



Portsmouth Safeguarding Adults Board Newsletter Issue 7 June 2024

Welcome to the PSAB newsletter!

Welcome to the latest edition of the PSAB newsletter. For our summer issue we have guest articles on a recent conference on honour-based abuse and forced marriage, lots of new resources for professionals, and the publication of the new PSAB strategy:

- PSAB strategy
- Learning about self-neglect
- Safeguarding Concerns guidance consultation
- Mental Capacity topics - voting and covert medication
- Honour-based abuse and forced marriage - conference reflections (guest article)
- Learning from audits - Safeguarding Self-Audit and MARM
- Book review - *When It Is Darkest*
- New resources for professionals
- Upcoming Training and Events

If you have any feedback about this newsletter please let us know at PSAB@portsmouthcc.gov.uk. If you could contribute a guest article on a safeguarding topic, please get in touch.

Call us:

023 92841786

Email us:

PSAB@portsmouthcc.gov.uk

Connect with us:

www.portsmouthsab.uk

Twitter/X @PortsmouthSAB

YouTube @portsmouthSAB



PSAB Strategy

We have now published the PSAB strategic plan for 2023-28. Our key priorities are:

1. Hear and champion the voice of the service user and front-line practitioners.
2. Challenge stigma, marginalisation and unconscious bias.
3. Ensure safeguarding practice is done well across agencies and between agencies.
4. Support the effective identification, assessment and coordinated management of risk.

Find out more about our strategy [here](#).

Learning about Self-Neglect and Hoarding

In April we held a **workshop for practitioners who work directly with people who self-neglect and hoard in the community**. 60 people attended and we heard from a range of guest speakers on topics including 'Working with people who self-neglect and hoard', 'Fire, self-neglect and partnership working', and 'Understanding the Mental Capacity Act when working with adults who self-neglect and hoard'. We also heard from a Portsmouth resident with lived experience of self-neglect. All the **slides from the event are available on the [PSAB website](#)** along with some videos of personal stories about hoarding.

Recently we also carried out a staff survey about self-neglect and hoarding. Thank you to everyone who responded. Along with a deep dive into the data on self-neglect and the learning from the workshop, we have used the information to **update and revise our [Multi-Agency Guidance on Responding to Self-Neglect](#)** with new content, tools and resources, and produce a new [One Minute Guide](#) and [Learning Briefing on Self-Neglect](#).

Living Room – Red Risk

Scale 7



Scale 8



Scale 9



Clutter rating tool for living room (available in [4LSAB Hoarding Guidance](#))

Safeguarding concerns guidance - consultation

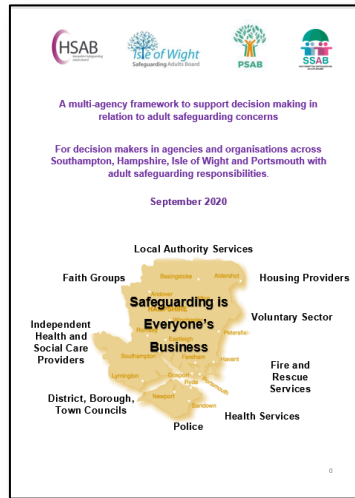
We are due to review our [4LSAB Safeguarding Concerns Guidance](#) in the coming months and we are asking for your views on how well it has been received and how we can make it more useful for practitioners in future.

The guidance is a multi-agency framework to support professionals to make decisions about when to report safeguarding concerns and includes:

- Framework – flow charts, core messages
- Tools to support decision making
- Case studies

- Protocols for Falls and Pressure Ulcers (being reviewed separately)

If you would like to tell us how well you feel the guidance is working to support you, please complete the [brief survey](#) by **Friday 26th July**.



Mental Capacity topics - voting and covert medication

With the General Election coming up soon you may find [this blog](#) helpful which explains why **‘mental capacity’ is not a legal requirement for voting** - in fact the Mental Capacity Act specifically states it does not apply to decisions on voting. Everybody who is entitled to vote should be given the opportunity to do so, and not prevented from it if they would like to vote. More information about voting in the election is available on the [government website](#) (remember the deadline to register to vote is 11.59pm on 18th June).

