

# Wiltshire Safeguarding Adults Board

Newsletter, October/November 2017



## Chair's welcome

Making our board more effective has been a priority for me since I became chair in 2015. We have made significant changes in the way we work and this Autumn we had a chance to reflect on how far we have come across the partnership.

In November, board members met with colleagues from our hospitals, fire service, ambulance service, the council, the Clinical Commissioning Group, the police, mental health services, community health providers and NHS England. These conversations focused on how they, and we as a partnership, are making a difference to the lives of vulnerable adults.

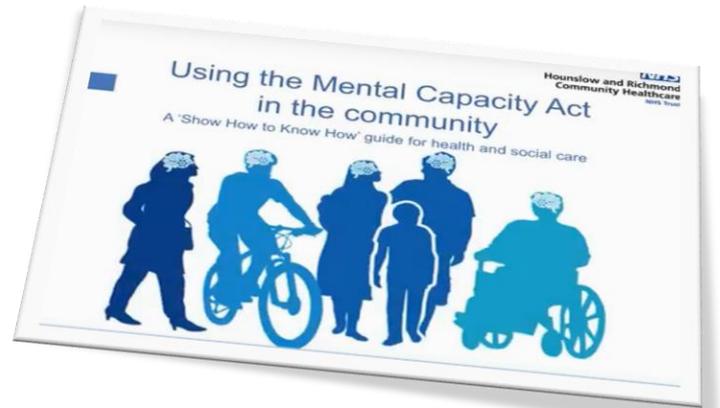
The challenges that are causing most concern here, and nationally, are Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards assessments, application of the Mental Capacity Act (2005) and how we treat and provide services to those with mental ill health. These issues are not specific to Wiltshire but understanding how they are impacting on local service will allow us to see how we can tackle them.

Whilst we spent time discussing our challenges we also focused on what is working. There was a collective feeling that the understanding of what safeguarding adults means and how to report concerns has increased. There was also evidence of more training being offered to staff in these organisations and some great practice. It was encouraging to hear.

We will publish a business plan next year outlining the challenges we face and how we can tackle them by working together.

Best wishes,

**Richard Crompton**  
Independent Chairman of Wiltshire Safeguarding Adults Board



Using the Mental Health  
Capacity Act in the  
community – a guide for  
health and social care.

## Hearing from service users

“Amongst all the work that goes on in between board meetings is the work of members of the user reference group. It is built into the informal structures of the board and meets four times a year just near each board meeting and is facilitated by the chair of the board. The purpose of the group is to give their perspectives and expertise from their lived experience of using services and being at the margins of society. So that there is a direct line to the board, there is a place for two service users to be members of the board meeting. In this way the expertise of all the knowledge of the service users can be brought together directly to the board.

Of course there is only any point in such a group if its comments are related to bringing about change to improve practice. It may seem that Safeguarding is a somewhat obscure subject for people who use services to have opinions and comments on but it brings down to earth ideas and comments! From the board papers the user reps are able to identify current pieces of work by professionals and suggest ways of users' experience being brought to the work as well. For example, when the focus of staff trainers tuned to domiciliary agencies the user representative suggested users' perspectives as part of the whole. In the privacy of their own home only they ultimately can speak of what feels like assistance not in line with safeguarding principles.”

**Clare Evans MBE, User Representative on Wiltshire Adult Safeguarding Board**

## Regional challenges – Safeguarding Adults Reviews in the South West

In November, a review of Safeguarding Adults Reviews (formerly Serious Case Reviews) in the South West was published. Analysis of 37 reviews carried out between January 2013 to July 2017 found that:

- Organisational abuse and self-neglect were the most common forms of abuse and neglect present in the cases reviewed
- Over half of the SARs/SCRs commissioned took place after the person involved had died
- Family members contributed to over half of all the reviews considered
- 88% of SCRs and 91% of SARs were published
- Only three reviews contained recommendations addressed at national bodies, arguably representing a missed opportunity to extend the systems analysis and to contribute to national debate
- Only 32% draw on other SCRs or SARs, representing arguably a missed opportunity to utilise learning from similar cases elsewhere.

