

# CHESHIRE EAST SAFEGUADING ADULTS BOARD



## ANNUAL REPORT 2022 – 2023

## Independent Chair's Welcome

Welcome to the Annual Report from Cheshire East Safeguarding Adults Board (CESAB)

In January 2023 I was delighted to be offered the role of Independent Chair for CESAB.

Since commencing my role, I have been so impressed with the whole team approach to ensuring people who need care and support receive the appropriate services when required.

The people who I have met and make up the teams that deliver in partnership day in day out never fail to portray a commitment to their roles in safeguarding others. It is an absolute pleasure to witness the dedication of these individuals and teams in ensuring people in Cheshire East are safeguarded.

The CESAB has great support at a strategic level and benefits from Sub-groups that are highly skilled and focused on their work to improve the service of CESAB.

It would be amiss not to specifically mention the support the CESAB has from the Service User Group. This group is pivotal to the CESAB being inclusive and they provide much welcomed advice and guidance to our practice.

The CESAB has recently had a development day which has examined our progress against the board's Strategic Plan and ways in how we can work more efficiently and collaboratively with others. Embracing a culture of learning and seeking ways of improving.

It is evident that the year ahead will bring many challenges due to financial and resource restraints, however it is clear CESAB has a committed partnership to meet these challenges.



## The Partnership

Cheshire East Safeguarding Adults Board (CESAB) is a partnership of statutory and non-statutory organisations, representing health, care and support providers and the people who use those services across the borough. Membership comprises of the senior leaders across these organisations, who under the leadership of the independent Chair, work collaboratively to improve adult safeguarding across the borough.

### The partnership includes:

#### *Statutory Partners -*

Cheshire East Council (Adult Social Care)

Cheshire and Merseyside NHS Integrated Commissioning Board (ICB)

Cheshire Police

#### *Non-Statutory Partners -*

Disability Positive (Service User voice representation)

Mid Cheshire Hospital NHS Trust (Leighton Hospital)

Eastern Cheshire NHS Trust (Macclesfield Hospital)

Cheshire and Wirral NHS Partnership (Mental Health)

North West Ambulance Service

Health Watch Cheshire East

Cheshire Probation Service

Cheshire Fire and Rescue

Faith Sector Representation

Housing

Domestic Abuse Services

Local Councillor

## Resources and Funding

The work of the Board, subgroups, training programme and that of the Independent Chair are funded through SAB contributions from the three statutory partners. A well-resourced Board is essential to enable it to deliver its statutory duties. Funding contributions from our partners supports the board to fund Safeguarding Adult Reviews, learning events and other Board activities.

## Our principles

Our safeguarding principles mirror those listed in the Care Act 2014 and underpin all adult safeguarding work:

**Empowerment:** People being supported and encouraged to make their own decisions and informed consent.

**“I am asked what outcomes I want from the safeguarding process and this directly informs what happens.”**

**Prevention:** It is better to take action before harm occurs.

**“I receive clear and simple information about what abuse is, how to recognise the signs and what I can do to seek help.”**

**Proportionality:** The least intrusive response appropriate to the risk presented.

**“I am sure that the professionals will work in my interest, as I see them, and they will only get involved as much as needed.”**

**Protection:** Support and representation for those in greatest need.

**“I get help and support if I need to report abuse and neglect. I get help so that I am able to take part in the safeguarding process to the extent I want.”**

**Partnership:** Local solutions through services working with their communities. Communities have a part to play in preventing, detecting, and reporting neglect and abuse.

**“I know that staff treat any personal and sensitive information in confidence, only sharing what is helpful and necessary. I am confident that professionals will work together and with me to get the best result for me.”**

**Accountability:** Accountability and transparency in delivering safeguarding.

**“I understand the role of everyone involved in my life and so do they”.**

*\*Quotes taken from the Department of Health’s Government Guidance ‘Revisiting Safeguarding’ March 2022*

## What is Adult Safeguarding?

Safeguarding adults means protecting adults at risk from abuse or neglect by taking steps to prevent or stop it from happening. The Care Act 2014 and other statutory guidance sets out a clear legal framework for how local authorities and other organisations that form the SAB, should protect adults at risk of abuse or neglect. Safeguarding is about protecting an adult's right to live a life free from abuse and neglect and has put systems in place in accordance to the legislative framework and guidance to keep adults with care and support needs safe.

