



Cheshire East SAB Newsletter

Cheshire East Safeguarding Adults Board (CESAB) Update for Information

Autumn 2023

Welcome to the Cheshire East Safeguarding Adults Board Newsletter. We hope that you find this newsletter a useful tool, and that it helps to keep you up to date with some of the local and national issues in relation to safeguarding adults at risk of abuse and neglect.

Please do not hesitate to contact CESAB with any queries or information you would like to submit to be used in future newsletters. Contact details at the bottom of this page.

1. Executive Function

This short animation has been produced for Worcestershire Safeguarding Adults Board. Professor Keith Brown helps us to; understand what the term Executive Function means, recognise signs of decreased Executive Function and offers advice and tips about how to support someone showing signs of decline in executive function in relation to the journey of dementia.

Please see video: https://youtu.be/IQTswFeh7_0

2. Strengthening Adult Safeguarding: The significance of the definition of domestic abuse in the Domestic Abuse Act 2021.

Introduction

The introduction of the Domestic Abuse Act 2021 has been a significant milestone in our efforts to combat domestic abuse and provide effective interventions. One of the key aspects of this legislation is the statutory definition of domestic abuse. This update will explore the significance of the definition, particularly in relation to connected individuals, coercive control, and the inclusion of economic abuse. Understanding these aspects is crucial in identifying and responding to cases of domestic abuse, ensuring the safety and well-being of those we seek to support.

Defining domestic abuse: A milestone achievement

The Domestic Abuse Act 2021 introduced the first statutory definition of domestic abuse in the United Kingdom. This definition broadens our understanding of domestic abuse and reinforces the need for a comprehensive response. It serves as a crucial tool for professionals working in adult safeguarding, enabling us to recognise and address domestic abuse more effectively.

Inclusion of 'personally connected' individuals in the definition.

One of the features of the new definition is its consideration of personally connected individuals, acknowledging that domestic abuse can occur in various relationships. The legislation defines people who are 'personally connected' as: intimate partners, ex-partners, family members or individuals who share parental responsibility for a child. There is no requirement for the victim and perpetrator to live in the same household.

Recognising abuse in these relationships is important, as it acknowledges the complex dynamics that can exist within families and extends protection to vulnerable individuals who may experience domestic abuse at the hands of their adult children or other relatives.

The significance of coercive control.

Within the statutory definition, coercive control is a critical aspect of domestic abuse. Coercive control refers to a pattern of behaviour that seeks to exert power, control, and psychological dominance over the victim. It involves a range of controlling tactics, such as isolation, intimidation, financial control, and manipulation. While individual incidents may not appear severe, the cumulative impact of coercive control can be deeply harmful. By including coercive control within the definition of domestic abuse, the Domestic Abuse Act 2021 acknowledges the insidious nature of this form of abuse and the level of risk. It emphasises that domestic abuse is

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not limited to physical violence but encompasses a wide range of behaviours aimed at controlling and dominating the victim. As professionals, it is crucial for us to recognise the signs of coercive control, be alert to the possible risk that this behaviour indicates and provide support to those who are experiencing this form of abuse.

The importance of economic abuse

Another significant aspect of the statutory definition is the inclusion of economic abuse. Economic abuse refers to any behaviour that substantially impacts on individuals' ability to acquire, use or maintain money or property, or to obtain goods and services. Recognising economic abuse as a form of domestic abuse is crucial as it the often hidden and insidious ways abusers exert control and maintain power over their victims. Professionals working in adult safeguarding must understand the far reaching consequences of economic abuse. It can leave survivors financially dependant, trapped, and unable to access essential resources and support.

Enhancing safeguarding efforts

The inclusion of connected individuals, coercive control, and economic abuse within the definition of domestic abuse strengthens our safeguarding efforts. It steers us to adopt a more comprehensive and inclusive approach, ensuring that victims receive the support and protection they deserve.

Valuable Updates and Resources

- [Protecting People who use Wheelchairs](#) & [Learning from Safety Incidents](#) CQC
- SAVE THE DATES-Reminder of National Safeguarding week 20th November. Events will be happening all week for you to join including ODDARTS theatre play on DA/Dementia/Carers on 22nd for those who missed it in May, White Ribbon Event on 24th and a safeguarding awards event on 23rd.
- [Stand with women - not against them. - YouTube Cheshire Police](#)
- [Predatory Marriage Documentary Channel 5](#) The third episode in the series Inheritance Wars tells the story of Daphne Franks.
- Honour Based Abuse and Harmful Practices – [Savera UK](#)
- [Modern Slavery Statutory Guidance](#) – Home Office
- [Domestic Abuse between older couples: Key tips at a glance](#) – Community Care
- Accessible introduction to adult grooming for people with a learning disability. Read more: <https://www.friendlyinformation.org.uk/grooming>

4. Feedback from CESAB Development Session

In June the Board met for a development session, we are pleased to share the following feedback.

