

NSAB statement in response to Safeguarding Adults Review

6 May 2022

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

The Safeguarding Adults Review concerns Adult L, a 75 year old woman who died from Covid-19 in 2020. The Review focusses on the care and events leading up to her death. Adult L had increasing care and support needs with several agencies involved to meet those needs. Adult L sometimes refused care which created concerns for agencies.

The report highlights that there were many areas of good multi-agency working and good systems in place to safeguard and offer safe and effective care to Adult L. The author also highlights the challenges that practitioners faced – the complexities of Adult L’s multiple health needs and her difficulty in accepting support in the context of a global pandemic.

The Safeguarding Adults Review report includes the following areas for strengthening practice:

- Identifying and working with people who are alcohol dependent.
- Working with older couples where there is domestic abuse.
- Working with people who self-neglect, ensuring the promotion of and use of guidance and frameworks in this area.
- Multi-agency working, communication and the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Vida Morris, Chair of the Newcastle Safeguarding Adults Board, said “Our thoughts remain with Adult L’s family at this time. I welcome the publication of this report which highlights both strengths in practice and also areas where improvements can be made.”

“The NSAB has accepted the recommendations in the Review and developed an action plan which details how each learning area will be taken forward. The report identified that a lot has already been learnt and subsequently changed since Adult L’s death, in particular how services are delivered during Covid-19.”

“Progress has already been made across the multi-agency partnership in relation to the points detailed in the report and the 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, Karen Rees. Karen is Independent Safeguarding Consultant with a nursing background. Karen worked in safeguarding roles in the NHS for a number of years. Karen is completely independent of 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.

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