

Learning Report - Mary



What were the circumstances that led to this SAR?

Mary, a young lady in her early 20's, was found to be approximately 30 weeks pregnant. Mary would not have had mental capacity to consent to a sexual relationship. Mary received a personal health budget (PHB) managed by her mother. She had support from Personal Assistants (PA), attended Day Services, and spent time in replacement care at a specialist replacement care centre.

What should you do?

- **THINK THE UNTHINKABLE - COMMUNICATE and COLLABORATE**
- Ensure you are aware of circumstances where a best interest meeting is required rather than a single professional assessment and decision.
- Collaborate with other professionals, including Personal Assistants-ensure you know who is involved in the care of the person.
- Discuss your concerns with other agencies, with managers, safeguarding leads and peers.
- Ensure you know who is coordinating funded health care and personal health budgets.
- Understand yours and others' roles in safeguarding enquiries and meetings.
- Use escalation frameworks if you feel you are not being heard

Learning identified	What will help?
<p>Learning Point 1: Best interests' decisions are more robust when several of those that care for and know a person well are included, providing the decision is not an urgent one.</p>	<p>Discuss with peers and in team meetings what scenarios might trigger a best interest meeting. Access guidance documents. https://www.safeguardingworcestershires.org.uk/documents/1326-2/</p> <p>Look out for media campaigns and further information from your safeguarding leads and WSAB</p>
<p>Learning Point 2 Early collaboration regarding presentations of a person without capacity for specific decisions to provide a history, may lead to a prompter diagnosis.</p>	<p>Collaborate and communicate. Use supervision, guidance and peer support.</p> <p>Checking back: Ask – Do – Share Model https://www.safeguardingworcestershires.org.uk/documents/fact-sheet-for-practitioners/</p>
<p>Learning Point 3: Thinking the unthinkable alongside other possibilities may present earlier opportunities to protect</p>	<p>Discuss with your peers and teams what this means to you. Think of examples. Look out for WSAB campaign materials.</p>
<p>Learning Point 4: Where a person is in receipt of fully funded continuing healthcare (CHC) and a PHB, clarity of the governance, coordination, key worker, and day to day oversight provides safeguards and assurances regarding how a national framework is being delivered locally.</p>	<p>Are you working with a person who is CHC funded? Do you know who the key coordinator is? How can you find that out? https://herefordshireandworcestershiresccg.nhs.uk/contact-us/continuing-healthcare</p> <p>Do you communicate with the CHC team in the Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) regarding key issues and changes of treatment and needs? Does the recipient know they are receiving CHC funding? Responsibility of CHC team to monitor the budget and supervisory arrangements</p>
<p>Learning Point 5: Safeguarding decision making is more robust when information is gathered from a range of professionals involved in the care of a person with care and support needs who may have been a victim of abuse.</p>	<p>Seek to be updated and involved where you are aware a case has been referred to safeguarding. Seek advice from safeguarding leads and managers if you are not sure of the process or your involvement. https://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/safeguardingadults</p> <p>Making it your business to develop a strong local professional network so that you know colleagues across your area with regard to their role and promoting understanding of one another's contributions and perspectives.</p> <p>Proactively participate in intelligence sharing activity in accordance with data sharing principles.</p>

<p>Learning Point 6: Understanding and using correct terminology prevents misunderstandings regarding the safeguarding system leading to improved multi agency working.</p>	<p>Do you understand everything that has been discussed in a safeguarding meeting?</p> <p>Do you know what the next steps are?</p> <p>Do you know who is leading any enquiry/investigation?</p> <p>Is there more than one enquiry/investigation?</p> <p>https://www.safeguardingworcestershire.org.uk/wsab/policies-procedures-a/</p>
<p>Learning Point 7: Key partners in a safeguarding enquiry should be clear about roles and expectations.</p>	<p>Do you always know what your role is in a safeguarding enquiry?</p> <p>How can you find out? Share any experiences of this with your peers and teams.</p> <p>See chapter 5 : https://www.safeguardingworcestershire.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/West-Mids-Policy-and-Procedures-Nov-2109.pdf</p>
<p>Learning Point 8: Use of professional challenge and escalation guidance supports effective multi agency working.</p>	<p>Are you clear about what to do if you are concerned that you are not being heard when you identify issues where there are professional disagreements?</p> <p>Seek guidance and support and use protocols</p> <p>https://www.safeguardingworcestershire.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/07/Escalation-Policy-Resolution-of-Professional-Concerns-updated-July-2019.pdf</p>
<p>Learning Point 9: The role of Personal Assistants when directly employed by a family needs clarity so that vital information is not missed. PA's should be supported to identify issues to other professionals when effectively this may be seen as whistle blowing, as their employment rights may not be protected.</p>	<p>Challenge yourself.</p> <p>How much do you seek information from PAs?</p> <p>Are they involved in meetings about a person including updating care plans, re assessments etc. ?</p> <p>How could you involve PAs more?</p> <p>Are there barriers when PAs are directly employed by the person or family? Discuss what you might do.</p> <p>Recognise that PA's do not have the same protection as traditional employees</p> <p>Practitioners must note that the PA role/relationship is quite intense with the employer. The PA may be feeling a negative power imbalance and presented with a moral dilemma if faced with a safeguarding concern. PA should be included in meetings, discussions about the person they support, have regular supervision etc</p> <p>https://www.safeguardingworcestershire.org.uk/documents/guidance-for-someone-who-has-concern-about-an-adult-to-decide-if-this-needs-a-safeguarding-referral-or-other-actions/</p>