

Safeguarding Adults

News

Chair's Blog Spot

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Hello,

I hope you are all well and keeping safe.

'Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility.' This statement is especially important during these unprecedented times. I know that ways of working have changed, people are carrying out roles that they may not have done for a while and the services of volunteers are being utilised, but it is vital that we continue to fulfil our safeguarding responsibilities. Safeguarding remains a statutory duty. The recently published 'Care Act easement: guidance for local authorities' states that partners should continue to work to prevent and reduce the risk of harm to people with care and support needs. I want the SAB to be supportive and help you to be the best 'safeguarder' you can be in your individual role, so in this newsletter you will find some links to key information to provide guidance and support during the Covid-19 pandemic. I have spoken to senior leaders from each of the Board's statutory agencies and am assured that they are speaking regularly and working together where necessary. Strong partnerships come into their own in times like these.



As you will see from this newsletter some of the SAB activities have slowed and some have been cancelled. I do however think it is important to try and maintain some momentum for the Board where possible, but recognise that the operational response to Covid-19 must come first. The Board AGM was due to take place on 31st March but was cancelled. We have sent out some information for Board members to consider and feedback their thoughts in due course.

Thank you for reading, Richard

Update on services during Covid-19 Pandemic from Statutory Partners

Adult Social Care

Adult Social Care continues to support vulnerable people who have care and support needs and to address safeguarding concerns during the coronavirus pandemic. Where possible council staff are working from home and conducting meetings and assessments for critical services 'virtually' using phone and video calls. Reviews have paused and easements of the Care Act mean the Councils are responding primarily to critical issues. Ten thousand shielded residents are being called up by us to ensure they are safe and supported. A **Community Hub Helpline** was also set up to respond to enquiries from local residents who need help because they are self-isolating or have Covid-19 related questions – Telephone: **020 8871 6555**, Email: covid19support@richmondandwandsworth.gov.uk. We are working with partners, providers and voluntary sector organisations to support two-hour hospital discharges and ensure people have right care in place, should they need it, for when they return home. Safeguarding work is continuing with remote meetings and using our good partnership relationships. Services where people lack capacity and need to have their liberty curtailed to give them essential support and keep them safe are also continuing. We are committed to delivering the best for our residents and supporting our staff to keep safe.

Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG)

NHS South West London is providing leadership and support to partners and providers across South West London at this critical time. The CCG is responsible for co-ordinating the South West London system response to COVID-19 and is providing the link between our providers and the front line across south west London, London and NHS England. Locally, we continue to provide our adult and children's safeguarding services and everyone is working as normal but from home. However, certain clinical members of the team have volunteered and been redeployed to support our local hospital teams.

South West BCU Police

We remain committed to protecting vulnerable adults across our four boroughs of Merton, Wandsworth, Kingston and Richmond. We are working closely with our key safeguarding partners to identify those most at risk and to respond in the most appropriate and safe way possible. The Police Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) continues to process and risk assess concerns regarding vulnerable adults and our Safeguarding Investigations Teams are working to investigate allegations of abuse against the vulnerable. Our staff have adapted well to working remotely in response to the Government's advice, and we remain in close communication with our statutory safeguarding colleagues to protect those most at risk during this crisis. We continue to be fully engaged - with the use of technology - with the various multi agency panels including CMARAP/VAMA and MARAC to support and protect those most in need of multi-agency intervention.

List of useful resources on Covid-19

Covid-19 & Domestic Abuse

A recognised risk with the Covid-19 outbreak relates to the increase of domestic abuse in both intimate relationships and inter-generational domestic abuse. *Community Safety have produced some posters with information for Richmond and Wandsworth residents.*

The Government has also released [guidance](#) on this, as has [Women's Aid](#) and [Safe Lives](#).

Covid-19 Scams

A number of resources have been released on scams including this information from Trading Standards.

SCIE resources on Covid-19

This covers resources areas such as safeguarding, social care, MCA and general Covid-19 advice.

Local Government Authority

The LGA has provided advice on how professionals can protect vulnerable people during Covid-19.

Care Homes

The Government has released guidance on the admission and care of people in care homes.

Advice for Parents during Covid-19

A poster with advice for parents when a child is unwell or injured, developed by the Royal College of Paiatrics and Child Health

Ethical guidance for doctors during Covid-19

Guidance for doctors on managing ethical decision during the Covid-19 outbreak.

