

7 Minute Briefing – National Analysis of Safeguarding Adult Reviews

Safeguarding in Walsall

The WSP is underpinned by The Care Act 2014. We plan and deliver a catalogue of safeguarding training to colleagues across Walsall in line with local need. We identify and oversee all SARs and learning reviews. We engage with adults in Walsall through regular groups and forums as part of our Engagement Strategy. Their views and feedback represent the voice of adults with care and support needs and help us quality assure and shape Safeguarding services.

We play a key role in developing local practice in line with our strategic priorities: Child Neglect, Adult Self Neglect and All Age Exploitation. We quality assure multi agency systems and practice to ensure the needs of adults with care and support needs living in Walsall are met.

National Analysis of Safeguarding Adult Reviews

This was the first national analysis of Safeguarding Adult Reviews (SARs) in England. Its purpose was to identify priorities for sector-led improvement and looked at SARs undertaken between April 2017 and March 2019.

Building on published regional thematic reviews and analyses focusing on specific types of abuse and neglect, the analysis fills a significant gap in the knowledge base about adult safeguarding across all types of abuse and neglect

Click on the link for the full [report](#).

Methodology

Material for analysis was collected from Safeguarding Adult Boards (SABs), 98% of which (129/132) responded to the request for published and unpublished reviews.

This material was triangulated with SARs available in the national repository held by the Social Care Institute for Excellence, and from SAB and other web sites.

In total 231 SARs are included in the analysis representing the work of 103 SABs. A data collection framework tool was used to gather structured and unstructured data, which were subject to quantitative and qualitative thematic analysis.

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Reflections

This highlights the importance of analysing cases to begin to answer the question of what else adult safeguarding needs to learn, for example about hate crime, organisational abuse or self-neglect, when creating a context in which best practice can thrive. SARs also commented on good practice and recognised that much practice is unheralded, person-centred and committed to prevention, empowerment, and protection.

Analysis took place during the COVID-19 pandemic which has shown the best of health and social care staff, emergency services and others on whom people at risk rely.

The most common health concern reported was mental health and chronic physical conditions. The most common living situations were living alone and in group care; the most common location for the abuse/neglect was the person's own home, followed by residential/nursing care. The most common perpetrator of abuse was 'self', followed by care providers. 25 cases involved adults who were or had been homeless. In most cases criminal prosecutions had not been pursued. In 16.2% prosecution had concluded, with custodial sentence being the most common outcome. The theme of imprecision was noted, with reports omitting details of outcomes or reasons for investigations being discontinued, but the analysis also highlights the importance of collaboration between those investigating abuse and neglect to ensure a clear focus on how to achieve best evidence.

Case Analysis

263 people were involved in the SARs, 81% of whom had died. There were slightly more men than women and the average age was 55. Few SARs provided information about, or analysed, the impact of sexuality and ethnicity.

Themes

Themes are categorised across 4 domains: direct practice, interagency working, organisational features, and SAB governance. Detailed below are the most prominent themes in each category and the number of mentions each received.

Top good practice themes:

- Responding to health (56)
- Information sharing (53)
- Management scrutiny (10)
- SAR management (3)

Top poor practice themes:

- Mental capacity (138)
- Case coordination (168)
- Information sharing (162)
- Staffing/workloads (64)
- Self-neglect policy (15)
- Escalation policy (14)

Top recommendation themes:

- Risk assessments (72)
- Case coordination (126)
- Training (90)
- Learning dissemination (75)

Types of Abuse & Neglect

The 231 reviews in the sample investigated a range of types of abuse and neglect, sometimes including multiple types per case, the most common were:

- Self-neglect 45%
- Neglect/omission 37%
- Physical Abuse 19%
- Organisational Abuse 14%
- Financial Abuse 13%

Modern slavery, sexual abuse, and sexual exploitation occurred more prevalently in younger people, whereas neglect and abuse by omission occurred more in those who were older. Psychological/emotional abuse and modern slavery were more prevalent for females. Financial, physical abuse and self-neglect were more prevalent for males.