## Who do we help keep safe?

All adults aged 18 and over who:

- Need care and support, even if they are not getting care or support now.
- They are experiencing, or at risk of, abuse or neglect.
- As a result of their care and support needs, is not able to protect themselves from risk of abuse, experience of abuse or neglect.

## What is abuse?

Abuse is any action, deliberate or unintentional, or a failure to take action or provide care that results in harm to the adult (this is called neglect).

Abuse can be a single or repeated act or lack of appropriate action, which causes harm or distress and sometimes death.

Abuse can happen anywhere, at any time, such as at home, a day care centre or in a hospital.

There are many different types of abuse such as physical, emotional and neglect; more details about abuse can be found on the Cheshire East Safeguarding Adults webpages [www.stopadultabuse.org.uk](http://www.stopadultabuse.org.uk)



CESAB Service User Group

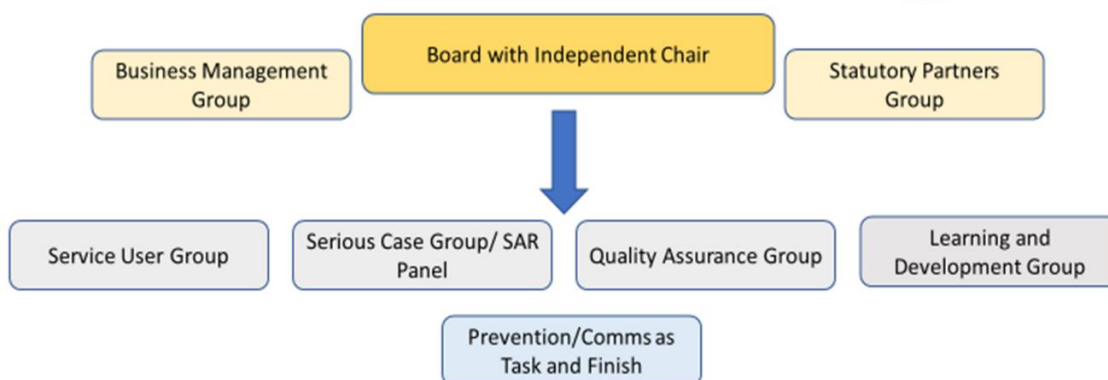
## Governance Arrangements

The Board appoints an Independent Chair whose role it is to lead and direct its work and provide the support to meet the Board’s objectives. The SAB has maintained its commitment to strong partnership working with the Cheshire East Safeguarding Children’s Partnership and the Safer Cheshire East Partnership with all three partnerships working together on joint priorities and safeguarding issues which impact on young people, adults and community safety. The Board reports regularly to the Health and Wellbeing Board on its progress and on any Safeguarding Adult Reviews.

## Safeguarding Adults Board Structure

The Board leads adult safeguarding arrangements across Cheshire East and oversees and coordinates the effectiveness of the safeguarding work of its member and partner agencies. A SAB Business Manager and Business Officer support the board, its Business Management Group and subgroups. The Board also employs a Training Officer to facilitate and deliver adult safeguarding training across the Cheshire East Borough. Subgroups help to deliver the objectives of the Board and take responsibility for four distinct functions: Service User Reference and Voice, Safeguarding Adult Reviews, Quality and Assurance and Learning and Development. In addition, there are also task-and-finish groups to deliver specific Board strategic priorities -

### How we work: Structure of the Board



## THREE YEAR STRATEGY 2022 – 2025

Under the Care Act 2014, Safeguarding Adults Board must produce a three-year strategy. 2022 saw the launch of our second strategy under the Care Act.

### What is a 3-year Strategy?

Our strategy sets out:

- Our Board’s vision
- Our aims and objectives for this three-year period
- How we will work towards these objectives

Our full plan can be found on our website [www.stopadultabuse.org.uk](http://www.stopadultabuse.org.uk) but a summary is below –

