



Portsmouth Safeguarding Adults Board Newsletter Issue 9 December 2024

Welcome to the PSAB newsletter!

Welcome to the last PSAB newsletter of 2024. As always there's lots of news, updates and information in this issue:

- Ms K Safeguarding Adults Review
- Being trauma-informed
- Safeguarding Adults Week success
- Updates on Portsmouth services
- Learning from our Safeguarding Concerns audit
- 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.

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Ms K Safeguarding Adults Review

The Ms K Safeguarding Adults Review (SAR) was published in November. We carry out SARs to identify learning to improve our systems and our practice.

Ms K was in her 30s when she died. Those who knew her described her as a bright, bubbly person who loved singing and dancing and always took pride in her appearance. She was also a mum. Ms K had problems with alcohol use following a bereavement, and suffered from physical health conditions including diabetes, epilepsy, and liver disease. In the year leading up to her death, Ms K had a lot of contact with public services, usually at times when she was at significant risk, through intoxication, unconsciousness and physical injury. Colleagues suspected that she was experiencing abuse and neglect, including domestic abuse and self-neglect.

The SAR identified some good practice, including some responsive services and professionals who were professionally curious and able to build a relationship with Ms K. However there was also learning identified. We have published a [learning summary](#) which sets out the key findings from the review and some pointers for learning and reflection for professionals - including reminders about the local [domestic abuse pathway](#), the differences between [safeguarding](#) and the [multi-agency risk management framework](#), and resources on [working with people who are dependent on alcohol](#). As with all SARs that we publish, the PSAB will develop and monitor an action plan.

In the New Year we have some '**learning into practice**' sessions about recent SARs (Ms K and the Kim SAR which we published last year). These sessions will help you understand the key themes relating to these cases, and give you the opportunity to reflect on your own practice. This training is multi-agency and open to professionals from all partner agencies who work with adults in Portsmouth including social care, health, emergency services, housing and the voluntary sector. It is especially relevant for all staff working in Adult Social Care, Mental Health, Substance use and Housing.

This training is face to face at the Civic Offices, Portsmouth. Please click on the links to book:

- [Tue Jan 21 2025 2:00PM-4:00PM](#)
- [Tue Jan 28 2025 2:30 PM-4:30PM](#)
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- [Thu Feb 6 2025 9:15AM-12:15PM](#)

Please take the time to read the learning summary and share it with your colleagues, and we hope to see many of you at the learning sessions.

Being trauma-informed

Many of the SARs we have published recently - including [Ms K](#), [Kim](#), and [Ronnie](#) - have had learning about being 'trauma-informed' in the way we work with people. Trauma and adverse life events are extremely common and can lead to significant impact on individual's physical, emotional and social functioning. Recognising and understanding the impact of trauma is essential in enabling people to develop coping strategies and use support.

The Portsmouth Safeguarding Children Partnership hosts an excellent e-learning package on trauma informed care, which we recommend to everyone working with adults, families, children and young people in Portsmouth: [eLearning : Trauma Informed Care Training](#). You need to register an account to access the training but it is free.

The course aims to help staff understand:

- What is trauma
- Understanding the impact of trauma and how it presents
- How to detect and respond to it effectively
- How to work in a trauma-informed way
- How to look after yourself when supporting a traumatised individual

We also have a [One Minute Guide to Trauma-Informed Practice and Adverse Childhood Experiences](#).



Safeguarding Adults Week success

National Safeguarding Adults Week took place between 18th and 22nd November and was a great success. In Portsmouth we had a different theme for each day based on our local priorities, and we also worked with the neighbouring Safeguarding Boards in Hampshire, Southampton and IOW to host a programme of free Lunch and Learn sessions across the week. Many colleagues from across the City were able to join those sessions and we hope you found them useful and thought provoking.

Highlights for PSAB were hosting social workers from Southampton City Council who presented an [inspiring case study](#) about how they used their respective skills working with adults and children to support a family, and working alongside Hampshire SAB on the [self-neglect and hoarding awareness session](#), which was attended by over 80 people.