Health and Care Portsmouth has recently issued new guidance for Health and Social Care professionals on [Covert Medication Administration in Residential Care and Supported Living](#). The guidance explains that giving treatment without consent is a breach of Article 8 of the European Convention on Human Rights and sets out the steps and procedures which need to be followed to determine when the administration of medication can be disguised.

Honour-based abuse and forced marriage (guest article)

Sophie Lyon (Assistant Team Manager, Adult Safeguarding Team) and Rosie Coldrick (ASYE Social Worker) from Adult Social Care recently attended an online conference on honour-based abuse and forced marriage and have written about their reflections on the event for the newsletter.

Sophie writes: 'I was fortunate to attend a digital conference on Honour-Based Abuse (HBA) and Forced Marriage facilitated by Westminster Insights and Home Office. The contents of the conference were at times harrowing, yet equally inspiring to hear the steps and current campaigns within both a political and public sector arena to seek momentum in HBA having a statutory definition, footing and guidance for victims, survivors and professionals. This is with the objective to seek continuity of interpretation to identify, respond and facilitate better collaboration, coordinate and cohesive responses to HBA....'

Several of the speakers discussed the interpretation and misconceptions of what it means by the term culture. There was an emphasis on the use of the language in this sense, and the essence surrounding culture, and fear and repercussions of "abandoning" their culture through the voice of

both victims and survivors means that we need to understand and define culture itself and in the context of the individual.

There was differentiation between cultural sensitivity, which everyone should be consciously aware of when engaging with individuals and then cultural relatives. There were two examples given around assumptions and unconscious use of cultural relatives which can covertly demonstrate discriminatory practice. This is born in values and ethics and should not be based on professionals' norms and values. It was rightfully voiced that we cannot use culture as a justification, HBA is a crime and not a culture.'

Rosie reflects: 'We were presented with the actions being taking to ensure appropriate and adequate protection and support of victims and survivors and the barriers faced in implementing this. This relied heavily on a call to government for a statutory legal definition of honour-based abuse, with the intention to promote consistent reporting, appropriate resource allocation, informed decision making and essential frameworks on how professionals can better recognise the acts of honour-based abuse and to improve the support that is provided.'

The powerful voices of those with lived experiences talked of their battles with their cultural identity and their strength to escape a cycle of generational abuse. They spoke openly about the profound and devastating impact that is both psychological and physical.'

Read the full reflections from Sophie and Rosie [here](#), including Sophie's tips on learning for future practice.

Access the [4LSAB Guidance on Honour Based Abuse, Forced Marriage and Female Genital Mutilation](#).

Learning from our MARM audit

The PSAB carries out audits of important areas of safeguarding as part of our role in assuring ourselves that safeguarding processes are working effectively in the city. We recently carried out an audit of how the Multi-Agency Risk Management Framework is used. This included a panel of auditors from different organisations looking at a sample of MARM meeting minutes, and a multi-agency workshop to hear from practitioners about what is working well (including some case studies where MARM had been used to achieve positive outcomes for adults), and what is challenging about MARM.

We found some good practice, especially when compared to our last audit of MARM:

- **More attendance** at MARMs by a **wider range of agencies**
- The **cases discussed** at MARM were more **appropriate**
- **Mental capacity of the adult was documented** in the majority of cases
- Evidence of **creative thinking**
- Good level of **engagement** from those in attendance at the meetings and a **collaborative approach**
- **High level of focus on the wellbeing of the adult** and **genuine concern** from agencies involved

Areas for improvement were:

- **Action plans** were not always SMART and not linked to risks identified. There was a lack of deadlines/prioritisation and no review of previous actions.

- **Recording of risk** – lack of analysis of risks in terms of specificity, severity and impact on person. Escalation plans were not documented for unmitigated risks.
- **Involvement of adult** – no MARM had adult in attendance. Most MARMs considered the views of adult to some extent, but this was not always linked to actions.
- **Legal powers** – lack of robust consideration of full range of powers, eg Care Act assessment/safeguarding.
- **MARM minutes template** – the new [2023 template](#) wasn't widely used. Agencies were using own versions, and often sections/prompts had been removed from the template. The action plan in the template could be more useful.

The Board agreed some recommendations as a result of the audit, which are currently being taken forward by a task and finish group - including developing training for chairs and minute takers, MARM champions, shadowing and mentoring opportunities, good practice examples, and improvements to templates.