<b>Our Vision:</b> People in Cheshire East have the right to live a life free from abuse and neglect			
<b>Our purpose:</b> To stop Adult Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation			
<b>Our Ambitions</b>		<b>Goals by 2025</b>	
<b>Proportionate Protection</b> - <i>Support and representation for those in greatest need, with the least intrusive response appropriate to the risk presented.</i> <b>Enabling staff to respond to complex safeguarding by working in partnership with Key Partners</b>			
<b>Ensure the safety and wellbeing of people at risk of abuse and neglect in Cheshire East</b>		All professionals will follow Mental Capacity and Best Interest decision making processes and making safeguarding personal principles  People at risk of abuse and neglect get help and support to report abuse.  People at risk of abuse and neglect are supported to take part in the safeguarding process.	
<b>Empowerment</b> - <i>Personalisation and the presumption of person-led decisions and informed consent.</i> <b>Embed person centred approaches to adult safeguarding</b>			
<b>Ensure the voice of people at risk of abuse and neglect, influence safeguarding practices across Cheshire East</b>		People at risk of abuse and neglect are asked for their outcomes from the safeguarding process and these directly inform what happens.	
<b>Prevention</b> - <i>It is better to take action before harm occurs.</i> <b>Improve awareness of adult safeguarding across all communities and partner organisations &amp; learn from experience and Safeguarding Adult Reviews to improve how we work</b>			
<b>Provide information and support in accessible ways to help residents and communities of Cheshire East understand adult abuse and neglect.</b>		Produce clear and simple guidance about what abuse and neglect is, how to recognise the signs and how to seek help.  Identify local solutions through services working within diverse communities across Cheshire East.	
<b>Governance:</b> Ensure our governance is of the highest possible standard & open to challenge, to support the achievement of our strategy and ensure accountability and transparency in delivering safeguarding adults at risk of abuse and neglect.	<b>Partnership:</b> Work as a multi-agency board to ensure there is effective partnership working and leadership across all agencies for safeguarding adults at risk of abuse and neglect.	<b>Impact:</b> Continually measure and test the effect of our work, improve quality and monitor the implementation of changes, that prevent similar abuse or neglect happening to other people.	<b>Person Centred Engagement:</b> Ensure that people are supported in the way that they want, are empowered to make decisions, and can achieve the best outcomes.

## Highlights of our work 2022/23

The Board focused on the following four areas of Adult Safeguarding during 2022/23:

### The Continued Impact of Covid-19 on Adult Safeguarding

The pandemic had major implications for health and care services, both nationally and locally. Throughout the crisis, safeguarding adults remained a statutory duty. Consequently, safeguarding adults

continued to be the responsibility of local authorities and the SAB partner agencies. CESAB heard research from Prof Laura Pritchard-Jones from Keele University outlining the national impact of the pandemic on adult safeguarding services.

#### What Next -

CESAB wanted assurance that the multi-agency partnership locally was continuing to work together in the recovery stage of the pandemic. CESAB sought assurance from partners that all SAB agencies in Cheshire East had robust and attainable recovery plans in place.



In line with the **Protection Ambition** of the CESAB three-year strategy: ***Ensure the safety and wellbeing of people at risk of abuse and neglect in Cheshire East***

### Adult Safeguarding and asylum seekers & refugees in Cheshire East

The board were briefed on the Asylum Seeker and refugee situation within Cheshire East area. This included hearing the local data and case examples from local Asylum Seekers. The Local Authority's Community Development Team provided assurance of the support systems in place locally and SERCO outlined how they, as a commission provider and the Home Office ensure the safety and wellbeing of those that are accommodated in Cheshire East. Not every supported asylum seeker is an adult at risk to abuse or neglect, however the experience of adjusting to life in the UK and settling into new accommodation and support arrangements is often a period of time when vulnerabilities become most apparent.



#### What Next?

Asylum seekers are subject to the SAB safeguarding processes and procedures in the same way as others in the community, the Board will ensure that adult safeguarding processes are in place to identify and support asylum seekers including language support if needed.

In line with the **Protection** and the **Prevention Ambition** of the three-year strategy: ***Ensure the safety and wellbeing of people at risk of abuse and neglect in Cheshire East.***

***Identify local solutions through services working within diverse communities across Cheshire East***



### Cost of Living Crisis

The national cost of living crisis has implications for safeguarding adults. Our Service User Group highlighted to the Board how they were struggling and had issues such as anxiety when faced with rising bills, fuel and food costs.

The Board heard from partners how these additional pressures may increase the risk of abuse, homelessness, mental health problems, domestic abuse, neglect, self-neglect, and substance use.



Disability Positive outlined how nearly half the 14 million people living in poverty in the UK are disabled or live with someone who is. The Board also discussed how there are almost 4.5 million informal adult carers in the UK, and nearly a quarter were living in poverty, with working-age female carers particularly at risk. This figure is predicted to increase.

### What next?

In Cheshire East, The Cost-of-Living Crisis Team has been launched and are available on 0300 123 5024 between 8.30am to 5pm Monday to Friday. CESAB encouraged partners to share this information so residents can be signposted for support. CESAB also issued advice around Self-Neglect and Professional Curiosity in their briefings to professionals.

