (SARs), previously known as Serious Case Review (SCR). The SSAB has recently developed a Learning & Improvement Policy which outlines the various processes used for the purpose of learning lessons from incidents and practice. The main function of a SAR is to identify whether lessons can be learnt about the effectiveness of professionals and agencies working together to safeguard adults at risk. Published reports will be summarised in future newsletters for information.

If you wish to find out more about the Policy or how to make a SAR referral, please contact: ssab@somerset.gov.uk

'Thinking it? Report it' Campaign

In November 2015 the SSAB launched a new publicity campaign aimed at raising local awareness of adult safeguarding issues and encouraging people to make contact if they think someone is being harmed.

We know there will be vulnerable people in the county who are subjected to abuse, harm or neglect, but they may lack the ability, knowledge or support to challenge it or protect themselves.

That's why we need people to speak up for them. Our message is simple – if you suspect it, think it, hear it or see it, don't stay silent. Report it.

Abuse can happen anywhere and we need to ensure that safeguarding is everybody's business.

If you have public buildings or other assets where posters, leaflets or 'really useful cards' can be displayed, please email ssab@somerset.gov.uk



Did you know? Somerset's Ageing Population

- An estimated 125,000 people aged 65 or older live in Somerset (2014 Mid-Year Estimates).
- Between 1984 and 2014 the number of people aged 85 or older has increased by 170% to an estimated 18,100.
- The number of people aged 75 or more is projected to double in the next two decades. The fastest growing group are men aged 80 or more.
- In parts of West Somerset and Burnham-on-Sea, more than half the population is projected to be aged 65 or older by 2033.
- Life expectancy is at an all-time high. Those aged 65+ can expect to live for another twenty years, but barely half of this will be disability-free.

For more information, facts and figures about Somerset, visit: www.somersetintelligence.org.uk

Spotlight on: Modern Slavery

The [Modern Slavery Act 2015](#) received Royal Assent on 26 March 2015. The Act gives law enforcement the tools to fight modern slavery, ensure perpetrators receive suitably severe punishments for their crimes, and enhance support and protection for victims. Modern Slavery encompasses human trafficking, slavery, servitude, and forced or compulsory labour.

Modern slavery in the UK

- 2,340 potential victims were referred to the National Referral Mechanism in 2014, a 34% increase on 2013
- Top 5 countries of origin: Albania, Nigeria, Vietnam, Romania, Slovakia
- Not just an international problem – the UK is at number 6
- Commonly manifests itself as sexual exploitation and trafficking, forced labour, domestic servitude, forced criminality
- 29% referred for experience of modern slavery in childhood.

What should I look for?

The indicators outlined below are apparent symptoms of modern slavery. They are not a check list. The presence of one indicator alone may be enough to satisfy you that the individual has been trafficked. Similarly, indicators don't automatically mean someone is a victim. Trust your professional judgement.

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Distrustful of authorities | <input type="checkbox"/> Limited social contact and contact with family |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Expression of fear or anxiety | <input type="checkbox"/> Unable, or reluctant to give details of accommodation or details such as work address |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Signs of psychological trauma | <input type="checkbox"/> Perception of being bonded by debt |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Acts as if instructed by another | <input type="checkbox"/> Money is deducted from salary for food or accommodation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Injuries apparently a result of assault or controlling measures | <input type="checkbox"/> Threat of being handed over to authorities |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Evidence of control over movement, either as an individual or as a group | <input type="checkbox"/> Threats against the individual or their family members |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Found in or connected to a type of location likely to be used for exploitation | <input type="checkbox"/> Being placed in a dependency situation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Restriction of movement and confinement to the workplace or to a limited area | <input type="checkbox"/> No or limited access to bathroom or hygiene facilities or medical care |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Passport or documents held by someone else | |

How do I notify the Home Office?

Where a specified public authority has reasonable grounds to believe that a person may be a victim of slavery or human trafficking, it must notify the Home Office.

If the person consents to enter the National Referral Mechanism (NRM), you should use the [NRM form](#).

If the person has not consented to enter the NRM, you can send the 'MS1: notification of a potential victim of modern slavery form'.

September 2015

Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015: revised prevent duty guidance comes into force

On 18th September 2015, the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015 (Risk of Being Drawn into Terrorism) (Guidance) Regulations 2015 came into force. They bring revised [statutory guidance](#) for local authorities and schools which:

- Covers how specified authorities in Scotland, England and Wales should perform their duty under Section 26(1) of the Act to have due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism.
- Replaces the previously issued guidance that came into effect on 25th March 2015



Prevent is part of the Government's counter-terrorism strategy CONTEST which aims to stop people becoming radicalised into extremism or terrorism. The *Prevent* Strategy addresses all forms of terrorism and prioritises according to the threat posed to national security. Please refer to the local [Prevent toolkit](#) and [referral chart](#) to find out more or to report a concern of a vulnerable individual.

October 2015

Mandatory Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) reporting duty: The new FGM mandatory [reporting duty](#) came into force on 31st October 2015 for all regulated health and social care professionals, and teachers. The duty requires the reporting of 'known' (visually identified or verbally disclosed) cases of FGM in under 18s to the police. The duty will *not* apply in relation to at risk or suspected cases, or in cases where the woman is over 18. In these cases, professionals should follow existing safeguarding procedures.

