

News letter

Welcome Message

Welcome to the May edition of the Warwickshire Safeguarding Adults Board newsletter, which brings together important learning, refreshed guidance and timely national and local updates to support safeguarding practice across all partner agencies.

A key focus this month is the publication of the Safeguarding Adults Review (SAR) relating to John. This review highlights areas where agencies could have worked more effectively together to recognise deteriorating health, escalating risk and complex needs. Alongside the full SAR, a concise Lessons Learned Briefing has been produced to support practical reflection and application. We strongly encourage all professionals to read, share and discuss these resources within teams and organisations, and most importantly to use the learning to strengthen day-to-day practice and multi-agency working.

This issue also marks the relaunch of the Think Family Protocol, a joint commitment between the Warwickshire Safeguarding Adults Board and the Warwickshire Safeguarding Children Partnership. The refreshed protocol reinforces the importance of working holistically with individuals and families, recognising that safeguarding risks rarely sit neatly with either adults or children alone.

In addition, this newsletter features a range of new briefings, learning resources and seasonal awareness themes designed to inform, prompt reflection and support continuous improvement. We hope you find this useful and encourage you to share it widely across your networks.

If you have a story that you would like to be shared in the newsletter, please contact the WSAB Business Team at wsab@warwickshire.gov.uk

Elaine Coleridge-Smith
Independent Chair of WSAB





Safeguarding Adult Review Publication: John

John was an elderly resident at a care home who experienced multiple physical and mental health concerns including a learning disability, cognitive impairment after a brain aneurysm, autism, chronic kidney disease and a history of chest infections. He experienced a period of decline in the months before his death and was hospitalised nine times for a range of medical concerns, including falls. John slid out of his bed one evening and lay on the floor for 16 hours; he was transported to hospital where he dies 7 days later.

A Safeguarding Adults Review was commissioned because there were concerns that agencies could have worked more effectively together to protect John and meet his changing needs.

Key learning themes from John's SAR include:

- Recognising and responding to physical decline and escalating risk
- The importance of multi-agency working when needs are complex and deteriorating
- Consistent and legally compliant consideration of mental capacity, best interests and DoLS

Making sure the person's voice is heard, especially where communication is limited, challenging unconscious assumptions about people with learning disabilities.

 **Read the full [Safeguarding Adults Review for John](#).**

Lessons Learned - 'John'



John was an elderly resident at a care home, who experienced a range of mental and physical health concerns, comprising a learning disability, cognitive impairment after a brain aneurysm in 2005, autism, chronic kidney disease, and a history of chest infections and pneumonia. John's physical health, mobility and self-care deteriorated significantly in the months before his death, and John experienced a number of falls and hospital admissions due to illness.

John slid out of bed one evening and received minimal care whilst he lay on the floor for 16 hours (including 2 hours waiting for an ambulance). John died in hospital 7 days later presenting with a fracture to his hip (believed to be an older injury), a chest infection and early symptoms of sepsis.

What we have learned....

John experienced nine unplanned hospital admissions in the six months before he died, for a range of medical concerns including falls. The care home in which he resided, though not clearly, reported to hospital and community agencies that they were experiencing difficulties in managing John's care needs. John had become no longer 'weight bearing', meaning he could not be lifted when he regularly slid out of bed on to a crash mat.

Learning Point: Given the number of falls, hospital admissions and John's complex needs, there should have been sufficient concern to convene a multi-agency discharge meeting and falls management approach, with consideration of increased support to the home. Further to this there was a missed opportunity by the care home and agencies involved to escalate concerns and arrange a multi-agency risk management meeting. This could have prompted the development of a coordinated plan, recognising that John was unsteady on his feet, prone to falls and not sleeping on his bed.

John's learning disability presented as a primary need. There were examples of when agencies were not clear about whether to refer to CWPT's Learning Disability and Autism multi-disciplinary team or to Social Care and Support for Occupational Therapy appointments, Physiotherapy appointments and for ordering equipment. This may have contributed to delays in assessment.

Learning Point: There is a need to ensure that all agencies are clear on the roles and referral pathways for these services, particularly if an adult has multiple health conditions.

