



Somerset Safeguarding Adults Board Minutes

16 June 2022

(09:30-12:30)

Bridgwater Police Centre

Present:

- Keith Perkin (KP) Independent Chair, SSAB
- Brickchand Ramruttun (BR) Deputy Director, Operations, Somerset County Council
- Sarah Ashe, Interim Associate Director of Quality and Nursing, (Safeguarding, Mental Health, Learning Disability and Autism) (VJ), NHS Somerset Clinical Commissioning Group
- Superintendent Richard Turner (RT) - Avon and Somerset Police
- Bob Champion (BC) - Board Member, Healthwatch Somerset
- 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, Dimensions
- Lucy Macready (LM) - Public Health Specialist, Community Safety, Somerset County Council
- Alison Jenkinson (AJ) - Partnership Liaison Manager, Lighthouse Safeguarding Unit (LSU), Avon and Somerset Constabulary
- Julia Mason - Designated Nurse for Safeguarding Adults, NHS Somerset Clinical Commissioning Group
- Wendy Dootson - Joint Head of Safeguarding & Duty Team Manager, Somerset NHS Foundation Trust (representing Richard Painter)
- Andy Lloyd - Health Promotion Manager (wider determinants of health), Public Health, Somerset County Council
- Stephen Miles (SM) - SSAB Business Manager

Attendees: for specific items

- Patrick Hopkinson (PH) – Independent SAR Author (item 3)
- Brigitte Kuipers (BK) – Community Council for Somerset for Village & Community Agents (item 5)
- Brittney Strange (BS) – Public Health Somerset - for Ukraine Refugees (item 6)
- Andy Lloyd (AL) - Health Promotion Manager (wider determinants of health), Public Health, Somerset County Council (item 7)

Apologies:

- Mel Lock - Director of Adult Social Services, Somerset County council (Brickchand Ramruttun representing)
- Tracy Aarons (TA) Deputy Chief Executive, Mendip District Council
- Richard Painter – Director of Safeguarding for Somerset NHS and Yeovil Hospital Foundation Trusts (Wendy Dootson representing)

- Nicola Kelly – Director of Care, Somerset Care Ltd.
- Mel Munday - Safeguarding Professional, NHS England & NHS Improvement
- Charlotte Holland – Clinical Nurse Manager, Marie Curie Somerset
- Gillian Keniston-Goble – Healthwatch Somerset (Bob Champion representing)
- Lynn Matthews - Advanced Customer Support Senior Leader, Avon, Somerset and Gloucestershire, Department for Work and Pensions
- Paul Chapman (PC) Inspection Manager, Care Quality Commission (South West England)
- Hayley Nicholls – Shared Lives South West
- Richard Pitman – Representative of people who use services and the voluntary sector
- Jane Spencer – Tenancy Sustainment Manager, Abri Housing Association
- Kathy Smith (KS) Housing Officer, Golden Lane Housing
- Liz Spencer (LS) Head of the National Probation Service - LDU Somerset Cluster NPS South West South Central Division, Her Majesty's Prison and Probation Service

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 3, paper 3, has been referred to as 'Robert' 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 KP.	
2	Notes of previous meeting and matters arising (February 2022) and action tracker (papers 1 and 2)	
	<p>The minutes of the meeting held on 10/02/2022 were agreed as accurate, with no proposed redactions to the version for publication. Action: Minutes to be published on the website.</p> <p>The action tracker was reviewed, and it was agreed that all actions had either been completed or superseded or were not yet due. It was agreed that Action 2 had been discharged via an update on the tracker rather than a separate item due to the size of the agenda.</p>	SM