Service User Feedback

You said...

Consider how each Agency captures the voice of Service Users
Review how we capture Making Safeguarding Personal Outcomes
Increase MSP from 62%
Check Advocacy Contract

we will / will do...

Annual Single Agency Report asks partners how they capture MSP.
Lynne shared the SU feedback to CEC Practice Managers Meeting in July
Contact with Commissioners re Advocacy who can provide a presentation to the SAB.
MSP data will be captured at the end of a S42 Enquiry

Board Achievements and Structure

You said...

Clarify Safeguarding Adults Board Budget and compare with other SABs.
Map funding with SCEP and Childrens Safeguarding Partnership
Redesign SAB Subgroups to provide time efficiencies.
Develop a Training Plan based on SAB priorities.

we will / will do...

Board Managers from the SAB, SCEP and Childrens Safeguarding are meeting together to look at opportunities for joint Boards and Funding arrangements.
PLM Norfolk SAB model to be explored – KJ to bring paper to the SAB and arrange a Trial Workshop in January 2024

Learning from SAR's and Performance

You said...

The common practice themes from SARS are Professional Curiosity, Information Sharing, escalation to High-Risk Forums, Mental Capacity and Risk Assessments
The most common presenting issue in SARs is Self-Neglect
What Data does the SAB require to monitor Performance?

we will / will do...

The Annual Single Agency Report asks Partners to provide evidence of how learning from SARS has been shared in their organisation.
Information Sharing Agreement circulated.
Joint Performance Framework has been finalised and circulated to align with Structure
Hoarding Peer Support Group launched in June 2023
Did Not Attend Guidance shared with partners
MCA Report to be finalised and presentation at the next SAB Board

Governance

You said...

Need for the SAB to be open and transparent.
The SAB needs to have policies and procedures in place to fulfil its statutory duties.
How do we adopt a Prevention to Protection approach?
How do we continue to know our Business and associated risks

we will / will do...

SAB Risk Register has been updated.
SAB Prevention Guide circulated.
Governance Structures being reviewed with other Partnerships
Preparation for CQC Inspection
Partners to continue to share emerging issues, organisational changes, pressures and risks

5. Safeguarding Interventions on Hospital Discharge, Cost of Living and Winter Pressures Webinar

Following the Insight Project Winter Pressures Survey, Partners in Care and Health (PCH) Safeguarding Team have scheduled a Safeguarding Interventions on Hospital Discharge, Cost of Living and Winter Pressures webinar which will take place on Tuesday 19 December.

Please publicise this event through your networks

Safeguarding Interventions on Hospital Discharge, Cost of Living and Winter Pressures – Tuesday 19 December 2023 -11-1pm

This webinar will be sharing learning and preventative approaches and practices from councils who took part in an insight project to explore some of the challenges and interventions to improve outcomes for people with care and support needs.

This is a **free** virtual **Zoom** webinar.

To register, please click on the link below:

<https://lgaevents.local.gov.uk/lga/1987/home>

6. Free Training Sessions

- Forensic Lunch and Learn Event

This series of educational meetings are being held quarterly to facilitate forensic learning in safeguarding adults at risk of harm. This is our second year of the project. All sessions will be delivered virtually via Microsoft Teams.

Any professional working within adult safeguarding for any agency is welcome to join. Please send all replies to tina.cox10@nhs.net.

16 January 2024 - Abusive sexual and intimate relationships - a review of recent MCA case law. Dr Laura Pritchard Jones, Programme Director, MA Safeguarding Adults: Law, Policy and Practice, Keele University.

16 April 2024 - Hold the day: Forensic Aspects of Safeguarding Adults Conference . Injuries in a case of fatal domestic violence - Professor Margaret Stark Past President, Faculty of Forensic and Legal Medicine. Adults Safeguarding and neurodiversity (key considerations) - Dr Jessica Ong Clinical Care and Professional Lead for Learning Disability & Autism (Lewisham). The pitfalls of complex cases in the Court of Protection - Brett Davies Barrister, Head of Public Law, Spire Barristers Leeds.

