

WSAB newsletter July 2025

This quarter's newsletter focuses on sharing information driven by Safeguarding Adult Reviews (SARs) alongside updates and information on national, regional, and local policies, practice, and events.

This year's WSAB Priorities

The following areas are reoccurring themes in Safeguarding Adults Reviews (SARs) and have been identified as priorities which need to be developed or reinforced in practice, so are key objectives for the WSAB this year:

Self-Neglect and the Complex Adults Risk Management Framework

Learning from SARs has found that more staff need to be aware of the Self-Neglect policy and how it should be applied. The revised Self-Neglect Policy provides useful information on legislation and good practice, alongside details of the local [Multi-agency self-neglect pathway](#)

The situations which can lead to self-neglect are complex and there are often many organizations working with the individual.

Learning identified in local reviews where self-neglect was a feature included

- **Information sharing:** Provide clarity on where to seek support where consent has not been given but concerns remain and are still being reported. ([BS Review](#))
- **Enforcement Powers:** In complex cases multi agency discussions should include what powers partner agencies have access to which could be used to ensure that the necessary level of support is available, this should include the appropriate use of enforcement powers as identified in the Self Neglect and Hoarding Policy. ([Alison - Learning Brief](#))

Links to both documents can be found below:

- [WSAB Self Neglect Policy \(Revised June 2024\)](#)
- [WSAB Complex Adult Risk Management \(CARM\) Framework](#)

Mental Capacity Act and Executive Function

Several SARs 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](#). The WSAB have also produced a [short video](#) that explains executive function.

Useful Information recently added to our website Include:

Essex Chambers have published two MCA guidance note in May 2025.

- [Mental Capacity Guidance Note: Best Interests | 39 Essex Chambers](#)
- [Mental Capacity Guidance Note: Assessment and Recording of Capacity | 39 Essex Chambers](#)

Norfolk SAB have produced a new animation explaining the [Hurbert Protocol](#)

News on other SARs: Robert (published April 2025)

Themes – Safeguarding and Self-Neglect, Professional Curiosity, Alcohol Dependency, Physical and Mental Health, Barriers to support self-funding status.

- [Rapid Review SAR Report – Robert](#)
- [Learning Briefing for professional – Robert](#)

Summary

Robert was a 68-year-old with a history of mental health illness, physical health conditions and alcohol dependency. He became increasingly frail, and his mobility became poor. His property, which he owned, was severely neglected. Despite the offer of several services and deep cleans improvements were not maintained and the situation constantly deteriorated. Despite involvement from the fire service to install detectors and alarms, Robert sadly died because of a house fire, started by a faulty electrical appliance.

Robert engaged with health services for his physical health but did not recognize the impact of his alcohol consumption on his frailty and self-neglect. His mental health struggles were linked to trauma and bereavement

The SAR identifies systemic issues and barriers to effective support for individuals who self-neglect. It emphasizes the need for continuous learning, improvement, and collaboration among agencies. The learnings emphasize the importance of

- understanding the individual's history,
- using a multi-agency approach,
- and building trusting relationships to effectively support individuals who self-neglect

Details of Substance Misuse Services in Worcestershire can be found by following this link [Cranstoun Worcestershire Leaflet](#)

Locally Published or Updated Policies and guidance

Carers Rights

Worcestershire Association of Carers, working with the WSAB, produced a [Carers Rights Document](#) to mark Carers Rights Day in November. It provides information on safeguarding as well as carers assessment. It is supported by a dedicated page on their website: [Carers Rights Page](#)

Information on choosing Care Services

Learning from the [Dorothy SAR](#) recommended 'websites have clear easy to find links to information regarding choosing social care services' In response to this the WSAB and its partners are promoting Worcestershire County Council [Webpages](#) which provide information on this.

National News and Events

- NWG event on Transition and Exploitation 7th October [Information and Booking form](#)
- Directory for safeguarding and wellbeing Services in the West Midlands [Link](#)
- [Exploitation of Adults with Cognitive Impairments – Research by Nottingham University November 2024](#)