The resources for the week are still available on the [PSAB website](#) and recordings from the lunch and learn sessions have been added for the events that were recorded.

Updates on Portsmouth services

Project W

Project W launched in July and has gone from strength to strength. Project W is safe space solely for women which runs every Thursday from 10-4 at Ambition Portsmouth office (67 Kingston Road). It supports any Portsmouth women with any substance misuse need or history of rough sleeping.

Women can access:

- A recovery worker
- A family worker
- Domestic abuse support including weekly freedom programme,
- Weekly women health clinic including sexual health services and contraception services
- Cost of living support
- Peer support
- Activities such as mindful creativity workshop and acupuncture
- Onsite creche each week from 1-4pm

Feedback from women so far has been really positive:

"I love that it's a safe place, I can access multiple things in one and get support"

"it's a place where all women can meet feel safe and catch up and share."

For more information or for support accessing us - speak to Fran on 07464 981060 or just drop in.

Safer Together Hub

On Monday 25 November, the [Safer Together Hub](#) launched. The Hub aims to provide advice, guidance and information to anyone who is concerned about abuse, sexual violence or harassment. The Hub was developed in partnership with local councils, organisations and charities across Hampshire.

Mental Health Chat pilot

The Portsmouth Mental Health Hub has launched a live online chat, meaning people can get support for their mental health online, as well as over the phone.

The chat is hosted on the [Mental Health in Portsmouth](#) website and is available Monday to Friday, from 9am to 5pm.

The chat will be trialled for three months as part of the Portsmouth Mental Health Hub, which aims to be the first point of call for anyone struggling with their mental health.

Blue Lamp Trust - Bobby Scheme and Cyber Bobby

The Blue Lamp Trust is a non-profit organisation dedicated to promoting and enhancing community safety throughout Hampshire and the Isle of Wight.

The Bobby Scheme provides free home security visits, long-life smoke alarms and advice to vulnerable people, particularly older people and victims of burglary and domestic abuse.

The Cyber Bobby Scheme is a free service for older and disabled people. The aim of the service is to raise awareness about basic IT security. A trained volunteer will visit the person in their own home and will give advice and guidance on basic IT security and how to avoid being affected by a cyber crime or a cyber enabled crime. They also offer talks for community groups. Anyone can make a referral including individuals, friends, family, social workers etc.

Find out more: [Bobby Scheme Choice | THE BLUE LAMP TRUST](#).



Learning from our recent Safeguarding Concerns Audit

The PSAB's Quality Assurance subgroup recently carried out an audit of the quality of the safeguarding concerns. The multi-agency panel of auditors looked at a random sample of concerns that were received in August 2024, using an audit tool.

The auditors found that many concerns submitted were not appropriate, did not consider the views or wishes of the adults involved, or adequately record consent. Often the form used was not the latest version, and the forms often contained long narratives about the individual and what happened, but little analysis of risk or clear indication of what abuse or neglect the referrer was concerned about. Key information was sometimes omitted - for example the specifics of medications missed and the impact omissions would have on the individual, or details of how to contact the adult safely when the concern was about domestic abuse. Auditors felt that referrers were often telling the team about incidents they had to report to their regulators, that did not necessarily need to be reported to the local authority for consideration under Section 42 of the Care Act 2014.

When the Adult Safeguarding Team receives inappropriate or incomplete referrals, it can mean they need to carry out a considerable amount of additional work to ascertain key pieces of information that should be included on the concern form, which makes it harder for them to respond in an effective and timely way.

The PSAB has [guidance on Safeguarding Concerns](#) and we also have a [One Minute Guide on how to make a safeguarding referral](#) which takes you through the form step by step. We are currently working on updating the Safeguarding Concerns guidance to provide more detail on each type of abuse or neglect, which we hope will support staff to make good quality safeguarding referrals - this should be ready in Spring 2025.

