Solihull Safeguarding Adults Board
Protecting Adults Together

Sam was a white British male who died by suicide at the age of 47 years old. He had a diagnosis of Persistent Delusional Disorder, which is characterised by irrational or intense beliefs or suspicions that a person believes to be true. He had been in receipt of support from local mental health services on and off for several years.

2 years before he died, he was placed under the supervision of probation following his conviction for a sexual offence and lost his job because of this conviction. He lived in independent accommodation provided by a social housing provider and had lived there for 3 years. Sam also had contact with police and hospital staff in the months before his death, related to his struggles with his mental health.

During the year before he died, Sam experienced verbal abuse and threats from neighbours who had learned of his conviction for a sexual offence. Sam was given the option to move to alternative accommodation on several occasions which he declined; he was deemed to have mental capacity to make this decision.

Following Sam's death areas of learning were identified from examples of good practice in his support as well as areas requiring improvement.

Professional Accountability

The six principles of safeguarding as set out in the Care Act (2014) must be adhered to. Principle 6: Accountability involves having complete transparency in delivering safeguarding practice and everyone is accountable for their actions as individuals, services, and organisations. Agreed actions must have timescales, be checked and if they have not been undertaken, the reasons for this and alternative actions or decisions must be recorded.

Case Recording

Good case recording is a vital component of professional practice. It supports continuity of care, risk assessments and risk management. It also documents thinking, decision making, and actions taken. This includes providing rationales for actions and decisions, whether they were taken, and if not the reasons for this.

More information can be found in the following resource:

- Multi-agency policy & procedures for the protection of adults with care & support needs in the West Midlands

Making Safeguarding Personal

The Care Act (2014) sets out that approaches to safeguarding adults must ensure they are making safeguarding personal. This means focusing on achieving meaningful improvement to people's circumstances. It is about better engagement with people right from the beginning of the process to understand what they want and to review whether this is achieved.

More information can be found in the following resources:

- Safeguarding Adults in Solihull - What does good practice look like
- Multi-agency policy & procedures for the protection of adults with care & support needs in the West Midlands

Risk Assessment

Risk assessment involves collecting and sharing information through observation, communication, and investigation. It is an ongoing process and can rarely be done by one person alone, a coordinated approach is required including all professionals involved with an adult, as well as the adult themselves and those important to the adult.

More information can be found in the following resources:

- Solihull Safeguarding Adults Risk Screening Tool
- Safeguarding Adults in Solihull - What does good practice look like
- Risk Assessment - Joint learning resource

Information Sharing

Sharing the right information, at the right time with the right people, is fundamental to good safeguarding practice. It's really important that there is ongoing information sharing and co-operation between services who are working with a person.

As a general principle, people must assume it is their responsibility to raise a safeguarding concern if they believe an adult at risk is suffering or likely to suffer abuse or neglect, and / or are a risk to themselves or another, rather than assume someone else will do so. They should share the information with the local authority and/or the police if they believe or suspect that a crime has been committed or that the individual is immediately at risk.

More information on information sharing can be found in the following resources:

- Information Sharing - Joint learning resource
- Multi-agency policy & procedures for the protection of adults with care & support needs in the West Midlands