

WSAB newsletter October 2023

Board Business

The Worcestershire Safeguarding Adults Board met virtually via teams in October and had a packed agenda. Alongside regular updates on the work of the sub-groups, other substantive items included:

- A discussion on the areas within the Health and Social Care system where there were significant waiting lists, including mental health services and safeguarding. Representatives from these services provided the Board details of actions they are taking to reduce these lists and mitigate the risks.
- Another area of concern raised with the board was the difficulty in finding independent Authors to undertake Safeguarding Adult Reviews. This is something being felt nationally and has led to a delay in initiating reviews. Locally the WSAB is working hard to find authors and encourage them to work with us.

Updates and items signed off at Board included:

- An update of the development of the exploitation strategy, due to be signed off in March 2024
- The Annual report for the 2022/23 business year was signed off.

The Board also agreed to a restructure of Board meetings. It was agreed that an Operational Board will now be established which will meet quarterly and an Executive Board will meet twice a year. Both Boards will include members of the statutory sector. The Operational Board will include those staff responsible for the delivery of adult safeguarding in an organisation. They will provide regular oversight of the work of the WSAB ensuring that the annual business plan is moving forward and identifying any key risks which need to be raised at the executive level. Representation at the Executive Board must be from a senior level of the organisation, such as a Director, Chief Executive, or comparative level. Alongside ensuring that any risks are managed appropriately and mitigated, they will be responsible for signing of the statutory elements of the WSABs work including Safeguarding Adult Reviews, New Policies and Procedures the Annual Business Plan and the Annual Report.

Other Updates

Over the last year the WSAB has been developing a range of resources.

These resources are developed in response to findings and recommendations from Safeguarding Adults Reviews (SARs). The criteria for undertaking a SAR can be found on the following page of our website.

[Safeguarding Adult Reviews \(SAR\) - Worcestershire Safeguarding Boards \(safeguardingworcestershire.org.uk\)](https://safeguardingworcestershire.org.uk)

Mental Capacity Act – Learning and Resources

One of the reoccurring themes from both local and national Safeguarding Adults Reviews is on the need to ensure that the application of the Mental Capacity Act is embedded in practice and used correctly. On our website we now have a dedicated page to Mental Capacity, which gives an overview of the learning and things to consider in practice, from local SARs. It also provides links to, policies and procedures alongside resources which have been designed to improve practice. Further details can be found on this page. [Mental Capacity Act - Worcestershire Safeguarding Boards \(safeguardingworcestershire.org.uk\)](https://safeguardingworcestershire.org.uk)

Executive Function

Locally the WSAB has produced a ten-minute webinar on Executive Function. In this webinar, our Independent Chair, Professor Keith Brown, a national expert on the application of the Mental Capacity Act, explains how to identify situations where a person's executive function may be diminishing. Whilst developed with practitioners in mind we have had feedback from people and carers experiencing this situation how helpful and informative they found it. The YouTube video can be found on our resource page [WSAB resource: Executive Function video](#)

Other national resources –

rough sleeping/trauma and executive functions

Manchester SAB have produced a video on a local rough sleeper known as 'Beryl'. This gives an excellent overview on the need and application of assessing executive function when working with rough sleepers. A copy of the video can be found here:

[Beryl's Story](#)

Discriminatory abuse self-assessment tool: safeguarding adults

The Local Government Association have produced a Discriminatory abuse self-assessment tool: safeguarding adults. This tool is intended to support councils, Safeguarding Adult Boards (SABs), practitioners from all sectors, staff responsible for reporting adult social care (ASC) performance, safeguarding leads and commissioners. Details of the tool can be found by following this link:

[Link to LGA Discriminatory Abuse Self-Assessment Tool](#)