Care Act 2014 Easements

This provides guidance to Local Authorities on how the easements of the Care Act containing the Coronavirus Act 2020 should be interpreted.

Disclosure and Barring Service

The DBS has released advice on DBS checks for volunteers and fast track DBS services. Relevant fact sheets can be found

Spotlight on...

SCAMS

With the unusual situation of the Covid-19 Pandemic, we are seeing an increase in scams, and some new varieties emerging. Please be aware and spread the information. Trading Standards' website give information about them in more details, but especially prominent are the following in Richmond and Wandsworth:

Doorstep crime – criminals targeting older people, offering to do their shopping, or doorstep cleaning services that offer to clean drives and doorways to kill bacteria and help prevent the spread of the virus.

Online scams – luring people to click on attachments by offering information about people in the local area who are affected by coronavirus, or fake online resources – such as false Coronavirus Maps, which deploy information-stealing programmes.

Counterfeit goods – fake sanitisers, face masks and Covid19 swabbing kits sold online and door-to-door. These products can often be dangerous and unsafe.

SMS/text – text messages pretending to be from gov.uk



Performance and Workforce Sub-group



The Performance and Workforce Sub-group met on 24th February 2020. We discussed creating a referral pathway into Police services, as it was highlighted the absence of written guidance on thresholds for reporting a case to the Police, particularly if it is third-party reporting. Richard Neville and Phil Styles from Police are also working on a 7-minute learning to clarify what is legislatively required from Police by the various laws in terms of Safeguarding.

Masterclasses

The Masterclass on Working with people who take risks was held on 5th March 2020 in Twickenham Training Centre with good attendance and positive feedback.

Communication and Engagement Sub-group



The sub-group and forums haven't met since last Newsletter issue, so there are no new updates.

Participation and Feedback

Please submit short articles highlighting your or colleague's achievements or publicising planned events. We would also like feedback and suggestions on how we can make sure the newsletter is relevant and helpful. Please participate by emailing us at sab@richmondandwandsworth.gov.uk with the subject line 'SAB Newsletter'.



SAR Sub-group

The Sub-group has not met since last Newsletter issue. There have been no new referrals and actions on existing plans are on track. The SAB Executive has decided to pause most activities around Safeguarding Adult Reviews (SARs), in order to allow for the shifted focus of practitioners to respond to this national crisis.

Remember – [7-minute learnings](#) from SARs are published on our website and are a powerful tool for improving practice!

Level 3 and 4 Safeguarding Adults Training

At the start of the year, Health Education England (HEE) launched a set of national resources for staff requiring level 3 and 4 safeguarding adults training. These build on the level 1 and 2 resources already available. In close collaboration with the Safeguarding Adults National Network, HEE has engaged with many safeguarding professionals to inform the design and development of these resources over the last year. For all the details on how to access, please visit:

<https://www.e-lfh.org.uk/programmes/safeguarding-adults/>

The first run of the Level 3 Safeguarding Adults free online course started on Monday 27 January 2020 and has seen participation from over 2700 learners. Early feedback is that participants like the different activities, in particular the ability to discuss the topics with fellow learners with feedback from the course mentors. Marino Latour, a Designated Safeguarding Adult Lead from NHS South West London CCG, was a key author for the level 3 content. He showed great dedication and commitment to making this course possible – and even takes a headline role in the course videos, along with Dave Blain from Hull CCG. Marino was also active on the first run of the course providing steer, support and signposting learners where needed. Mentorship from designated CCG leads will be a future ongoing facet of this offering.

South West London & St George's Mental Health NHS Trust features in a new BBC3 mental health documentary with Stacey Dooley

The Trust is proud to be the subject of a new BBC3 documentary on mental healthcare, filmed with Stacey Dooley. The programme is an in-depth portrayal of how our mental health services provide care for those patients who are in crisis or suffer from serious or long-term mental illness, and help them toward recovery.

Acting Chief Executive Vanessa Ford said:

"It is a great ambition of the Trust to reduce the stigma of mental health conditions, and we hope very much that this intimate portrayal of the care we provide helps people to talk more openly and honestly about mental health conditions and to seek help where it is needed.

"I am very proud of how the Trust is depicted in this documentary; while it is an honest portrayal of our organisation and the challenges it faces, it depicts the great dedication, expertise and compassion our staff show every day."

The Trust worked with TrueVision productions which filmed an hour-long documentary for BBC3 entirely at our Trust with journalist and documentary filmmaker Stacey Dooley.