In the meantime, we ask all organisations to:

- Make sure you are using the latest version of the [safeguarding concern form](#).
- Make sure staff are aware of the [One Minute Guide to making a safeguarding referral](#).
- Use the [Safeguarding Concerns Guidance](#) to support decision-making on when to raise a concern.
- Ensure that you have oversight of the quality of the safeguarding concerns you submit.
- Seek advice from the Adult Safeguarding Team (02392 688 613) if you are unsure about whether to raise a concern.

New resources for professionals

We have reviewed and updated the [4LSAB Guidance on safeguarding in prisons and approved premises](#).

We have published a new [Rapid Read on Modern Slavery](#).

A few months ago we published new [4LSAB/HIPS Practice Guidance: Adults who Disclose Non-recent Sexual Abuse](#). We have now added a [leaflet for the public on reporting abuse you experienced as a child](#).

We have created a new [4LSAB Checklist for embedding policies and guidance](#). These documents will only truly be effective if they are fully embedded into all organisations. The checklist is intended for all organisations to use to ensure that a new or updated 4LSAB document is embedded in their own practice and procedures. It covers areas such as communication, training, documentation and governance.

Hampshire County Council has recently updated their **Mental Capacity Act toolkit**. The toolkit supports professionals to use the Mental Capacity Act 2005 effectively and is endorsed by the PSAB:

- [Mental Capacity Toolkit Part A](#)
- [Mental Capacity Toolkit Part B](#)
- [Mental Capacity Toolkit Part C](#)
- [Mental Capacity Toolkit Part D](#)
- [Mental Capacity Toolkit Part E](#)

Upcoming Training and Events - 2025 dates

Details of all PSAB training can be found on our [website](#).

SAR learning into practice training

These sessions will help you understand the key themes relating to the Kim and Ms K cases, and give you the opportunity to reflect on your own practice. This training is multi-agency and open to professionals from all partner agencies who work with adults in Portsmouth including social care, health, emergency services, housing and the voluntary sector. It is especially relevant for all staff working in Adult Social Care, Mental Health, Substance use and Housing.

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Working with women with Complex Needs' e-learning course

This is open to public and voluntary sector staff working in Portsmouth who are likely to come in to contact with women with multiple disadvantage, including substance misuse. More information on the content of the course can be found here: <https://academy.aneemo.com/p/working-with-women-multiple-disadvantage>

This course can be used for CPD and will take approximately 4 hours depending on the additional reading the participant would like to complete (which is advised). It can be completed at your own pace, in one session or more.

In order to access the course free of charge please email bex.kitchener@portsmouthcc.gov.uk confirming you would like a place on this course and that you work within Portsmouth City (PO1 - PO6)

Portsmouth City of Sanctuary online webinars

The following upcoming events are delivered by Portsmouth City of Sanctuary in partnership with VISTA and Portsmouth City Council.

Violence and Abuse - supporting ethnic minority and migrant women

Thursday 23 January 2025, 11am - 12 noon

[Find out more and book](#)

Trauma-informed approaches to support women in the asylum process and those facing sexual exploitation

Thursday 30 January 2025, 11am - 12 noon

[Find out more and book](#)

Supporting women who have no recourse to public funds

Thursday 13 February 2025

[Find out more and book](#)

Supporting "hard to engage women"

Thursday 27 February 2025

[Find out more and book](#)

Portsmouth FGM Conference

Thursday 6 February 2025

[Find out more and book](#)

Partners in Care and Health webinar on Homelessness & Safeguarding: updates, learning and current issues

Wednesday 15 January 2025 2-4pm

The aims of the event are to provide learning from the 2nd National Analysis of Safeguarding Adult Reviews and reviews of deaths of homeless peoples; updates on critical issues and responses to

support people with no recourse to public funds and people living in vehicles; insights from current research; and consider strategic responses to safeguarding challenges.

To register, please click the link below:

<https://lgaevents.local.gov.uk/lga/2347/home>

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.

Thursday 23rd January 2025 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

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:

- 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.

Seasons Greetings!

The PSAB team would like to wish all our partners a peaceful festive period and to thank everyone for your support over the last year. We look forward to working with you in 2025.