In line with the **EMPOWERMENT AMBITION** of the three-year strategy: *Ensure the voice of people at risk of abuse and neglect, influence safeguarding practices across Cheshire East*

### System Pressures on Adult Safeguarding

The Board heard qualitative and quantitative data from partners to better understand the changes in demand for, and provision of, adult safeguarding services. Health and care services continue to be under significant pressure, with challenges including timely discharge of patients impacting on patient flow within hospitals, alongside ongoing pressures in mental health services. The board were provided with an insight into the financial pressures placed on partners and the safeguarding related issues currently being faced. Concerns such as care sector recruitment and retention were highlighted, along with increased numbers of adults experiencing housing issues and poverty.



### What next?

The Board will continue to monitor risks on their risk plan and fully supports mitigation plans such as increased integrated working between partners in order to heighten operational resilience and reduce pressures on services. The Board's Training Officer will work with the care sector to provide up to date adult safeguarding training for all care sector workers in the borough.

In line with CESAB Strategy Partnership Ambition - *Work as a multi-agency board to ensure there is effective partnership working and leadership across all agencies for safeguarding adults at risk of abuse and neglect*



This report highlights the work undertaken during the boards reporting period of 1st April 2022 to 31st March 2023. A successful bid has been made to retain the funding for the Safeguarding Training Officer through to 31st August 2023

With the continued recognition that the delivery of face-to-face training remains challenging, the funding bid for the Academic year Sept 2022 to Aug 2023 saw a target of delivering training to 600 learners from non-statutory partner organisations. This been set at the same rate as per the previous year.

The training landscape particularly within the care sector both care settings and domiciliary providers, remains extremely challenging for a myriad of reasons, not least due to staff recruitment and retention. However, with the appointment of a new trainer Debbie Waterhouse, her primary focus has been to re-engage with care homes to offer and deliver training, with a particular focus on those that have been highlighted as presenting safeguarding risks to residents.

This appointment has also allowed expansion of the training offer and the programme has delivered level 3 sessions to care home managers covering the investigation process for a Sec 42 enquiry. As well as this, for the first time the programme has delivered a combined Adult and Child Safeguarding training to licensed taxi drivers following a change to their terms and conditions which makes attendance at such training compulsory.

Additional sessions have been offered to statutory partners such as Care4CE and re introducing a Domestic Abuse online workshop in partnership with staff from the Domestic Abuse team.

Whilst this reporting period is out of sync with the academic year funding period, CESAB can report that the Training Programme have met and exceeded the 600 target. In total during the period 1st April 2022 to 31st March 2023, sessions were delivered 1301 individuals.

## ADULT SAFEGUARDING WEEK 2022

Cheshire East Safeguarding Adults Board supported National Safeguarding Adults Week 2022 with a range of activities that made people aware of the different types of abuse that some people experience. The National Adult Safeguarding week was an excellent opportunity to promote adult safeguarding and the work that a number of organisations are doing to protect residents across Cheshire East. Safeguarding Adults Week 2022 saw organisations coming together to raise awareness of important safeguarding issues. The aim was to highlight safeguarding key issues, facilitate conversations and to raise awareness of safeguarding best practice. The week enabled more organisations and individuals to feel confident in recognising signs of abuse and neglect and recording and reporting safeguarding concerns. The theme for Safeguarding Adults Week 2022 was 'Responding to Contemporary Safeguarding Challenges'. Each day focussed on a different topic, with a range of events such as webinars, conferences for the Faith Sector, and, using a performing arts group, Odd Arts, to interact with professionals acting out scenarios around exploitation & abuse.

Councillor Laura Jeuda, Cheshire East Council cabinet member for adult social care and health, said: ***"It is very sad to say this, but adult abuse is far more common than many of us think. The council sits on a dedicated safeguarding adults board, which is committed to raising the profile of adult safeguarding."***

