



# Safeguarding Adults Board Meeting

13 February 2024, 0930-12:30

## Present:

- Michael Preston-Shoot (MPS) Independent Chair, SSAB
- Bob Champion (BC) – Healthwatch Somerset
- Claire Evans (CE) – Senior Probation Officer, National Probation Service
- Emily Fulbrook (EF) – Service Director, Adult Social Care Operational Services, Somerset Council
- George Headley (GH) – Chief Inspector, Avon and Somerset Police
- Heather Sparks (HS) - Named Professional for Safeguarding Adults, Somerset NHS FT
- Hilary Robinson (HR) – CEO, RCPA Ltd
- Jane Spencer (JS) - Safeguarding Lead, Abri Housing
- Julia Mason (JM)- Designated Nurse for Safeguarding Adults, NHS Somerset Integrated Care Board
- Julie Hall (JH) - Regional Manager Neighbourhoods, Livewest
- Louise Mclellan (LMc) – Safeguarding Officer, Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue
- Natalie Green (NG) - SSAB Business Manager
- Niki Shaw (NS) – Acting Director - Strategy, Transformation & Performance, Adult Social Care, Somerset Council
- Rachel Handley (RH) - Consultant in Public Health, Somerset Council
- Sarah Ashe (SA) – Associate Director of Quality and Nursing, NHS Somerset Integrated Care Board
- Shelagh Meldrum (SM)- Chief Nursing Officer, NHS Somerset Integrated Care Board
- Sue Lancaster (SL) - Advanced Customer Support Senior Leader, Avon, Somerset and Gloucestershire, Department for Work and Pensions
- Trudy Craig (TC) – Head of Quality and Governance, Somerset Care Ltd
- Wendy Dootson (WD) – Head of Safeguarding, Somerset NHS FT

## Apologies:

- Bethany Briers-Jones (BBJ) – Tenancy Sustainment Officer, ABRI Housing
- Carolyn Smith (CS) – Principal Social Worker, Strategic Lead for Safeguarding and DOLS
- Gillian Keniston-Goble (GK) – Manager, Healthwatch Somerset
- Helen Orford (HO) - Managing Director, Discovery
- Deborah Bilton – South Western Ambulance Service NHS Foundation Trust (SWAST)
- Kathy Smith (KS) Housing Officer, Golden Lane Housing
- Katy Buckle (KB) – Service Manager, SWAN Advocacy
- Lisa Simpson (LS) – Superintendent, Avon and Somerset Police
- Lucy Macready (LMa) - Public Health Specialist, Community Safety, Somerset Council


- Hayley Nicholls (HN) – Shared Lives South West
- Philip Boyce (PB) - Safeguarding & Closed Cultures, Care Quality Commission

**Circulation:**


All SSAB Board Members

**Retention of notes**

The master set of these notes and background papers are held by SSAB Business Manager. Please destroy your copy when you have finished with it and use the master set for future reference.

Item		Action by
1	<b>Welcome, introductions and apologies:</b>	
	Members were welcomed to the meeting by MPS.	
	<b>Probation Service – how we link in</b>	
	<p>CE talked about the aim of the probation service to have an effective partnership between prisons and local authorities in order for service users or people on probation to obtain the help and support they require. She discussed the process of assessment and care planning for offenders in the community, pre and post custody.</p> <p>If someone is placed in prison for six months or more, the Probation Service is involved straight away.</p> <p>The issue of disconnection in the youth justice system was highlighted. The benefits of early diagnosis of neurodiversity in adults was deemed as a priority and how the organisation addressed the challenges of resolving disagreements about capacity and the involvement of psychologists in such cases.</p> <p>The slides for the presentation are embedded for your reference:</p> <div data-bbox="263 1458 320 1518" style="text-align: center;">  </div> <p data-bbox="209 1525 376 1581">Probation Service Presentation.pptx</p> <p>EF expressed that with the creation of neighbourhood teams, stronger links could be maintained between the neighbourhood teams within Adult Social Care, Mental Health Services, LD and the Preparing for Adulthood Team.</p> <p>It was <b>agreed</b> that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• EF would create links between the Probation Service, Neighbourhood Teams, LD and the Preparing for Adulthood Team.</li> <li>• CE would liaise with her colleagues to agree a process on information sharing and referrals with DWP.</li> </ul>	<p style="text-align: right;"><b>EF</b></p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>CE</b></p>

