

Brighton & Hove

Safeguarding Adults Board

Board Briefing



December 2016

Welcome to the first Edition of the Brighton and Hove Safeguarding Adults Board Briefing. The last Board meeting was held on 12 December 2016 and attended by over 20 members from organisations working with adults at risk in the city. This briefing will give you an update of the topics discussed. If you have any comments please contact us SAB@brighton-hove.gov.uk

What is a Safeguarding Adults Board (SAB)?

The Brighton & Hove Safeguarding Adult Board (B&H SAB) is a group of statutory, private, voluntary, and independent organisations across Brighton & Hove who work together to empower and protect some of the most vulnerable members of our community.

Our purpose is to raise awareness and promote the welfare of vulnerable adults by the development of an effective co-operative. We are committed to ensuring that the work done effectively brings about good outcomes for adults so that people live safe and secure lives.

We have three core duties we must do in order to fulfil our statutory requirements:

- develop and publish a strategic plan setting out how we will meet our objectives and how our member and partner agencies will contribute
- publish an annual report detailing how effective our work has been
- commission Safeguarding Adults Reviews (SARs) for any cases which meet the criteria for these.

We are required to demonstrate how our strategic and assurance arrangements enable us to carry out the duties and functions specified under the [Care Act](#). The Board's vision is that **we will all work together to enable people in Brighton & Hove to live a life free from fear, harm and abuse.**

The Board has identified five priorities that will support the vision to become a reality. These key priorities will set the strategic direction of the Board of the next three years:

- **Priority Area 1: Embed practice change and improvement aligned with statutory arrangements implemented from Care Act 2014 and the Mental Capacity Act 2005.**
 - **Priority Area 2: Develop and strengthen quality assurance**
 - **Priority Area 3: Focus on Prevention and Early Intervention**
 - **Priority Area 4: Community Awareness and Capacity Building**
 - **Priority Area 5: Locate the work of the SAB in wider structures**
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Homelessness

The SAB heard about the work undertaken by the SAB, Homelessness Deaths Task & Finish Group which looked at the characteristics of homeless people who died in Brighton & Hove 2015. Headlines include:

- The average age at death was 47 years 8 months. This figure is comparable with National statistical data on deaths of people who are homeless which is estimated at 47 years.
- 4 deaths were recorded as suicides and 5 deaths were recorded as being drugs related.
- Ten of the 16 cases where there was a Cause Of Death included details of other health problems.

Next steps will see the Quality Assurance Subgroup of the SAB taking forward a multi-agency case file audit of a sample of cases regarding homeless individuals who are currently in receipt of the city's services.

Update from Quality Assurance Subgroup

One of the roles of the Sab is to seek assurance of the effectiveness of safeguarding activity and that safeguarding practice is continuously improving and enhancing the quality of life for adults with care and support needs and carers in our area, in line with "[Making Safeguarding Personal](#)". As outlined in the Care Act, "*SABs need a range of approaches to quality assurance to monitor the effectiveness both of their own work and that of their partner agencies.*"

All agencies have committed to contributing towards two multi- audits per year. The first audit will focus on Homelessness – Processes, Pathway & Practices and the second will look at the multi-agency recognition and response to sexual abuse. The Mental Capacity Act and Deprivation of Liberty Safeguarding (MCA & DOLS) Subgroup will also lead an audit of compliance and implementation of Gold Standards

The Quality Assurance Subgroup are also busy looking at what safeguarding information is captured across the multi-agency arena. The aim is to use multi-agency data to help us all better understand the prevalence of abuse/ neglect, to highlight themes and trends in our safeguarding activity, and to identify issues that need addressing within the city's safeguarding arrangements

Update from The Mental Capacity Act and Deprivation of Liberty Safeguarding (MCA & DOLS) Subgroup

This group provides opinion to the SAB on issues relating to the implementation of the MCA and DoLS across the health and social care system. Primarily the group's agenda will be concerned with reviewing changes in the interpretation and application of the law (as influenced by the review by the Law commission due end of 2016). The group will also review findings from Safeguarding Adult Reviews, national reviews and audit findings (as applicable to MCA / DOLS) and make recommendation to the SAB and its partners.

Primary Care Safeguarding

Primary care safeguarding has been an area the SAB have been concerned with over a number of months. Health Watch Brighton and Hove identified some shortfalls in terms of CQC compliance and best practice. The Board are assured there is an active program of education and support for all the safeguarding named professionals and the leads, which are in place in every GP practice and that practices of concern are being worked with by the NHSE as contract managers, and the CQC as regulators with the CCG undertaking assurance visits. Nevertheless, the Board agreed a need for further evidence that safeguarding levels are improving, that practices are assured they are meeting their own standards and also multi-agency expectations.



Financial Resourcing

The Brighton & Hove SAB currently have around 20% of budgets of surrounding LAs. The budget covers the modest running costs of the board but does not currently provide capacity to develop the board's function and profile. As an example of the constraints the Board would currently struggle to undertake more than one Safeguarding Adult Review per year. Each Board member was reminded of their responsibility to provide resources and support.

Lay Members

The Board agreed to join the [Local Safeguarding Children Board's](#) recruitment drive for lay members.

Lay Members represent the voice of the public and support & encourage stronger public engagement in safeguarding issues, contributing to a stronger understanding of the Safeguarding Boards work in the wider community.

Vulnerable Person Caseworker

The Board heard about a new Vulnerable Person Caseworker, funded by the Police and Crime Commissioner, to support vulnerable victims of fraud. See here for more about [Operation Signature](#). Based on demand data, two specialist caseworker posts, will provide frontline, practical support to medium/high risk vulnerable victims of fraud and prevent future victimisation.



Managing Allegations for People in a Position of Trust Update

The Department of Health in its refreshed edition of the Care and Support Statutory Guidance removed the previous role of the Designated Adult Safeguarding Manager. However, clearly identified within the updated guidance was the need for the functions to be carried out within local authorities to ensure appropriate arrangements are in place. Board were reminded that employers who are also providers or commissioners of care and support not only have a duty to the adult, but also a responsibility to take action in relation to the employee when allegations of abuse are made against them.