

Welcome to Safeguarding Adults News

This newsletter is for health and social care professionals and members of the safeguarding network. It's produced by the Kirklees Safeguarding Adults Board (KSAB) to keep you up to date on safeguarding issues including Safeguarding, Mental Capacity Act and Deprivation of Liberty.

We also include topics that affect you such as dignity in care, hate crime and domestic violence. We hope you find it interesting and informative.

**See Me and Care
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Making Safeguarding Personal (MSP) Newsflashes

At the bottom of some pages you will see newsflashes taken from the National Temperature Check on Making Safeguarding Personal (MSP). See page 3 for more.

West and North Yorkshire and York Policy and Procedures:



Sometimes we need to work across Local Authority boundaries and by signing up to shared policies and procedures we make it much easier to do that and we are also more likely to have a consistent response to tackling problems of adult abuse.

The Multi-Agency Safeguarding Adults Policy and Procedures currently in use across West Yorkshire, North Yorkshire and York were developed to make sure they met the requirements of the Care Act 2014, and they were implemented from April 2015.

It was always planned that a review would be required to make sure the procedures are the best they can be and delivering effective, person centred approaches that support people to be safe and promote their wellbeing.

We now have over 18 months experience of working with the current procedures and the expectations of the Care Act, and the 7 Safeguarding Boards are now involved in work to develop these procedures to lead safeguarding practice going forward.

The boards are working towards having a simpler process focused on what we are aiming to achieve for the person. Nationally and historically, safeguarding procedures have been criticised for being complicated and bureaucratic. There is an opportunity to ensure the process is clearly focused and easily understood by all.

The Boards also want to make sure the multi-agency procedures promote best practice at all times by involving and supporting the person at risk. The focus throughout the multi-agency procedures will be focused on risk and what the desired outcome is for the person concerned, rather than investigation to substantiate abuse.

The project group is planning that a revised multi-agency policy and procedure could be presented to each Board for consultation by the end of June 2017, with a view to implementation December 2017 onwards.

In Kirklees, the Board will be consulting on the new proposals across the partnership in June – so keep your eyes out for further information.

MSP NEWSFLASH

MSP - “Staff now realise that raising safeguarding is not necessarily negative, they appreciate that people just want to be safe, nothing dramatic”

Making Safeguarding Personal (MSP)

National Temperature Check



Safeguarding Adults at risk of abuse or neglect is one of the most important things that Social Services and partners undertake.

The Association of Directors of Social Services (ADASS) has championed the person-centred and outcomes focussed approach that is Making Safeguarding Personal (MSP) for a number of years and wanted to check on its progress across the country, as well as to help and encourage people to embed it within their authorities and with their boards and partners.

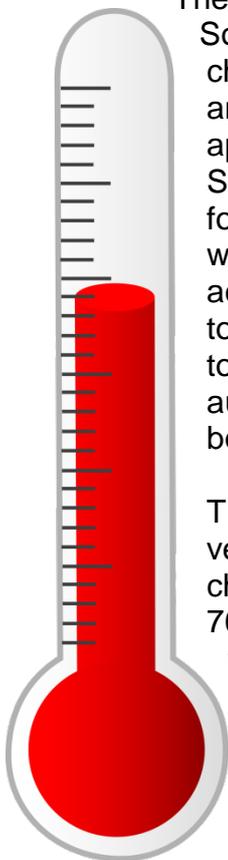
They did this by undertaking a very wide-ranging 'temperature check' achieving coverage of 76% of English local authorities through in depth interviews with their safeguarding leads.

When compared to previous MSP evaluations, the results revealed much progress with a positive picture of dedication and innovation.

The vast majority of those interviewed had built MSP into their mainstream services and were achieving better outcomes for people needing care and support who had experienced abuse or neglect.

However some areas were still struggling to make headway with MSP. The report made some comprehensive recommendations which offer a practical way forward and many examples of good practice are given where people are willing to share them with others.

In addition, ADASS has also been actively involved by looking in detail at what is happening in the Yorkshire and Humber region, including Kirklees; and the board will continue to lead on taking this work forward. Have a look at the report [ADASS - Making Safeguarding Personal temperature check](#)



Working to Prevent Financial Abuse
see page 15



News from the Safeguarding Board:

As Kirklees Safeguarding Adults Board, it is our responsibility to lead adult safeguarding arrangements in Kirklees and to assure ourselves of the effectiveness of the safeguarding work of statutory partner agencies.