The MARM framework, toolkit, and podcast can be found on our [Policies and Procedures page](#).

Safeguarding Self-Audit

Every two years we ask our partners to carry out a self-audit of their safeguarding arrangements, covering topics like leadership and governance, learning and development, recruitment, making safeguarding personal, and mental capacity. This helps the PSAB to assure itself that safeguarding is working well, and helps organisations to identify any areas for improvement.

This year the return rate was very good, and we were encouraged by the returns received which contained many examples of good practice. Some of the main areas where gaps were identified were:

Fire Safety	People with care and support needs are much more likely to die or be seriously hurt in a fire. Not all providers were familiar with the fire safety framework or how to refer to the Fire Service for a Safe and Well visit. The framework is available on our website along with a short introductory video. We also publish an annual fire safety learning briefing which are available on our website .
Alcohol/self neglect	Alcohol and self-neglect are often factors in safeguarding adults reviews. The 4LSAB has updated our Self-Neglect Guidance which will include additional tools for practitioners. The Portsmouth SAB website has a resource page on alcohol including webinars.
Mental Capacity Act (specifically executive capacity)	Partners are encouraged to read the 7-minute guide on Mental Capacity and attend training. The PSAB is hoping to provide some specific training on Executive capacity in the coming year.
Advocacy	The 4LSAB has a one minute guide to Advocacy Details of your local advocacy provider are: Portsmouth: SWAN Advocacy

Thank you to everyone who was involved in completing the self-audit.

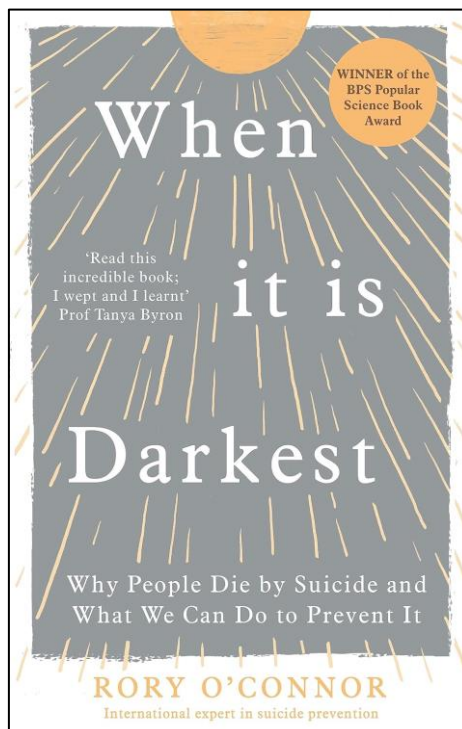


Book Review - *When It Is Darkest*

Written by Rory O'Connor, a leading researcher on suicide, *When It Is Darkest* offers an introduction to why people die by suicide and what we can do to prevent it. Despite the seriousness of the subject matter, the book was surprisingly readable as well as being informative, practical and thought-provoking. I especially liked the way the author included insights from the people he has met over the years who have survived suicide attempts, and from bereaved relatives, which helps illustrate the theoretical aspects of the book. The book covers:

- myths about suicide
- the author's model of suicidal behaviour
- research into what works in preventing suicide
- warning signs that someone may be suicidal
- tips for asking about suicide
- directory of resources

Locally, information on where to get help can be found [here](#) and you can access Suicide First Aid Lite training [here](#).



New resources for professionals

We have published new [4LSAB Adult Sexual Exploitation Guidance](#) which provides advice and information to support multi-agency working with adults who are experiencing or at risk of experiencing Adult Sexual Exploitation.

The [Guidance on Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking](#) has been updated, including a new version of the victim pathway and a new directory.

We have published refreshed [Guidance on Responding to Self-neglect](#) which includes new case studies, a directory of support, practical tips and information on the cycle of change. A supporting [One Minute Guide](#) and [Learning Briefing on Self-Neglect](#) are also available.

We have reviewed and updated the [Large Scale S42 Safeguarding Enquiry Protocol](#).

The [Guidance on Adult Safeguarding Roles and Responsibilities](#) has been updated.

The NIHR Health & Social Care Workforce Research Unit has released a new 4-minute video on their research findings on [strengthening adult safeguarding responses to homelessness and self-neglect](#).