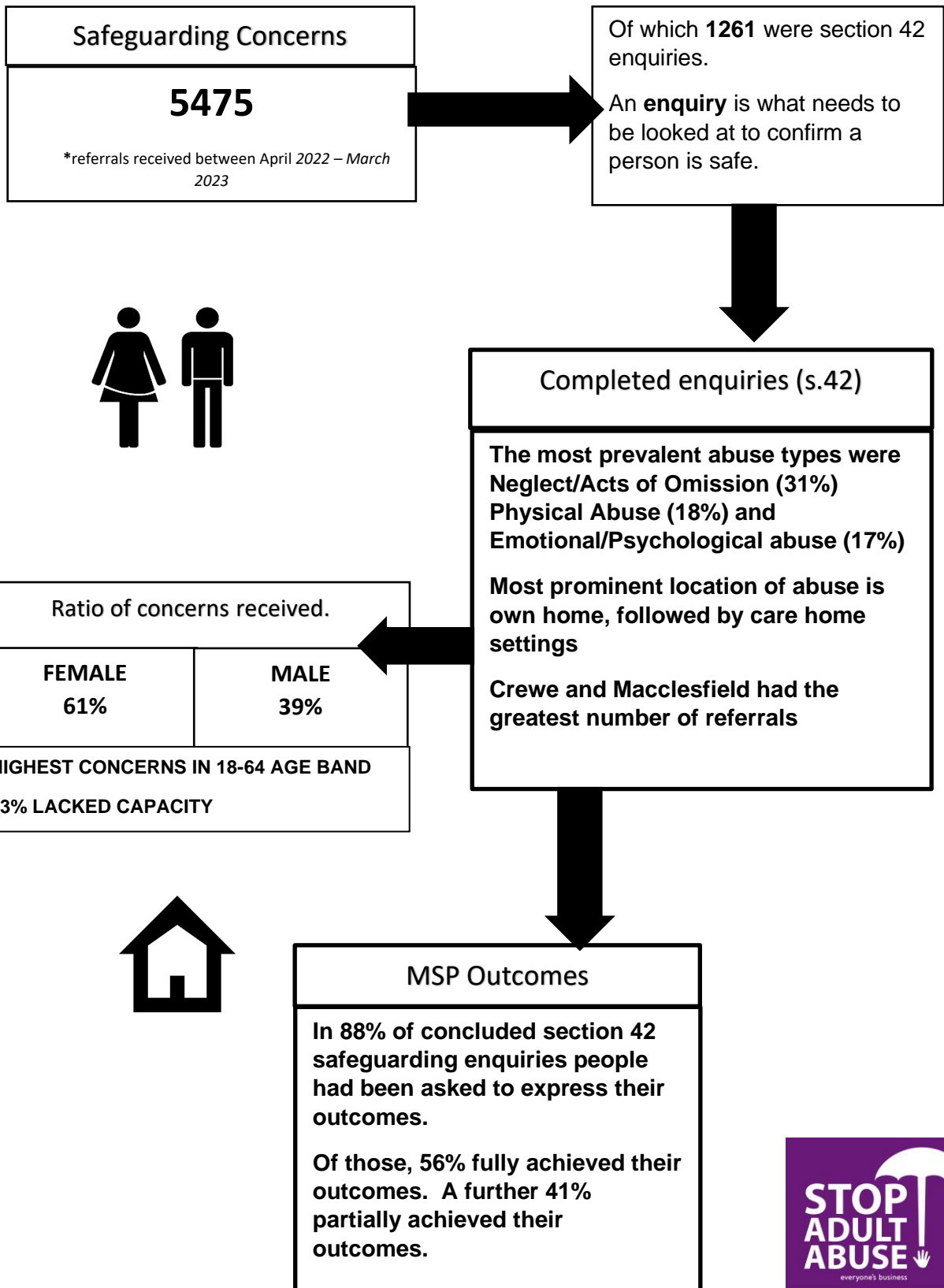
***"If you know someone who is experiencing abuse, please report it. Together we can stamp out all forms of abuse."***

***"The week was an excellent opportunity to raise awareness of safeguarding adult issues. The planned events throughout the week highlighted how abuse can happen anywhere. It can be committed by anyone, and that abuse can take many forms."***

***"Whatever the circumstances, abuse is always wrong, and the week demonstrated how agencies in Cheshire East work together to support the person, to bring the abuse to an end"***.



