



Warwickshire  
Safeguarding

# QUARTERLY NEWS BULLETIN

February 2021 – Volume 1

## Welcome from Independent Chair & Scrutineer

Welcome to the first edition of Warwickshire Safeguarding's quarterly news bulletin. The news bulletin has been designed to introduce you to relevant pieces of information which can be accessed in more detail via the links embedded within each of the articles. We will be producing the bulletins on a quarterly basis here onwards to

1. Promote learning from Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews (CSPRs) and Safeguarding Adults Reviews (SARs) which supports improvement in practice
2. Inform you of any changes/updates to safeguarding policy and procedures; and
3. Publicise forthcoming safeguarding events and seminars across the partnership

We hope you find the information helpful. Please do take the time to read this and help us to promote these bulletins across your respective organisations.

We would also welcome your feedback, as well as, your thoughts on any additional information you would like to see featured in future publications.



**Elaine Coleridge Smith**  
Warwickshire Safeguarding Independent Chair & Scrutineer

## Who are we?

Warwickshire Safeguarding is a multi-agency Partnership established to ensure safeguarding measures are met and that vulnerable adults 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

**Amrita Sharma**  
(Business Manager)

**Caroline McCluskey  
& Holly Reed**  
(Quality, Learning & Improvement Officers)

**Chelsea Jones & Jo Ferguson**  
(Business Development Officers)



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

[www.safeguardingwarwickshire.co.uk](http://www.safeguardingwarwickshire.co.uk)



## Multi-Agency Safeguarding Reviews

Warwickshire Safeguarding has brought together review processes for both statutory and non-statutory reviews of cases involving adults and children, including [Rapid Reviews](#), Safeguarding Adult Reviews (SARs) and Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews for Children (CSPRs). This new partnership approach is intended to:

- Reduce duplication and use skills, knowledge and capacity more efficiently
- Enable better sharing of learning across both adult and children's safeguarding systems and workforce
- Enable better oversight and management of reviews, actions and recommendations and demands on partner agencies through a centralised coordination process

## Resources to support learning from reviews work

**Published Reports** - To access copies of published reports please use the following web pages:

Children's safeguarding reports: <https://www.safeguardingwarwickshire.co.uk/safeguarding-children/safeguarding-children-partnership/case-reviews>

Adults safeguarding reports: <https://www.safeguardingwarwickshire.co.uk/safeguarding-adults/safeguarding-adults-partnership/safeguarding-adults-reviews>

**Lessons Learned Briefings** - 2-page brief providing synopsis of case and key learning points gathered from both statutory and non-statutory safeguarding reviews. To access copies of all Lessons Learned Briefings please go to: <https://www.safeguardingwarwickshire.co.uk/lessons-learnt-briefings>

**7 Minute Briefings** – Single page briefing providing a quick and simple way to share learning on a range of safeguarding topics identified as key areas requiring further improvement in practice and understanding. The following list of new briefings has now been published on the website. To access copies of all 7 Minute Briefings please go to:

<https://www.safeguardingwarwickshire.co.uk/7-minute-briefings>

- [Adult Self Neglect](#)
- [Child Protection Medicals](#)
- [Pre-birth Assessments](#)
- [Children Home Alone](#)
- [Thinking the unthinkable about Foster Carers](#)
- [Use of Interpreters and Translators](#)
- [Reflective Learning Workshops](#)

**NSPCC Library** - Hosts the National collection of case reviews from across other safeguarding partnerships to support local learning. To access the National Case Review repository please go to: <https://learning.nspcc.org.uk/case-reviews/national-case-review-repository>



## Case Studies

**PETER:** Last year Warwickshire Safeguarding published a learning briefing following a [Safeguarding Adult Review \(SAR\) – Adult: Peter](#). The review involved an adult who was housed in temporary accommodation following discharge from hospital. Peter suffered from a complex series of conditions contributing to poor overall health coupled with self-neglect which can be difficult to manage. The review recommended that agencies work more closely together to understand self-neglect and guidance around it to help people recognise and act on risks. [Click here for a copy of the Lessons Learned Briefing](#) to learn more about the key areas of practice improvement.

**POPPY:** Poppy had been a looked after child since birth following concerns over her parent's significant history of drug misuse and domestic violence. Shortly after her birth, Poppy went with her mother and father to a family-based treatment facility to address her parent's substance misuse and undergo further assessments as a family. Poppy's father left the facility before completing treatment, however her mother remained and continued to progress well with treatment and her parenting to Poppy was considered to be good.

Poppy's mother expressed to services that she did not wish to return to her previous property once she had completed her treatment due to her history of drug use. Poppy's mother was unable to move as she had rent arrears, some of which had been accrued whilst the property lay empty when the family attended the family-based treatment facility. As Poppy's mother was still registered as a tenant at this address, she also did not meet the homelessness criteria. Some weeks later, emergency services were called to Poppy's home where Poppy's mother was sadly found deceased. [Click here for a copy of the Lessons Learned Briefing](#) to learn more about the key areas of practice improvement.

