



Safeguarding Adults Board Meeting

4 September 2024, 09:30-12:30

Present:

- Michael Preston-Shoot (MPS) Independent Chair, SSAB
- Ashley Fussell (AF) - Head of Somerset Probation Delivery Unit
- Bethany Briers-Jones (BBJ) – Tenancy Sustainment Officer, ABRI Housing
- Carolyn Smith (CS) – Principal Social Worker, Strategic Lead for Safeguarding and DOLS
- Emily Fulbrook (EF) – Service Director, Adult Social Care Operational Services, Somerset Council
- Gillian Keniston-Goble (GK) – Manager, Healthwatch Somerset
- Helen Orford (HO) - Managing Director, Discovery
- Hilary Robinson (HR) – CEO, RCPA Ltd
- Julia Mason (JM)- Designated Nurse for Safeguarding Adults, NHS Somerset Integrated Care Board
- Katy Buckle (KB) – Service Manager, SWAN Advocacy
- Louise McLellan (LMc) – Safeguarding Officer, Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue
- Mel Thompson (MT) - Corporate Safeguarding Lead, Livewest
- Natalie Green (NG) - SSAB Business Manager
- Sarah Ashe (SA) – Associate Director of Quality and Nursing, NHS Somerset Integrated Care Board
- Sarah Wakefield (SW) - Lead Member for Adult Social Care, Somerset Council
- Shelagh Meldrum (SM)- Chief Nursing Officer, NHS Somerset Integrated Care Board
- Simon Lewis (SL) - Head of Housing, Somerset Council
- Tom Herbert (TB) – Detective Chief Inspective, Avon and Somerset Police
- Trudy Craig (TC) – Head of Quality and Governance, Somerset Care Ltd
- Vicky Chipchase (VC) - Head of Service Adults, Policy, Performance and Assurance

Apologies:

- Deborah Bilton – South Western Ambulance Service NHS Foundation Trust (SWAST)
- Kathy Smith (KS) Housing Officer, Golden Lane Housing
- 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
- Rachel Handley (RH) - Consultant in Public Health, Somerset Council
- Sue Lancaster (SL) - Advanced Customer Support Senior Leader, Avon, Somerset and Gloucestershire, Department for Work and Pensions

- Wendy Dootson (WD) – Head of Safeguarding, Somerset NHS FT


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	Welcome, introductions and apologies:	
	Members were welcomed to the meeting by MPS.	
2	Advocacy	
	<p>Katy Buckle gave a detailed presentation on advocacy, focusing on the Southwest Advocacy Network (SWAN) and its role in providing independent statutory and non-statutory advocacy across the Southwest, including Somerset. Key points from the presentation include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SWAN's Role: It offers advocacy services, including Independent Mental Capacity Advocacy (IMCA), Care Act advocacy, and others, catering to individuals with disabilities, mental health issues, or those lacking capacity. • Advocacy Types: The presentation covered different types of advocacy, such as IMCA, Care Act advocacy, and Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards (DoLS) advocacy, explaining each type's referral process and duration. • Importance of Advocacy: Advocacy ensures individuals' voices are heard, especially in decisions affecting their care or treatment, highlighting the importance of referrals and the advocate's role in representing the client's wishes without substituting their own views. • Challenges and Recommendations: The discussion also touched on challenges like ensuring timely referrals and the need for more awareness about advocacy services among professionals and the public. 	

	<p>This summarises the advocacy presentation's, emphasizing the critical role of advocacy in safeguarding adults and ensuring their rights and preferences are considered.</p> <p> Advocacy Presentation.pptx</p> <p>It was agreed that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • organisations would promote advocacy across Somerset. • the SSAB to include the Advocacy Presentation on the SSAB website. 	All SSAB Bus Mgr
3	2nd SAR Analysis	
	<p>The second national analysis of Safeguarding Adult Reviews (SARs) was presented by Michael, highlighting key findings and implications for practice. Here are the main points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deaths and Gender: 82% of SAR cases involved deaths, with a slight majority being men. • Health Conditions: Mental health, chronic physical health, and substance misuse were prevalent among individuals in SAR cases. • Abuse Locations: Nearly half of the abuse or neglect occurred in the individual's own home, with 10% involving people experiencing homelessness. • Types of Abuse: Self-neglect was the most reviewed type of abuse, followed by neglect and acts of omission. • Good Practice: Some SARs highlighted good practices in risk assessment, making safeguarding personal, and perseverance in understanding individuals' situations. • Practice Shortcomings: Common shortcomings included inadequate risk assessments, lack of professional curiosity, and challenges in multi-agency working and information sharing. • Service Improvement Priorities: Recommendations were made for both national government and individual safeguarding adult boards to address identified gaps and enhance safeguarding practices. <p>This analysis underscores the need for a whole-system, person-centred approach to safeguarding, emphasizing the importance of understanding</p>	



