

Briefing on Self Neglect for Social Services Board

1. Background

- 1.1. The Independent Chair of the Surrey Safeguarding Adults Board (SSAB), Simon Turpitt, attended an earlier meeting of the Social Services Board to present the SSAB Annual Report. At that meeting, members of the Board requested a further update on issues of self-neglect and partners response to this. This briefing fulfils that request.
- 1.2. The duty to safeguarding adults applies to adults who are aged 18 or over, who have care and support needs, and because of those needs are unable to protect themselves from abuse or neglect (or the risk of it). The Care Act came into effect in April 2015 and this made self-neglect a type of neglect that requires a safeguarding response, led by the Local Authority. Since that time, the following activity has taken place in Surrey.

2. Data

- 2.1. SSAB has been gathering data on self neglect since the Care Act came in. The data is obtained annually and shared with all members of the Board.
- 2.2. Adult Social Care have recently implemented a new IT system and it is anticipated this will enable data on self neglect to be available quarterly.
- 2.3. It should be noted that all agencies are encouraged to report self neglect therefore an increasing number of reported cases is not necessarily an issue, it is likely to indicate professionals heightened awareness.
- 2.4. For the first year that data was available, 2015 – 2016, 2% of the case of the safeguarding enquiries undertaken in Surrey, related to self neglect. This figure is likely to increase as awareness of this abuse, is raised.

3. Multi Agency self neglect Protocol

- 3.1. To assist partners work together to respond to cases of self neglect, in January 2016 all agencies on SSAB agreed a Protocol on identifying and responding to self neglect. This supports all workers, including volunteers, to identify, respond and co-operate in suspected cases of self-neglect. This policy is publically available on the website at: www.surreycc.gov.uk/SSAB-Policy-and-Procedures-on-self-neglect.pdf

4. Snapshot Briefing

4.1. SSAB members have agreed a briefing sheet that contains the essential information on self neglect in an easy to read form. This is particularly useful for agencies that may come into contact with people who self neglect but who are not safeguarding professionals, for example, people who work in the voluntary sector. This briefing is publically available on the website at: www.surreycc.gov.uk/Self-neglect-snapshot-briefing.pdf

5. Learning lessons from Safeguarding Adults Reviews (previously called Serious Case Reviews)

5.1. Partner agencies on the SSAB are keen to learn lessons on how to respond effectively to cases of self neglect. To achieve this, agencies have been looking at the circumstances and recommendations in Safeguarding Adults Reviews (SAR) from other areas. In particular, the Board and the 5 local Safeguarding Adults Groups have studied the SAR undertaken in Camden that identified important learning.

6. Training

6.1. SSAB runs a multi agency training programme. This includes a course on self neglect. All agencies are able to book on the course. 6 courses have been offered this financial year with a capacity to take 20 people at each session. In addition, individual major agencies such as Health and Social Care run their own training in this area.

7. Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH)

7.1. In October last year, Surrey launched the MASH. This involves co-locating staff from ASC, Childrens Services, Police, Health, Surrey Fire & Rescue Services so they can work together to safeguard all residents in Surrey. An important part of this service is early identification of concerns, including in relation to self-neglect. To support this, agencies are working together on an 'Early Help Module' for the IT system that will enable ASC to collate information on lower level concerns more easily. This will support agencies work together on cases of self neglect that have been identified but do not yet require the full response under Section 42 of the Care Act.

8. SSAB Newsletter

8.1. SSAB has published items in the newsletter to support agencies identify and respond to self neglect. SSAB publishes a newsletter quarterly to over 800 recipients. In addition it is publically available on the website: www.surreycc.gov.uk/safeguarding-adults-board-newsletters

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