

7 Minute Briefing: Adults Multi-Agency Audit on Adults with a Learning Disability



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What can you do now?

- Ensure you discuss the safeguarding concern with the adult or their advocate and ask for their consent.
- Ensure you ask the adult / their advocate what they wish the desired outcome to be and record this on the referral form and your agency records.
- Ensure safeguarding incidents are linked back to any previous concerns as part of a holistic overview.
- For more information on applying the Mental Capacity Act and Making Safeguarding Personal within your practice please consult the West Midlands Safeguarding Adults Procedures.

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Areas for Development

- Recording the adults wishes and outcomes could have been clearer and more robust in the documentation.
- Join up of previous safeguarding concerns could have been strengthened by the Police.
- Consistent use of advocates.
- Consistent information sharing and feedback to relevant agencies.

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Good Practice

- There were robust Mental Capacity Act assessments undertaken in 4 of 5 cases.
- Best interests' decisions were undertaken in 2 of 5 cases.
- Robust planning discussions were undertaken in 2 of the 5 cases.
- The voice of the adult was clear, their wishes and feelings recorded, and the safeguarding referral was discussed with parents/advocate in 3 cases.
- Risk assessments were undertaken, and risk factors put in place in 2 cases.
- Good information sharing in 2 cases.

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Key Findings

The audit highlighted that although there was some good practice with the understanding and application of the Mental Capacity Act and Making Safeguarding Personal, there remains inconsistencies in practice in these areas. There were missed opportunities for information sharing between partners, however, it is recognised that case by case and proportionate information sharing should be followed. There was a significant amount of discussion about involving GPs and sending outcomes for all safeguarding to them and the Learning Disability Team. This is not currently a practice of the Local Authority as it is not deemed proportionate information sharing where the GP is not involved in the safeguarding episode.

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Background

As part of the Walsall Safeguarding Partnership multi-agency audit calendar for 2021- 2022 an audit on adults with learning disabilities was undertaken.

The panel met to analyse the findings on the 16th December 2021. The partners who took part in the audit were from Adult Social Care, Black Country Healthcare Trust, Walsall Healthcare Trust, West Midlands Police, Walsall Housing Group and GPs.

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Aim of the Audit

The purpose of the audit was to assess the multi-agency partnership's response to adults by responding to the following key lines of enquiry:

- Were agencies aware of the safeguarding referral?
- Was there evidence of effective application of Making Safeguarding Personal?
- Was the Mental Capacity Act applied in relation to the safeguarding concern?
- Is there evidence that the need for advocacy has been considered/ offered?
- Was the risk identified, responded to and reduced in a timely way?
- Is agencies' case recording clear, comprehensive and reflective of work undertaken and focussed on the experience and progress of the adult?
- Was the agency appropriately involved in the safeguarding process and informed of the outcomes?

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Overview

The sample of cases comprised of 5 adults with a learning disability where a safeguarding referral had been made to the Local Authority.

Overall, the multi-agency audit team judged:

- 1 case **Good**
- 4 cases **Requires Improvement**