

Safeguarding Adults

News

ISSUE NUMBER 20
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In this issue:

Spotlight on:
Robert SAR

RWSAB Webinar –
*Professional Curiosity
and Unconscious Bias*

Safeguarding Practice
Awards
*awarded certificates for
good practice*

Updates from
SAB Executive
and Sub-groups

Spotlight on...

Robert SAR

Robert was 86-year-old at the time of his death in September 2020. Following a fall in July 2020, which resulted in a hospital admission, his family arranged for him to move into a residential care home. Shortly after he moved in, there was an unwitnessed incident between Robert and a fellow resident, James, followed by a further unwitnessed incident between them in early August 2020. Robert sustained a minor injury but did not need medical attention. After a short stay in hospital for unrelated issues, Robert was moved to a different unit in the care home to create distance between him and James. Within hours, however, James attacked Robert, who was subsequently admitted to hospital with an intercranial hemorrhage. The coroner determined that the cause of death was pneumonia with an antecedent cause of a head injury.

You can find the full SAR report [on our website](#). Summary of the findings include:

1. There are no agreed mechanisms for collaborative working and decision-making across the range of professionals who provide support to older people with dementia. As a result, the understanding of escalating risk is hindered by imprecise or incomplete communication about the situation.
2. All staff across health and social care need to have a shared understanding of the nature of dementia and skills in managing behaviours that challenge and of the level of expertise available in a residential care home.

RWSAB Webinar – Professional Curiosity and Unconscious Bias

09/09/2021 @ 14.00

Via MS Teams

To book please [register here](#)

Safeguarding Practice Awards

In this issue, an award goes out to a colleague in Richmond Housing Partnership (RHP) – Maria Heath.

Maria was a key partner in a very successful Multi-Disciplinary Team (MDT) process to enable a tenant to stay in his flat safely. The Hounslow and Richmond Community Healthcare Trust (HRCH) agreed they would have been very challenged to do this without her – most actions from the meeting involved Maria and she went the extra mile every time (while being clear about her remit and boundaries).



Maria said: *“At RHP we take the safety and wellbeing of all of our customers extremely seriously. The message we get out to all RHP employees is that everyone has a key role to play in safeguarding customers and keeping them safe from harm. Safeguarding is so important because all forms of abuse are still happening everywhere, every day and not everybody who faces abuse or neglect realises what is happening to them or how to stop it from happening again. Working in housing we are well placed to identify customers at risk and it’s really important that we raise and share concerns with our partners as soon*

as possible so that these are acted on quickly. All of RHP staff are trained in safeguarding – what it looks like and how to report it. We never assume that someone else is doing something about the situation, we urge all of our staff who “hear it or see it to report it”. Along with our internal quarterly safeguarding newsletter we organise specific training and presentations regularly that are open to all of our employees to join and be part of the conversation and the solution to some of the issues we came across.

It was a lovely surprise to be given this award and be recognised in this way. One of the investigations I have been working on recently has posed some very complex issues and we have had to ask ourselves a lot of questions around capacity, engagement and GDPR, while still keeping the customer’s wishes and his best interest at the heart of any actions needed to reduce the risk of harm and neglect in the future.”

Sandie Cox, HRCH said: *“Maria treats tenants with respect and seeks to engage them and obtain their consent for anything that concerns them. She builds relationships over time and earns trust. She found a way to get a tenant the support he needed in the way he wanted it and to be supported by his chosen person and be in control of his care delivery. Maria uses the lightest touch appropriate to the risk and seeks clarity from other professionals e.g. re health risks. She makes herself available for MDT meetings, makes extra visits/calls to adults at risk to support and reassure them when this is needed. She is a fantastic partner, gets her actions completed promptly and reports back. She puts the tenant and their rights and wishes at the centre of what she does.”*



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’**.

Update from SAB Executive

The SAB Executive met on 26 July 2021 and discussed the report from the [Robert SAR](#), which was signed off. The Executive heard updates from the sub-groups and signed off the updated [Vision and Strategy](#) and [Business Plan](#) following the last Annual General Meeting, and the new Making Safeguarding Personal factsheet. It was also agreed to use the Safeguarding Annual Partnership Assessment Tool (SAPAT) from London ADASS for self-assessment tool, to cover both last financial year and the first half of 2021/22.

The Safeguarding Adults Practice Awards had a new nomination, which is presented in this issue.

Performance and Workforce Sub-group



The Performance and Workforce Sub-group has not met since its last meeting on 14 June 2021.

A Task and Finish Group meets every month to discuss progress on the many actions from Safeguarding Adult Reviews, which are all progressing. A masterclass on Mental Capacity Act, Making Safeguarding Personal with Self-neglect was held virtually on 13th July with 84 attendees, the highest attended event of the RWSAB to date. The feedback from the session was very positive and we thank our colleagues Haidar Ramadan and Marino Latour for all their work on it.

The next planned event is the [Professional Curiosity and Unconscious Bias webinar](#) scheduled for 09 September 2021 @14.00.

Communication and Engagement Sub-group



The Sub-group met virtually on 11 August 2021 and members provided verbal updates on their work. Vaccination encouragement messages and testing are still

high on the agenda for both Communications teams, as is Domestic Violence and violence against women in public spaces. The sub-group also discussed updates to the RWSAB Comms and Engagement Plan.

The Richmond Community Forum met virtually on 23 June 2021 and the Wandsworth Community Forum met virtually on 21 July 2021. Both Forums discussed the Adult Social Care virtual training offer to voluntary groups, raising awareness of the Mental Health Transitions Protocol, RWSAB Safeguarding Adults Practice Awards and the **National Safeguarding Adults Week (15-21 November 2021)** where agreed to share and open up events they are organising where possible to other agencies, to maximise reach.

Safeguarding Adult Review (SAR) Sub-group



The Sub-group met on 05 July 2021. There was one new referral, which did not meet the criteria for a SAR.

One previously commissioned SAR, Robert, was completed and the 7-minute learning can be found on the [RWSAB website](#). Action plans from previously completed SARs have generated a large number of actions, which are now in progress and monitored by the Sub-groups. Agencies leading on actions are encouraged to ensure that activities around their actions commence as soon as possible.