

Bath & North East Somerset Local Safeguarding Adults Board

Key messages from the October 2013 LSAB

The October LSAB began with two presentations from Healthwatch and the Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG).

Healthwatch described their organisation, how it is developing and the structure that their volunteers will work within. The LSAB is very interested in working with Healthwatch in the future in order to connect better to people who use services and to citizens. This work is being taken forward by the Communications sub-group.

The CCG described the ways in which Health is learning from the extreme pressures on the system last winter. A lot of work is taking place to try to anticipate pressures and to plan ahead on a year-round basis. This includes the need to engage independent care homes, work that is not well developed. Pressures on the health system can have direct safeguarding consequences and these need to be better understood and evaluated.

LSAB Sub-groups

Below are some of the areas that the sub-groups are currently working on.

Policy and Procedure:

- The new induction pack was introduced and agreed. This will be used in future for all new LSAB and sub-group members

Awareness, Engagement and Communications:

- The service user questionnaire has been updated and YourSay has advised on an accessible version
- The calendar of events is in the process of being completed and will be used to promote safeguarding across the community in B&NES

Mental Capacity Act and Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards Quality and Practice:

- A quality assurance report will be coming to the December LSAB

Quality Assurance, Audit and Performance Management:

- Working on audit of safeguarding cases and examining the continuing implications from the Francis report and Winterbourne View.

Training and Development:

- The training audit will report to the LSAB in December with a discussion about its future content
- The stakeholders' event on Sept 27th was very well attended and well received.

Local Children's Safeguarding Board (LSCB)

Better links with the LSCB are being pursued through the interface group, which is meeting shortly. The new independent chair is in the process of being appointed and an announcement is due.

LSAB Chair's report

The Chair's report covered the use of Google alerts to promote new policies and procedures; developing work with South Gloucs, Bristol and North Somerset to align policies; the agenda for the November away-day; and confirmation of the variation to Sirona's safeguarding refreshment to tri-annual, in line with Children's refresher training.

Health and Wellbeing Board and Scrutiny Panel reporting

The LSAB annual report has been presented to the Health & Wellbeing Board and Scrutiny Panel and was welcomed. The significant amount of work carried out by the LSAB and sub-groups was fully acknowledged and there was also a request for an executive summary. Connections between the LSAB and Health & Wellbeing Board were discussed and the lack of clarity about the relationship was explored. The need for this to become a more effective two-way link was acknowledged and was to be pursued.

Serious Case Review Action Plan

The SCR action plan was reviewed. Good progress is being made in the two major areas including better links with MARAC and the possible development of a Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH). Sirona is developing a number of improvement measures.

The Care Bill and Adult Safeguarding

Action on Elder Abuse was challenging aspects of the Care Bill relating to safeguarding. They were asking for support in three areas: power of access for confidential Interview; duty to report adults at risk of abuse; and neglecting or ill-treating an adult at risk of abuse. After discussion, the LSAB agreed to support the first and last points but not the duty to report, as this was felt to be risky and agencies might not report, assuming that others had already reported.

Fire and Rescue

Mick Dixon gave a very helpful presentation on the developing role of Fire and Rescue under the headings of Prevent, Protect, Respond. The service is very engaged in a widening community safety role and there are a number of opportunities to use their many household contacts to support safeguarding work in B&NES. We look forward to developing this work together.

Information points

- The revised risk register was noted and will be used in future. The LSAB Away-Day will be used to populate it with more detail.
- An update on the Francis report actions in relation to safeguarding was circulated.

Robin Cowen – Independent Chair, B&NES LSAB (October 2013)