



**Bath & North East Somerset
Local Safeguarding Adults Board**

**KEY MESSAGES FROM THE CHAIR
JUNE 2016**

B&NES QUALITY CHECKING TEAM

The Board received an interesting presentation from the B&NES Quality Checking Team. The work of this group is funded by the B&NES Commissioners from Your Say Advocacy and is intended to gain a service users perspective on the quality of the work of providers. The Quality Checkers describe themselves as “Experts by experience” as they all have learning difficulties, and each brings a different real life experience as recipient of a variety of services.

The work entails a pre-agreed programme of visits and interviews with staff and service users followed by analysis of the information obtained and the production of a report. Some members of the LSAB had first hand experience of Quality Checking and felt the experience to be very useful. During the past 3 years the team have carried out Quality Checks of 17 services and are currently undertaking a substantial programme of work at the RUH.

The team has identified two consistent concerns from their work. Firstly they have been disappointed with the perspective of many staff of what “Choice and Control” actually means for the individual, as in many cases staff seemed to believe they should control the choice made by a service user, rather than support it. Secondly, although many staff knew about types of abuse, few understood how this knowledge might relate to their own workplace and in some instances staff expressed a view that safeguarding was a means to protect staff themselves from allegations.

This presentation was extremely useful and has already sharpened our thinking on how to take forward issues such as communications and training.

CASE STUDY

A case study was presented in which a service user living with son had experienced aggression from him largely fuelled by his need for money to buy drugs. The service user wished for support but did not want Police involvement. The lead social worker had co-ordinated engagement from the IDVA, a GP as well as support for the son in relation to his drug use. Much of this was within the Care Programme Approach and it was clear that the principles of Making Safeguarding Personal were applied throughout, as the service user maintained her choice and control and was clear about desired outcomes. This amounted to wanting to keep her son living at home but also that he would no longer demand money from her or abuse her. In the event,

the outcome was probably not perfect from many people's perspective, but it was satisfactory to the service user and that is what should count.

The LSAB discussed the learning from this study and in particular concerns of the Police that they were not aware of what had taken place and that had officers been called to the address to deal with e.g. a disturbance, they may not have managed the incident sympathetically with other work on going. The Board was assured that a criminal justice outcome was not considered by the Police as the only option. They are always keen to support resolution by working together with agencies. This raised questions about how to share information effectively and about the role of the developing Multi Agency Information Sharing Hub (MASH).

COMBINED TRAINING SUB GROUP

Jenny Theed and Mel Argles now co-Chair a merged LSCB/LSAB Training & Development sub-group. This is a 12-month pilot intended to explore how we can improve the co-ordination of training in respect of adult and children's safeguarding. It is hoped that the work of this group will strengthen the "Think Family" aspects of safeguarding in the daily work of professionals.

REVISED MULTI AGENCY SAFEGUARDING PROCEDURES, RISK ASSESSMENT TOOL AND CONSENT POLICY

The LSAB approved the revised safeguarding procedures that are now consistent with the Care Act. There are some significant variations and practitioners will need to update themselves. In due course the procedures will be integrated into training and in the meantime, there will be further information posted about briefing sessions covering the new requirement for a written enquiry report, risk assessments and safety plans.

The new safeguarding process now contains four stages (instead of the previous seven) and new timescales. It will come into effect in September with the change in the electronic recording system in B&NES Council and the start of the MASH.

MASH

The Multi Agency Information Sharing Hub (MASH) will be based at the Police Centre in Keynsham and is expected to go live by 19th September. Briefing sessions for all agency staff will take place on Wednesday 7th September 2016, 2pm – 4.30pm in the Brunswick Room, Guildhall, Bath. To book please email to: chloe.tees@bathnes.gov.uk

STOP ADULT ABUSE WEEK

13th to 15th June saw the third regional event organised by all local LSABs. This year we were also joined by Somerset. The LSAB put on a very successful and thought-provoking event to launch the new Multi-Agency Self Neglect Policy and the revised timescales from September. There was also a resource pack of ideas developed to encourage services to undertake awareness-raising for adults with care and support needs, staff and the public. This included a quiz for staff and the winner was chosen by the LSAB Chair at the meeting from all the correct entries.

ALAN WOOD REVIEW OF LSCB / SCR

At the end of last year, the Government commissioned a review of Safeguarding Children Boards and the process for Serious Case Reviews by Alan Wood, a former Director of Children's Services. The report and Government response have recently

been published and it is clear that significant changes will be made to the structure and scope of work for LSCBs as well as the way in which SCR are conducted in future. In the restructuring of LSCBs there will be opportunities to realign the work of Safeguarding Adult Boards. I will keep you all posted as things develop.

Reg Pengelly
B&NES LSAB Independent Chair
June 2016