3	<p>SAR 'Robert' (pseudonym)</p> <p>PH gave a verbal overview of the SAR highlighting areas identified for improvement in his analysis of what had happened, to improve support for people who neglect their own wellbeing going forwards.</p> <p>The following comments and discussions were noted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There was broad agreement that there the report highlighted a lack of coordination and that a multi-disciplinary meeting could have taken place, with PH noting an incorrect perception seen here and elsewhere that there needed to be a safeguarding involvement for this to happen. • Concerns around practice in relation to the Mental Capacity Act (2005) were discussed at depth, in particular where what someone is saying is very different to their behaviour. PH noted that, in complex situations, it could be difficult to evidence when someone did not have capacity. • The difference between neglect and self-neglect, and the actions of professionals, particularly around the tensions surrounding Robert's move were discussed. For example, the question of, given Robert's known needs, would it have been neglectful for professionals not to have considered the move to a ground floor flat, was debated. • Other key issues noted included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Professionals not getting involved, and not discussing concerns with each other, early enough ○ A lack of recognition that Robert was neglecting his own wellbeing ○ A lack of direct support in relation to his self-neglectful behaviours ○ A general need to not treat raising potential self-neglect with families as a 'taboo' <p>The Report was agreed without amendment, although SM noted that a small number of non-material amendments had been received after circulation and it was agreed that these could be incorporated with final sign-off by KP.</p> <p>The following actions were then agreed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SM to share a copy of the report "Robert's" family, seek their permission to publish the review in full, ask them about any pseudonym that should be used, and any other comments that they had on the report. SM • If agreed by Robert's family, SM to arrange for sign-off from KP, publication, submission to the National SAR Library and, once published, the recommendations to be added to the Board's tracker SM • SM to arrange for the Board's Self-Neglect Guidance to be reviewed by the Learning & Development and Policy & Procedures subgroup the next time it meets SM • SM to arrange for the Board's Mental Capacity Act subgroup review the learning the next time it meets SM • SM to include a substantial item on self-neglect on the draft agenda for the October Board meeting SM 	
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4	Practice Briefing and Recommendations for ‘Susan’ SAR and ‘Mrs L’ Practice Briefing	
	<p>It was agreed that, due to time constraints, these should be recirculated to Board member after the meeting for comment.</p> <p>Actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SM to recirculate after the meeting • All Board members to review and send any comments to SM by 30/06/2022 • SM to amend for consideration for sign-off by Executive Group on 19/07/2022 	<p>SM</p> <p>ALL</p> <p>SM</p>
5	Community Council for Somerset re: The work of Village and Community Agents	
	<p>BK gave a detailed presentation on the work of Village and Community Agents, and how their work supported broader work to enable adults at risk to live safely in their communities.</p> <p>The following comments and discussions were noted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The involvement of Community and Village Agents in one Teams was discussed • While there are current gaps in the provision, recruitment is in hand • While there may be gaps in referrals being made, the Somerset system is such that agents can refer on, including on closure, if required and there are mechanisms for agents to highlight gaps • The potential for agents to specialise was considered, but the rationale for them not doing so, as highlighted by BK, was supported • BR noted that the volume of cases might sometimes reduce the capacity of agents to show professional curiosity 	
6	Briefing on work to support individuals fleeing the war in Ukraine who are being accommodated in Somerset following a recent report highlighting the risks of exploitation	
	<p>KP introduced this item, which had been prompted by a report by the Independent Anti-Slavery Commissioner that highlighted the risks of exploitation for Ukrainian refugees being hosted in the UK. While the KP noted that he agreed with national feedback to the author that they had misunderstood the role of Safeguarding Adults Board in relation to the recommendation made to them, he was keen for the Board to seek assurance that safeguarding arrangements were effective.</p> <p>BS gave an overview of the arrangements put in place by the Somerset system to support both UK hosts and Ukrainian guests as part of the Homes for Ukraine scheme, noting that the Ukrainian Families scheme sat outside of these arrangements.</p>	

BS noted her agreement with the report that the risks of exploitation were accurate.

BS went through the five checks checks that should be undertaken before a guest is hosted with the Board.

