

Welcome to the West of Berkshire Safeguarding Adults Partnership Board briefing. The partnership, which covers Reading, West Berkshire and Wokingham has a large workplan with a number of themes to help better support and protect vulnerable members of the community. This is overseen by a management board which meets four times a year.

The management Board last met in March 2022. There was a busy agenda with the Board: considering a case study in regard to a complex case involving risks around pressure care, endorsing a Safeguarding Adult Review (SAR); seeking assurance on practice in regard to self-neglect; discussions around the increase in safeguarding concerns.

We welcomed Jane Barnett, who has joined as the Board's Business Support Officer.

We said thankyou and goodbye to Teresa Bell, who has been the Board's independent chair for five years and welcomed Professor Keith Brown who will take on the role of independent chair from April 2022.

Message from Teresa Bell: *" I want to thank the partnership for being such a great group of people to work with over the last 5 years. I have learned and gained so much from working with you in this role and I believe that together we have achieved many good things in these most difficult times. Thank you for your support, commitment, and tenacity in making this large partnership work. I know that with Keith as your new Independent Chair, the Board will continue to progress well in its aims to achieve the best safeguarding outcomes for people in the West of Berkshire."*

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Steven – Learning from a SAR

Steven was a 78-year-old, living with dementia. Steven resided in the community with his partner who was his main carer. Steven had a package of care consisting of two calls daily from spring 2017 until it was cancelled in March 2020 by Steven's partner due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

Steven was found passed away in a public area in early 2021, after being identified by his partner as missing in the early hours of the morning; the evening before his death, Steven left home in a confused state and was not dressed appropriately for the cold weather.

It appears that there was a known risk of Steven leaving the house in a confused and disorientated manner from 2017, but it is unclear whether this (and other) information was used across the system to enable effective risk management.

Key Learning Points from this review were:

Risk: All Professionals should be trained in risk management and there should be an appropriate risk assessment framework in place.

Reviews: need to be dynamic and offer flexibility.

Carers: need to be identified and offered carers assessments and reviews.

Technology Enabled Care / Assistive Technology: Professionals should have an awareness of Technology Enabled Care (TEC) and how it can be used to mitigate risk.

Mental Capacity Professionals should be alert to indicators that a mental capacity assessment may be required in relation to day-to-day decision making.

A 7 Minute Learning Summary has been published ([link below](#)) which goes into more detail on the learning points and highlights the strengths and missed opportunities identified in this SAR.

[Steven, 7 minute learning summary.](#)

In response to this SAR we are planning a bitesize learning to support partnership learning in the management of risk.

Carers and safeguarding: a briefing for people who work with carers

This briefing provides an update of the ADASS (Association of Directors of Adult Social Care) Advice note 'Carers and Safeguarding Adults' produced in 2011 for frontline workers and brings it in line with the Care Act 2014. The briefing will support the improvement in practice regarding safeguarding adults as well as safeguarding their carers.

[Carers and safeguarding: a briefing for people who work with carers | Local Government Association](#)

Safeguarding Learning and Development Events Schedule

The Learning and Development subgroup have launched a events schedule, which lists all training/events relevant to safeguarding adults, that are open to all of the workforce and volunteers, across the West Berkshire.

The schedule will be continuously updated and can be found here: [Workforce Development | Safeguarding Adults Board \(sabberkshirewest.co.uk\)](http://sabberkshirewest.co.uk)

Revisiting safeguarding practice

Published on the government's website in January 22 and update in March 22. This document is intended to encourage all safeguarding practitioners and those responsible for adult safeguarding to reflect on and revisit their current practice.

Liberty Protection Safeguards - Looking forwards

The Liberty Protection Safeguards (LPS) are due to come into force in 2022. As part of their work to support the social care sector to prepare and embed LPS within everyday practice, SCIE (social care institute for excellence) has produced a short video to encourage the sector to consider how LPS will seek to promote practice which aligns with human rights and the core principles and duties of the Care Act 2014.

About our new Independent Chair

Professor Keith Brown was the founding Director of the National Centre for Post Qualifying Social Work and Professional Practice, and he is an Emeritus Professor at Bournemouth University where the social work department was ranked number 1 in the UK in the 2020 Guardian League Table. He is the series editor for the Sage /Learning matters post qualifying social work series which has sales more than 150,000 in the past 10 years.

In 2005 Keith was awarded the Linda Ammon memorial prize sponsored by the Department for education and skills awarded to the individual making the greatest contribution to education and training in the UK. He was awarded a Chartered Trading Standard Institute [CTSI] 'Institutional Hero' award in 2017 recognising the significance of his research into financial fraud and scams. He sits on the DHSC safeguarding advisory board, the joint DHSC and MOJ National Mental Capacity Leadership forum and the Home Office Joint Financial task force. He has also recently published an All Party Parliamentary Report looking at financial fraud within families and he continues to lead research into this area.

Keith has written over 35 textbooks in the fields of social work and leadership and is particularly known for his contributions in the areas of Mental Capacity and Leadership.

Since his retirement from a full time academic post, he has been the Independent Chair of the NHS Safeguarding Adults National Network, the Independent Chair of the Worcestershire Safeguarding Adults Board and the Chair of Love Southampton a body that represents 3 food banks and 4 debt advice centres in Southampton.

His recent appointment as Independent Chair of the West of Berkshire Safeguarding Adults Board is something that he is passionate about. *"It's a simply wonderful opportunity to work with highly skilled professionals and community representatives in order to ensure that citizens in the West of Berkshire have every possible opportunity to live lives free from abuse and coercion."*