	<b>Right Care, Right Person</b>	
	<p>GH provided an update on the roll out of "Right Care Right Person" across Avon and Somerset. Right care right person is a national approach across policing, health and care, which looks to end the inappropriate and avoidable deployment of police in responding to instances involving mental health specifically.</p> <p>GH discussed the need for health-based attendance when appropriate. He clarified that the police power of entry without warrant is to save life and limb, and that the threshold for entering private premises is really high.</p> <p>The case of Rabone and another (Appellants) v Pennine Care NHS Foundation Trust (Respondent) is the relevant case when considering what constitutes a real and immediate threat, that being a risk which is present and continuing. In that specific case it refers to a real and immediate threat to life, albeit while the level of harm could change.</p> <p>The importance of welfare checks and the reasonable steps that should be taken by organisations and individuals before reporting someone missing was discussed.</p> <p>George cautioned against checklists to identify real and immediate threats, as they can drive behaviour of "I need to do these five things before I can call police." Instead, he suggested a stage decision-making process to identify real and immediate threats and the level of harm anticipated.</p> <p>There is a multi-agency task and finish group that involves the three integrated care boards in their force area, the five local authorities, the ambulance service, both fire services, all the acute trusts in their force area, and two mental health providers for Somerset.</p> <p>It was <b>agreed</b> that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MPS would check with DHSC civil servants and ADASS policy leads on the status of RC RP guidance for health and social care</li> <li>• GH would send the case law decisions and their implications.</li> </ul>	<p><b>MPS</b></p> <p><b>GH</b></p>
<b>3</b>	<b>Notes of previous meeting and matters arising (December 2023) and action tracker</b>	
	<p>The minutes of the meeting held on 15/12/2023 were reviewed and <b>agreed</b> as accurate, with no proposed redactions to the version for publication. Minutes to be published on the website.</p>	<b>NG</b>

	<p><b>Action Tracker</b> – The Board reviewed the Action Tracker and <b>agreed</b> that the actions highlighted had been completed.</p> <p>Members were requested to provide NG with updates for the action tracker so these can be considered at the next Board and removed once the actions have been completed.</p>  <p>20240213 SSAB Work Tracker.docx</p>	<p><b>NG</b></p> <p><b>All</b></p>
<b>4</b>	<b>Update on Safeguarding Adult Reviews</b>	
	<p>Currently there are 13 SARs being reviewed. They are at the following stages:</p> <p>Information collation for the Author: 2  Awaiting inquest outcome: 1  Author Review: 5  Pre-Learning Event: 1  Post Learning Event, awaiting draft report: 1  Review of draft report: 3</p> <p>The SAR Subgroup have reviewed a further 5 SAR referrals. There are 3 referrals that have been accepted as meeting the criteria for mandatory SARs. Up-to-date information has been requested for a further referral. The Subgroup are considering how we can address SARs in the most efficient and cost-effective manner. The learning to be obtained from the SARs is being considered; this will aid us to decide how the SAR will be reviewed and whether this can be put within a thematic review.</p>	
<b>5</b>	<b>Performance Report</b>	
	<p>NS presented the Performance Report to the Board and highlighted the following areas:</p> <p><b>Safeguarding Practice Quality:</b> 28 Practice Quality Audits were undertaken within Somerset Council's Adult Social Care Service during January 2024 focusing on 'Safeguarding People'. Overall results emerging</p>	


from the 28 audits undertaken in January 2024 evidence good levels of assurance and positive practice in many of the quality standards set (particularly those relating to personalised and proportionate approaches, and to managing risk). Feedback from individuals directly involved in the safeguarding process sought and encouraged as part of the audit approach. Results are informing the Council's Practice Quality Board, along with those themes emerging from other practice standards outlined within the Practice Quality Framework. It has also been decided to carry out an audit of recent mental capacity assessments to assess our strengths and areas for further development in this area of work; a group of about 30 selected experienced staff have been briefed and will be doing the audits over Feb/Mar 2024.

