



South Sefton Clinical Commissioning Group
Southport and Formby Clinical Commissioning Group

Safeguarding Adults Annual Report 2017/18

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Foreword by the Chief Nurse

NHS South Sefton Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) and NHS Southport and Formby Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) demonstrate a strong commitment to safeguarding adults at risk within the local communities. There are strong governance and accountability frameworks within the organisations which clearly ensure that safeguarding adults at risk is core to the business priorities. The commitment to the safeguarding agenda is demonstrated at Executive level and throughout all CCG employees. One of the key focus areas for the CCGs is to actively improve outcomes for children, young people and their families and that this supports and informs decision making with regard to the commissioning and redesign of health services within the Borough.



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Executive Summary

This is the annual Safeguarding Adults report to NHS South Sefton Clinical Commissioning Group Governing Body and NHS Southport and Formby Clinical Commissioning Group Governing Body. The purpose of the report is to assure the Governing Bodies that the NHS South Sefton and NHS Southport and Formby Clinical Commissioning Groups (to be referred to as the CCGs throughout the remainder of the report) are fulfilling their statutory duties in relation to safeguarding adults at risk in the Borough of Sefton.

The CCGs Safeguarding Adults annual report takes account of national changes, influences and local developments, activity, governance arrangements and any challenges to business continuity. It should be read in conjunction with the CCGs Safeguarding Children Annual Report as much of the information is shared as a Children and Adults Safeguarding team. Information in relation to safeguarding issues that cross both the children and adults agenda such as harmful practices, policy reviews performance monitoring and training have been detailed within the Safeguarding Children Annual report.

The CCGs have in place governance and accountability arrangements including regular reporting via the CCGs Joint Quality Committee and to the Governing Bodies; there is direct access by the Designated Professionals to the Chief Officer.

The CCGs make a significant contribution to the work of the Merseyside Safeguarding Adults Board and its sub groups.

1 Purpose of the report

This report provides assurance that the CCGs have safely discharged their statutory responsibilities to safeguard the welfare of adults at risk of abuse and the duty to ensure that the health services it commissions are compliant in this respect as outlined in the Care Act 2014. There is a separate report in respect of Children in Care (CIC) / Looked After Children and Safeguarding Children.

This report will summarise and will provide information about national and local changes and influences, governance arrangements, activity undertaken in 2017-18 and the challenges to business continuity.

The CCGs work in partnership with Sefton Local Authority, partner agencies and the recently established Merseyside Safeguarding Adults Board to safeguard adults at risk of abuse and harm.

2 National Context

2.1 Mental Capacity Act /Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards (MCA/DoLS)

Law Commission and Mental Capacity Amendment Bill

The Law Commission published its report and accompanying Draft Mental Capacity Amendment Bill on March 13th 2017 proposing reforms to the Mental Capacity Act and Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards (DoLS). The final report recommended the urgent repeal of DoLS and proposed to introduce 'Liberty Protection Safeguards' covering a broader range of people. The final government response to the Law Commission's report was published on 14th March 2018 and broadly agreed with the Liberty Protection Safeguards (LPS) model.

At the time of writing this annual report, the government has introduced the Mental Capacity Amendment Bill 2018 to the House of Lords to be considered. The Bill differs from the draft which was included in the Law Commission's report and falls some way short of the scheme proposed by the Law Commission.

According to the Government the reforms will:

- Introduce a simpler process that involves families more and gives swifter access to assessments
- Be less burdensome on people, carers, families and local authorities
- Allow the NHS, rather than local authorities, to make decisions about their patients, allowing a more efficient and clearly accountable process
- Consider restrictions of people's liberties as part of their overall care package
- Get rid of repeat assessments and authorisations when someone moves between a care home, hospital and ambulance as part of their treatment.

These amendments will have an impact on commissioned health providers but owing to other Government business will not be implemented until 2019.

The Government has also commissioned a review of the Mental Health Act. Proposals that relate to the interface between the Mental Health Act and Mental Capacity Act will be considered as part of that review.

2.2 Domestic Violence

Preventing and Combating Violence Against Women and Domestic Violence (Ratification of Convention) Act 2017

On 27 April 2017, the Preventing and Combating Violence Against Women and Domestic Violence (Ratification of Convention) Act 2017 received Royal Assent.

The Act makes provision in connection with the ratification by the UK of the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence Against Women and Domestic Violence (the Istanbul Convention).

The Convention targets violence against women and domestic violence. It sets out minimum standards on prevention, protection, prosecution and services and states that countries ratifying the Convention must establish services such as hotlines, shelters, medical services, counselling and legal aid.

Any local implications from this will be taken forward by the Sefton Domestic Abuse Executive Group. The Safeguarding Service is a member of the Domestic Abuse Executive Group which takes the strategic oversight of Sefton's multi agency response to sexual and domestic abuse and provides strategic direction and input into the development of Sefton's Domestic and Sexual Abuse Strategy.

