

7 Minute Briefing: Multi-Agency Audit Qtr3 Adult Exploitation

7

What else?

- The WSP delivery group are refreshing the Exploitation pages on the WSP Website ([Children](#) and [Adults](#)) which will provide information and practical support for practitioners and managers.
- Partners from the WSP and the Community Safety Partnership are currently working with Professor Helen Lowey to complete an All-Age Exploitation Strategic Needs Assessment which will inform a revised strategy and dataset to inform the local exploitation profile in Walsall to be developed.
- **Subscribe to our newsletter for alerts** www.walsallsp.co.uk



1

Why?

- Exploitation as a form of abuse can be perpetrated in different ways such as sexual, criminal exploitation and modern slavery.
- All-Age Exploitation is a strategic priority for Walsall Safeguarding Partnership (WSP). WSP adopt an All-Age approach to exploitation recognising the importance of adopting a more co-ordinated focus on prevention, identification and response to risk and engagement of the communities in Walsall.
- Multi-agency audits are undertaken to assess the quality of practice, identify best practice and learning.

6

What you can do to improve your practice

Making a referral to the Exploitation Hub strengthens your intervention whilst potentially contributing to an intelligence picture that could reduce risk not only to the adult that you are working with but other adults and possibly children.

Are you able to speak confidently to adults that you are working with the support that they can access from agencies such as CGL The Beacon, Street Teams and Black Country Women's Aid. These services can provide continuing relationship-based support to continue to address needs and risks after the s.42 enquiry has been concluded.



2

What did we do?

A 'deep dive' audit of 5 randomly selected adults where exploitation was identified as a category within the referral and the s.42 enquiry had concluded with discussions with practitioners.

Multi-agency practice in relation to 2 adults was rated as requires improvement, 1 inadequate with the remaining 2 were not rated as the enquiry had not been concluded.

Adults were all white/British, 3 female, 2 male with ages ranging from 24-89. Partners from Adult Social Care, West Midlands Ambulance, Police, Fire Service, General Practitioners, Black Country Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust and Housing were involved in the audit.

5

What you can do to improve your practice

- Be explicit when obtaining, recording consent and how you have gathered the wishes and feelings at key points of the process.
- Understand the circumstances where consent is likely to be overridden. Always speak to your manager, record the rationale and undertake safety planning with the adult.
- Consulting with appropriate partner agencies and using a Mult-Disciplinary Team approach (MDT) will result in a holistic assessment to understand needs, the different elements of risk and the safety plan required to achieve improved outcomes.

4

Areas for Development

Referrals into the Exploitation Hub were not consistently evidenced as part of the s.42 enquiry impacting on the assessment of need, risk, and opportunities for disruption. For some adults, consideration of whether to undertake Mental Capacity Act assessments needed to evidence consideration of the impact of coercion, control, and grooming upon issues of consent and informed decision making. Limited multi-agency approach to some safeguarding enquiries due to appropriate agencies such as GP's and BCFHT not being engaged impacting on the quality of the assessment, decision making and plan. Safeguarding plans need to be improved by being developed with adults and appropriate agencies and evidencing support and risk management with contingencies.

3

Good Practice

- Work with some adults was person centred, relationship based, and outcome focused demonstrating a good application of Making Safeguarding Personal principles.
- A few examples of proportionate risk assessments being undertaken with one good example of exploration of the context, historical concerns and risks as part of the lateral checks with agencies.
- Some evidence of effective partnership working with both adults and agencies resulting in information being shared and risks being reduced.