The Local Government Association has produced a [Briefing for Practitioners on the learning from their Second National Analysis of Safeguarding Adults Reviews](#). It aims to support best practice in direct work and to promote the achievement of positive outcomes.

Upcoming Training and Events - 2024/25 dates

Abuse of Position for a Sexual Purpose

Hampshire & Isle of Wight Constabulary's Anti-Corruption Unit would like to invite you to a short training session on abuse of position for sexual purpose. The session covers:

- Spotting warning signs
- Reporting concerns to the force
- Reviews and appeals

This presentation is aimed at practitioners who work directly with vulnerable people in Portsmouth, and is also relevant for those working in the wider Hampshire, Southampton and IOW area.

The training session will be delivered by Chris Stevens-Ballard, ACU Investigator and PREVENT officer.

The session will last about an hour and will include an opportunity to ask questions.

Booking information:

This training is hybrid. To attend online via Teams, there is no need to book. Please put the session in your diary and join using the Teams link below. To attend in person, please use the Eventbrite booking link below to book a space.

Wednesday 3rd July 2024 2-3pm (Online OR Conference room B, Civic Offices, Portsmouth)

Attend online (no need to book) [Click here to join the meeting](#)

Attend in person (booking essential) [Book on Eventbrite](#)

For further information or queries, please contact PSAB@portsmouthcc.gov.uk

The Importance of Community Partnership Information (CPI) Sharing

Aim and learning outcomes:

- In what circumstances the form should be used
- When to call 999/101 to report a crime and when to do a CPI instead
- The importance of sharing information with police and how this relates to GDPR and the data protection act
- The journey of a CPI – what can the results be?
- How the form should be completed
- Common errors seen when partners complete the forms
- How we protect the details of the source of any such information

Target audience:

All front-line practitioners. In particular this is aimed at social workers, health care workers and pharmacists/GPs, schools and care settings, those who work in housing and substance misuse support.

Dates and booking information:

This training is online via Microsoft Teams. There is no need to book. Please put the session in your diary and join using the Teams links below.

- Tuesday 16th July 2024 10.00-10.45 [Click here to join the meeting](#)
- Monday 14th October 2024 13.00 -13.45 [Click here to join the meeting](#)

Information Sharing (Clare's Law and Sarah's Law)

This course will give you confidence when it comes to:

- When and how to share information with vulnerable members of the public about people in their life for safeguarding reasons without the consent of the subject.
- What the Data Protection Act says about sharing information without consent.
- Clare's Law (DVDS) and Sarah's Law (CSODS) – the Right to Ask and the Right to Know.
- Where to find guidance from the government about when and how to share this information appropriately.
- The protections that exist for you if you share such information without consent in an appropriate manner.

This course is delivered by Hampshire and IOW Constabulary. It is aimed at any front-line practitioners working with children or adults at risk, including social workers, safeguarding leads, health workers, housing staff, teachers and those working in child care.

This training is online via Microsoft Teams. There is no need to book. Please put the session in your diary and join using the Teams links below.

- Tuesday 18th June 2024 14.00-15.15 [Click here to join the meeting](#)
- Thursday 12th September 2024 14.00-15.15 [Click here to join the meeting](#)

- Tuesday 3rd December 2024 09.30-10.45 [Click here to join the meeting](#)

Responding to Domestic Abuse

Delivered by Stop Domestic Abuse the “Responding to Domestic Abuse” training combines the previous ‘victim’- and ‘perpetrator’-focused training, and aims to:

- Define what is domestic abuse
- What does domestic abuse look like for: Victims, people using abusive behaviours, children, professionals
- To increase knowledge and challenge stereotypes of victim, people using abusive behaviours, children and professionals.
- Types of relationships
- Engaging with your service users
- Understanding and accessing the referral pathway
- Effective safety planning and its application to your practice

Training dates:

- 11th July 2024 – 9.30am – 4.30pm
- 12th September 2024 – 9.30am – 4.30pm
- 8th October 2024 – 9.30am – 4.30pm
- 6th February 2025 – 9.30am – 4.30pm
- 11th March 2025 – 9.30am – 4.30pm
- 14th May 2025 – 9.30am – 4.30pm
- 10th June 2025 – 9.30am – 4.30pm

To book a place contact Stop Domestic Abuse via email portsmouthtraining@stopdomesticabuse.uk. The venue will be confirmed once you are booked onto the course.