3. NHS South Sefton and NHS Southport and Formby CCGs Safeguarding Governance and Accountability Arrangements

To meet with national safeguarding requirements, the CCGs commissioned a Hosted Safeguarding Service. The hosting arrangements remained with the CCGs as per the original terms agreed in 2013, using a Memorandum of Understanding and Service Specification. Throughout the reporting period the hosted safeguarding arrangements were reviewed and the CCGs declared their intention to take 'in house' and employ their own safeguarding provision. Following a consultation period and TUPE (Transfer of Undertakings- Protection of Employment regulations) processes, the service transferred on 1st March 2018.

Accountability for the safe discharge of safeguarding responsibilities remains with the Chief Officer; executive leadership is through the Chief Nurse who represents the CCGs on the Merseyside Safeguarding Adults Board and is also a member of the CCGs Governing Body. In addition, the Deputy Chief Nurse represents the CCGs on Sefton Youth Offending Team Management Board and Sefton Safer Community Partnership Board.

The safeguarding team meet on a monthly basis with the Chief Nurse to review emerging safeguarding concerns, ongoing work streams and agendas from a children and adult perspective to ensure CCGs oversight of activity.

Safeguarding reports were presented to the Joint Quality Committee on a quarterly basis to appraise the CCGs of current safeguarding activity and developments and includes performance reports for commissioned services against the specific safeguarding Key Performance Indicators (KPIs).

The CCGs continue to work in partnership with statutory agencies and the third sector to support safe and effective delivery of services against the safeguarding.

4. Multi Agency Safeguarding Arrangements

The combined Merseyside Safeguarding Adults Board (MSAB) took effect from 1st April 2017 with the inaugural board taking place on Monday 24th April and has replaced all previous local arrangements. The new Board holds the responsibility for meeting the statutory requirements of SAB's as set out in the Care Act 2014 for all the four Local Authorities of Sefton, Knowsley, Liverpool and Wirral.

The MSAB is the key statutory body overseeing multiagency adult safeguarding arrangements across Sefton. The Business Plans for Sefton, Knowsley, Liverpool and Wirral were reviewed and potential areas for carry over to the new board identified.

The specific focus areas for Sefton were identified as:

- Review use of advocacy services and identify potential for both promoting accessibility and refining process to ensure optimal use for adults at risk
- Commission mapping exercise and reach final agreement for the appropriate format and content of service user questionnaire in order to capture the voice of the user. Explore the viability of support, both individually and collectively for people who are at risk of abuse or with experience of abuse
- Develop a bespoke programme to ensure all communities have a common understanding of dignity and respect and agree dignity standards across the partnership
- Develop the Safe Haven structure to include partner organisations and assess potential impact on services demonstrating coordinated working and increasing safety for individuals
- Undertake a safeguarding campaign, explore resource neutral opportunities across the partnership to raise the profile of adult safeguarding
- Review the training strategy to ensure it reflects the development needs of all and ensure training and development opportunities are freely accessible
- Develop a Communication and Engagement strategy

The Chief Nurse and Head of Safeguarding are members of the MSAB. The Chief Nurse also chairs the Performance Information sub group and the Safeguarding Service attends this and other subgroups of the MSAB.

Each CCG has a statutory duty to work in partnership with SABs in conducting Serious Adults Reviews (SAR) in accordance with the Care act 2014. Prior to the development of the MSAB, each of the local authority areas had their own Serious Adult Review Groups (SARG). Under the MSAB arrangements, the SARGs have been maintained as subgroups. However part of the MSAB work plan is to establish one SARG and process across all the local authority member areas.

Sefton SARG is chaired by Merseyside police and the CCGs and the Safeguarding Service is a member of the group. Cases have been presented to the SARG for consideration for meeting the criteria. Where cases have not met the criteria for a SAR to be recommended, alternative processes for any potential learning have been identified.

5 Summary of Progress and areas of work supported in 2017/18

Due to a combination of extended sick leave, resignation and subsequent vacancy, there was no assigned Designated Nurse for Safeguarding Adults from July 2017 until the transfer of the service on 1st March 2018. Although temporary remedial cover arrangements were put in place to mitigate the gap in service this has impacted on taking forward the safeguarding adults agenda during this period.

Support arrangements remained in place for the CCGs from NHS Liverpool CCG until recruitment processes to the Designated Safeguarding Adult Manager and Designated Nurse Children in Care were completed. Whilst outside of this reporting timeframe, the Designated Safeguarding Adult Manager commenced in post on 1st July 2017.

5.1 MARAC (Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference)

MARAC is a meeting where agencies talk about the risk of future harm to people experiencing domestic abuse and if necessary their children, and draw up an action plan to help manage that risk.