Our key priorities are to:

- Provide strategic leadership across Kirklees ensuring effective collaborative working.
- Gain assurance that adults are safeguarded; there is a timely and proportionate response when abuse or neglect has occurred and individuals are supported to have choice
- Support the development of and oversee preventative strategies that aim to reduce instances of abuse and neglect
- Promote multi-agency workforce development and consider any specialist training that may be required
- Provide governance for the evaluation of the effectiveness of partners safeguarding arrangements and any associated improvement plans

The Care Act requires us to develop and publish a strategic plan setting out how the Board meets its objectives and how members and partner agencies will contribute.

The board hold regular development days and the last one, held in February, focused on issues to feed into our update of our strategic plan.



Mike Houghton-Evans
Our Independent Chair

Our strategic plan can be found here: [Strategic Plan](#)

MSP NEWSFLASH

MSP - "As social workers this is what we are all aiming to do but we do get stressed about risk and capacity."



Spotlight on Controlling and Coercive Behaviour in an intimate or family relationship

The Care Act brought the worlds of domestic abuse and adult safeguarding much closer together - though in Kirklees we have always tried to make these links.

Domestic violence is defined by the government as 'Any incident or pattern of incidents of controlling, coercive or threatening behaviour, violence or abuse between those aged 16 or over who are or have been intimate partners or family members regardless of gender or sexuality. This can encompass psychological, physical, sexual, financial or emotional abuse.'

The Care Act requires us to consider domestic abuse as a form of adult abuse. This means we need to think much more closely about our practice and make links between what were often, two separate areas of work.

The latest area for us to reflect on is how much we know about controlling and coercive behaviour in an intimate or family relationship- it is now included as an offence.

Controlling behaviour causes someone to fear that violence will be used against them on at least two occasions; or causes them serious alarm or distress which has a substantial adverse effect on their usual day-to-day activities.

Controlling behaviour is a range of acts designed to make a person subordinate and/or dependent.

For some excellent tools and information visit <http://coercivecontrol.ripfa.org.uk/>

To access FREE training:

26 April

9.30 am – 12.30 pm
Civic Centre 3, Huddersfield

26 June

9.30 am – 12.30 pm
Civic Centre 1, Huddersfield

Council staff can book by logging onto MiPod Xtra and follow these steps:-

- Catalogue
- In Programme Search box type - Controlling or Coercive Behaviour
- Click on the course in your directorate
- Click on course title
- Choose date and book

For staff external to the council you need to contact learning.matters@kirklees.gov.uk and ask for an external booking form which you will need to complete and return to that address or download and print off the [Learning Matters booking form](#).

A Message from the Coroner:

Change of Law

From Monday 3rd April 2017 Coroners no longer have a duty to undertake an inquest into the death of every person who was subject to an authorisation under the Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards (known as DoLS) under the Mental Capacity Act 2005.

A death will only need to be reported to the Coroner if:

- the cause of death is unknown
- where there are concerns that the cause of death was unnatural or violent
- this includes where there is any concern about the care given having contributed to the persons death

Any person with any concerns about how or why someone has come to their death can contact the Coroner directly. This will not change where a person is subject to a Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards authorisation.

What will change is that the Coroner will no longer be duty bound to investigate every death where the deceased had a Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards in place.

For more information on coroner services please see the [Coroner Services Guides](#) at this link [Guide to coroner services and coroner investigations – a short guide](#)

Please do pass this message on to your contacts in this area. If you have any queries about this message please contact: Coroners@justice.gsi.gov.uk



CHIEF CORONER

Please note: If a person dies before the Deprivation of Liberty request has been authorised:

If you have submitted a Deprivation of Liberty request to the Local Authority and this has not yet been authorised at the time of death, the Local Coroner has advised this must be reported to the Coroner's Office irrespective of the cause of death.

For further information see [guidance from local coroner](#) or contact the local Coroner's Office: 01274 373721.

