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“Protecting the Right to Live in Safety, Free from Abuse and Neglect” An overview of Safeguarding Adults in Health and Social Care

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This key note session aims to update your safeguarding knowledge of current legislature and resources available to recognise those adults who are at risks of neglect, harm and abuse.

Objectives

- Improve your knowledge of current law and policy around Adults.
- What is safeguarding and why it matters?
- Identifying Risk Factors
- What does the data tell us about Safeguarding adults? Priorities of Safeguarding
- Safeguarding Adult National Network
- What we can do to make a difference?

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The Legal Context

A little revision on the Care Act 2014

The Care Act 2014 sets out statutory responsibility for the integration of care and support between health and local authorities.

NHS England and Integrated Care Boards are working in partnership with local and neighbouring social care services. Local Authorities have statutory responsibility for safeguarding. In partnership with health they have a duty to promote wellbeing within local communities.

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What is Safeguarding Adults and Why It Matters?

Safeguarding adults means protecting a person’s right to live in safety, free from abuse and neglect.

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Identifying safeguarding risk factors

Risk factors identified in relation to characteristics of adult at risk, family carers who become abusers, as well as in relation to features of services where abuse occurs.

People with Learning disability

- poor social skills and poor judgement, poor communication skills
- physical dependence (for example need for help with personal hygiene and intimate body care)
- a lack of education about appropriate sexual behaviour, as well as lack of knowledge about how to defend against abuse.
- Adults with learning disabilities are also at high risk of sexual abuse, and often from their peers.

Older Adults

•residents considered to be quiet, disorientated, unable to communicate or with few visitors, as well as those found to be non-compliant, demanding or to have difficult or challenging behaviours

•A major UK survey of over 2000 people aged 66 and over living in private households revealed a range of risk factors, specific to the type of abuse:-

•neglect included being female, aged 85 and over

•The risk of financial abuse increased for those living alone, those in receipt of services

•The risk of interpersonal abuse (physical, psychological and sexual abuse combined) was higher for women aged 66–74

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Family carers:-

Isolation has also been identified as a risk factor for family carers becoming perpetrators of abuse in community settings

Identifying risks in services:-

- low staffing levels and/or high use of agency staff
- geographically isolated services
- a neglected physical environment
- weak management
- lack of practice leadership
- lack of policy awareness.

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The Voice of the Adult and Citizen led outcomes focus

The Making Safeguarding Personal (MSP) programme lays emphasis that safeguarding adults should be person centred and outcomes focused

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Statistics of safeguarding adults in England from 2021-2022

NHS Digital (2022)

Safeguarding Adults is a statutory duty for Councils with Adult Social Services Responsibilities in England under the Care Act 2014, in order to safeguard vulnerable adults from abuse or neglect. The data is collected directly from these councils, also known as local authorities

Safeguarding concerns

There were an estimated 541,535 concerns of abuse raised during 2021-22, an increase of 9% on the previous year, which is slightly above the average annual growth rate per year for the previous four years (8% per year on average between 2016-17 and 2020-21).

Section 42 enquiries

The number of enquiries that commenced under Section 42 of the Care Act 2014 during the year increased by 6% to an estimated 161,925, following a similar decrease the previous year, and involved 129,685 individuals.

Other safeguarding enquiries

The number of Other safeguarding enquiries, where there may not be reasonable cause to suspect the statutory Section 42 criteria are met but where local authorities use other powers to make enquiries, is reported to be 22,590 in 2021-22.

Type and location of risk

The most common type of risk in Section 42 enquiries that concluded in the year was Neglect and Acts of Omission, which accounted for 31% of risks, and the most common location of the risk was the person's own home at 48%.

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Outcomes

In 91% of concluded Section 42 enquiries where a risk was identified, the reported outcome was that the risk was reduced or removed.

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What are the current NHS Safeguarding priorities?

- **Preventing domestic abuse**
- **Tackling serious violence**
- **Preventing Violent Extremism**
- **Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)**

What does SANN do?

- **SANN has evolved into a cutting edge development hub for safeguarding professionals which has driven forward the national safeguarding agenda, increased safeguarding effectiveness and disseminated best practice**
- **SANN has reinvigorated safeguarding practice in England during the global pandemic which has at the same time increased safeguarding cases and intensified the pressure on safeguarding professionals**
- **SANN has expanded the definition of who needs support in the safeguarding field to include professionals AND users, and demonstrated how that support can be delivered**

Our aspirations for the future

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Place and space safeguarding data & local practitioner intelligence

Lived Experience Narrative

Inclusive NHS for victims, survivors, perpetrators & offenders

Trauma Informed Practice

Contextual safeguarding

Strengths based approach

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Safeguarding is ever changing…

- Challenge our societal norms
- Challenge our own & each other's
- Unconscious bias
- Creating a common language

What can we do?

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- **Be curious & ask the question**
    - **How safe do you feel at home / on-line?**
    - **What happened to you?**
    - **What matters to you?**
    - **How can we help make you thrive?**
- **Avoid retraumatising**
- **Reflect on incidents, learn from excellence & celebrate your achievements**

Find out more: Follow: #NHSSafeguarding @NHSSafeguarding

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Continued....

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- Thank you very much- we will be having a panel later on where you can ask question which will be very welcome.
- **Jackie Mahoney**, Social Worker and Team Manager Organisation , Warrington Borough Council
- **Liz Howard**, Social Worker- Professional Officer, British Association of Social Workers
- *"The Impact of the Pandemic on Protecting the Rights of Adults."*