

NSAB statement in response to Safeguarding Adults Review

17 October 2022

The Newcastle Safeguarding Adults Board is today publishing a Safeguarding Adults Review.

The Safeguarding Adults Review is about Adult N, a 58-year-old woman who died in 2020. Whilst Adult N's death was not attributed to abuse or neglect, she was known to have been in an abusive relationship with her partner. Over a number of years, she experienced physical, emotional and financial abuse from her partner and others, including in the days prior to her death. Protecting Adult N from harm was complex for the practitioners who worked with her.

The report highlights that the response to Adult N from local agencies was very good. The work with Adult N was characterised by positive, assertive, supportive and multi-agency approaches. The author states that "local services deserve praise for the response to Adult N". The central question posed by Adult N's case and care was "what else could the multi-agency system have done to protect her from an ongoing risk of harm?". The Safeguarding Adults Review recommends a number of areas where practice might be strengthened:

- Addressing drug use disorders via detoxification and residential rehabilitation.
- Using the Mental Capacity Act and other legal frameworks.
- Diagnosing cognitive impairment.
- Alcohol screening.
- Fire and smoking risks to people with substance misuse disorders.
- Working with pharmacies to safeguard adults.

Vida Morris, Chair of the Newcastle Safeguarding Adults Board, said "I would like to offer my deepest condolences to the family and friends of Adult N following her untimely death. I welcome the publication of this report which acknowledges the persistent and flexible efforts of professionals as well as identifying learning which we, and our member agencies, can use for future improvement."

"The NSAB has accepted the recommendations in the Review and is committed to ensuring that they are implemented. Progress has already been made in relation to the points detailed in the report. An action plan will be monitored by the NSAB until each recommendation has been completed."

Notes:

- Safeguarding Adults Reviews are undertaken when an adult with care and support needs dies (or suffers serious harm) as a result of abuse or neglect (including self-neglect) and there is a concern about how agencies worked together to safeguard that adult.
- The purpose of having a Safeguarding Adults Review is not to re-investigate or apportion blame, undertake Human resource duties or establish how someone died. Its purpose is:

- To establish whether there are lessons to be learnt from the circumstances of the case about the way in which professionals and agencies work together to safeguard adults
 - To review the effectiveness of procedures, both multi agency and those of single agencies
 - To inform or improve inter-agency practice
 - To improve practice by acting on learning (developing best practice)
 - To prepare or commission a summary report which brings together and analyses the findings of the various reports from agencies in order to make recommendations for future action.
- The Safeguarding Adults Review was led by an Independent Lead Reviewer, Mike Ward. Mike has a background in adult social care and in the last decade has worked on developing responses to change resistant dependent drinkers and drug users. Mike is completely independent of the NSAB and its partner agencies.
 - The Newcastle Safeguarding Adults Board is the statutory, multi-agency partnership responsible for safeguarding adults in Newcastle. It is made up of organisations that work together to safeguard and promote the welfare of adults. The Board's role is to coordinate and ensure effective safeguarding across the City of Newcastle.

www.newcastlesafeguarding.org.uk