

Safeguarding Adults Board -Safeguarding Adult Review Adult Lucy

The SAR identified four findings and following discussion at the board actions were agreed against each of the findings. The actions agreed are system wide issues and as such are part of the annual business plan for the Safeguarding Adults Board 2016/17. The business plan is monitored by the business management group of the SAB and reported to the board on a quarterly basis.

Finding 1:

Professionals across the partnership are not using historical information to inform and influence their decision making for adults with learning disabilities who have challenging behaviour. The result is that each incident is responded to individually and the cumulative risk is then not recognized.

Board response

- The board felt this was a system wide issue and the most appropriate way to address this was through work with the contracts and commissioning team to ensure that practice at the beginning of placements was improved which would improve support plans and responses to incidents for the rest of the placement.
- The development of particular tools to direct and support staff to use historical information to inform and influence their decision making would be a positive way to address the concerns raised in this review

Action to be taken

- Explore local authority contract and commissioning service and CCG's practice in relation to monitoring safeguarding referrals and concerns raised by care homes
- Review policies and procedures for admission with view to introducing positive behaviour plans, personal escalation plans and compatibility tools

Finding 2:

Professionals are desensitized to aggressive behaviour which results in the minimization of the impact of violent behaviour by and to people with learning disabilities and the potential safeguarding implications.

Board response

- Partners could all relate to this finding and despite the lack of research into this issue understood it to be a nation wide issue for not only people with learning disabilities but those with mental health needs as well.

- The board recognised the significant implications of this issue on safeguarding adults at risk and welcomed the opportunity to address this issue working closely with providers and settings to improve practice

Action to be taken

- Develop a zero tolerance campaign for professionals which incorporates an understanding of service user on service user violence, and service user violence towards carer.

Finding 3:

Police are not routinely invited to adult safeguarding strategy meetings or seen as part of the multi-agency safeguarding partnership due to other professionals viewing their role as being solely crime-investigation focused. (This is also links with Finding 2).

Board response

- Partners acknowledged the inconsistent practice in regard to engagement with the police and how this linked with the issue of practitioners not naming incidents as violence as discussed in Finding 2.
- The board noted the national relevance of this issue and felt it was appropriate to try and address this firstly within a pan London arena and seek the support of the London SAB to do this.

Action to be taken

- Data analysis of how many cases progress through Crime Prosecution Service
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- Benchmark the number of cases that were referred to the DBS regarding de registration of professionals
- Raise issue of police involvement in safeguarding process with the London SAB regarding Safeguarding Adults Review findings

Finding 4:

Professionals do not fully understand the role of statutory advocacy services in supporting adults at risk in key decisions affecting their well-being, with the result that adults at risk are left without their wishes and feelings known/articulated.

Board response

- The board noted the low levels of referrals for IMCA in general in Waltham Forest and the lack of consistent practice in involving IMCA in relevant cases. The national figures demonstrated a very low level of referrals for IMCA for safeguarding cases which appears to reflect local practice. The partnership felt it was important to look at this issue in more depth and gather more data on practice in Waltham Forest. This data would then be used to target awareness raising.
- Data analysis (of the DoLS and IMCA) to provide benchmarking on detail of referrals
- Targeted awareness raising activities for areas with low referral rates
- Develop and launch tools to assist good practice around use of Independent Mental Capacity Advocates and undertaking Mental Capacity Act (MCA)
- Launch and roll out the self- neglect policy. This will include organising a Neglect conference by end of 2016.

August 2016.