# Performance and activity Information 2022-23



Data comparisons to the North West England figures for 2022/23 available on request





## SAFEGUARDING ADULT REVIEWS (SARs):

Under the Care Act 2014, the SAB is responsible for the coordination of Safeguarding Adults Reviews (SARs). These independent reviews are commissioned where there has been an incident of serious harm or death involving an adult at risk, and its focus is on capturing learning. They set out to establish what may have gone wrong and to identify where agencies or individuals could have acted differently or worked better together. In 2022-23 CESAB concluded ONE safeguarding adults review –

**JANE:** *The SAB commissioned a Safeguarding Adults Review following the death of “Jane”.*

Jane was 63-years old and had been diagnosed with Dementia in 2018. She lived in her own home and her husband was her main carer. Sadly, she was killed in an accident when she went missing from her home in December 2020

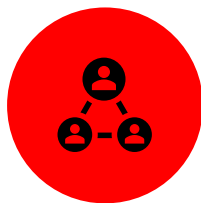
It should be noted that these events occurred during the early stages of the COVID pandemic when national lockdowns were established, placing restrictions on contact from family and professionals.

The Review also highlighted how COVID placed increased strain on carers, especially those caring for someone with a long-term illness such as Dementia. The pandemic also caused anxiety in accessing services particularly hospital or respite care, due to fear of separation or catching Covid. The Review highlighted the importance of Professionals utilising their Professional Curiosity including considering why people may initially be reluctant to accept support and how to strengthen knowledge about Dementia. The full report can be found on our webpages [www.stopadultabuse.org.uk](http://www.stopadultabuse.org.uk)

### What we learnt from ‘Jane’ SAR –



**The importance of multi-agency working in a timely manner**



**Improving our understanding of dementia/long term illness and associated family carer stress /risks**



**The importance of professional curiosity especially why people may initially be reluctant to accept support.**



**An understanding on the effect the covid 19 pandemic had on frontline visit practices.**



**The importance of clearly recording on casework recording systems when an individual has caring responsibilities.**

### Discretionary Safeguarding Adult Reviews (D-SARs):

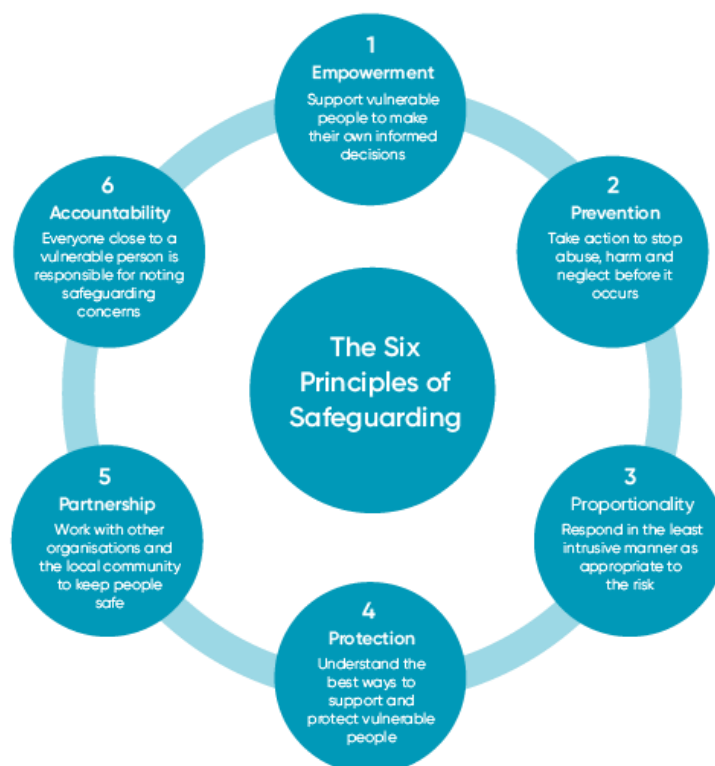
CESAB can also exercise discretion and arrange a Discretionary SAR in any case involving an Adult at risk in its area where it believes that there will be value in doing so. This may include where an agency believes there are lessons to be learned for all involved which will improve multi agency working, practice and information sharing. Each D-SAR results in a 7-minute briefing, this report provides the key themes and recommendations surrounding the review. The expectation is that team leaders across the multi-agency will present these briefings to their staff, on a regular basis. During 2022/23, CESAB conducted three D SARs, briefings can be downloaded from [www.stopadultabuse.org.uk](http://www.stopadultabuse.org.uk)

## Single Agency Self-Assessment –

CESAB conducted a self-assessment process with its partners in order to reflect on their agency’s safeguarding adults activity during 2022/23. This process allowed partners to consider areas such as Making Safeguarding Personal and how their agency has incorporated the recommendations made within the recent Safeguarding Adult Reviews. Below are the main findings from this assessment:

### Making Safeguarding Personal (MSP):

Key to Making Safeguarding Personal are the six key principles of adult safeguarding:



