Safeguarding Adult Review (SAR) in rapid time, systems findings Learning briefing:

The Cornwall and Isles of Scilly (CIOS) Safeguarding Adults board (SAB) has a statutory duty to undertake Safeguarding Adult Reviews (SARs) for any cases referred to it that meet the Care act section 44 criteria.

The purpose of a SAR as stated in the Care act statutory guidance is promote effective learning and improvement action to prevent future deaths or serious harm occurring again.

The CIOS SAB has undertaken a SAR in relation to the circumstances of a serious incident that took place locally which involved individuals with care and support needs that lived in their local community and were supported by a number of our statutory and key partner organisations.

Due to the specific circumstances of this case and to promote the principles of making safeguarding personal the SAB has adopted a SAR in rapid time methodology which has a focus on a "systems findings, learning approach". This learning briefing ensures that the individuals involved are safe and protected, the specific details of this case will not be referred to in this briefing.

The SAB and its members felt that it is important to publish and share the outputs and learning from this case. The findings and recommendations below have been taken forward into a local thematic SAR action planning process by the SAB to seek assurance from our local partner organisations that this learning is being embedded into better frontline practice to protect and improve outcomes for local vulnerable people.

Each system finding is laid out for the reader. A short number of questions are posed to aid the SAB and partners in deciding appropriate responses. These findings are arrived at through analysis of the information provided by agencies involved with the individuals, meetings to discuss this analysis and discussions with senior representatives of agencies involved.

This SAR process has also identified the following themes:

- Whole family approach
- Professional curiosity
- Support of carers
- Risk management
- Effective Sharing of information
- Multi agency planning and function

These themes have been considered in the systems findings and actions agreed by the SAB below:

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Systems findings/Multiagency actions:

System Finding 1: There is evidence that multi-agency planning and risk assessment for vulnerable adults being discharged from hospital is sporadic and does not always take place. This results in unnecessary risk / lack of suitable support.

Multi-agency actions:

> ➤ Complete a comprehensive audit of cases where vulnerable adults are discharged from hospital.
> ➤ Review existing single and multi-agency policy that deals with vulnerable patient discharge.
> ➤ Embed a culture that supports the development of multi-agency planning meetings and risk assessment.

System Finding 2: Current systems encourage professionals to deal with presenting adults in isolation. Treatment, support and risk assessment is centred around the individual and does not consider the impact conflicting vulnerabilities can have on others who are living in the same household / have significant contact. Risk is therefore increased and opportunities to have shared support missed.

Multi-agency actions:

> ➤ SAB should assure itself appropriate training and guidance is in place to ensure a holistic approach is used when two or more vulnerable adults live in the same household.

System Finding 3: There is a lack of information exchange and multi-agency management when significant change occurs to treatment or support packages that are in place for individuals. This results in an avoidable lack of understanding of any strengths, weaknesses and threat new arrangements may carry, increasing safeguarding risks.

Multi-agency actions:

> ➤ SAB to ensure that significant changes to support or treatment given to vulnerable adults are communicated to partners so appropriate assessment of associated risk can be made

System Finding 4: The use of relatives to provide care for vulnerable people without appropriate assessment is considered as acceptable practice in the majority of situations. This creates a culture that supports a lack of challenge and management of risk.

Multi-agency actions:

> ➤ The SAB should seek assurance that in all cases where a vulnerable adult is being cared for by relatives or unpaid people with an established relationship, appropriate consideration of assessment takes place.

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System Finding 5: There is a systemic lack of consideration given to multi-agency risk recognition, management and planning as an essential part of safeguarding adults. This results in a less well-informed approach to risk and reduced information exchange to inform safeguarding.
Multi-agency actions: ➢ Understand the extent of multi-agency risk assessments. ➢ Improve the use of multi-agency information and expertise to inform risk assessments.

useful links:

SAB website – https://ciossafeguarding.org.uk/sab

SAB business support team - safeguardingadultsboard@cornwall.gov.uk