



Somerset Safeguarding Adults Board Minutes

**14 February 2023
(09:30-12:30)**

Wyndham Room, County Hall, Taunton

Present:

- Michael Preston-Shoot (MPS) Independent Chair, SSAB
- Superintendent Richard Turner (RT) - Avon and Somerset Police
- Richard Painter (RP) – Director of Safeguarding for Somerset NHS and Yeovil Hospital Foundation Trusts
- Shelagh Meldrum (SM)- Chief Nursing Officer, NHS Somerset Integrated Care Board
- Cllr Heather Shearer (HS) - Somerset County Council Lead Member for Adult Social Care
- Rachel Handley (RH) - Consultant in Public Health, Somerset County Council
- Helen Orford (HO) - Managing Director, Discovery
- Julia Mason (JM)- Designated Nurse for Safeguarding Adults, NHS Somerset Integrated Care Board
- Gillian Keniston-Goble – Manager, Healthwatch Somerset
- Jonathan Searle – Somerset Service Manager, SWAN Advocacy
- Bethany Briers-Jones – Tenancy Sustainment Officer, Abri Group
- Julie Hall - Regional Manager LiveWest
- Tracey Pugh – Safeguarding Officer, Somerset Fire and Rescue Service
- Emily Fulbrook – Deputy Director Operations, Adult Social Care
- Jai Vick - Deputy Chief Executive, Mendip District Council
- Bob Champion - Board Member, Healthwatch Somerset
- Claire Evans – Senior Probation Officer, National Probation Service
- Hilary Robinson – CEO, RCPA Ltd
- Clare Wood (CW) – CHC, NHS ICB
- Natalie Green (NG) - SSAB Business Manager

Apologies:

- Mel Lock (ML) - Director of Adult Social Services, Somerset County Council
- Sarah Ashe - Associate Director of Quality and Nursing, (Safeguarding, Mental Health, Learning Disability and Autism) (VJ), NHS Somerset Integrated Care Board
- Trudy Craig – Head of Governance, Somerset Care Ltd
- Lucy Divers - Advanced Customer Support Senior Leader, Avon, Somerset and Gloucestershire, Department for Work and Pensions
- Kathy Smith (KS) Housing Officer, Golden Lane Housing
- Lucy Macready (LM) - Public Health Specialist, Community Safety, Somerset County Council

- Andy Lloyd - Health Promotion Manager (wider determinants of health), Public Health, Somerset County Council
- Charlotte Holland – Clinical Nurse Manager, Marie Curie Somerset
- Paul Chapman - Inspection Manager, Care Quality Commission (South West England)
- Hayley Nicholls – Shared Lives South West

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

Redactions: The adult that was the subject of the SAR discussed in item 4, has been referred to as '****' which is the pseudonym that was chosen by his family after the meeting

Item		Action by
1.	Welcome, introductions and apologies:	
	Members were welcomed to the meeting by MSP. There was a round room, both in person and virtual, by all attending.	
2.	Notes of previous meeting and matters arising (October 2022) and action tracker (papers 1 and 2)	
	The minutes of the meeting held on 13/10/2022 were agreed as accurate, with a minor amendment to a name spelling, the pictures for item 3 would be redacted from the minutes for publication. Action: Minutes to be published on the website.	NG
	The action tracker was reviewed, and it was agreed that actions 1-10 had been completed. It was agreed that action 1 would remain on the tracker as a further report was requested to be presented at the next board. Actions 11-13 were to be carried forward.	NG
3.	Chair's Address	
	MPS gave an overview of his initial thoughts and ambitions for the Board and provided a paper, which everyone had the opportunity to read. The paper was received extremely positively. It was agreed that: 1) The Board should request that the Chief Executive establishes a cross-cutting executive that draws together senior leaders and independent chairs/scrutineers from community safety and from	SSAB