These six principles apply to all partners of the SAB, the self-assessment provided assurance to the SAB that all partners are aware of these principles and apply them in their everyday safeguarding practice. Examples included the local authority highlighting how their case work recording system can capture MSP outcomes and whether they have been fully, partially, or not achieved. They also highlighted quarterly case MSP audits identifying areas of good practice and improvement. Housing also evidenced how social landlords ensure that the views, thoughts, and feelings of residents are clearly recorded, and evidence of resident choice is apparent in case management. Housing providers also conduct audits of safeguarding cases regularly, which includes evaluation of making safeguarding personal and the evidencing of the 6 principles of safeguarding being adhered to. Both Health partners and the Police also reported similar auditing processes.

### Person in a Position of Trust (PIPOT):

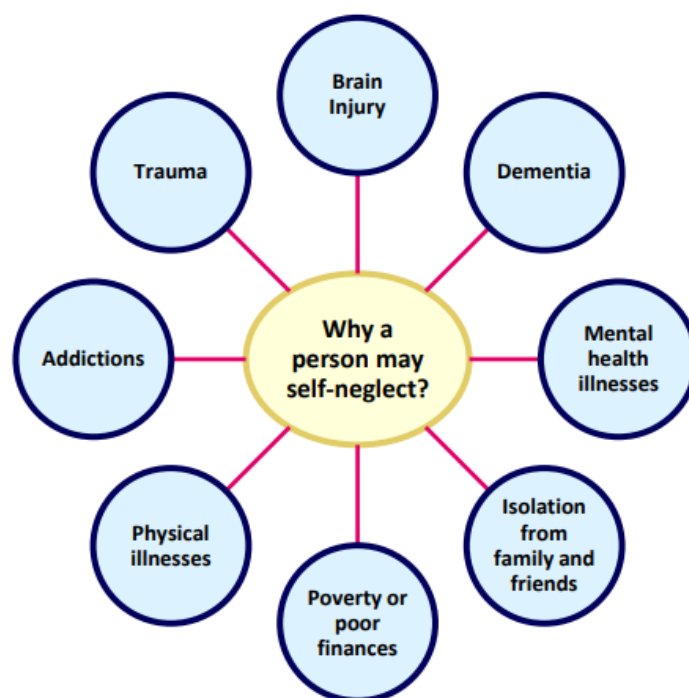
PIPOT is a framework for managing cases where allegations have been made against a person in a position of trust. It provides a process to ensure appropriate actions are taken to manage allegations, regardless of whether they are made in connection with the PIPOT’s

employment, in their private life, or any other capacity. All CESAB partners were able to evidence having a PIPOt procedures and robust HR management policies in place regarding managing allegations within their organisations.

## Safeguarding Adults Reviews:

### *The Case of Mervyn and Self Neglect*

The self-assessment requested all partners to document what actions their agency put into place following the SAR of Mervyn (*reported in the 2021/22 Annual Report and published on the SAB website*). A key aspect of the Mervyn SAR was understanding the issues surrounding Self-Neglect



A recommendation following the Mervyn SAR was that all settings take steps to raise awareness with staff about socially isolated people who may be at risk of self-neglect. Partners were able to evidence new interventions and developments in place such as –

The development of the Complex Safeguarding Forum to discuss high risk cases.

