

Safeguarding Adults Reviews (SARs) are a statutory requirement for Safeguarding Adults Boards (SABs). Safeguarding adult practice can be improved by identifying what is helping and what is hindering safeguarding work, in order to tackle barriers to good practice and protect adults from harm.

Adult BB

BSAB received a referral that raised concerns around the multi-agency response to repeat allegations made by 97 year old Adult BB of rape by a member of staff employed by the residential/nursing home where she resided. In 2018 Adult BB made this disclosure a number of times to different professionals, however referrals to some agencies were delayed and once referrals were made, key agencies were not informed in a timely manner.

Themes that emerged from the Safeguarding Adult Review in to Adult BB;

- ◆ Lack of professional curiosity
- ◆ Application of the Mental Capacity Act 2005
- ◆ Implementation of multi-agency policies and procedures
- ◆ Working to ensure agencies 'make safeguarding personal'
- ◆ Importance of multi-agency safeguarding meetings
- ◆ Ensuring timely responses to disclosures and safeguarding concerns
- ◆ Importance of early risk identification and risk planning
- ◆ Multi-agency coordination of parallel investigations

Agencies Involved; Thames Valley Police, CCG, Buckinghamshire Council Adult Social Care/ Safeguarding Adults/Contracts Team, Care Home, Buckinghamshire Healthcare NHS Trust

Areas of Good Practice

- ★ Two joint visits between Thames Valley Police and the allocated safeguarding Social Worker
- ★ Despite forensic timescales having lapsed upon receipt of the referral, the Police explored all further lines of enquiry open to them
- ★ Upon receipt of the referral, the Local Authority Safeguarding Manager was informed that an allegation had been made against a person in a position of trust. Equally Thames Valley Police allocated their investigation to the Domestic Abuse Unit who holds responsibility for investigations relating to people in a position of trust
- ★ The Local Authority Contracts Team were made aware at the earliest opportunity which enables them to maintain oversight of concerns raised where there are implications for provider organisations
- ★ The Buckinghamshire Healthcare Trust Safeguarding Team recognised the possible multi-agency learning, including their own, and made a referral for a Safeguarding Adults Review to be considered

Recommendations

Multi-agency audit into situations where allegations of adult sexual abuse are made by older adults and people presenting with confusion. The audit should specifically address practice quality, multi-agency contributions, timeliness, evidence of consideration being given to SARC and/or sexual health services, outcomes and how effectively the Mental Capacity Act was implemented

Establish an assurance mechanism to evaluate the effectiveness of the newly implemented multi-agency policy around allegations against people in a position of trust working with adults

Review practice guidance around undertaking Section 42 Enquiries, including when a safeguarding meeting should be convened at the point of referral. This should support multi-agency practitioners in determining what factors should lead to enquiries beginning with the structure and coordination that a safeguarding meeting promotes

The Clinical Commissioning Group should provide assurance to Buckinghamshire Safeguarding Adults Board partners that the impact and outcomes of adult safeguarding training provided to health service personnel have been evaluated

Multi-agency guidance should be developed around the pathways accessible for adults who are or who have potentially been survivors of adult sexual abuse. This should expressly outline the responsibility of all agencies to ensure survivors receive timely access to emotional and physical support

In order to complement the multi-agency safeguarding adult policies and procedures, guidance should be considered for practitioners to support them when conducting joint safeguarding adult enquiries with the police and where an allegation is made against a person in a position of trust

For a task and finish group to be established – reporting into the Safeguarding Adults Board – to design a standardised assurance process for agencies to demonstrate how the Mental Capacity Act 2005 is implemented, adhered to, and embedded in practice. This should have an underpinning principle of ‘high support and high challenge’ so that the partnership is effectively holding each other to account. Any assurance process designed should enable individual agencies to measure compliance and impact. Additionally it should identify areas of strength and improvement across the partnership

Active promotion of the Sexual Assault Referral Centre and how it can be of benefit in cases of sexual abuse

Information should be made available to practitioners about how the Equality Act 2010 relates to their work when providing services to adults at risk

Link to the Adult BB report;

[Safeguarding Adult Reviews - Buckinghamshire Safeguarding Adults Board \(buckssafeguarding.org.uk\)](https://www.buckssafeguarding.org.uk)

Who are we and what do we do?

[About the BSAB - Buckinghamshire Safeguarding Adults Board \(buckssafeguarding.org.uk\)](https://www.buckssafeguarding.org.uk)