	<p>safeguarding children and safeguarding adults. The purpose will be to identify and work collaboratively on specific safeguarding challenges.</p> <p>2) The Board should hold two development days. The first should focus on updating and refreshing the Board’s Strategic Plan. There should be three components to the Development Day, namely collating evidence for what has been achieved with the current plan, hearing from practitioners and managers on what is working well and where challenges are experienced in terms of types of abuse and neglect, and Board Members reflecting on the first two components to identify strategic goals and the pathways to achievement.</p> <p>a) It was suggested that the refreshed strategic plan should focus on key priorities, shaped in a framework beginning with objectives, followed by goals and initiatives, and concluding with measurement.</p> <p>b) In addition, the Development Day may highlight areas where the Board should be seeking assurance.</p> <p>3) The second development day should focus on the Board itself; to reflect on governance and structures, its effectiveness in seeking assurance about the quality of adult safeguarding practice and its contribution to practice development and service improvement.</p> <p>a) Effectiveness surveys and self-audits should become an annual activity.</p> <p>b) The SSAB Chair will hold conversations annually with each Board member as an appreciative inquiry and temperature check about the Board’s performance and their contributions to it.</p> <p>4) The chairs of the subgroups should meet at least twice a year with the independent chair to review terms of reference, roles and responsibilities, to appraise sub-group effectiveness in meeting the goals within the strategic plan and to collaborate on a work programme.</p> <p>5) Each sub-group should be asked to complete specific tasks and to bring forward proposals, as follows:</p> <p>a) The Learning and Development Subgroup should conduct a multi-agency training audit and make proposals to respond to identified learning needs.</p> <p>b) The Policy and Procedures Subgroup should review available multi-agency policies and procedures and identify where revisions are necessary and where there remain gaps to be filled.</p> <p>c) The SAR Subgroup should develop a programme that will focus on where learning from completed SARs has resulted in</p>	<p>SSAB</p> <p>Perf&QA Subgroup</p> <p>Subgroup Chairs</p> <p>L&D Subgroup</p> <p>P&P Subgroup</p> <p>SAR Subgroup</p>
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	<p>practice development and service improvement, and where further work is indicated.</p> <p>d) The Performance and Quality Assurance Subgroup should continue to refine the data dashboard and at each Board meeting highlight what the data is highlighting and propose recommendations for further work.</p> <p>e) The MCA Subgroup should provide assurance on preparation for the introduction of Liberty Protection Safeguards and on work to raise standards of mental capacity assessments. Specific concerns should be raised at Board meetings.</p> <p> Board paper - MPS.pdf</p> <p>The Executive would retain responsibility for overseeing progress on these recommendations as well as for ensuring that the strategic plan is on track.</p> <p>The Board has only been meeting three times annually. It was agreed that this should be increased to quarterly ahead of the second development day when the frequency of meetings can be reviewed against the refreshed strategic plan.</p>	<p>Perf&QA Subgroup</p> <p>MCA Subgroup</p> <p>SSAB</p>
4.	Prolonged Disorders of Consciousness	
	<p>CW gave a presentation on the Prolonged Disorders of Consciousness and the situation of Becca, who after a fall from a window, was in a minimal conscious state for 13 years.</p> <p>The presentation highlighted the need to engage at the beginning of situation and continuously engage with the family and understand the wishes of Becca.</p> <p>The actions were reliant on the MCA and how it was used to then conduct a best interests meeting.</p> <p>The presentation was extremely thought provoking and provided true insight into the importance of using the MCA. The slides are embedded to allow further reflection of the gravitas of the story.</p> <p>  LearningReviewRS</p>	
5.	QI Lead for Safeguarding Role Progress Report	
	<p>A report had been circulated to the Board, detailing the work and progress of the QI Lead. It was recognised that the role had evolved and that gaining access to areas was sometimes challenging due to resourcing.</p>	<p>JH/JM</p>

	<p>The Chair sent his thanks to JH for the report and it was agreed that the Board would benefit from a further report at the next Board, at which time, there should be more clarity on the future of the role.</p>  <p>QIleadforSafeguardin greportforSSABFebru</p>	
6.	SSAB Performance Report	
	<p>NS gave a summary of the SSAB Performance Report and the activities of the Subgroup.</p> <p>There had been a continued decline in the number of complaints received by the Adult Social Care Safeguarding Service and Local Government & Social Care Ombudsman over recent years.</p> <p>SSAB Communication channels continue to attract positive engagement and there has been some evidence of stabilisation and improvement in the fragility of the external care provider market over recent months and evidence of some improvement in advocacy referral rates.</p> <p>Conversion rates (safeguarding concerns to safeguarding enquiry) continue to compare positively in Somerset to national averages.</p> <p>There is a need to review/enhance the Board's ability to hear from the lived experience of those supported through a Safeguarding Adults process.</p> <p>It was agreed that the Subgroup Chair would work with SSAB Chair to explore alternative routes and means to meaningfully engage with and hear from those supported through adult safeguarding.</p> <p>In common with Local Authorities across the country, Somerset has high (and growing) levels of overdue adult social care assessments and reviews.</p> <p>It was agreed that the SSAB would seek assurances from the Local Authority regarding its ongoing activity to tackle escalating levels of overdue assessments and reviews and consider further clarity regarding levels of overdue reviews relating to out of area placements as part of this request.</p> <p>Somerset continues to be an outlier in relation to levels of safeguarding concerns reported and consequently enquiries undertaken.</p> <p>It was agreed that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) The Safeguarding Concerns Task & Finish Group would continue to meet (next meeting scheduled 16/02/23) to identify how local practice, performance and reporting contributes to lower than average safeguarding concerns and progress recommendations to enhance any matters of concern that emerge; report back to the Board/Executive. 	<p>Perf&QA Subgroup</p> <p>Perf&QA Subgroup</p> <p>SG Concerns T&F</p>