The following comments and discussions were noted:

- It was noted that there was currently no national threshold for whether a host was suitable, potentially leading to inconsistencies in interpretation
- While a potential host may be deemed unsuitable, due to the sequencing and delays in DBS checks, transit visas may already have been issued and Ukrainian families already be on their way or even have arrived.
- If checks highlight concerns about a host, then these can be discussed with workstream leads, but the guidance from the Home Office does not allow the police to share intelligence unless there is a known safeguarding concern.
- There are no powers to remove a guest if a host is not determined to be unsuitable until after they have arrived, although Local Authorities can offer an alternative.
- There are lots of self-organised community groups, and work is underway to develop six community hubs to support guests
- KP asked BS if there were any particular concerns about information sharing between partners. BS felt that it had been good within the limits that have been put on the police, but concerns exist where there are concerns about a host that can't be substantiated and therefore doesn't allow a discussion to take place with the police.
- RT confirmed that, there is currently no basis for the police to share information outside of Home Office guidance and that this had been highlighted as a gap, particularly as guests could have been living with a host for some time before a DBS check highlighted a concern due to delays in processing or hosts not engaging with the DBS process
- HS asked about the level of confidence that BS had on hosts or guests being able to reach out for support if they felt there was a risk. BS felt that, for hosts, there was a high level of confidence, but less so for guests and it was hoped that the establishment of community hubs would help with this.
- BS felt that, due to the way it has been set up by the government, the risks were probably higher with the Ukrainian Families scheme due to the lack of checks.
- KP enquired as to whether there was any information on the number of guests with care and support needs. BS confirmed that, to date, three referrals had been made to Adult Social Care,
- The Board noted that the arrangements had been set up at speed, and that the work within the local system had been effective, but was hampered by what appeared to be weaknesses in the scheme nationally.

	Action: KP to raise concerns highlighted with chairs regionally and escalate nationally if similar concerns are identified.	KP
7	Update from the Homelessness Reduction Board	
	<p>AL gave a details presentation on the work of the Homelessness Reduction board, how homelessness in being treated as a health and wellbeing issue, and how work is taking place with the support of Community Agencies to support people who sit below the threshold in order to reduce the likelihood of them becoming homeless. AL highlighted the 'creative solutions' approach that was taking place in the Somerset West and Taunton District Council area, with the involvement of Adult Social Care, and the overall across the system a lack of accommodation was a major issue. AL also noted issues with GP registration and provided an overview of the support provided to assist people with this.</p> <p>The following comments and discussions were noted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HS asked if there were any blockages in existing processes, in response to which AL highlighted a current case that, while not involving adult safeguarding functions, related to someone who was homeless and had received a late diagnosis of a terminal illness that was proving difficult to resolve. • BC enquired about the expected impact of the ongoing cost of living crises and support. AL felt that cost of living increases may push people over the edge into homelessness, and also highlighted those released from prison as a vulnerable group. • Action: BR, JM, and RH to discuss issues with access to universal services highlighted by AL outside of the meeting. 	BR, JM, and RH
8	SSAB Performance report and questions	
	<p>It was agreed that, due to time constraints, the performance report would be recirculated to Board members after the meeting.</p> <p>Actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SM to circulate after the meeting • All Board members to review and send any questions to SM by 30/06/2022 	SM ALL
9	Review of first draft of the 2021/22 Annual Report	
	<p>It was agreed that, due to time constraints, the draft Annual report would be recirculated to Board members after them meeting for comment.</p> <p>Actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SM to circulate after the meeting • All Board members to review and send any comments to SM by 30/06/2022 • SM to update based on feedback for Executive Group to consider for sign-off on 19/07/2022 	SM ALL SM

10	Results of SSAB Effectiveness Survey	
	<p>KP gave an overview of the feedback in the survey as detailed in paper 9, thanking Board members for their feedback</p> <p>Action: KP to take forward feedback</p>	KP
11	Recommendations from National Chairs Survey	
	Paper for information only	
12	Any Other Business	
	None	
<p>Future Board Meeting dates</p> <p>13th October 2022, 09:30-12:30, The Luttrell Room, County Hall, Taunton, TA1 4DY</p> <p>14th February 2023, Microsoft Teams Meeting. 09:30-12:30 Venue TBC</p>		