

Wiltshire Safeguarding Adults Board

Newsletter, August/September 2017



Chair's welcome

This summer we published our Board's annual report for 2016/17. The report highlights the challenges we face but also a renewed focus on safeguarding vulnerable adults across local organisations.

Locally there were over 4,400 concerns raised about adult safeguarding in 2016/17. The majority of those concerns were raised by social care staff suggesting that many professionals are both quick and willing to report issues to protect the vulnerable adults they work with. It is also important to recognise that while the volume of concerns raised looks high, less than 20 per cent of those concerns resulted in a full investigation under section 42 of the Care Act 2014.

While we currently see a relatively high proportion of concerns raised by staff at residential care homes a lower number of concerns are raised by staff from the larger domiciliary care sector. Work in the year to come will focus on understanding whether this relates to a lower level of abuse or neglect, the higher level of need for care and support of those in residential care or to a lack of understanding about safeguarding and how to report concerns in the home care sector.

[You can find out more by reading our annual report online.](#)

Remember that safeguarding is everybody's business, not just those who work with vulnerable adults - you can make a difference by speaking out.

Best wishes,

Richard Crompton
Independent Chairman of Wiltshire Safeguarding Adults Board

Healthwatch Wiltshire on tour 2017

This September Healthwatch Wiltshire have taken to the road to speak to 1,000 people in the county in just two weeks.

The Healthwatch Wiltshire team are driving across the county to speak to as many local people as they can. Travelling 400 miles in a classic VW campervan staff volunteers gathering feedback on health and care services in Wiltshire. The information they collect will be presented to public agencies so they have a clear idea of what local people want. Details on how you can meet the team to get your views on local health and social care heard are [here](#) - the team are sure to be stopping at a town near you offering tea, cake and the chance to tell them what you think.

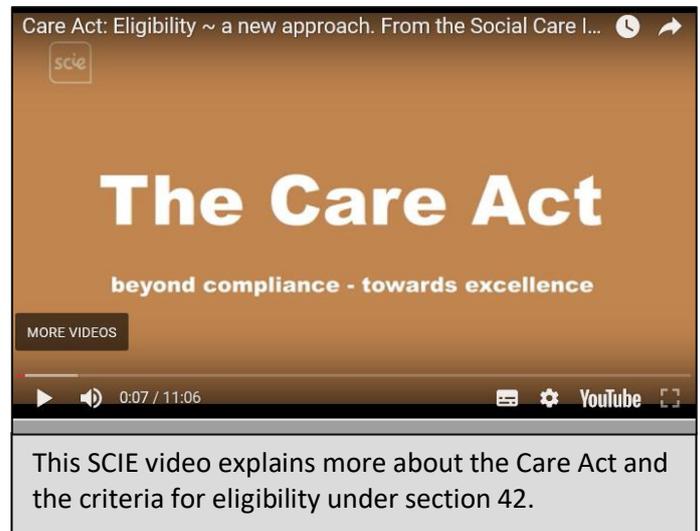


National challenges – Safeguarding Adults Reviews

Under the Care Act 2014 Safeguarding Adults Board have a statutory duty to undertake a Safeguarding Adults Review when an adult dies, or serious harm occurs, as a result of abuse or neglect, and there is concern that partner agencies could have worked more effectively to protect the adult. Although reviews across the country have generated local learning, nationally there has been a gap in bringing together learning from these reviews. Suzy Bray and Michael Preston-Shoot have now published a report on learning from 27 [Safeguarding Adults Reviews](#) undertaken by London Safeguarding Boards since the implementation of the Care Act.

The report found that organisational abuse was the most common form of harm present in reviewed cases, followed by self neglect. Many of the common barriers to effective practice identified by reviews and summarised in this report are familiar themes. They include understanding and application of the Mental Capacity Act 2005, poor multi-agency risk management, a lack of personalised care and a failure to work effectively with carers/families. [You can find out more here.](#)

Locally the WSAB Chair has been involved in giving evidence to a similar report Michael Preston-Shoot is undertaking in the South West and we will update you on the findings of that review, and how the WSAB will respond, later this year. The WSAB is currently undertaking two SARs.