The thematic review undertaken by Professor Michael Preston-Shoot was commissioned by South West ADASS and can be found here. The findings will be useful in Wiltshire where two reviews are underway and the chair has recently agreed to undertake further review. The board is particularly keen to ensure that where similar cases have been reviewed elsewhere we capture established learning.

The board plan to publish two reviews in Spring and information will be shared across our local organisations.

### How can you get involved?

Based on the findings of the audit panel in November the board will be holding a learning event on 14 March 2018 on the Mental Capacity Act (2005). The session will focus on finding out more about how well those who work with vulnerable adults, understand the act's principles and how it should be used in a practical setting. To register your interest in the event, which will be run in Devizes, please contact [LSAB@wiltshire.gov.uk](mailto:LSAB@wiltshire.gov.uk)

### Prevent Referral Pathway

Wiltshire Police have produced a practitioner guide to help those who are in a position of care and trust understand what to do if they have a concern that someone may be on the route to radicalisation. You can download a flow chart on the WSAB website which provides local emergency points of contact and support where you can access advice and guidance.

[You can download the guide here.](#)

[Access free Home Office Prevent e-learning here](#)

**YOU HAVE ACCESSED THE  
E-LEARNING TRAINING ON PREVENT**

This offers an introduction to the Prevent duty, and explains how it aims to safeguard vulnerable people from being radicalised to supporting terrorism or becoming terrorists themselves.

### RUH Annual Safeguarding Workshop – abuse, exploitation and mental health

To mark International Mental Health Day in October, staff at the Royal United Hospital NHS Foundation Trust held an event to share information about abuse, exploitation and mental health. The session focused on issues that will be familiar and less familiar to those working with vulnerable adults.

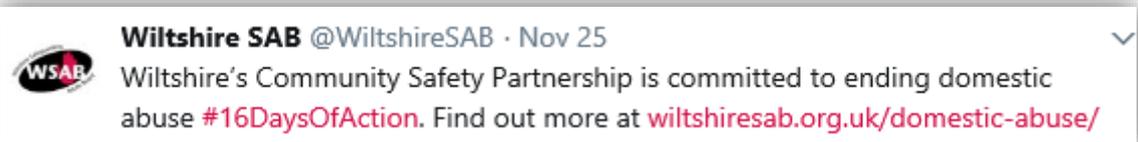
Specialists spoke about perinatal mental health, young people experiencing mental ill health and the impact of drugs on children's mental health. One in four adults will suffer from a mental illness at some point each year and it is estimated that people with severe mental illness die between 10 and 20 years earlier than the general population. The Samaritans report stated that suicide rates in the UK have increased and although male rates of suicide remain consistently high, female rates are at their highest in a decade. Suicide is one of the top three causes of maternal death nationally and the RUH Perinatal Care Pathway has been developed to improve local outcomes.

There were also presentations from the Forced Marriage Unit and Sexual Exploitation and Trafficking from Avon and Somerset Police. Despite Forced Marriage being a crime since 2014 there has only been a single successful conviction. A fifth of the 1,400 cases the Forced Marriage Unit dealt with in 2015 involved women between the ages of 18-21, and 10% had a learning disability. [You can find out how to access help here.](#)

### #16 Days of Action

WSAB and Wiltshire Safeguarding Children Board will be joining members of our Community Safety Partnership to raise awareness of this year's 16 Days of Action Campaign.

[16 Days of Action](#) Against Domestic Violence is a national annual campaign that raises awareness of domestic abuse. The event lasts from 25 November to 10 December and aims to highlight the connection between human rights and domestic violence.



In December Nick Gazzard, of the [Hollie Gazzard Trust](#), will join colleagues from Wiltshire Police and Wiltshire Council to talk about local work to reduce domestic abuse. The trust was created after the murder of 20-year-old Hollie Gazzard in 2014 by her ex-partner. It aims to help reduce domestic violence by delivering programmes on domestic abuse and promoting healthy relationships to schools and colleges. [You can find out more here.](#)

Help us promote awareness by sharing advice and information – follow us on Twitter [@WiltshireSAB](#)

Stay up to date with the Board [@WiltshireSAB](#) or visit [www.wiltshiresab.org.uk](http://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](mailto:LSAB@wiltshire.gov.uk)**