2 July 2024 - A thematic review of SARs for physical abuse - what can we learn Dr Elisabeth Alton, Named GP for safeguarding adults and Clinical Lead for the Humber Forensic Project, Humber ICB.

7. Identifying and working with self-neglect in people experiencing homelessness

The London Network of Nurses and Midwives Homelessness Group have produced a piece of guidance on working with self-neglect among people experiencing homelessness.

The guidance is very comprehensive and specifically outlines the legal framework that practitioners can utilise to provide the crucial advocacy that is often needed to ensure a person's needs can be met by a range of agencies. Contributors to the document included Professor Michael Preston-Shoot and Mike Ward.

[Identifying and working with self-neglect in people experiencing homelessness](#)

8. Interview with Debbie Foss, Safeguarding Performance Officer, Cheshire East Safeguarding Adults Board

Can you tell me a bit about your role and experience at Cheshire East?

I joined Cheshire East Council in 2009 as a social care assessor on the Wilmslow adult social care team, having previously worked for Cheshire County Council since 1997 (before Cheshire County became Cheshire East). I joined the Council when I graduated from University in 1997 and my first job was with what is now the reablement service, but in those days, it was Cheshire County Council Home Care. I soon progressed to a supervisory role and then joined the County Review Team as a social care assessor, before moving to the Wilmslow team and undertaking social care assessments of adults aged 18+. I also worked for the Emergency Duty Team, undertaking adult assessments out of hours. At the time, the team covered the whole of Cheshire. I completed an MSc in Health and Social Care Business Management at Manchester Metropolitan University Business School and in 2010 I joined the commissioning team. In this role I was responsible for commissioning placements for adults with mental health and learning disabilities. I joined two of the sub-groups to the Safeguarding Adults Board as the commissioning representative and this was where my interest in adult safeguarding began. In 2016, I joined the Adult Safeguarding Service as safeguarding performance officer.

My role as safeguarding performance officer is to undertake research, collate, interpret, analyse, provide and present regular data performance reports on safeguarding activity within adult social care and multi-agency forums. I am responsible for collating, interpreting and analysing local data from internal systems and triangulating with research, regional and national data to place local trends within a regional and national performance context. I work very closely with the Council's Business Intelligence Team and regularly work with teams across adult social care.

What would you say is the best part of your role?

I really enjoy the variety of my role being able to have experience working with so many different teams, Board partner agencies and stakeholders. Research is constantly evolving and keeping up to date with national and international developments in safeguarding is very interesting. The work of our Safeguarding Adults Board service user group has featured in a book by renowned academic Dr. Adi Cooper, so we are part of the national research ourselves!

The best part of my job as safeguarding performance officer is working with fantastic people. I am lucky to work in an absolutely brilliant team. A good example of this is the support that I have to enable me to undertake research. I completed the ILM Level 5 in Leadership and Management via the apprentice levy in 2019 and in 2021 I completed an MA in adult

safeguarding to help me with my role. I followed this up with a PhD which I am currently undertaking at Keele University School of Law. I am researching Best Interest Assessors' understanding and application of the *Mental Capacity Act 2005*. I have also recently had some of my research "The role of the Mental Health Act 1983 in safeguarding adults at risk of abuse and neglect: a thematic analysis of safeguarding adults reviews", published in the *Journal of Adult Protection*. *The Journal of Adult Protection* is a highly acclaimed academic journal which uniquely bridges the gap between research and practice. It is the only journal to address emerging perspectives and developments in safeguarding, adult protection, mental capacity and related areas across all adult service user groups.

Although my MA and PhD research has been self-funded (so no impact on the Cheshire East budget) I would not be able to engage with research without the support of my manager, Katie Jones, and team members. In addition to the support from Katie, I would particularly like to thank my previous manager, Annette Lomas, Locality Managers Rachael Elliott and Richard Christopherson, Head of Service for Adult Safeguarding Sandra Murphy and Tom Cox and Kayleigh Churms from the MCA & Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards Team.

If you would like to read more about Debbie's research, a link and copy of the research paper is below:



Journal of Adult
Protection 2022 Vol 2

[Foss, D.](#) (2023), "The role of the Mental Health Act 1983 in safeguarding adults at risk of abuse and neglect: a thematic analysis of safeguarding adults reviews", [The Journal of Adult Protection](#), Vol. 25 No. 5, pp. 266-288. <https://doi.org/10.1108/JAP-11-2022-0028>

Key Contacts

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www.stopadultabuse.org

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