The documentary sees Trust mental health professionals undertaking life-changing decisions about the care of patients,

some of whom have serious mental illnesses such as eating disorders and emotionally unstable personality disorder, or experience symptoms such as psychosis or delusions.

This documentary also serves as a reminder of why the Trust is a great place to work. There are many opportunities here for nurses, nursing associates and healthcare assistants, not only to work at our Trust but also to take the next steps on the career ladder. Please [visit our #NursesGrow webpages](#) for more information.

The film documents the range of services and treatment the Trust offers for these conditions, caring for patients to support their recovery so that they can begin to lead the life they want to lead.

Services featured include our Health Based Place of Safety, which serves as a place for police to bring vulnerable people who have been detained under Section 136 of the Mental Health Act having put themselves in danger due to their mental health conditions. We see how these patients are kept safe and supported to move on from these most serious of crises towards more stable mental health.

Our Lotus Assessment Suite, specially set up to provide support for patients facing a mental health crisis, sees

voluntary patients spending up to 48 hours in an environment designed to provide expert care. Vulnerable service users are referred to the Lotus Assessment Suite, and this film shows how patients come in for vital support from our specialist staff, who then work with families in order to determine how best to help them.

Filming also took place in Ward Two and Ward Three, showing the stories of two of our longer-term patients, and documenting how the Trust is working through these patients' complex personal situations to identify the best treatment and care to guide these patients towards a better quality of life.

Vanessa added: *"I would like to sincerely thank the service users, carers and staff who were filmed in this documentary, as well as those who supported behind the scenes, all of which made it possible for us to show how we work together to support 20,000 patients per year with mental health conditions."*

The Trust and production company worked closely with patients and service users, their families and carers, throughout the filming, and ensuring they were happy for the filming and the broadcast to take place.

Safeguarding Adults Lead
South West London and St George's Mental Health NHS Trust
Springfield Hospital



London Safeguarding Adults Board National Conference Feb 2020 Highlights

"Liberty Protection Safeguards are to replace DoLS, a key difference integrates consideration on whether the person being assessed has mental capacity to consent to the proposed arrangements/care plan and if the care and support/treatment limits the person's liberty. This will be known as the screening assessment. There will also be 3 key assessments i.e. Medical, Mental Capacity Assessment and Necessary & Proportionate Assessment. In the new scheme it will be possible to use previous assessments i.e. 'Medical Assessment' when the condition is not likely to improve; 'Mental Capacity Assessment' when a person's capacity has not changed; the 'Necessary & Proportionate Assessment' details how the person is deprived of liberty and outlines why this is in the person's best interest and is a new assessment each time. There is also a strong emphasis to involve the person's family in the best interest decisions and involving IMCA's when there is no family."

Lynn Wild, Richmond & Wandsworth Council

"Liberty Protection Safeguards will have clearer definition in the final guidance and following consultation, will be introduced no earlier than October 2020. The IMCA will remain involved for the duration not just for the assessment. And from the Self-Neglect & Hoarding Group we learnt the term 'RaMmPSs': R – risk / a – assessment / M – mitigation / m – making safeguarding personal / P – proportionate / S – safeguarding / s – support
It was encouraging that most areas have a VAMA (Vulnerable Adults Multi-Agency) Panel and are increasing multi-agency risk assessment and risk mitigation planning."

Su Fitzgerald, Your Healthcare

"Some learning points were firstly the need to be clear on who 'owns' a safeguarding case when more than one LA is involved and secondly but most importantly, the need to listen to the individual. It was very positive to see many safeguarding colleagues from across the partnership and to feel part of a strong network."

Lucy O'Connor, Met. Police

"It is always useful to learn what other councils are doing about safeguarding adults. I gained an example about an adult MASH which provides food for thought to see what we can develop locally. It was also useful to hear about how making safeguarding personal is being delivered."

Gemma Blunt, Kingston Adult Social Care

"It was amazing to hear lived experience of safeguarding from members of the public. Jane described leaving prison on three occasions and being homeless, she wasn't aware that she was being 'safeguarded', Luke talked about the jargon used by professionals (i.e. MAPPA), the importance of taking time to explain and the importance of being listened to and heard. Owen described managing risk everyday due to domestic violence and couldn't understand why he wasn't involved in putting together his own safety plan. All of this relates to Making Safeguarding Personal and highlights its importance."

Virinder Basi, Richmond and Kingston Council

