

Bath & North East Somerset - Local Safeguarding Adults Board

KEY MESSAGES FROM THE CHAIR

JANUARY 2016



STAKEHOLDER EVENT

Our Stakeholder Event “The challenge of providing safe services in adult care” was held on 27th November. It was very well attended with a good representation from different agencies. We heard an informative presentation on the work of the Care Quality Commission. We learned of progress in implementing Making Safeguarding Personal and we considered a number of approaches to preventing harm. Of particular interest was a presentation on tissue viability and the uncomfortable fact that pressure ulcers are still a significant but preventable risk for the less able. Undetected and untreated pressure ulcers can rapidly deteriorate to a stage where they are life threatening. Preventing them requires procedures to be followed and sound management to ensure they take place. This should be a high priority for all carers and care providers both in hospital and community settings.

CASE STUDY

At our Board meeting in December we considered a case study in which an elderly couple, both in need of support, had presented challenges to agencies working with them. The female was particularly vulnerable and the male was her principal carer. There were indications of domestic abuse and the male was on occasions very difficult to engage with. These challenges were successfully overcome by a proactive and collaborative approach from all professionals involved. This meant that, where possible, all agreed actions were completed by the identified professional(s) within timescales. There was evidence of good communication between professionals and a consistent approach as regards information sharing.

Different professionals had shown awareness of and respect for one another’s areas of strength/expertise and sought support/advice from each other to effectively manage the case thus minimising, as far as possible, any further risk to the couple. Proportionate responses were adopted, taking into consideration the complexity of the relationship and also recognised that the male carer had needs of his own.

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IRIS

IRIS [Identification and Referral to Improve Safety] is a general practice-based domestic violence and abuse (DVA) training support and referral programme that has been evaluated in a randomised controlled trial. Core areas of the programme are training and education, clinical enquiry, care pathways and an enhanced referral pathway to specialist domestic violence services. It is aimed at women who are experiencing DVA from a current partner, ex-partner or adult family member. IRIS also provides information and signposting for male victims and for perpetrators.

IRIS is collaboration between primary care and third sector organisations specialising in DVA. An advocate educator is linked to general practices and based in a local specialist DVA service. The advocate educator works in partnership with a local clinical lead to co-deliver the training to practices.

Jo Cosgrove and Dr Helen Pauli attended the LSAB to share their work with IRIS. The IRIS Team are commissioned by B&NES CCG and the PCC (Police & Crime Commissioner) for Year 1 to offer a free training and advocacy package to all B&NES GP Practices. The training is for all clinicians working within the practice: doctors, nurses, midwives, pharmacists and the Reception/Administration team as well, equipping the Practice team with the knowledge and skills to identify and respond to patients who are experiencing domestic abuse. Each participating Practice has access to a specialist domestic violence advocate who can offer patients emotional and practical support and provide risk assessments, safeguarding alerts and safety planning. Jo Cosgrove is the local Advocate Educator and is based at Southside, a charity based in Twerton, Bath which has been offering family support and support to victims of domestic abuse since 1997. Jo will be setting up training sessions in the 2016 and would like GP surgeries in the B&NES area to sign up.

MASH

Roll-out of the first stage of the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) is hoped to take place in June 2016. The MASH Board meets bi-monthly and there are various sub-groups looking at different strands of work whether that is covering Adults and/or Children. An audit is being carried out in January and February to help inform the amount of work the new MASH may have to manage. Further updates will follow the LSAB meetings during the year.

UPDATE ON LSAB PROTOCOLS AND POLICIES

The following will shortly be uploaded on to the B&NES Council website: Large Scale Investigation Protocol; Pressure Ulcer Protocol; Self-Neglect Policy; Safeguarding Adult Reviews Protocol

Reg Pengelly
B&NES LSAB Independent Chair
January 2016