



News Bulletin

March 2024 - Volume 7

Welcome from Independent Chair & Scrutineer

This month has seen 2 publications of interest to colleagues working in the children's sector.

Working Together to Safeguard Children is the statutory guidance that sets out expectations for the system that provides help, support and protection for children and their families. The revised statutory guidance sets out new national multi-agency practice standards for child protection that emphasise the skills, experience, and expertise practitioners working in a multi-agency child protection context need.

As well as clarifying the need for a multiagency safeguarding response to all forms of abuse, neglect, and exploitation, it introduces non-mandatory reporting of the death of care leavers, in an effort to better understand and improve the outcomes for care leavers aged 18-25.

The guidance also places emphasis on the requirement for education to participate fully at a strategic level in a multi-agency child protection Working Together 2023 which replaces the 2018 version and can be viewed [here](#).

The Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel published its annual report which shares patterns identified in practice as well as key messages of interest to practitioners. The Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel Annual Report 2022-23 (publishing.service.gov.uk)

With the restructuring of Warwickshire CC senior teams, and in anticipation of the changes to WS organisational structure, we have been pleased to welcome Pete Sidgwick, Director of Social Care and Support to the WS Executive Board and look forward benefitting from his breadth of knowledge in adult social care and safeguarding.



Elaine Coleridge Smith
Warwickshire Safeguarding Independent Chair & Scrutineer

Who are we?

Warwickshire Safeguarding is a multiagency Partnership established to ensure safeguarding measures are met and that adults, with care and support needs, and children across Warwickshire are protected from harm and abuse and lessons are learned from case reviews and improvements identified/implemented.

Meet the Business Team

Janet Goffe
(Interim Business Manager)

Holly Reed & Jenn Coxley (Quality, Learning & Improvement Officers)



For further information and to keep up to date with our latest news, please visit:

www.safeguardingwarwickshire.co.uk



NEW – Published Reviews

Provided below are details of reports which have been recently published by the partnership following the conclusion of safeguarding reviews. Copies of the full reports relating to children and adults can be found by clicking on either of the following links:

[Children's Reviews](#)

[Adults Reviews](#)



Anna: Anna's childhood had been complex. Marked by poor home conditions, family members who had died by suicide and witness to domestic abuse, Anna had been known to Children's Services from 1 year's old. In addition, her mother suffered from emotional ill health and Anna was referred to as her carer at points throughout her childhood. Anna suffered from long term physical health issues, chronic pain and poor mental health. She would have episodes of self-harm and made several attempts to take her life. In her teens, Anna became a mother. She was described as a loving mother and her child as happy. Anna struggled to maintain the living conditions at the home she shared with several pets. Anna sadly died by suicide aged 21.

View the full Report and Briefings [here](#)

Self-Neglect Thematic Report: Over a 10 month period, several cases were brought to Warwickshire Safeguarding for consideration of review, that had the common theme of self-neglect.

Thematic work has been undertaken by the Partnership, which has highlighted changes required to procedures when working with adults who present with vulnerabilities.

Recommendations include: Warwickshire developing a multi-agency Vulnerable Adult Risk Management Framework and implementation of a training program clarifying the Mental Capacity Act, its principles and how this relates to safeguarding.

View the full Report and Briefings [here](#)





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Simon: Simon came from a family where English wasn't the first language. As Simon was fluent in English, he was often relied on by professionals to translate information for his parents. At 15, he suffered a brain injury, which is said to have affected his behaviour and he struggled with his mental health. Simon attempted to take his own life and was treated in hospital. Simon was later held under the Mental Health Act, unable to visit home due to covid. He alleged that he was the victim of serious sexual assault and made further allegations regarding his peers being sexually abused whilst under the influence. Simon continued to struggle significantly and his mental health deteriorated.

Simon sadly died by suicide aged 16.

