

Safeguarding Adults

News

ISSUE NUMBER 13
June 2020

Chair's Blog Spot

Hello,

I hope this newsletter finds you well. It has been a very challenging few months, and I would like to start by saying thank you for the considerable work that has taken place to keep people safe.

As the Covid-19 lockdown begins to ease I have been speaking to SAB members about what the emerging issues are likely to be for safeguarding adults. Will there be an increase in safeguarding reports of domestic abuse as people return to work and make disclosures? What changes will relatives see in their loved ones, who they may not have seen for a number of weeks, will they have safeguarding concerns? These are just a couple of examples. I have asked the question of what can the Safeguarding Adults Board do to support and we have decided to increase our communications to highlight how people can get help and advice. You will see some links to this information in this newsletter and a [new leaflet](#) produced by the Government is on the RWSAB website.

In this newsletter we have an article from one of our Board partners, Richmond CVS who describe the increase in volunteering through the pandemic. With so many people willing to give up their time to help and support others this is an opportunity to enable them to continue as things move on. This has already been recognised by Richmond CVS who are exploring with their partners how this can be done.

The '[Spotlight on](#)' section in this edition relates to self-neglect, this has been included as there is a recent increase in safeguarding concerns where self-neglect is present. As you can see from the listed possible causes of self-neglect the current Covid-19 pandemic enables the environment for this to increase. Please be vigilant, remain curious and act. Encourage others to do likewise.

Thank you for reading,

Richard



Update from the SAB Executive

The Executive met on 27th May 2020 and heard updates from South-West London St. George's University Hospital, SWL St. George's Mental Health Trust and London Fire Brigade on their work to keep Safeguarding a priority during the height of Covid-19 lockdown, what challenges they faced, and discussed how the Board can support organisations going forward.

The rise in deaths of people with a Learning Disability was discussed at length, and noted the efforts of Board members in raising the issues around this to a London and National level.

The SAB Executive also agreed to resume activities around Safeguarding Adult Reviews, with views of proceeding virtually with needed meetings.

Safe Volunteer Recruitment and Management During COVID-19

Kathryn Williamson, Director of Richmond Council for Voluntary Services

Richmond CVS is a charity that supports the local voluntary sector. Promoting safeguarding, for both volunteers and those they assist, is central to our work in volunteer management. When, in March, we saw a surge in volunteering interest, we quickly created and shared two new downloadable factsheets.

[Recruiting Volunteers Safely for Your Organisation](#) was aimed at established organisations who were facing an unprecedented level of new volunteering demand and interest. It includes a reminder of the importance of minimum checks to complete, safeguarding policies, code of conduct and confidentiality, as well as volunteer safety, and links to sources of information and advice.

[Everybody Needs a Good Neighbour](#) gives simple common-sense tips for any individual, or new groups of individuals, who want to help. We encourage people to register with our volunteering service and/or offer help in safe and effective ways at a very local level.

Both the above are available on our [Volunteering webpage](#) plus additional information, specifically for trustees, is available on our [Trustee page](#).

To date, we have over 3,000 new volunteer registrations on our database and we know there are hundreds more residents who have taken on local activity. Our online resources are freely available to anyone looking for ideas and advice on how to help others safely.

Schedule of Meetings 2020

JANUARY	FEBRUARY	MARCH	APRIL
06 Jan SAR Sub-grp 15 Jan Wandsworth Community Forum (WCF) 27 Jan SAB Executive	03 Feb SAR Sub-grp 12 Feb Comms & Engagement Sub-grp 24 Feb Perf & Work-force Sub-grp	02 Mar SAR Sub-grp 23 Mar SAB Executive 25 Mar Richmond Community Forum (RCF) 31 Mar SAB AGM	06 Apr SAR Sub-grp 22 Apr WCF
MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUGUST
07 May SAR Sub-grp 13 May Comms & Engagement 27 May SAB Executive	08 Jun SAR Sub-grp 15 Jun Perf & Work-force Sub-grp	06 Jul SAR Sub-grp 15 Jul WCF 27 Jul SAB Executive	03 Aug SAR Sub-grp 12 Aug Comms & Engagement
SEPTEMBER	OCTOBER	NOVEMBER	DECEMBER
07 Sep SAR Sub-grp 14 Sep Perf & Work-force Sub-grp 23 Sep RCF 30 Sep SAB Executive	05 Oct SAR Sub-grp 14 Oct WCF TBC Learning Event	02 Nov SAR Sub-grp 11 Nov Comms & Engagement 16-20 National SG Adults Week 23 Nov SAB Executive	07 Dec SAR Sub-grp 07 Dec Perf & Work-force Sub-grp 16 Dec RCF

Spotlight on...

