



**Dorset Safeguarding Adults Board
Bournemouth, Christchurch & Poole
Safeguarding Adults Board
Joint Business Plan 2020-22**

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Safeguarding Adults Boards

Joint business plan 2020 onwards

Introduction

The scope of adult safeguarding is broad and it is therefore often difficult to prioritise certain areas of work to the exclusion of others. This year the exercise of building a business plan has been hampered by the Covid-19 pandemic which has absorbed the energies of key partners and delayed the final agreement of a plan. The pandemic itself has realigned priorities, introducing new concerns but also potentially exacerbating issues which the Boards already considered important.

The priorities set out below have been discussed at meetings of each Board and finalised in conjunction with members of the Executive Group. They are also based upon evaluation of safeguarding data, which is being kept under review during Covid-19, and identification of key risks emerging from and during the pandemic.

A larger number of actions in the plan this year involve seeking assurance from member organisations or other partnerships, where the safeguarding of adults at risk falls within an area of their responsibility.

It is likely that priorities will need to be reviewed and/or the timescale for completion of objectives lengthened as the year progresses.

Priority themes

Safeguarding in the care sector

A high proportion of safeguarding concerns already emanate from the care sector which has been particularly affected by Covid-19. The SABs have a role alongside others in monitoring safety in and contributing to support plans for the sector. A significant amount of work has been undertaken by partners in response to the pandemic and each local authority has produced a support plan and action plan in relation to care homes in its area.

It is planned to hold a special joint meeting of the SABs in October. This will be a reflective learning event with a focus on preventing future harm particularly in the light of concerns about spikes in Covid-19 during the winter period when the health and care system is annually under stress.

There have so far been no referrals for SARs in respect of deaths in care homes.

Domestic abuse

This is a continuing priority for the SABs. “Both local domestic abuse and safeguarding adults’ protocols will apply to situations where a person who has care and support needs that prevent them from safeguarding themselves is experiencing domestic abuse.” (Domestic Abuse Statutory Guidance Framework)

Community Safety Partnerships have lead responsibility for responding to domestic abuse. However as Domestic Homicide and Safeguarding Adult Reviews continue to show, the two systems are not sufficiently coordinated when responding to adults with care and support needs.

The Boards have recognised that domestic abuse has not always been acknowledged as a factor in relationships between older partners or in familial abuse, whilst during the recent ‘lockdown’ the impact of carer stress contributing to DA may have increased.

Following Local Government Reorganisation separate domestic abuse strategies are being developed in the two CSPs, which may lead to each SAB having local as well as joint initiatives in respect of domestic abuse.

Neglect and self-neglect

It is a continuing priority for the SABs to better analyse and segment the data on ‘neglect and acts of omission’ which is the largest type of safeguarding concern recorded. This is already leading to exploration of opportunities for preventative actions, e.g. in respect of medicine management. The forthcoming audit of Multi Agency Risk Management Meetings (MARMs) will shed more light on the effectiveness of responses to this theme.

Self-neglect is emerging as the most prominent type of abuse or neglect in a current national study of Safeguarding Adult Reviews. Additionally there is a potential increasing risk of self-neglect from the impact of isolation and unexpected bereavement as a result of Covid-19. The SAR sub-group has recently been reviewing more cases of suicide.

SAB Governance Review

It is acknowledged that an overarching governance structure for safeguarding in its widest sense would help to mitigate the risk of duplication across partnerships and lead to better coordination of scarce resources. Different models of governance which bring together the responsibilities of children’s and adult safeguarding and community safety are being implemented in some authorities. The SAB review, which commenced with an independent report in October 2019 following Local Government Reorganisation, was paused in March. There is now a need to integrate into our planning

- Learning from how the safeguarding system as a whole has responded to the pandemic
- The pattern of new safeguarding risks and needs that are resulting from it

The independent review was valuable in that it gave an impartial view of current safeguarding arrangements. The author commented positively on the work of the subgroups and Board staff. The introduction of multi-agency risk management meetings (MARMs) had been an important initiative. The development and maintenance of pan Dorset policies and procedures was highly valued. Safeguarding Adult Reviews were rigorously considered and action plans followed up well.

However the reviewer also commented that there was infrequent evidence of challenge in Board meetings. Analysis of data was limited and therefore the Boards do not have sufficient line of sight into the quality of front line practice. Time could be saved for the pan-Dorset agencies by reshaping Board meeting agendas.

The Boards' quality assurance subgroup is therefore reshaping its approach to improve line of sight into practice. During the coming year it will

- Review member organisations' own quality assurance frameworks and disseminate outcomes and learning from individual agency audits
- Use safeguarding data to focus upon themes that require a multi-agency 'dip sample' audit and
- Complete the audit into MARMs to assure the Boards that the guidance for these meetings is being correctly applied in practice

Different formats for Board meetings are being tried to reduce duplication whilst providing a more in-depth discussion of safeguarding at a locality level.

Associated themes contained in the workplan

Implementation of learning arising from SARs/DHRs and LeDeR reviews

Forthcoming reviews will highlight the need for better coordination with MAPPA to manage high risk offenders including

- To clarify understanding and use of different risk management meeting structures
- To develop capability to manage complex and potentially dangerous individuals, some of whom will also have care and support needs
- For 'duty to cooperate' agencies to fully carry out their responsibilities for supervision of level 1 MAPPA offenders

Exploitation

This is an area led by the Community Safety Partnerships but SAB partners will seek to understand better the impact upon individuals with care and support needs and respond appropriately.

Homelessness

Following a homicide in Dorset there will be an opportunity to identify system learning from the death of a homeless person temporarily placed in a hotel in Weymouth. Board members will need to engage with any safeguarding issues for rough sleepers if any choose or have to return to the street after living in temporary Covid-19 accommodation.

Substance Misuse

In conjunction with Public Health both Boards have already committed to being involved in the national project on Safeguarding Vulnerable Dependent Drinkers.

Detailed objectives are included in the Boards' workplan which links with the plans of the 4 subgroups and will be reviewed quarterly.

Barrie Crook

Independent Chair

September 2020