MSP NEWSFLASH

MSP - "For the first time service users are in the driver's seat, they can say how fast they want to travel and when they want to put the brakes on."



Dignity in Care

Kirklees celebrates National Dignity Action Day 1st February 2017

The aim of Dignity Action Day (DAD) is to ensure people who use care services are treated as individuals and are given choice, control and a sense of purpose in their daily lives.

Dignity Action Day gives everyone the opportunity to contribute to upholding people's rights to dignity and provide a truly memorable day for people receiving care.

Organisations connected to the care sector up and down the country got involved by holding events such as a Digni-tea get togethers.



The care sector in Kirklees was no different and a number of awareness and celebration events were held to mark the day.

Locala held an event at Eddercliffe's Jubilee Rehab Team asking patients to share their thoughts about what dignity meant to them on a dignity tree. There were buns baked by the team's dignity champion and thoughts from patients included compassion, treating others as you would wish to be treated yourself, respect and treating others with kindness.

Norman Hudson Care Home held an afternoon high digniTEA tea party and planted a dignity tree which had been donated by a local business.



Activities at Ferndale Lodge

Ferndale Lodge (part of Horizon Healthcare Homes) held a coffee and cake afternoon with dignity activities including:

- staff members signing up to be a dignity champion online
- cookie decorating,
- support corner - "people we support supporting our staff with a wide range of food and drink whilst staff were blindfolded and unable to express their wishes verbally"
- dignity poems
- dignity tree - "staff and people we support could write down on a leaf what dignity means to them and attach to our dignity tree"

MSP NEWSFLASH

MSP - "We focused too long on the Safeguarding Team but it would have been better to have rolled MSP out to other teams sooner"

Dignity in Care

SEE ME AND CARE

2017 Campaign Refresh

Kirklees Safeguarding Adults Board (KSAB) began the very first 'See ME and Care' campaign in 2013, with phase 2 following soon after in 2014.

It focused on dignity issues for older people and other groups of people who may be vulnerable, for example people with learning or physical disabilities that rely on care and support from health and social care workers.

Following a positive evaluation of the most recent campaign, KSAB members agreed that the message should be broadcast wider to include (as well as others) other tradespeople and members of the public.

On the back of the National Dignity Action Day, KSAB decided to refresh the campaign and the brief was to make it relevant to everybody.

Everyone has their own part to play in the lives of others, be they; care workers, the police, mobile library staff, boiler repair men, housing staff, people coming to read the utility meter, neighbours - everyone.



With this in mind, KSAB teamed up with Curtain Up Players (a local community drama group) and Huddersfield based media company, Quickfoot Films, to produce a short film.

Written and performed by members of Curtain Up Players, the film highlights a very real situation that could, and does happen every day in family life.

The powerful message "Little things make a difference" can be viewed at www.kirklees.gov.uk/seemeandcare

Special thanks to Curtain Up Players for taking time to be part of this campaign.

Is this abuse or poor practice?

Many issues can be dealt with quickly and resolved immediately. The 'See Me and Care' campaign encourages staff to take responsibility for their actions, noticing when things are not quite right, challenging others and taking action, and if necessary raising the issue with their manager.

As part of this campaign the board has a checklist '**Early Indicators of Concern' form** to be used by professionals across the safeguard partnership when visiting care settings within Kirklees.

The information from these forms is collated by partner agencies and used to form an overview of practices within care settings:

- it is expected that the issues highlighted on the checklist will be addressed and actions recorded by the professional at the time of the visit
- this is a really useful way of addressing and recording concerns about poor practice before it becomes abusive

Please make sure your teams know about and use this form.



“The Safe Places scheme is to help vulnerable people when they go out”

“Sometimes when we go out things can go wrong. You might have lost your bus pass, missed your bus stop or someone has been unkind.

If you need help you might not know who to ask or trust. You might feel scared and alone. A Safe Place is somewhere you can go to for help if this ever happens to you”.

“We have lots of Safe Places around Kirklees. When you become a member we will send you a list of Safe Places. Safe Places have a sticker in the window or have the logo displayed to let you know they are a Safe Place. Staff at the Safe Place will listen to you and try to help.”

