

SAR Learning Event - 20th June 2024

Evaluation report

The Dorset & BCP Safeguarding Adults Board undertakes an annual review on Safeguarding Adult Reviews (SARs), on those published both locally and nationally. The intended outcome is for all SAB partners in our area, and staff throughout their organisations to learn and to reflect on any changes in practise which need to be delivered and for the Board to seek assurance that learning is being implemented.

This event took place on 20 June 2024 and was delivered via a webinar with presentations from several people (listed below)

- Professor Michael Preston-Shoot presenting SAR Billy and the second national analysis of safeguarding adults reviews.
- Karen Maher presenting SAR Simon
- Celia Johnson presenting SAR Aziza
- Kirsten Bland & Catherine Breakwell presenting supporting people with learning disability away from home
- Lesley Jeavons (Durham SAB Chair) & Heather Roach (Norfolk SAB Chair), presenting on Whorlton Hall SAR and SAR Joanna, John & Ben (Cawston Park)

A total of 485 people attended - breakdown of partner organisations follows:

- BCP Council: 221
- Dorset Council: 189
- Dorset Police: 5
- Dorset Fire & Rescue Service: 2
- NHS Dorset: 23
- University Hospitals Dorset NHS Trust (including Dorset Healthcare): 8
- Other organisations (including people from the voluntary and community sector): 37

The Independent SAB Chair asked attendees to focus on 2 key issues, encouraging participants to reflect on their learning:

- What one thing are you going to do back in your workplace after listening to presentations?
- What is the one major issue where you do not feel assured that multiagency partners are working together?

Themes in responses

There were running themes in the responses to the questions asked:

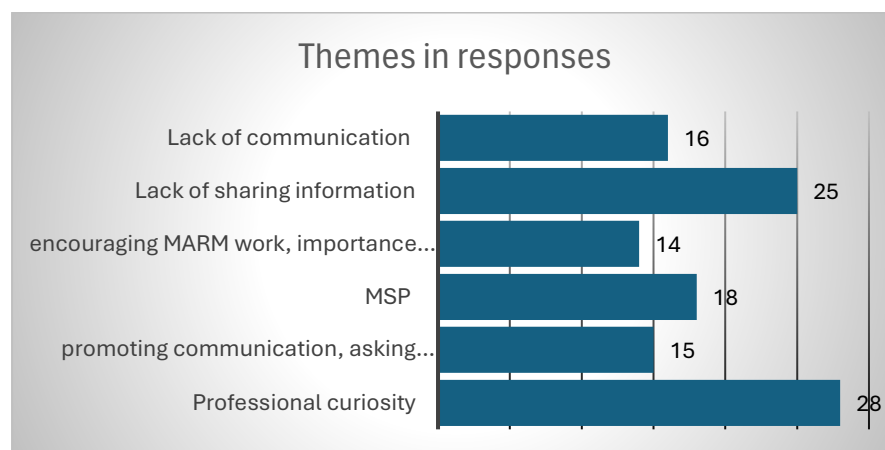
What one thing are you going to do from listening to these presentations?

Many responses covered promoting professional curiosity, making safeguarding personal and promoting communication as well as asking those difficult questions.

- 28 people stated they would promote and encourage professional curiosity; both within their own practice and when working as a team with peer support. It was identified that sometimes cases were closed too quickly, or people were too ready to walk away rather than going 'the extra mile'.
- 15 people stated they would start asking more difficult questions. Acknowledging that asking difficult questions was uncomfortable; it was felt important to ask 'open' questions and work to improve questioning techniques.
- 18 people stated they would remember to 'Make Safeguarding Personal'. It was identified that often a person's strength was not considered, and people focussed more on what a person could not do.
- 7 people referred to taking a more robust approach when working with people who 'fly under the radar', making a conscious effort to understand a person's 'back story' and to work with the family around the person often opened up new doors.
- 12 people referred to improving multiagency working, this may be using Multi-agency Risk Management (MARM) meetings or strengthening working with other teams. It was identified that often it was too easy to walk away from people or partners who were reluctant to engage.

When asked - What is one major issue where you do not feel assured that multiagency partners are working together?

The main theme in the responses to this question was lack of communication, this included sharing information, the use of MARM and the lack of joint working/partnership. A breakdown of responses is below:



Evaluation of planning and running an 'on-line event'?

What went well:

1. Engaging speakers with excellent presentations.
2. High levels of attendance, and an online meeting without break out rooms worked, with minimal "tech" glitches.
3. Good Feedback, with many positive comments in both the meeting chat and in follow-up emails.

Proposals for what the Board should do to seek assurance after the event

1. Revisit the MARM process and ask if there has been an increase in understanding? Are more organisations happy to lead and participate in MARMs? This could be done through sample surveys, selecting approx. 20 delegates and asking for evidence where they have led or participated in the MARM process and the value to the person.
2. Request a deep dive into the use of MARMs from partner organisations via the QA subgroup.
3. Reflect on future SAR referrals where MARMs have been included to identify when this process has been adopted.