	<p>2) SSAB Communications: SSAB Business Unit to undertake a refresh of the SSAB Website, ensuring information and updates are clear and easy to follow, and better showcase latest news and developments. New business support officer recently appointed; due to start in March 2023.</p> <p>3) The Board looks to progress/fund a public-facing safeguarding adults campaign; this has not been done since 2015/16 in any meaningful way and will enhance assurance that the Board proactively safeguards adults through awareness raising - see 'Thinking it? Report it' Campaign – Somerset Safeguarding Adults Board (safeguardingsomerset.org.uk)</p> <p>There is a slight dip in the proportion of concluded s42 safeguarding enquiries, where desired outcomes had been sought based on 2022/23 year to date performance compared to previous outturn data.</p> <p>It is agreed that Subgroup Chair is to discuss the latest performance trends with ASC Safeguarding Service Manager and explore activity to improve performance in areas where performance is evidencing a decline on past performance.</p> <p>The latest Somerset NHS Foundation Trust CQC Inspection report published in January 2023, following inspection visits in September last year rated good overall but 'Requires Improvement' in 'Safe'. This element was predominantly linked to inpatient wards and risk management/training to manage situations where patients place themselves and others at risk of harm.</p> <p>It was agreed that the SSAB Chair would consider the need to secure greater assurance, relating to the performance/engagement of the local Integrated Mental Health Trust, including how it is addressing violence and aggression, sexual safety and managing allegations against staff.</p> <p>With a new Independent Chair now in post and as the system starts to recover from the pressures of the last couple of years, linked to the pandemic:</p> <p>It was agreed:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) To re-establish the Strategic Partnership Chairs Meetings to support effective joint working between Partnership Boards in Somerset. 2) To repeat a SSAB Effectiveness Survey and Organisational self-audits during 2023 as part of wider assurance schedule. 	<p>SSAB Bus Unit</p> <p>SSAB</p> <p>Perf&QA Chair</p> <p>SSAB Chair</p> <p>SSAB</p>
7.	Self-Neglect	
	<p>MPS gave a presentation on self-neglect and how the evidence base should be used and what it consisted of. The following was covered in his presentation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National SAR Analysis Findings 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A safe system and how it has an alignment of checks and balances between different layers of the system. • Direct practice best practice. • National guidance and case law on executive functioning. • Inter-organisational and organisational environment – best practice • SAB Governance best practice. <p>The presentation brought about much discussion about the topic. MPS would be presenting the full presentation on self-neglect at the Somerset Safeguarding Adults Conference on 2 March 2023.</p>	
8.	AOB	
	<p>NG informed members that some SAR learning recommendations required all organisations to respond to the learning. Further requests to evidence the learning within organisations would be requested, so learning recommendations could be signed off by the Exec.</p> <p>Members were updated on the forthcoming Somerset Safeguarding Adults Conference on 2 March 2023. The Event had the Theme of Making Safeguarding Personal and had presenters from across a variety of organisations, including a drama group with learning disabilities to conclude the day's sessions.</p> <p>MPS thanked all members for attending the Board and the valuable contributions made throughout the meeting.</p>	SSAB Members
<p style="text-align: center;">Future Board Meeting dates</p> <p>MPS gave a presentation on self-neglect and how the evidence base should be used and what it consisted of. The following was covered in his presentation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National SAR Analysis Findings • A safe system and how it has an alignment of checks and balances between different layers of the system. • Direct practice best practice. • National guidance and case law on executive functioning. • Inter-organisational and organisational environment – best practice • SAB Governance best practice. <p style="text-align: right;">, Microsoft Teams Meeting. 09:30-12:30 Venue TBC</p>		