

Multi-agency Involvement in Safeguarding Audit Learning Briefing

Background:

The East Sussex Safeguarding Adults Board published a [Safeguarding Adults Review for Adult B](#) in February 2020. One of the recommendations from this review was to undertake an audit of multi-agency involvement in safeguarding. The audit was conducted jointly across East Sussex and Brighton & Hove Safeguarding Adults Boards because the themes were relevant across both areas. Please use this briefing to review the key learning from this audit and as a prompt in team meetings to discuss the issues raised with your colleagues.

Purpose of the audit

The audit aimed to assess the effectiveness of multi-agency involvement and communication at key stages of the safeguarding enquiry process, including how agencies follow up invitations and achieve clear outcomes. The audit also looked at compliance with existing policy, procedures and guidance. The audit identified good practice, gaps and areas for development.

What worked well

The cases audited had evidence of:

- ✓ Good multi agency co-ordination and communication in many cases. Agencies involved with the adult were aware of changes in risk, actions allocated to them;
- ✓ Cases had clear records of actions and shared responsibility across agencies;
- ✓ Good involvement of key agencies and professionals; and
- ✓ Good Making Safeguarding Personal approach was used in many of the cases.

Why are these important?

These strengths: good multi-agency communication, good co-ordination, involving key agencies and good record keeping helped achieve:

- ✓ a shared understanding of risk and plans;
- ✓ a collaborative response to risk; and
- ✓ reduced risk and improved outcomes for adults.

Exemplary Case one:

A good Making Safeguarding Personal approach was used to support an adult experiencing coercion and control by a younger family member.

- ✓ The adult was supported to weigh up risks and put protective factors in place to enable positive risk taking in line with their wishes.
- ✓ Professionals were creative and flexible.
- ✓ A GP surgery was used as a safe place to hold meetings and provide support;
- ✓ There was strong partnership working, effective communication, a joint risk assessment and a shared responsibility for taking actions forward;
- ✓ Clear records of decision and actions were shared across partner agencies; and
- ✓ The adult's desired outcomes were kept central.

Exemplary Case two:

This case demonstrated good use of the Sussex Safeguarding Adults Policy and Procedures on self-neglect. The social worker:

- ✓ Worked closely with the adult;
- ✓ Showed patience in building a relationship of trust;
- ✓ Facilitated the gradual implementation of practical measures to reduce risk; such as decluttering the kitchen.

The multi-agency group working with the adult had a shared approach to problem solving and drew upon specialist expertise when required.

The audit shows effective multi-agency working could be improved with:

- ✓ Robust planning and chairing to determine key agencies and required actions; consider Primary Care and relevant Safeguarding Leads;
- ✓ Making use of all available information for assessment and decision making;
- ✓ Recording the discussion details, date, agencies invited, apologies received and attendance;
- ✓ Updated action plans as actions are completed;
- ✓ Measuring the impact of completed actions;
- ✓ Safeguarding leads ensuring consistent involvement of lead practitioners; and
- ✓ Recording the detail and cause of delays in cases and management oversight of this delay.

Team Discussion Points

How have you overcome stumbling blocks to good multi-agency working?

How do you know when all the relevant agencies and professionals are involved?

When would you consider seeking advice from Sussex Police about criminal culpability?

Which agencies should be involved?

Consider the adult's wider housing and health situation, the location of the risk and which agencies are involved with the adult and might have useful information.

Consult the safeguarding leads at:

- ✓ CCG for concerns relating clinical /medical or nursing care;
- ✓ BSUH or ESHT for concerns relating to inpatient settings;
- ✓ SPFT for mental health concerns;
- ✓ The Practice Manager of the adult's GP surgery;
- ✓ Sussex Police for cases with wilful neglect and/or suspected or known criminal acts; and
- ✓ Trading Standards for concerns relating to scams.

Further information and useful links

[Brighton and Hove Safeguarding Adults Board](#)

[East Sussex Safeguarding Adults Board](#)

[Sussex Safeguarding Adults Policy and Procedures](#)

[Safeguarding and Criminal Investigations](#)

[Making Safeguarding Personal toolkit](#)

[Sussex Information Sharing Guide and Protocol](#)

[Research in Practice: self-neglect](#)

[SCIE: Have we learnt the lessons from Stephen Hoskin's murder?](#)

[SCIE: Sharing Information and joint working](#)

[East Sussex Learning Portal](#)

[BHSAB Safeguarding Adults Training](#)

For more information about this audit

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Concerned about an adult? Contact:

Brighton and Hove: Tel: 01273 295555

East Sussex: Tel: 0345 60 80 191

Concerned about a child? Contact:

Brighton and Hove: Tel:01273 295555

East Sussex: Tel: 01323 464 222

For urgent mental health concerns:

Telephone numbers for urgent out of hours clinical referrals are listed on [SPFT web site](#)