How can you get involved?

This Autumn the Board, its members and wider partners will be raising awareness of World Mental Health Day (10 October), Domestic Violence Awareness Month (throughout October) and Anti-Bullying Week (from 13 November). Tell us how you are promoting good mental health, reducing bullying or tackling domestic abuse by tweeting @WiltshireSAB or emailing LSAB@wiltshire.gov.uk

A Think Family Approach

One of the key barriers to effective practice identified in the report of Safeguarding Adults Reviews was failure of services to take a Think Family Approach. This agenda recognises and promotes the importance of a whole-family approach which is built on a determination to protect both adults and children.

Locally, to tackle this issue Wiltshire Safeguarding Adults Board is working closely with the Safeguarding Children Board. To make sure good intention translates into good practice we now have one team that manages and supports the work of the two Boards. We will be working over the next year to ensure the Safeguarding Children and Adults agendas do more to provide assurance that those transitioning from children's services to adults are protected from harm and that services are designed to look after the wellbeing and resilience of disadvantaged families.

You can find out more about the work of [Wiltshire Safeguarding Children Board](#) here.

Ten minutes – preventing ill health

[A Public Health England \(PHE\) report](#) in August revealed that over 6.3 million adults between 40 and 60 years old do not manage 10 minutes of brisk walking in a month. PHE's One You physical activity campaign is aimed at helping these adults to stay healthy and avoid the health risk associated with inactivity. Evidence suggests that 150 minutes of moderate to vigorous exercise each week can protect your health and significantly lower your risk of type 2 diabetes, cardiovascular disease, dementia and some cancers. By helping people to stay healthy for longer we can reduce vulnerability to harm, including abuse and neglect. Get Wiltshire Walking is a local public health project which ensures everyone in the county has access to a free weekly led walk. [Find out more here](#)



The new face of public protection

After three years as head of Public Protection Detective Superintendent Craig Holden will be moving to the Swindon command from September. Craig has played an important role on both the Safeguarding Adults Board and the WSCB and the Board, and the Chairman, are grateful for his commitment and determination to safeguard people at risk.

Craig's replacement will be Detective Superintendent Deb Smith, who will join Wiltshire's Safeguarding Adults Board to represent Wiltshire Police. Deb has a background in crime investigations including child abuse investigation and her recent portfolio has included tackling serious sexual offences. Deb also worked on Operation Hydrant, the national co-ordination centre for child sexual abuse committed by institutions and people of public prominence. As a member of WSAB Deb will play an important part on the Board and in ensuring strong and effective partnership working in Wiltshire.



Named Social Work pilot scheme

The Department of Health initiated the [Named Social Worker programme](#) to develop a clearer picture of how having a named social worker can benefit those with mental health needs or learning disabilities. It was hoped that results from the pilot areas would show whether having a named social worker would put individuals and families in control of their own futures and promote independence. However [it has been reported](#) that two of the local authorities that took part in phase one will not bid to take part in phase two of the pilot, while initial feedback in some areas was positive.

Large Scale Investigation Policy

This Autumn the Board will publish a new multi-agency policy designed by local public agencies to allow effective large scale investigations to tackle abuse or neglect. [Organisational abuse](#), or what was known as institutional abuse, occurs when the routines, systems and regimes of an institution, or lack of, result in poor or inadequate standards of care and poor practice which affects the whole setting and deny, restrict or curtail the dignity, privacy, choice, independence or fulfilment of adults at risk. Although the number of investigations that typically take place each year is small the impact of this type of abuse, when it does occur, can be widespread. The policy is designed to help agencies identify and deal with concerns early to prevent harm. [Please visit the WSAB website to read more.](#)

Stay up to date with the Board [@WiltshireSAB](#) or visit www.wiltshiresab.org.uk to find information about how to protect people with care and support needs from abuse and neglect.

If you have news or information to share please contact the Board at LSAB@wiltshire.gov.uk