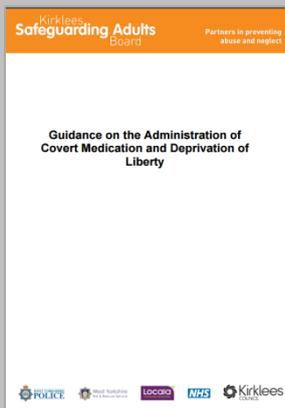
The scheme at the moment is for people who are over 16 and who might be vulnerable when they go out. At present it is for people who may have a learning disability, autism, dementia, or a physical disability. It is not for people who have very complex issues.

The Kirklees Safeguarding Adults Board (KSAB) has actively supported this scheme for a number of years, which currently has 520 Members and 113 venues, and the steering group was delighted to welcome the Police and Crime Commissioner, Mark Burns Williamson, who came to visit recently.



For more information call Samantha Jones on **01484 340811**

Guidance on the Administration of Covert Medication and Deprivation of Liberty



The administration of covert medicines is a complex issue and involves the administration of a medicine in a disguised form to a resident without their knowledge or consent.

Individuals who are competent to make their own decisions, are entitled to refuse treatment even when this decision may adversely affect their health. Care staff should not administer medicines to a resident without their knowledge if they have the capacity to make a decision. Failing to respect a competent adult’s refusal to take a prescribed medication may breach a person’s human rights and may amount to a criminal offence.

New guidance has been produced by the KSAB, based on a recent legal judgement and National Institute for Clinical Excellence (NICE) guidance.

See [Administration of Covert Medication and Deprivation of Liberty](#) on the Kirklees website for more details

Stopping Hate Crime starts here - New Plan



Safer Kirklees is working with key partners, including the police, Kirklees Neighbourhood Housing (KNH), health services and local communities to put the strategy into action – with a focus on the next three years.

What does the strategy include?

Priorities include:

- having a service that is victim-focused and protects everyone equally
- preventing hate crime
- supporting victims of hate crime
- effective action against perpetrators
- improving community engagement and confidence

What happened on the launch of the plan?

West Yorkshire's Police and Crime Commissioner, Mark Burns-Williamson marked the launch of the Kirklees Hate Crime Strategy, 2017-2020 by signing the Hate Crime Charter at an event at the Brian Jackson Centre, Huddersfield.



Mr Burns-Williamson was joined by Cllr Masood Ahmed, Council Cabinet Member for Community Cohesion and Schools, and Chief Superintendent, Steven Cotter, from West Yorkshire Police.

Read the Strategy: [Kirklees Hate Crime Strategy](#)

“Tackling hate crime is a key priority for Kirklees. Nobody should have to live with its consequences and, along with our partners; we are committed to the clear message that it won't be tolerated.

Challenging the attitudes behind hate crime and celebrating diversity emphasise that there is a zero tolerance approach to such views and behaviours.

Hate crimes can relate to race, religion, disability or sexual orientation. None are acceptable in any way.

This new strategy aims to help us all in resolving issues and tensions, especially community tensions, before they manifest into hate crimes.”

District Commander for Kirklees, Chief Superintendent, Steve Cotter, said:

“West Yorkshire Police continues to highlight the need for victims or witnesses to report hate crime to the police whether a crime has been committed or not.

The reporting of hate crime has increased nationally in the past few years and this is due to a greater public awareness of hate crime and changes in recording and reporting practices.

Hate-fuelled behaviour has no place in our communities and we all have a part to play in challenging it. It is vital that people have the confidence to come forward and tell us if they have either been a victim of, or witnessed, such behaviour. We take every report extremely seriously and will investigate thoroughly; putting support in place for the victim and ensuring that appropriate action is taken.

The police play a key enforcement role within the Kirklees Hate Crime Strategic Group which has a collective agenda to raise awareness of what hate crime is, how it can be reported and what support is available for our communities.”

Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)

How much do you know?

FGM is an unacceptable practice for which there is no justification. It is a form of violence against women and is child abuse. FGM is both a cause and consequence of gender inequality and can be associated with other behaviours that discriminate against, limit or harm women and girls. FGM is not acceptable or legal and the Safeguarding Children's Board, Safeguarding Adult's Board and Community Safety Partnership in Kirklees are taking steps to proactively tackle the issue.

