



Safeguarding Adults Review of the circumstances concerning Mrs A & Mr B

Executive Summary

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Mrs A & Mr B Safeguarding Adults Review (SAR) Executive Summary

SAR Process

The City and Hackney Safeguarding Adults Board (CHSAB) commissioned a Safeguarding Adults Review (SAR) to learn from the experiences of two adults in a supported housing with care scheme for older people. Mrs A and Mr B both were residents with care and support needs. Mrs A lived with dementia and moved into the housing scheme in 2005. Mr B moved into the scheme in 2011. He experienced mental illness and was described as having some behaviours that may challenge, such as fire risks and sexually inappropriate behaviours. The safeguarding concerns that informed this SAR were that Mr B posed a fire risk to the other residents and that he had allegedly sexually assaulted Mrs A in her flat in November 2013.

The CHSAB considered section 44 of the Care Act 2014 when deciding to undertake the SAR. The SAR followed the Social Care Institute for Excellence's *Learning Together* systems review model and focused on assessment work and decision making from February 2011 and the professional practice of relevant agencies. The review work was undertaken between October 2014 and January 2015. The review findings were discussed with both the families of Mrs A and Mr B in December 2015 and August 2016 respectively, and their comments were incorporated into the final draft report that was agreed by the CHSAB in November 2016. Due to concurrent investigations and court proceedings, the SAR was not published until 3rd February 2017.

The scope of the SAR was to look at a number of questions:

1. What can this case tell us about how risk is assessed, held and managed in relation to service users known to the system for 2 years or more?
2. Are there useful lessons to learn about what helps or hinders the escalation of concerns?
3. What can the case tell us about the current services provision in relation to supported housing for people with mental health problems?
4. What can we learn about possible assumptions made about the sexuality of older people?
5. What can we learn about the interface between strategic planning and service provision over 65s/under 65s?'

Learning from experience/recommendations

The points of learning/recommendations identified by the SAR were:

1. The systems currently in place to gate keep referrals from Housing with Care Schemes are not ensuring that the 'mix' of tenants can be safely supported.
2. Is there is a misplaced assumption that the Care Programme Approach will always respond effectively to concerns escalated by staff?

3. In Housing with Care Schemes, where vulnerable tenants have the capacity to agree to sexual relationships, are those tenants (and on occasion, professionals) at increased risk because staff are so unsure about dealing with the difficult combination of consent and sex amongst older people?
4. Professionals working with adults at risk in Hackney have widely variable training, and therefore confidence, in managing the risks of fire. The result is that the risk to some adults is well assessed, whilst the risk to others is poorly understood and places them in danger.
5. The tendency not to seek to understand the meaning behind the person's history and behaviours is impacting upon the ability of staff to assess and manage risk.

Multi-agency Action Plan

These findings/recommendations were translated into outcome-focused actions to be undertaken by agencies involved in the case. These were started during 2015, have progressed since and are being monitored through the CHSAB's Safeguarding Adult Review Sub-Group.