**Monitoring of SAC Data 2023/24 year to date:** 35.6% of safeguarding concerns are progressed as enquiries (overwhelming 542 enquiries although some via a non-statutory pathway). Individuals predominantly of White British ethnicity (92.5%), female (54%), and aged 65+ (59%). Neglect and acts of omission, and physical abuse currently joint most common type of abuse, identified in 19% of total enquiries each. Self-neglect features as an identified type of abuse in 8.5% of enquiries – a slight rise on 2022/23 data. The most common location of abuse across Somerset remains the person's own home. Where a risk was identified in Somerset, this was reduced or removed in 92% of cases. Individuals were asked about their desired outcomes in 89% of cases. Where outcomes were expressed, these are reported as having been fully achieved in all cases.

**Safeguarding Contacts by Source:** Following a review of the 'Source list' by the SSAB P&Q Subgroup last year, we are now able to monitor the source of safeguarding concerns received by the Local Authority at a more granular level (as of Oct 2023) and can use this intel to better support more targeted engagement. The top 3 referrers over the last 12 months are Care Providers, the Ambulance Service, and NHS 111 service.

**Safeguarding Enquiry timeliness:** 515 Safeguarding Enquiries were completed to date in 2023/24 relating to 491 clients. Of these, 60% are completed within 0-60 working days. This compares to 70% in 2022/23 financial year. The impact of social work vacancies within the safeguarding service have been escalated due to the capacity impacts to meet demand and maintain effective levels of performance. Risk assessment of people awaiting allocation for enquiry undertaken daily using a RAG rating system. Adverts currently out to secure Locum Social Worker to address gap.

**Safeguarding complaints:** There is an improved picture in relation to the number of complaints received by Safeguarding over recent years. To date this financial year (as of 03/02/24), there have been 5 complaints received by the Safeguarding Service. No adult social care safeguarding complaints/enquiries were received by the LGSCO in 2022/23; the average of all English single tier and county councils for the same period was 2.

	<b>Strategic Plan and Annual Report</b>	
	<p><b>Strategic Plan:</b> The proposed Strategic Plan had been circulated to members with the meeting documents for consideration. All members <b>agreed</b> that the proposed Strategic Plan for 2024-2027 should be endorsed and published.</p> <p><b>Annual Report:</b> Previously there had been discussion about providing organisations with a template for their annual report submissions. A proposed template was distributed to members, which was accepted. It was <b>agreed</b> that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Organisations would use the provided template for consistency with a maximum wordcount of 1000 words, which equates to 2 pages.</li> <li>The request for annual report submissions would be sent out this month with the template.</li> </ul>	<p><b>NG</b></p> <p><b>All</b></p> <p><b>NG</b></p>
<b>7</b>	<b>Regional and National Updates</b>	
	<p>MPS provided a written paper on regional and national updates.</p> <p> 20240213 Regional and National Update.c</p> <p>MPS informed members of the findings of a safeguarding adult review in Lewisham. The review revealed worrying findings about fire safety and evacuation procedures in care settings. MPS suggested assessing people's awareness of fire risk and using a questionnaire from London to roll out in Somerset.</p> <p>It was <b>agreed</b> that the Performance and QA Subgroup would follow up fire safety in relation to care settings.</p>	<p><b>Perf &amp;QA Subgroup</b></p>
<b>14</b>	<b>Any Other Business</b>	
	<p>NS raised the knock and check project that involves using the Royal Mail service, which is being trialled in Wincanton. EF told the meeting that there had been a meeting to discuss how this could be taken forward and use further services as our eyes and ears. So, if something is noted, what is the required actions. That may not always be social care, it may not always be health, but it could be a community representative, it could be any number of different things. This will require support to take this forward.</p> <p>It was <b>agreed</b> for EF and NS to liaise on the progress of the conversations with the commissioning colleagues and the community space.</p>	<p><b>EK/NS</b></p>
12:30 CLOSE		

**Future Board Meeting dates**

17<sup>th</sup> May 2024, Microsoft Teams Meeting. 13:00-16:00 Conference Room 2, Deane House,  
Taunton – in person