**OLIVIA:** When Olivia was one-year old she was taken, by her parents, to hospital as they stated she had sustained an injury at home. Her parents said that this had happened 3 days previously, but they hadn't brought her to hospital because of concerns about Covid-19. On examination Olivia had sustained a very painful injury, with further examinations indicating that she had 6 additional older fractures that had been caused on at least 2 separate occasions. Prior to this incident Olivia had been the subject of 3 separate single assessments from pre-birth until she was 6 months old; one of which was as a result of concerns about bruising.

When Olivia's mother was pregnant with Olivia a referral was made to Children's Services with child in need support being offered. This was declined by parents and social work involvement was ended. There was no evidence of any consideration being given as part of this assessment to any pre-existing risks to the unborn baby. In addition, Olivia's father had been known to Children's Services during his childhood, for his mental wellbeing and in respect of his other children, however none of the historical detail was taken into consideration. [Click here for a copy of the Lessons Learned Briefing](#) to learn more about the key areas of practice improvement.



## Changes to Safeguarding Procedures

### Warwickshire Safeguarding Escalation Protocol

Last year Warwickshire Safeguarding introduced a new Practitioner Escalation Protocol which provides clear guidance for practitioners. The protocol offers a three-stage procedure and includes a reporting and monitoring processes.

To access the Practitioner Escalation Protocol and supporting briefings, please click on the links below:

- [WS Escalation Protocol](#)
- [Frequently Asked Questions](#)
- [7-Minute Briefing](#)

### Children Procedure Manual

In 2020 Warwickshire Children's Inter-agency Safeguarding Procedures manual switched to a new host platform. Copies of all multi-agency safeguarding policy, procedures and protocols can be accessed via the following link; please don't forget to register for your regular updates when next visiting the site:

- [Children Procedure Manual](#)

## Events

The Warwickshire Safeguarding Business Team has delivered a series of mini workshops and learning events to help promote an understanding of the partnership's work, including learning from safeguarding reviews relevant to different partner agency audiences:

- [September 2020 – Children's Services Workshops](#)
- [February 2021 – GPs & Practice Managers](#)
- [March & June 2021 – Planned events for Warwickshire Education settings](#)

If you would like to discuss developing a bespoke learning event for your teams/organisations, please contact the Business Manager via email: [amritasharma@Warwickshire.gov.uk](mailto:amritasharma@Warwickshire.gov.uk)



## Additional Reading

- **CREST Violence & Vulnerability Report (Feb 2021)**  
This report explores the issue of vulnerability as a driver of serious violence, focusing on young people. It summarises the current trends in violence and patterns of vulnerability among children and young people, including the rise in poverty and deprivation.
- **British Red Cross – ‘The Longest Year – life under restrictions’**  
For many of us, this has felt like ‘the longest year’. But the pandemic hasn’t affected us all equally – it has shone a spotlight on inequalities and made them worse. Our health, income, caring responsibilities, support networks and even where we live have mattered now more than ever. This research explores the experiences of people and organisations living and working in areas that have been under tighter local restrictions across the UK.”
- **Online Exploitation Z card**  
This booklet shows some of the ways in which children and young people can be exploited online and how you can keep young people safe from this kind of abuse.
- **Online Safeguarding – ‘What is the Dark Web?’**  
Understanding a young person’s internet use is an integral part of safeguarding and supporting them. Many young people view their digital self as an extension of their identity and sense of self. Therefore, it’s crucial that we are supporting young people digitally. This paper provides some key pointers for professionals working with young people.
- **Appropriate Language – Guidance for Professionals**  
This document can be used by professionals when discussing the exploitation of children and young people, including when escalating intelligence and delivering training.
- **Suicide & Self-Harm Prevention during Coronavirus**  
The rising rates of self-harm and suicide were deeply concerning before Coronavirus. Now, with the pandemic taking a huge toll on people’s mental wellbeing and creating widespread economic insecurity, Samaritans are calling for urgent action to tackle these trends. The Samaritans have developed a series of briefings to address the challenges amongst the following high-risk groups:
  - **Middle Aged Men**
  - **People with pre-existing mental health conditions**
  - **Young people who self-harm**



## Useful Information

- **Use of Slang / Emojis** – *Have you ever come across slang and/or emojis that you don't recognise or understand?* The following links provide you with a dictionary of both to help you understand the language people may be using to help you to safeguard them:
  - [Slang Dictionary](#)
  - [Emojis Dictionary](#)
- **Act Early** – Counter Terrorism (CT) Policing have launched a new safeguarding website aimed at family and friends to encourage them to share concerns that a friend or loved one might be vulnerable to radicalisation. CT Policing would like your support in promoting awareness of this new website. The site can be accessed via the following link:
  - <https://actearly.uk/>
- **Domestic & Sexual Violence & Abuse** – The University of Wolverhampton invites you to participate in their research into gender-based violence. The following link is for a short on-line survey about domestic abuse and sexual violence and abuse and looks to address the question of 'What can England & Wales learn from Women's Police Stations to prevent gender violence?'. To access the link to the survey and consent form please visit the following page:
  - <https://uow-survey.onlinesurveys.ac.uk/feasibility-for-the-development-of-womens-police-stations-2>

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

**Adult Social Care: 01926 412080**

**Children Social Care: 01926 414144**