

WSAB newsletter April 2025

Board Business

The Worcestershire Safeguarding Adults Executive Board met virtually in March. Alongside regular updates on the work of the sub-groups, other items included:

- Presentation of the Annual Report on Learning from the lives and deaths of people with a learning disability and autistic people (LeDeR) [Link to report and further information](#)
- Update on improvements and changes in Hillcrest and Mental Health facilities in Worcestershire.
- Sign off an update in the [WSAB constitution](#) Code of Conduct (Appendix 5), which now clarifies the role of organisational leads on sub-groups

WSAB Business Objectives for 2025/26

The Executive Board also signed off the business objectives for this business year which are:

Objective 1 – Self Neglect and CARM

Promote and embed the Self-neglect policy and CARM framework, demonstrating how they can ensure effective multi-agency work, through contextual safeguarding which supports the family (including carers) as a whole.

Objective 2 -Mental Capacity Act, including executive function

To develop and implement a communication strategy which further embeds work undertaken on the application of the Mental Capacity Act, including awareness and assessment of executive function in practice.

Objective 3 – Cross Cutting Work

Continue to develop opportunities to link into wider relevant workstreams and forums across the county, which can impact on safeguarding practice and prevention.

The first two objectives were identified as recurring themes through Safeguarding Adults Reviews, which indicate that more work is needed to improve practitioners' knowledge of legislation and local good practice expectations.

Each sub-group will now develop a business plan for delivering these objectives over the coming year. Within these business plans there is an expectation that there must be a clear focus on developing support for carers and ensuring that services address the needs of different ethnic groups.

Focus on Self-Neglect

Raising awareness of the WSAB Self-neglect policy and good practice will be a priority of the next year. The latest version of the WSAB self-neglect policy can be found via the following link: [WSAB Self-neglect policy](#)

The Policy outlines legislation and good practice that should be considered when working with people who self-neglect across Worcestershire. Section 11 of the document includes:

- details of the local pathways for accessing support or making safeguarding referral. A diagram of the pathway can be found by following this link [Multi-Agency-Self-Neglect-Pathways-June 2024](#).
- Information on the CARM risk assessment tool has also been added in this section. This has been developed to encourage a shared language around risk

Learning from local Safeguarding Adults Reviews (SARs) has indicated that more staff need to be aware of the policy and understand how it should be applied.

Further resources on Self-neglect can be found on the following WSAB web-page [Link to WSAB self-neglect resource page](#)

Focus on Mental Capacity Act and Executive Function

Several Safeguarding Adults Reviews have been published which found that the Mental Capacity Act (MCA) could have been better applied, including the use of best interest decisions and applying executive function. Details of these SARs can be found on this [MCA SAR learning webpage](#)

Recommendations include

- Practitioners should be familiar with their statutory roles and responsibilities for care provision made under [Care Act 2014](#) and [Section 117, Mental Health Act \(MHA\) 1983](#).
- Whilst there is an assumption of capacity, professionals should complete a formal assessment of capacity when there is reason to doubt a person's capacity, or they are deemed to be making unwise decisions which may pose a risk of significant harm.
- Any assessment would benefit from a rounded multi-agency approach and could focus on the discrete area of vulnerability causing the risk.
- When considering mental capacity consider a person's executive capacity, the ability of a person to execute their actions.
- When a young person reaches 18, it is important not to regard the parents as sole decision makers, under the MHA, consideration of best interest should be applied.

Further information and resources on the Mental Capacity Act, including details of local policies and procedures, can be found on the [WSAB Mental Capacity act Webpage](#)

The WSAB have also produced podcasts on application of Best Interest decision making and executive function which can be found on this [WSAB resources webpage](#)



Safeguarding Adults Reviews Published this quarter:

James (January 2025)

James, a 21-year-old white British young man with a learning disability, cerebral palsy, epilepsy, is non-verbal and does not have capacity to make decisions about his care.

Jack (January 2025)

Jack was a 79-year-old man, with multiple health needs, who's mobility had deteriorated in the last 5 years of his life. A 'friend' had assumed a caring role, and it was suspected that Jack was a victim of coercion and control from Kyle

Themes across both SARs include: Assessments, Application of the Mental Capacity Act, Response to safeguarding concerns that were raised, Hospital discharge planning, concerns, Recognition and response to self-neglect, Multi-agency and internal agency working.

Jacks also identified the need for practitioners to familiarise themselves, and apply when necessary, the WSAB escalation policy

Further details, on these and other SARs, including links to the reviews can be found on the following [WSAB SARs Webpage](#)