	<p>the 'why' behind incidents to improve practice and outcomes.</p>  <p>Somerset SAB on NA2.pptx</p>	
4	Multi-Agency Training	
	<p>The discussion on multi-agency training focused on enhancing collaboration and sharing resources across different agencies to address training needs effectively.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training Needs Analysis: There is a plan to develop and maintain a cross-partnership training needs analysis to identify and address the training requirements of practitioners and managers across services. • Sharing Resources: Agencies are encouraged to share in-house expertise and externally commissioned training resources to benefit the wider partnership, promoting a culture of collaboration and mutual learning. • Open Training Opportunities: The suggestion was made to open individual agency training sessions to practitioners from other agencies, where feasible, to maximize learning opportunities and resource utilization. • Streamlining Training: The discussion highlighted the importance of streamlining training efforts to avoid duplication and ensure that training is relevant, timely, and accessible to all relevant parties. <p>The aim is to foster a more integrated approach to training, leveraging the collective expertise and resources within the partnership for the benefit of all involved.</p> <p>It was agreed that the SSAB would:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordinate opening up individual service training opportunities to the wider partnership where feasible. • Create a directory of in-house and external training resources available across the partnership. • Develop and maintain a cross-partnership training needs analysis to identify training needs across services. 	<p>L&D Subgroup</p> <p>L&D Subgroup</p> <p>L&D Subgroup</p>

5	People in Positions of Trust (PiPoT)	
	<p>Julia introduced a revised PiPoT policy for Somerset, acknowledging the lack of a centralized oversight mechanism but emphasizing the policy's role in guiding organizational responses to allegations against individuals in positions of trust.</p> <p>Policy Implementation: The policy aims to guide organizations in handling allegations and ensuring appropriate responses, despite the lack of a centralized system similar to the LADO in children's safeguarding.</p> <p>Regional Collaboration: Discussions included the potential for regional collaboration on PIPOT policies, with Emily planning to raise the issue at upcoming ADASS meetings to seek a more unified approach.</p> <p>It was agreed that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The updated PiPoT Guidance would be published on the SSAB website. • Regional collaboration would be raised at the ADASS meeting. 	NG EF
7	Notes of previous meeting and matters arising (May 2024), Extraordinary meeting (July 2024) and action tracker	
	<p>The minutes of the meeting held on 17/05/2024 and the Extraordinary meeting in July were reviewed and agreed as accurate, with no proposed redactions to the version for publication. Minutes of the May 2024 Board to be published on the website.</p>	NG
	<p>Action Tracker – The Board reviewed the Action Tracker and agreed 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> <div data-bbox="331 1805 384 1868" data-label="Image"> </div> <p>Action Tracker.docx</p>	All

8	Update on Safeguarding Adult Reviews	
	<p>Michael provided an overview of SARs that were currently in progress and highlighted those that were at the stage of completion and publication:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SAR One: Scheduled for publication on the 10th of September. • SAR Two: Set for publication on the 1st of October. • SAR Three: Initially agreed for publication, but additional information from one of the agencies involved has emerged. The SAR subgroup will decide whether to add an addendum or ask the independent reviewer to reconsider parts of the report. The report will be brought back to the Board for a new sign-off. • Other SARs: A couple of other SARs are nearing completion, with the expectation to review and possibly sign off at the December meeting. • Thematic Reviews: Reviews on self-neglect and homelessness are underway, with learning events happening and reports being drafted. <p>These discussions reflect the Board's ongoing efforts to learn from SARs and implement recommendations to improve safeguarding practices.</p>	
9	Performance Report	
	<p>Carolyn Smith presented a comprehensive performance report, covering safeguarding data trends, training compliance, and the effectiveness of care quality.</p> <p>The performance report summary from the meeting includes several key points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safeguarding Data and Trends: There's an increase in safeguarding inquiries, with an average of 64 a month, compared to 55 in the previous year. However, the time to conclude inquiries has increased due to workforce and productivity pressures within the safeguarding team. Efforts are being made to address these issues, including filling vacancies and restructuring the team for efficiency. • Practice Quality and Safeguarding Experience: Audits focused on safeguarding highlighted areas for improvement, particularly in recording quality and advocacy facilitation. An action plan is in place to address these issues, and a relaunch of the practice quality framework aims to focus more on quality and learning from audits. 	

