



# Safeguarding Adults

## News

ISSUE NUMBER 39  
Q2 2025/26



### Spotlight on...

## Simon SAR – trauma and substance misuse

### In this issue:

#### What Happened?

Simon, a 54-year-old white British man, had a history of alcohol dependency, physical and mental health issues. Although not recorded as having a learning disability, his family stated he had severe learning challenges and was illiterate. Simon experienced significant trauma, including bereavement and a critical illness in 2016, and relied on support from his sister and nephews. Simon accessed his general practitioner (GP) when prompted but then did not attend hospital appointments for urgent assessment and treatment when referrals were made for him.

He was articulate and charismatic and professionals seeing him considered he had mental capacity and so his refusal to accept care was deemed to be an unwise decision. There did not seem to be consideration of his traumas when he was not engaging, and professionals did not seem to see him beyond his alcohol dependency.

#### What Did We Learn?

- Mental capacity assessments are not consistently conducted in a time- and decision-specific manner across health and social care, leading to missed cognitive impairments related to chronic alcohol dependency.
- Individuals with alcohol dependency who are not homeless often experience discriminatory practices – both culturally and organisationally – which result in their health and care needs being overlooked and insufficient safeguarding responses.
- Communication tools designed to support identification of clinical deterioration in adults are not routinely used, increasing the risk of late hospital admissions and unrecognised severity of illness.
- Many professionals are unaware that the existing palliative care pathway covers non-malignant conditions, such as end-stage liver disease or heart failure, which means those with chronic alcohol dependencies may miss out on necessary palliative support.

#### ✔ Key Messages for Frontline Staff

- **Adopt a trauma-informed approach** – Understand how past trauma affects behaviour and engagement.
- **Be proactive with outreach** – Maintain contact with those who disengage.
- **Share information promptly** – Avoid gaps in care through timely communication.
- **Plan around the person** – Tailor interventions to individual needs and circumstances.
- **Access Palliative Care** – Use the available pathways to support individuals and families with necessary palliative support.
- **Mental Capacity** – Consider alcohol dependency's effects on brain and cognitive function when assessing mental capacity.
- **Work together** – Coordinate across agencies for holistic support.

[Simon SAR report.pdf](#)   [Simon SAR 7-minute briefing.pdf](#)

➤ Spotlight on: *Simon SAR*

➤ Togetherall – *New Mental Health service across South-West London*

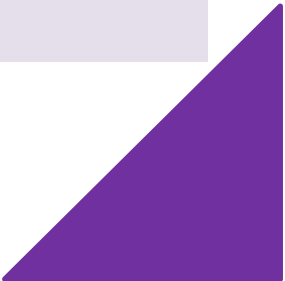
➤ Welfare and safeguarding support in community sport

➤ Training and resources:

- ❖ *Event on MCA in November*
- ❖ *RWSAB Annual Report published*
- ❖ *Professional Curiosity resource pack*
- ❖ *New NRM Form*
- ❖ *Free eLearning from Ann Craft Trust on recognising financial abuse*
- ❖ *Missing from hospitals, health and care settings*
- ❖ *Richmond Women's Hub*
- ❖ *Financial Hardship – a 7-minute briefing from DWP*

➤ Good Practice Guidance for supporting people with learning disabilities and autism

➤ Updates from SAB Executive and Sub-groups



## Togetherall Service Across SWL London

Togetherall is a **free, anonymous, online mental health support service** now available to all residents aged 16+ across South-West London — including Kingston, Richmond, Wandsworth, Merton, Sutton, and Croydon. It offers a safe space for people to look after their mental wellbeing, particularly those who may be waiting for support, in between sessions, or are not ready to access face-to-face services.

Togetherall provides:

- **24/7 access to an anonymous peer-to-peer support community**, where people can share experiences and connect with others facing similar challenges
- **Clinical moderation by trained mental health professionals**, ensuring a safe and supportive environment
- **Self-guided tools, resources and courses** on topics such as anxiety, depression, stress, and sleep

Togetherall is **accessible anytime, from any device**, making it a flexible and inclusive option for a wide range of individuals.

**To signpost someone to Togetherall**, simply direct them to: [togetherall.com/swlondon](https://togetherall.com/swlondon)

They can register in minutes and get immediate access to support. Use this service in your conversations, signposting pathways, or local engagement work to help more people take a first step toward mental wellbeing.

[Click here find out more about referring Togetherall.](#)

## Welfare and safeguarding support in Richmond and Wandsworth community sport

London Sports Welfare Team is dedicated to improving safeguarding practice and preventing abuse in sport and physical activity clubs in London. They offer FREE services alongside national governing bodies by:

Connecting club welfare officers and safeguarding leads with one another to share learnings and best practice within and across sports.