Whilst in post, the Designated Nurse for Safeguarding Adults had a specific lead for domestic abuse and met with Sefton Local Authority Domestic Abuse leads and Safeguarding leads to discuss the introduction of a model which would support the sharing of health information as part of the MARAC/ MAPPAs process. Due to extended leave and her subsequent resignation, this work has not progressed as planned. The CCGs continue to support the Domestic Abuse agenda and the Sefton commissioned health providers are fully engaged with the MARAC process and attend as appropriate.

5.2 MAPPAs (Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements)

MAPPAs are a statutory set of arrangements required to manage the highest risk sexual and violent offenders coming out of prison / hospital and returning to live within the community.

These statutory arrangements are set down under the Criminal Justice Act 2003 with Police, Probation and Prisons known as the Responsible Authorities (RAs) and other Duty to Co-operate Agencies (DTC) - Health, Education, Children and Adult Services, Youth Offending Services (YOS) and Housing.

Locally these arrangements are governed by the MAPPAs Strategic Management Board (SMB) which meets 4 times per year, and has strategic leads from the RAs and DTC agencies. There are national performance measures (in regards of timeliness and attendance at meetings) and also local quality audits i.e. quality of the risk management plans, consistency between MAPPAs risk management plans and other multi-agency plans i.e. child protection, MARAC.

The Head of Safeguarding attended the Merseyside MAPPAs SMB and acted as a single point of contact for the CCGs. No Sefton cases were referred during this reporting period. Within the hosted Safeguarding Service, the Designated Nurses for Adults facilitated the

sharing of health information for MAPPA by attending some MAPPA meetings as part of a pilot to determine what type of health information was required to support the MAPPA process. The pilot determined that attendance at all MAPPA meetings was not sustainable or appropriate and a permanent process still needs to be identified for Sefton.

5.3 Domestic Homicide Reviews

Under guidance issued by the Home Office, any incident of domestic violence or abuse which results in the death of the victim requires a DHR to be carried out by the local Community Safety Partnership

Within this reporting year, Sefton Safer Communities Partnership (SSCP) has published DHR 6, 'Nina and Jenny' (pseudonyms). This relates to a double homicide of a mother and adult daughter by the adult son / brother. This homicide took place in April 2015. There has been a significant time delay in publishing this report.

The Guidance states that a decision to hold a Domestic Homicide Review should be taken within one month of the homicide coming to the attention of the Community Safety Partnership and states that the review should be completed within a further six months. The completion date for the review was set as November 2015. This was later extended to January 2016 to allow time for the perpetrator's fitness to stand trial to be assessed and later to August 2016 to cater for his trial. The panel was keen to involve the family and friends in the review and acceded to the police's request not to approach people until the conclusion of the criminal trial. The Home Office was kept informed.

It is important to say that the early learning from the review, in respect of the need to improve liaison between prison mental health services and community mental health services when prisoners are released, was acted on immediately. Sefton CCGs commissioned health services contributed to the DHR process and have identified actions which are monitored by the Serious Adult Review Group which is a sub group of the MSAB.

The CCGs safeguarding service were members of the DHR panel and the Deputy Chief Nurse is a member of the SSCP which commissioned the DHR.

5.4 Commissioned Health Provider Support

The Safeguarding Service increased the monitoring and support to one of the Sefton CCGs commissioned health providers following a CQC inspection. Supervision sessions, business meetings and attendance at the provider internal Safeguarding meetings were increased to monitor progress against action plans. This support continued from NHS Liverpool CCG Safeguarding until the CCGs Designated Safeguarding Adult Manager was recruited to.

5.5 Care Homes

Whilst in post, the Designated Nurse for Safeguarding Adults worked with the CCGs Quality Team on the development of a care home dashboard with the support of the CCGs business intelligence team. It is anticipated this piece of work will progress via the Designated Safeguarding Adult Manager post. The Safeguarding Coordinator continued to support the Local Authority in undertaking safeguarding investigations by facilitating health information and input when required.

5.6 MCA/DoLS

Throughout the reporting year, the MCA/DoLS Coordinator has continued to work closely with Sefton Local Authority as a member of the DoLS Working group. The remit of this group has been to monitor progress against authorisations for DoLS and to identify barriers to progress. The CCGs MCA Coordinator chaired the Merseyside MCA / DoLS Forum which met on a bi monthly basis. This forum allows commissioned health providers to discuss implications from any new national guidance or judgements, share best practice, discuss case studies and peer supervision. The group has been well attended from health providers and CCG representatives across the local health economy and the Sefton CCGs commissioned health providers have been well represented at the meetings. Any learning and emerging issues from these meetings have been presented to the NHSE National MCA / DoLS group.

6. Conclusion

This annual report provides a summary of activity undertaken during 2017-18 to support the safeguarding adults agenda. It demonstrates the contribution to multi agency partnerships across the borough of Sefton and provides assurance to the Governing Bodies that NHS South Sefton and NHS Southport and Formby CCGs are fully committed to ensuring they meet the statutory duties and responsibilities for safeguarding adults at risk.

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