- **Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards (DoLS) and Mental Capacity Act (MCA):** There's an increase in DoLS applications, especially from hospitals, and changes in the authorization process are being implemented. A new set of online resources for MCA and DoLS has been developed to support practitioners.
- **Training Compliance and Attendance:** Compliance rates for safeguarding and prevent training are high across NHS Somerset ICB and other health services. However, there's a proposal being discussed within health to de-mandate MCA training for medical staff, which the board is advised to consider.
The discussion about the proposal to de-mandate Mental Capacity Act (MCA) training for medical staff was addressed during the meeting. It was highlighted that there is a concern regarding this proposal, especially given the importance of MCA training in ensuring that medical staff are well-equipped to make decisions in the best interest of patients who may lack the capacity to make certain decisions themselves. The Board considered making a recommendation against this proposal, emphasizing the need for continued MCA training for medical staff to maintain high standards of patient care and safeguarding.
- **Hate Crime in Somerset:** The board is awaiting the publication of the latest SARI impact report to understand the current state of hate crime in the region.
- **Market Quality and Sustainability:** The proportion of care settings rated as good or outstanding by CQC has increased, and efforts are being made to mitigate risks related to international recruitment and labour exploitation.
- **Safeguarding Adult Board (SAB) Governance:** Significant activity is noted in communications and engagement, including safeguarding practice updates, website enhancements, and the hosting of the first safeguarding adults network forum. Plans are in progress for the Stop Abuse Week in November.
- **Substance Misuse and Mental Health:** The meeting discussed the intersection of substance misuse and mental health, particularly in the context of safeguarding adult reviews (SARs) and the assurance report from mental health services.
The SARs often highlight cases where individuals with mental health issues also struggle with substance misuse. This dual challenge underscores the need for integrated support services.
The assurance report from mental health services acknowledged the growth in reported mental health issues and distress in the community. It emphasized the importance of collaborative work between mental health and substance misuse services to address the complex needs of individuals facing both challenges.

	<p>The discussion suggested exploring more about preventive measures for suicidal ideation and suicide, especially among those dealing with substance misuse and mental health issues. The need for accessible mental health support in the community was also highlighted, along with ensuring that workloads of community psychiatric nurses and other staff are manageable to provide effective support.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Power of Entry: Cllr Sarah Wakefield raised her concerns about the power of entry that is not available in England, unlike Scotland and Wales. The national network of safeguarding boards has been lobbying to DHSC on the absence of this and will continue to do so. Adult Social Care are receiving an increased number of requests for welfare checks as they don't meet the section 17 of the Police and Criminal Evidence Act power of entry for the Police. <p>It was agreed that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SSAB P&Q Subgroup to monitor how Somerset's 2023/24 SAC return compares to other areas as part of the next quarterly Performance and Assurance Report in November 2024. • SSAB P&Q Subgroup to receive an update on DoLS 2023/24 comparative data as part of its next meeting in November 2024 • All SSAB members to note the new MCA Information and Resources page Mental Capacity Act (somerset.gov.uk) • SSAB Board to escalate the Board's concerns to NHS Somerset Foundation Trust on their proposal to de-mandate MCA Training for medical staff. • SSAB P&Q Subgroup to consider 2023/24 SARI Impact Report statistics and Hate Crime insights in its next quarterly Performance and Assurance Report in November 2024. • SSAB Business Unit to progress plans to convene follow-up assurance sessions to Organisational Safeguarding Self-Audits during Autumn/Winter of 2024. • Provide more detailed information on mental health support in the community, including links between mental health and substance misuse services. • Follow up with Avon and Somerset Constabulary on the provision of relevant police data for the next performance report • The suicide prevention strategy consultation link is below for members to make comment: https://somersetcouncil.citizenspace.com/public-health/somersets-suicide-prevention-strategy-consultation/ • Examples in Somerset to be provided, where access is being denied to a property when the situation doesn't meet the section 17 Police and Criminal Evidence Act power of entry for the Police. 	<p>P&Q Subgroup</p> <p>P&Q Subgroup All</p> <p>MPS</p> <p>P&Q Subgroup</p> <p>NG</p> <p>P&Q Subgroup</p> <p>Police</p> <p>All</p> <p>CS</p>
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10	Regional and National Updates	
	<p>Michael provided a written paper on regional and national updates.</p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; align-items: center;"> <div style="text-align: center;">  Regional and National Update for SBriefing to accompany </div> <div style="text-align: center;">  New Government </div> </div>	
11	Any Other Business	
	Michael informed the Board, that there would be 2 possibly 3 SARs ready to be presented to the Board for December.	
12:20 CLOSE		
<p style="text-align: center;">Future Board Meeting dates</p> <p style="text-align: center;">10 December 2024 13:30-16:30 via TEAMS</p>		