

West of Berkshire Safeguarding Adults Board

Briefing no. 1 - July 2016



Welcome to the first edition of the West of Berkshire Safeguarding Adults Board Briefing.

The West of Berkshire Safeguarding Adults Board meets four times a year and discusses how agencies should work together to keep adults at risk of abuse or neglect safe in Reading, West Berkshire and Wokingham.

Among the topics discussed at our June Board meeting were advocacy, a recent Domestic Homicide Review and Making Safeguarding Personal. We considered a new format for the Board's Annual Report so that it is readable and interesting and includes enough information to show what difference the Board makes to people's lives. It will be published in the autumn. The Board's key areas of work for the year are set out in its Business Plan which was endorsed at the meeting and is available on the Board's website: [Business Plan 2016-17](#).

Making Safeguarding Personal (MSP)

It is the responsibility of all organisations to work together to promote MSP and make sure everyone working to safeguard adults understands their responsibility. Colleagues from the voluntary sector and HealthWatch told us that advocates and volunteers would value further information and training on MSP; the Learning and Development Subgroup is already planning some additional training for the private, voluntary and independent sectors. [More on page 2....](#)

West Berkshire Council has recently undertaken a Domestic Homicide Review and representatives from the Community Safety Partnership spoke to the Board about the process, the facts of the case and the findings. An action plan has been developed to address the findings, which will be monitored by the CSP. Once the report has been approved by the Home Office it will be published on the Council's and Board's website.

Safeguarding children and adults with disabilities is the theme of this year's joint children's and adults' safeguarding conference on Friday 23 September. It is aimed at practitioners. A programme and booking details will soon be circulated and published on the Board's website.

Advocacy - Under the Care Act, local authorities must arrange an independent advocate to help a person be involved in their assessment and in the preparation and review of their care and support plan, if the person has difficulty in being fully involved in these processes and if there is no one appropriate available to support and represent the person's wishes.

The three councils report to the Board how many people are referred to an advocate each quarter. At the June meeting, colleagues from Reading explained some of the actions underway to increase the number of people who were referred to an advocate, including joint working with HealthWatch to raise awareness and train staff.

Find out more....

The Board's website contains information for the public, practitioners and Board members and is regularly updated:

<http://www.sabberkshirwest.co.uk/>

Contact Natalie.madden@reading.gov.uk to be added to the distribution list for these briefings.

Need help with acronyms? This [Glossary](#) might help.

Making Safeguarding Personal

Involvement, choice, control

Making Safeguarding Personal (MSP) is a shift in culture and practice to make safeguarding more effective from the perspective of the person being safeguarded.

It is about having conversations with people about the options they have and what they want to do about their situation.

It is about seeing people as experts in their own lives and working alongside them.

It is a shift from a process supported by conversations to a series of conversations supported by a process.

It is about collecting information to show how this shift has a positive impact on people's lives.

It is not simply about gaining people's consent, although that is important, but also about understanding what they want as an outcome. This means that they are supported and given an opportunity at all stages of the safeguarding process to say what they would like to change. People's views and desired outcomes may change throughout the course of the enquiry process. There should be an ongoing dialogue to ensure their views are understood as the process continues, and enquiries re-planned should their views change.

To promote MSP this year, we will:

- Provide **clearer information** for people to help them understand what is meant by *safeguarding* and *outcomes*.
- Deliver MSP **awareness training** for the private, voluntary and independent sector.
- Improve the way we collect and understand **people's feedback**.
- Improve the ways we **measure outcomes** for people who have been through the safeguarding process.
- Identify where there is a shortfall in the use of **advocates** and raise staff awareness as to how and when to involve advocates.

Find out more...

The ADASS [Making Safeguarding Personal Guide](#) gives some guidance about how to take forward MSP. The MSP Toolkit contains models, theories and approaches that safeguarding practitioners need to be aware of: [Making Safeguarding Personal - a toolkit for responses](#).

What do we mean by outcomes?

Examples of the kind of outcomes that people might want are:

- To be and to feel safer
- To maintain a key relationship
- To get new friends
- To have help to recover
- To have justice or an apology, or know that disciplinary or other action has been taken
- To know that this won't happen to anyone else
- To maintain control over the situation
- To be involved in making decisions
- To have exercised choice
- To be able to protect self in the future.
- To know where to get help.

The focus is on both how people experience safeguarding services and the difference that it makes:

- What do people want our involvement to achieve – how can we help to make a difference?
- How can we help people to express what they want?
- How can we work out what people who lack capacity would want through engaging with them, and with their representatives, Advocates or Best Interests Assessor?
- How do people experience the support they receive?