View the full Report and Briefings [here](#)

Self-Immolation Learning Review: A task and finish group was formed to explore whether fire risk management is robust across the partnership, scrutinise existing pathways of support and review any areas of practice that need to be strengthened to support adults with complex needs.

This was highlighted following two referrals to the Partnership in which:

- An adult with poor mental health sadly died from life threatening injuries following setting themselves alight within the family home.
- And, the living environment of an elderly adult who died as a result of poor mental health, meant that they would not have been able to evacuate their home if there had been a fire.

View the full Report and Briefings [here](#)





Safeguarding News

Warwickshire VARM Launching February 2024

The Partnership have agreed a multi-agency process to facilitate the management of cases with adults who are deemed to have capacity and make decisions for themselves and are experiencing an unmanageable level of risk that:

- does not relate to abuse or neglect by a third party
- that could lead to imminent serious harm, death or injury (including emotional/psychological)

Provided on safeguardingwarwickshire.co.uk are tools, guidance and framework for agencies to facilitate an effective VARM meeting.

Safeguarding leads within agencies have been invited on training during January and a bitesize video for all will become available in the upcoming months.

If you have any question about this new framework, please contact:

wsab@warwickshire.gov.uk



Meet the Business Team's Interim Business Manager Janet Goffe

Hello, I just want to give a quick introduction. I will be covering Amrita's absence and joined the team on the 22nd February 2024.



I am Social Worker, Registered with Social Work England and have had over 29 years' experience of working with children and young people in both residential and field work settings. I have worked on an employed and self-employed basis to the following roles:

- Social Work Practitioner / Hospital Social Worker
- EDT Social Worker Residential Social
- Child Protection Coordinator and Independent Review Officer
- Team Manager, Service Manager / Head of Service for the conference and review, and LADO services.
- Local Authority OFSTED Inspection Improvement Lead.

In addition, I have been a foster carer over an 8-year period between 2006 – 2014. In more recent years I had the opportunity to strengthen my knowledge and skills in work with adults with care and support needs and improving the multiagency safeguarding system

I am looking forward to working with you all. Together we can keep the most vulnerable children and adults of Warwickshire safe and improve their outcomes.



Safeguarding News

Child Exploitation Awareness Week 2024 Events and Free Training 18th March - 23rd March

Could you spot the signs?

Warwickshire agencies including Warwickshire Police, Barnardo's, Warwickshire County Council (WCC) and the Warwickshire Safeguarding Partnership Board are joining the national fight against child exploitation by raising awareness throughout the week that follows Child Exploitation Awareness Day on Monday 18 March.

This year, agencies in Warwickshire will be working in partnership, highlighting a different theme each day to draw attention to the various forms of, and potential settings for, child exploitation.

A **schedule of free multi-agency online training sessions** will be available throughout the week following Child Exploitation Awareness Day. These sessions are for all professionals who work with children, young people and adults (where children are within the home) across Warwickshire. Please **click here** to see the opportunities.

Please visit www.safeguardingwarwickshire.co.uk for the full press release and tools.

For information on how to spot the signs of child exploitation, visit <https://www.somethingsnotright.co.uk/spot-the-signs/>

Warwickshire Safeguarding Executive Board Membership

ICB colleague, Tracey Pilcher, is moving to a new role and so will be leaving the Board in March 2024. We wish her all the best in her new role.

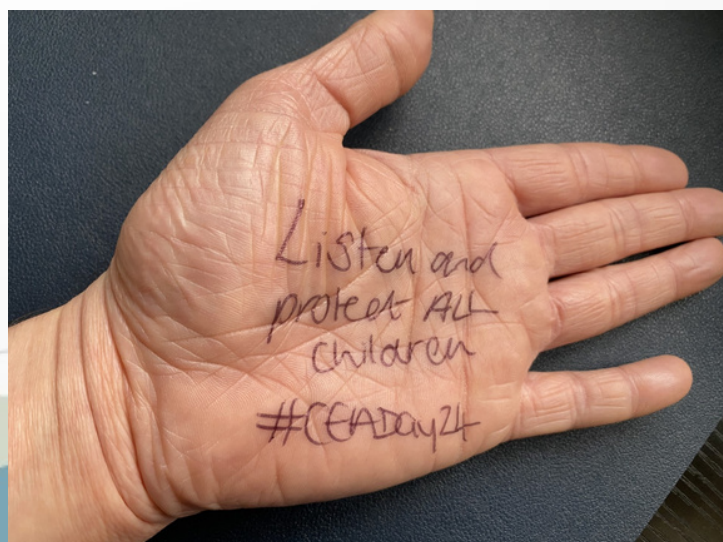
The new Health representative for the Partnership will be announced in due course.

