



Welcome from the chair of the HSAB (Visva Sathasivam)

Welcome to the latest edition of the HSAB's quarterly newsletter. For the next few editions there will be a feature about the learning from Safeguarding Adults Reviews (SARs) which have been carried out in different parts of the UK. SARs provide valuable information to guide professional practice and in the very sad case of Melissa there are some important points about the placement of people with complex needs/vulnerabilities in care homes. If you and your colleagues are involved in commissioning services in care homes for your clients, I would urge you to discuss the highlighted learning below in your Team. Any comments or suggestions for the newsletter can be sent to either Sue Spurlock (sue.spurlock@harrow.gov.uk) or Seamus Doherty (seamus.doherty@harrow.gov.uk).

Learning from Safeguarding Adults Reviews (SARs): "Melissa"

An investigation published by the Bristol Safeguarding Adults Board concluded that the death of 18 year old Melissa was both predictable and preventable. Melissa was murdered in 2014 by a fellow resident at the Alexandra House care home in Bristol. Melissa, who had ADHD and autism, was particularly vulnerable to abuse and exploitation by others. Against her family's wishes she had been placed in a care home 100 miles from her home as there was no local placement available. During her short time in the home she exhibited significant distress and received support from mental health crisis services. Less than two months after she was placed Melissa was fatally strangled by Jason, a fellow resident, who was known to pose a high risk of violence to women. Jason had lived in multiple placements including foster care and residential schools. The SAR identified a chronology of sexually motivated violent behaviour to women throughout his adolescence and significant ongoing risk needing a high level of supervision and risk management. He was subsequently found guilty of Melissa's murder and sentenced to life imprisonment. The SAR highlighted a number of serious failings in the care that Melissa received and in the management of Jason.

Recommendations/discussion points:

- commissioners and providers must ensure that their understanding of agreed staffing levels are explicit throughout a twenty-four period including at night
- when an adult is moving into a provision, assessments must include compatibility with other residents as well as robust risk assessment. This includes ensuring that placing authorities provide information to the care home in a timely and accurate way
- risk management assessment plans should be reviewed regularly and ALWAYS if there is a change in behaviour or new information about risk becomes available
- referrers and professionals undertaking assessments should mitigate against the rule of optimism (wanting it to work out for their client) when assessing potential risk and suitability of care home
- care providers should review their General Data Protection Regulations to ensure they include information sharing arrangements for when they accept or are managing high risk residents



Dignity Action Day 2018 – update

Quite a few local Providers marked Dignity Action Day on Thursday 1st February 2018. Some lovely photos were received from Milmans NRC demonstrating what great efforts many day centres and care homes made to give their users a special day.

THANK YOU!!



Gambling research by Kings College, London

Gambling may be brought to the attention of local authority adult social care departments and safeguarding services in relation to people with care and support needs possibly experiencing gambling-related harm, or in relation to such people suffering alleged abuse or neglect as a result of the gambling habits of family carers, care providers, neighbours, acquaintances and friends, online contacts, or those in positions of trust.



For example, the Liverpool Echo recently reported that a manager of a supported living home who had an addiction to gambling stole nearly £5,000 from a tenant with learning difficulties. The Leicester Mercury reported the case of a man who stole almost £15,000 from his mother in order to gamble. The newspaper reported that his mother had dementia, and he was able to steal the money because he had joint control over her funds.

Larger-scale financial abuse was reported within a Safeguarding Adults Case Review (SACR) published by Gloucestershire Safeguarding Adults Board (2014). The SACR outlines incidents of financial abuse of service users in a 'supported living' home.

A care worker had been taking service users' ATM cards and using them to withdraw cash in order to play bingo or fruit machines. It was unknown how much money was stolen from the victims, or over what period of time, because of poor bookkeeping by the service provider. However the perpetrator was charged with three counts of 'fraud by abuse of position' and imprisoned for eight months.

Please be alert to these issues and seek advice if in doubt.



Training 2018/2019

The Harrow Safeguarding Adults Board training programme for 2018/2019 is "coming soon". All the courses are free and will be available for booking in the usual way through <http://harrow.learningpool.com/>



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