The Kirklees FGM strategy 2016 produced by all three boards is focused on preventing FGM through education, and identifying women and girls at risk so that they can be protected from harm. Where FGM has occurred, either recently or at some point in the past, the strategy ensures that appropriate support is put in place for the woman or girl's physical and emotional wellbeing.

Read the Strategy:

[Kirklees Strategy for Preventing Female Genital Mutilation \(FGM\)](#)

This document provides an overview of FGM, including definitions, prevalence and impact. It aims to provide advice and support to frontline professionals who have responsibilities to safeguard children, young people and adults at risk from the abuses associated with female genital mutilation (FGM). The Strategy sets out a multi-agency response and encourages agencies to cooperate and work together.

As you know, there is a duty on all regulated health and social care professionals and teachers in England and Wales, to report 'known' cases of FGM in girls aged under 18 to the police.

The duty doesn't apply to cases where the woman is or was over 18 at the time the FGM is believed to have occurred. It also doesn't apply in cases where a female aged over 18 is believed to have suffered FGM when they were a child. In these cases, you should follow local safeguarding procedures.

If you are concerned about the impact of FGM on an Adult at Risk contact the Single Point of Access on 01484 414933

Working together for a Safer Kirklees

Kirklees Safeguarding Children Board

Kirklees Safeguarding Adults Board

KIRKLEES STRATEGY FOR PREVENTING FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION (FGM)

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3. FGM and the Law.
4. Kirklees FGM strategy and areas for action planning.
 - Intelligence management relating to FGM
 - Prevention of FGM
 - Identification of victims of FGM
 - Protection and Support
 - Investigation of offences of FGM.
5. Appendices 1 to 5
6. References and further resources.

Visit:
[Kirklees Safeguarding Children's Board](#)

MSP NEWSFLASH

MSP - "We changed what we do at start of process. Rather than having strategy meeting we changed the conversation we have with people / the questions we ask"

Human Trafficking & Modern Day Slavery

Human trafficking and Modern Day Slavery involves the use of force, deception or coercion to exploit someone to obtain some type of labour, crime or sex act.

It is a hidden crime encompassing adult and child victims who rarely come forward to seek help because of language barriers, threats, fear of the traffickers, and/or fear of being criminalized.

Traffickers use force, deception, or coercion to lure their victims and force them into labour, criminality or sexual exploitation. They look for people who are susceptible for a variety of reasons, including psychological or emotional vulnerability or economic hardship. The trauma caused by the traffickers can be so great that many may not identify themselves as victims or ask for help, even in highly public settings.

There are several broad categories of exploitation linked to human trafficking, these can include:

- sexual exploitation
- forced labour and domestic servitude
- organ harvesting
- child related crimes such as child sexual exploitation - CSE
- Criminal Exploitation - forced begging, illegal drug cultivation, organised theft, related benefit frauds etc
- forced marriage

Human Trafficking and Modern Day Slavery is a crime for which help and support is available free to victims through the National Referral Mechanism (NRM). It's important that we familiarise ourselves with the signs that someone may be a victim.

For more information how you can spot and raise awareness please see the following links:

[Resources - Know the Signs](#)

[Human Trafficking & Modern Day Slavery Resources - including awareness films](#)

How to Report Concerns

- call the police – **101** or in an emergency **999**
- for Advice ring Kirklees Emergency Planning Team on 01484 221000
- speak to Safeguarding at Kirklees Council on 01484 456848 email: MASH@kirklees.gcsx.gov.uk
- Kirklees Emergency Duty Service 01484 414933 (outside office hours)
- Call Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555111
- Modern Slavery Helpline 08000 121700
- For more information or to report online - www.kirkleessafeguardingchildren.co.uk

A reminder about two useful sites for leaflets and poster, they come in all different languages, can be downloaded without cost:

Leaflets: [Support for Victims of Modern Slavery](#)

Posters:

[Modern Slavery is Closer than you Think](#)

MSP NEWSFLASH

MSP - "The biggest problem is that staff thought they were doing MSP but have now recognised that they were not."

The Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference

The Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) is a regular meeting where local agencies share information about high risk domestic abuse victims and work together to develop a risk focused, co-ordinated safety plan to safeguard the victim and their children.