Self-neglect

Defining

The term 'self-neglect' is used to describe widely differing behaviour or lifestyle, and includes:

- **lack of self-care** e.g. neglect of personal hygiene, nutrition, health; and/or
- **lack of care of the domestic environment** e.g. squalor or hoarding; and/or
- **refusal of services** that would mitigate risk to safety and well-being.

Engaging people

People respond in different ways to attempts to engage with them about self-neglect. They may or may not agree there is a problem, to receiving help, and they may respond unpredictably, shifting between different responses at different times. The best result comes from working closely with the person and building good relationship.

Causes

Cause include factors such as:

- Disturbance in physical or mental health preventing managing self-care or household tasks or recognising when such tasks need carrying out.
- Depression, or low self-worth.
- Non-conformist views on cleanliness, hygiene or order.
- Response to losses, abuse or trauma.
- Loss of family assistance, social support or financial means which have previously helped them to cope.

Interventions

Some interventions to be considered include:

Helping the person

- Monitoring visits and relationship building;
- Attention to health concerns;
- Psychotherapy to address deeper-rooted issues;
- Intervening through family members and social connections;
- Provision of Care packages;
- Enforced action
- Peer support i.e. links with people addressing similar challenges.

Help with the environment

- Deep cleaning and decluttering;
- Fire risk minimisation through equipment and advice;
- Adaptations and repairs to enhance safety;
- Permanent or temporary change in where the person lives;

Multi-agency working

When people self-neglect there are almost always many dimensions involved, requiring the involvement and collaboration of different agencies and practitioners. [The Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Framework](#) outlines a helpful framework for partners to working collaboratively on complex cases.

Supporting staff

Working with people who self-neglect has a high impact on practitioners; this work 'gets under the skin' in a way that can leave people feeling distressed, emotionally drained and exposed.

The following mechanisms can be used to support staff:

- Reflective Supervision;
- Access to specialist advice, such as legal or health input;
- Guidance from policies and procedures.

Performance and Workforce Sub-group



The Performance and Workforce Sub-group met on 15 June 2020. We discussed ideas for Masterclasses, with the main theme around Making Safeguarding Personal, with ideas ranging from use of Appropriate Adults in Police setting to Mental Capacity in Covid-19. More ideas are welcome! The Sub-group also discussed some Covid-19 issues, in particular around impact on Safeguarding Adults and Learning Disability impacts. Noted an increase in Professional Curiosity at the beginning of the lockdown, as regular visits were disrupted and work was done remotely.

Communication and Engagement Sub-group



The sub-group and forums met in April and May 2020 and discussed mainly updates from agencies around Safeguarding in Covid-19 settings. A new section has been added to our web pages

Covid-19 and Safeguarding with some useful information, please check it out!

Safeguarding Adult Review (SAR) Sub-group



The Sub-group met on 07 May 2020 and discussed one new SAR referral, which was agreed to not meet criteria for a SAR, confirmed by the SAB Executive on their meeting on 27 May 2020. The SARs have now resumed.

Participation and Feedback

Please submit short articles highlighting your or colleague's achievements or publicising planned events. We would also like feedback and suggestions on how we can make sure the newsletter is relevant and helpful. Please participate by emailing us at

sab@richmondandwandsworth.gov.uk with the **subject line 'SAB Newsletter'**.

New on the RWSAB web pages:

- [COVID-19 and safeguarding](#) section
- Domestic Abuse information for [Richmond](#) and [Wandsworth](#)
- [Bereavement Scams](#)