Updates to partner's Self-Neglect policies

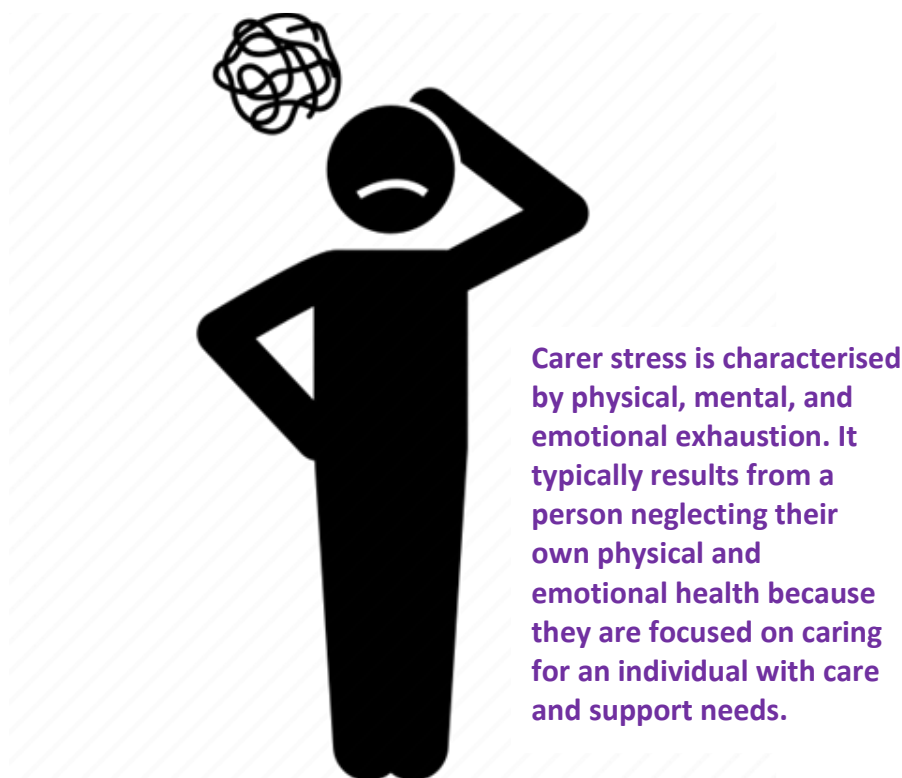
Development of the Hoarding Support Groups

The Mervyn SAR Report has been shared within all Board Partner organisations and frontline staff including Social Work Staff, GPs, nurses, housing officers and frontline criminal justice employees.

The Research in Practice for Adults (RiPfa) Guidance documents on Self-neglect and Professional Curiosity have also been circulated within all settings.

## The Case of Jane and Carer Stress

The self-assessment requested all partners to document what actions their agency put into place following the SAR of Jane (*reported on page 12 of this Annual Report (22/23) and published on the SAB website*). A key aspect of the Jane SAR was understanding the issues surrounding carer stress especially in cases involving dementia.



A recommendation following the Jane SAR was that all partners need to ensure staff are aware of the circumstances of when a Carers Assessment is required to be undertaken under the Care Act 2014. Partners were able to evidence this by –

Organisations promoting Dementia Awareness and caring issues within their settings.

Guidance on Dementia, Carers and Domestic Abuse has been produced by a core group of Health and Social Care Staff and circulated to all partners.

Partners were able to document various forms of training from E-learning modules focussing on Care Act Assessments to a bespoke Odd Arts Training session focussed on Dementia, Carers and Domestic Abuse. Training, where possible, has been encouraged to be a multi-agency approach with partners discussing issues from their own perspectives and learning from each other.

All Health leads and GPs in the borough have also been issued with guidance regarding carer stress and Carer Assessments following the Jane SAR

Carer Passports are implemented across our local hospitals with Dementia Lead Nurses in place too.



## FUTURE PLANS

### Our priorities 2023-24

The Board recognises more can be achieved by working together in partnership and has committed to the following areas for the year ahead, based on feedback, learning and analysis of current strengths.

**Training:** CESAB are committed to continue to strengthen the Training function of the board. It has secured funding for 2023-24 to extend the training programme further. This includes continuation with Basic Awareness training sessions with the local care sector and local taxi drivers. The programme will also develop a Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards (DoLS) sessions for care staff as well as expanding it offer around Domestic Abuse, and Care Concerns.

**Strengthening Partnerships:** We will continue to strengthen our board by establishing closer working links and structures with the Community Safety Partnership (SCEP), and the Cheshire East Children's Safeguarding Partnership (CESCP) ensuring clear oversight of wider contextual safeguarding issues.

**Creating a Culture of Learning:** We will promote continuous improvement in safeguarding practice by learning from experience and supporting workforce development. This work will consider how we share learning from SARs and other review processes widely across the partnership, with a clear methodology for reviewing the impact on practice.

**CQC Assurance:** CQC will now be assessing local authorities in England. They will be looking at how well local authorities meet their duties under the Care Act 2014, this will include partnership working and adult safeguarding. CESAB partners are therefore committed to support the local authority with this process and will continue to take steps as a Board in preparation for the CQC assessment.

*This report will be published on our website [www.stopadultabuse.org.uk](http://www.stopadultabuse.org.uk) for all partners and members of the public to access. As required by the Care Act, this report will also be shared with the Chief Executive Officer and Lead Member at Cheshire East Council as well as the Police and Crime Commissioner, Healthwatch Cheshire East plus the Cheshire East Health and Wellbeing Board.*

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