This briefing provides an overview of the process for:

- Identifying high risk cases of domestic abuse
- Making referrals into MARAC
- Safety planning at MARAC meetings
- Providing feedback to victims and professionals

Attendees at this briefing would be expected to have a basic awareness of domestic abuse.



Briefings will be held in the
Ground Floor
Conference Room in
Civic Centre 1 on:

2017 Dates
10.00 – 11.00am

- 11 April
- 9 May
- 13 June
- 11 July
- 8 August
- 12 September
- 10 October
- 7 November
- 12 December

2018 Dates
10.00 – 11.00am

- 9 January
- 13 February
- 13 March

To reserve your place,
please book via My Pod for
internal Kirklees staff or via
learning matters for external
colleagues.

Safe Later Lives:

Older People and Domestic Abuse

Domestic abuse is complex, wide reaching and largely hidden. Each year, around 2.1 million people suffer from domestic abuse in England and Wales – 1.4 million women (8.5% of the population) and 700,000 men (4.5% of the population).

Crucially, 85% of victims made five attempts on average to get support from professionals in the year before they accessed effective help to stop the abuse.

Whilst the impact of domestic abuse is grave on all victims, certain groups experience additional challenges and barriers. Many surveys and studies have not considered victims aged 60 plus, and awareness raising campaigns have consistently focused on younger victims and perpetrators.

This serves to reinforce the false assumption that abuse ceases to exist beyond a certain age. The limited pool of research which does exist on domestic abuse and older people suggests that “older women’s experiences of domestic abuse are markedly different from those in younger age groups and that these differences have not been adequately acknowledged or accounted for”.

The ‘Safe Later Lives: Older People and Domestic Abuse’ report provides a focus on this historically ‘hidden’ group. It is part of the Safe Lives ‘Spotlights’ series, which will focus on hidden groups of domestic abuse victims throughout 2017 and propose recommendations for both practitioners and policymakers.

The first Spotlights has focused on older victims of abuse and involved a survey with 27 professionals, feedback from survivors, frontline practitioners and policymakers.

The KSAB is working with the Domestic Abuse Strategy Board on the learning from this report.



Read it at:
[Spotlight: Older People and Domestic Abuse](#)

The Live Hub is a high visibility service with multiple strategies for reaching and receiving clients. It has the capacity to support standard, medium and high risk victims of domestic abuse by providing a targeted, focused service which offers support, advice, safety planning and crisis intervention for anyone female or male aged 16+.

**How the PDVG
Live Safe Hub
Works.**

Pennine Domestic Violence Group



LIVE SAFE HUB

To make a referral or to contact any of the PDVG Live Safe Hub services

Tel: **01484 308306/07**

Email: livesafe.outreach@pdvg.cjsm.net

Working to Prevent Financial Abuse

Kirklees
Safeguarding Adults
Board

Partners in preventing
abuse and neglect

Network Event

The Safeguarding Adults Board Network Event took place on the 17th March.

The theme of the network event was financial abuse. A range of speakers from Trading Standards, Kirklees Adult social care, Pennine Domestic Violence Group and Kirklees Victim Support all delivered presentations which provided valuable information and insight into what each of the organisations provide and the support they offer in relation to financial abuse.



Over 120 people attended from a range of partners organisations. The feedback and evaluation of the event was extremely positive both from the attendees and speakers.

Following on from this one event Catherine Chadwick-Rayner from Trading Standards provided the following feedback showing how useful these events are:

“I just wanted to feedback to you and the rest of the team and say a big ‘Thank you’ for having us as guest speakers. As a result of the event we gathered 13 contacts on the day, we are in the process of arranging 4 Partner Training sessions with various teams, had one request on the day to attend a home visit with a social worker who believes one of her elderly clients is responding to scam mail, and I have been contacted by Huddersfield University about the possibility of giving a lecture / developing a training package for part-qualified and possibly qualified Social Workers – which will have far-reaching results.”