Jackie Channell, ICB, will be representative in the interim.

Exploitation Subgroup Strategy Refresh

2024 will be the year that the current Exploitation Strategy will be refreshed to guide the work of the Safeguarding Partnership in this area.

To shape the content, we are holding in-person workshops for professionals, with the aim to identify barriers, concerns and opinions from professional supporting Adults, Children and Young people being exploited in Warwickshire.





2024 Multi-Agency Training Programme

Warwickshire Safeguarding Partnership are pleased to share our multi-agency training programme for 2024. Our aim is to provide accessible multi-agency training for our safeguarding partner agencies throughout Warwickshire. The free, virtual training is linked to the learning from CSPR's, SAR's, findings from the thematic review and key priorities from subgroups.

Please note: all training is currently being delivered virtually via Microsoft Teams

Further details on the courses and how to book can be found via our website: [safeguarding Warwickshire.co.uk](https://safeguarding.warwickshire.co.uk)

Those who work in education are welcome to join our training sessions. However, if you are looking for school specific training please [click here](#)

Additional Training Opportunities:

[Domestic Abuse Awareness Training Prevent](#)

Training Events

Vanguard Bitesize Session covering a number of subject areas and themes

Professional Curiosity

Learning from Safeguarding Reviews

Fire Safety Awareness

Hoarding Awareness

Integrated Front Door and what makes a good referral

Using the Mental Capacity Act in the context of Safeguarding and Self-Neglect (**Currently fully booked - waiting list only**)

WARWICKSHIRE SAFEGUARDING

ANNUAL REPORT
2022-2023



Safeguarding Spotlight

This year's annual report explores the safeguarding activity Warwickshire has undertaken 2022 - 2023, the progress on strategic priorities and learning from reviews.

A copy of the Annual Review is available for [download here](#)



Points of Interest

New 7-minute Briefings

The following 7-minute Briefing have been published since the last newsletter:

- [Home Invasion - How to spot the signs and act on concerns](#)
- [The Mental Capacity Act - A basic overview](#)
- [Think Family](#)
- [Pica Awareness](#)
- [Mental Health Sections - a basic overview](#)

New Briefings for Practitioners

- [The Importance of Language - Particularly when using Terminology Relating to Health](#)
- [Fire and Rescue's Safe and Well Referral Process Flowchart](#)
- [Fire Safety Guidance](#) - Warwickshire organisations are encouraged to use this information for their own websites. A briefing document is available upon request.

Quick Links

- [7-Minute Briefings](#)
- [Lessons Learned Briefings](#)
- [Past Quarterly Bulletins](#)

Somethings Not Right

Child Exploitation is
happening in Warwickshire

DON'T IGNORE IT

Operation Talkative

Intelligence regarding possession of knives

Have
information
about
someone
carrying a
knife?



Scan the QR code to
contact Crime Stoppers
anonymously

Report it to us



999 in an emergency
101 to report info



report online
warwickshire.police.uk



Warwickshire
POLICE

To report an adult safeguarding concern or to make a safeguarding referral for a child, please contact one of the following:

Social Care & Support (Adults): 01926 412080

Children Social Care: 01926 414144

includes options for Family Information Service (Option 1), Early Help Support Line (Option 2), and Safeguarding (Option 3)