Safeguarding Adults Return 2014/15: The Health and Social Care Information Centre has published an [annual report](#) of the Safeguarding Adults Return data collection from 1 April 2014 to 31 March 2015. The purpose of the collection is to provide information which can help stakeholders to understand where abuse may occur and improve services for individuals affected by abuse.

November 2015

Care Act advocacy referrals 'way below' expected level: Community Care [reported](#) in November 2015 that Care Act advocacy referrals are 'way below' the expected level and that advocacy experts fear people are being left without support to challenge decisions about their care. SCIE has a dedicated section of its website looking at providing [independent advocacy and the Care Act](#).

December 2015

'Greater efforts' needed on deprivation of liberty: The Care Quality Commission has published its sixth annual [monitoring report](#) on how hospitals and care homes in England are using the Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards (DoLS). Data from its inspection regime shows variation between providers, meaning people are not consistently receiving the protections of DoLS.

Proposed deprivation of liberty reforms 'too complex and costly', says government:

Department of Health issues critical [response](#) to Law Commission's draft proposals for a deprivation of liberty safeguards replacement.

NHS Trust investigated 'too few' deaths of mental health and learning disability patients:

NHS-commissioned [review](#) warns lack of scrutiny by Southern Health NHS Trust left missed opportunities to learn from deaths.

Learning Lessons



Serious Case Reviews

The Hull Safeguarding Adults Partnership Board has collated 74 national Adult Serious Case Reviews conducted between 2003 and 2013, and analysed the themes to emerge for learning and to improve practice in the future. Recommendations focus primarily on practices (28%), Reviews (19%) and issues of accountability (14%).

The full and detailed report can be accessed via:

<http://www.adass.org.uk/safeguarding-key-documents-a-decade-of-serious-case-reviews/>

Somerset Learning Review into Deaths of Vulnerable Young Adults

In 2013 the Somerset Safeguarding Children Board and Somerset Safeguarding Adults Board commissioned research to explore the circumstances surrounding the lives of 13 young people who all had been, at some point in their lives, looked after in Somerset but sadly died prematurely. The research aimed to learn more about how services can best support care leavers in their transition into independent adulthood to better shape the future organisation and delivery of services to this vulnerable group of people.

Main Findings

1. **'Pull' of the birth family** – *the way we engage and work with children looked after and their birth families does not sufficiently recognise the role the family may play in the young person's adult life*
2. **The more complex the need the less supported the accommodation** – *accommodation resources for children looked after and care leavers do not sufficiently meet the complex needs of individual children and young people*
3. **Constellations of needs leads to gaps in service** – *young adults who have left care tend to receive reactive services which do not necessarily recognise or meet their needs as vulnerable people*
4. **Need for stable and consistent relationships** – *the ways we provide services for children looked after does not sufficiently take into account the child's need for consistent and stable relationships, both during their time looked after and as adults*
5. **Need for early intervention** – *there are opportunities for earlier and more effective intervention which could support children in their families*

The review into deaths of vulnerable young adults was formally published in September 2015 and can be accessed [here](#).

Evaluation of Making Safeguarding Personal Programme, 2014/15

Making Safeguarding Personal aimed to bring about person-centred, outcome focused leadership and practice. This [evaluation](#) aimed to find out the impact of using a MSP approach on:

- Outcomes for people using safeguarding services
- The impact of the approach on ways of working and professional culture in safeguarding;
- Partnership working and culture change.

The evaluation contributes to understanding whether the approach is working and how. It focuses both on the process and the outcomes that MSP has led to across England, and makes some recommendations for future work.



Training & Development

Somerset County Council's corporate Learning Centre has Safeguarding Adults e-learning available to external users.

Users can self-enrol onto the system, via the link below, and click on the 'external access request' button: <http://someset.learningpool.com/>

From the main screen, select *My Learning/courses/skills & knowledge for social care/safeguarding* and either *Safeguarding for Adult Service Workers* or *Safeguarding for Non Adult Service workers*.

Other useful resources can be found via:

- <http://www.skillsforcare.org.uk/Skills/Safeguarding/Safeguarding.aspx>
- <http://www.scie.org.uk/>

Useful Links

[Somerset County Council Public Safeguarding Information](#)

[Somerset Safeguarding Children Board](#)

[Somerset County Council – Care Act information](#)

[Consolidated list of LGA safeguarding resources](#)

Safeguarding Adults Board Meeting Dates 2016

25 February 2016

2 June 2016

8 September 2016

1 December 2016

Get in touch

If you have any suggestions for future topics or comments about this newsletter, please contact us via:

ssab@somerset.gov.uk

Alternatively call our Business Manager, Niki Shaw, on:
01823 357014

**If you are worried about
a vulnerable adult,
don't stay silent**

**Phone Adult Social Care on
0300 123 2224 or email
adults@somerset.gov.uk**

In an emergency always contact the police by dialling 999.

If it is not an emergency, dial 101