Easy Read Documents

West Yorkshire Police have a series of helpful easy read documents which provide details on how to help keep home and property safe. There are also a number of other easy read documents on specific subjects such as how to stay safe when out and about, domestic abuse, mate crime as well as identity theft. Click on the links below for further support and advice: [West Yorkshire Police: Easy Read Documents](#)

MSP NEWSFLASH

MSP - “People at risk aren't concerned about processes, all they want is for abuse to stop and not happen again”

Learning from Safeguarding Adults Reviews (SAR)

When an adult who needs care and support either dies or suffers serious harm, and when abuse or neglect is thought to have been a factor, Kirklees Safeguarding Adults Board (KSAB) may need to review what has happened. This is called a Safeguarding Adults Review or SAR for short.

Sometimes Safeguarding Adult Boards will also arrange for a SAR to take place in other situations where they feel there need to be lessons learnt.

These SARs are to see whether any lessons can be learned about the way organisations worked together to support and protect the person who suffered harm.

We undertook a SAR into the circumstances surrounding a very sudden care home closure which was upsetting for residents and relatives, and staff working in the home, because of the speed of the closure, and challenging for the professionals working to support them. The board is still monitoring some recommended actions from this review.

The Report can be found: [The Closure of Oxford Care Home](#)

We also arranged for the Social Care Institute of Excellence (SCIE) to undertake some specific training for staff involved in such difficult circumstances. During the training the participants worked to articulate what normal practice is locally, and the strengths and challenges entailed in current ways of working. The group then went on to draw out specific strategic questions relevant to organisational improvement and development.

The Training looked at how to improve:

1. Planning an improvement response when serious issues about care have been identified.
2. Implementing an improvement plan.
3. Communicating with relatives about serious issues and improvement action.
4. Responding better to an urgent care home notice closure.

We also look at Serious Case Reviews for children, because there are sometimes cross cutting themes. The Safeguarding Children's Board asked us to share the learning about Child B.

This was a review concerning two young sisters who were tragically murdered by their mother whilst staying in a refuge. They had moved to the refuge the previous day after the mother made an allegation of domestic abuse against her partner, the girls' father. The couple were both due to attend a meeting regarding one of their daughters on the day the murders took place. This meeting had been planned several days previously and it had no connection with the allegation of domestic abuse. It appears that the mother was scared of seeing her partner at the meeting and believed that he might take the children from her. She did not have confidence that the practitioners would be able to prevent this from happening.

The review found that the deaths were completely unexpected by any of the professionals who had contact with the family.

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Learning from Safeguarding Adults Reviews (SAR) continued

No one identified the mother as constituting a risk to her children and the review found no reason why anyone should have expected her to harm, let alone to kill them. Similarly, no information has come to light to suggest that anyone should have had concern about the couple's relationship or the mother's mental health.

Although the mother's action in killing her children was not predictable, it is important that all practitioners working with alleged victims of domestic violence are aware that such people are vulnerable and at risk of depression and mental ill health.

They are likely to be scared of the alleged perpetrator and the prospect of meeting that person can increase their depression, mental ill health and feelings of vulnerability. Therefore they should be reassured that they do not need to have direct contact with that person.

Whether domestic violence has occurred or not, where there has been a family breakdown there may be risks in bringing the parties together. These risks may be to the parties involved in the breakdown, practitioners involved in bringing them together or other people within the vicinity.

Therefore, where it is known that there has been a family breakdown it is good practice not to hold meetings involving both parents unless it is clearly evident that they both want the meeting to go ahead and a risk assessment has been carried out which considers the safety of the parents, their children and anyone else who may be present where the meeting is taking place.

Read KSCB Newsletters at:
[Kirklees Safeguarding Children's Board Newsletters](#) (January 2017)

We have Kirklees Safeguarding Adults Board information available, a few are listed below, to request these please email the Safeguarding Adults Partnership Team: protection@kirklees.gov.uk

- Dignity in Care Leaflets
- See Me and Care Posters
- Safeguarding and You cards
- Playing Safe DVDs

Get in Touch

Why not send us an article about safeguarding good practice or new ways of working? We will promise to try and include it in future editions. If you have any suggestions for topics or comments about this Newsletter please get in touch.

We're keen to share good practice and hot topics across all areas of safeguarding.

Please get in touch by emailing the **Safeguarding Adults Partnership Team:** protection@kirklees.gov.uk