Supporting clubs, groups, and organisations through:


- Providing recommendations on best safeguarding practice
- Reviews of procedures, policies and guidance
- Delivering workshops and CPD training in-house or through external providers
- Club visits

Raising awareness of sport welfare issues, bringing national campaigns and events to local organisations and clubs, and signposting to key resources and services.

Enabling clubs to create safe and inclusive environments by signposting them to the correct guidelines and partnering with National Governing Bodies and Local Authority Designated Officers.

Contact them on: [swo@londonsport.org](mailto:swo@londonsport.org) or via <https://londonsport.org/ourwork/sport-welfare/>

## Training and resources



Webinar with Alex Ruck Keene on the **application of Mental Capacity Act in complex cases and self-neglect**

Date: 19<sup>th</sup> November 2025

Platform – MS Teams (virtual)



We are pleased to announce that the Richmond and Wandsworth Safeguarding Adults Board **Annual Report for 2024/25** is now available [on our website](#). The report offers key insights into our work and accomplishments in safeguarding adults across our communities.



[Resources around Professional Curiosity](#) – the pack provides practical guidance and reflective prompts to embed curiosity into safeguarding and support professional practice. There is also an NHS resource around professional curiosity, which can be found [here](#).



[New National Referral Mechanism \(NRM\) Form](#) for reporting Modern Slavery.



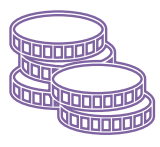
[Understanding Financial Capability & Recognising Financial Abuse](#) – free eLearning course from the Ann Craft Trust helping people control their finances while recognising the risks of financial abuse.



[Missing from hospitals, health and care settings](#): An analysis of Reports to Prevent Future Deaths and Safeguarding Adult Reviews.



[Richmond Women's Hub](#) – the Richmond Women's Hub is a free, weekly community Space supporting women in Richmond, particularly those affected by domestic abuse, violence, isolation, and mental health challenges. Meetings take place every Wednesday from 11:00-14:30 at The Vineyard Community Centre, Richmond, TW10 6AQ. The sessions include wellbeing activities, creative workshops, peer support, and a welcoming environment, all free and open to women from all backgrounds.



[Financial Hardship](#) – a 7-minute briefing from DWP



## Good Practice Guidance

We are sharing ADASS/LGA Partners in Care and Health's good practice guidance series, which offers professionals tools to support autistic people and those with learning disabilities. See some of the publications below.

### Diagnostic overshadowing and how it impacts on people with a learning disability and autistic people

This guide from Partners in Care and Health helps council staff understand diagnostic overshadowing, its effects on people with learning disabilities and autistic individuals and offers strategies to prevent it in practice.

### Commissioning self-advocacy as a basis for effective co-production

Self-advocacy is essential for upholding human rights. This resource offers guidance on commissioning self-advocacy and peer support for people with learning disabilities and autistic people.

### Best practice and insights report on improving housing choice for people with a learning disability

This report provides evidence of good practice and insights in relation to people with a learning disability having access to and living in 'mainstream' housing.



## Update from SAB Executive

The SAB Executive met in May and July via MS Teams and covered sub-group reports, and partner updates. Key issues discussed included the Drug and Alcohol-Related Deaths (DARD) Report and Safeguarding links from the findings, signing off the Business Plan and the Annual Report 2024/25. Updates were provided on interface with Children's Partnerships and issues arising from SAB Chairs' Network.

### Quality and Improvement Sub-group



The Quality and Improvement Sub-group met in June and September 2025. Key discussions included considering a mapping analysis of Safeguarding location of abuse (specifically people's own homes, where majority of abuse occurs) compared with areas of deprivation. The comparison showed noteworthy differences between Richmond and Wandsworth, and agreed to follow up with this analysis every year to better understand trends. Updates on training compliance were shared, with high compliance rates for safeguarding and mental capacity act training.

### Safeguarding Adult Review (SAR) Sub-group



The SAR Sub-group met in July and September 2025. One new referral were received for Wandsworth and discussed by the SAR Sub-group, with a recommendation that it met the mandatory criteria for a SAR, awaiting agreement by the SAB Executive. Discussions will follow on methodology.

You can access via the website the [Published reports](#) and [7-minute briefings](#) for all SARs.

## Richmond and Wandsworth Community Forums



The Richmond Community Forum met in June and September 2025. The group discussed scams data, the performance dashboard, had presentations around what constitutes a good Safeguarding referral and about the Safeguarding in Sport support provided by London Sport.

The Wandsworth Community Forum met in July 2025 and heard an update around the work with prison and homelessness; had presentation around what constitutes a good Safeguarding referral and discussed the performance dashboard.