'John' Lessons Learned Briefing

Alongside the full Safeguarding Adults Review, a Lessons Learned Briefing (LLB) has been produced to support wider learning and practical application across services. The briefing distils the key themes, findings and learning from John's case into a concise and accessible format, ideal for busy professionals.

 **Read and share [John's Lessons Learned Briefing](#).**

Did you know? A Safeguarding Adults Review (SAR) is a statutory review required under Section 44 of the Care Act 2014, undertaken by a Safeguarding Adults Board when an adult with care and support needs has died or been seriously harmed and there is concern that agencies could have worked more effectively to protect them.



Focus on Learning

Lessons Learned Briefing: Owen

Warwickshire Safeguarding has published a Lessons Learned Briefing following the sad death of Owen, a 19-year-old with needs including autism and pica. The briefing highlights critical learning for professionals about listening to carers' concerns, robust risk assessment, and the importance of consistent supervision and multi-agency communication.

It emphasises that pica can rapidly escalate when someone is distressed and that agreed controls must be followed in practice, not just recorded. The briefing reinforces the need to place appropriate weight on parental and carer concerns, even when these are raised verbally, and to review incidents to identify patterns and prevent harm.

This briefing provides essential learning for education, health and social care professionals to strengthen safeguarding practice and keep people with care and support needs safe.

 **Read and share Owen's Lessons Learned Briefing.**



7-Minute Briefing: Pica Awareness

Pica is the eating of non-food items and, while often hidden, it can pose serious and life-threatening risks including choking, poisoning and internal injury.

The briefing explains what pica is, who may be most at risk (including people with learning disabilities and autistic people), and outlines potential contributing factors. Importantly, it highlights the health risks, good practice strategies and the need for coordinated multi-agency working. Practical guidance is included on risk assessment, recording concerns, sharing information, and supporting individuals and carers to reduce harm.

This concise resource is essential reading for health, social care, education and safeguarding professionals to improve awareness, promote early intervention and strengthen collaborative responses.

 **Read and share the Pica Awareness 7-Minute Briefing.**

Please read and share learning resources:

- [All 7-Minute Briefings](#)
- [All Lessons Learned Briefings](#)
- [All Safeguarding Adults Review Reports \(SARs\)](#)



Focus on Learning: 7-Minute Briefings

NEW: Autistic Adults 7-Minute Briefing

A new multi-agency practice resource has been produced to support professionals working with autistic adults.

The 7-minute briefing brings together practical, person-centred guidance to improve communication, reduce anxiety and make reasonable adjustments that promote safety, dignity and inclusion. It highlights how autism may affect information processing, sensory experiences and responses to routines and change, including during times of grief or stress. Designed for use across all sectors, the resource encourages consistent, autism-friendly practice.

 **Read and share the new Autistic Adults 7-Minute Briefing now.**



VARM Video available now!

Warwickshire's VARM process can be used to support people facing a high level of risk. Go online to see the full range of VARM support resources, including the 7-minute briefing video, [here](#).

NEW: Consent and Mental Capacity 7-Minute Briefing

A new 7-minute briefing is available to support practitioners' understanding of consent and mental capacity within Section 42 safeguarding enquiries.

The resource clarifies a common misconception that Section 42 enquiries under the Care Act 2014 require the adult's consent. It explains the legal duties of local authorities, the distinction between consent and involvement, and how principles of empowerment and the Mental Capacity Act 2005 should be applied in practice.

Designed to support confident, legally-sound decision making, this briefing is relevant to all partners involved in safeguarding adults.

 **Read and share the new Consent and Mental Capacity 7-Minute Briefing.**



Vulnerable Adult Risk Management

Multi-agency meeting in which agencies can facilitate the early management of cases with adults who are deemed to have capacity to make decisions for themselves and are experiencing a concerning and unmanageable level of risk.



Focus on Learning: 7-Minute Briefings

NEW Bereavement 7-Minute Briefing

This resource is aimed at raising awareness of professionals about supporting and signposting people suffering from bereavement.

This 7-Minute Briefing summarises what bereavement is and its causes, including a reminder that while death is often the cause, it can also result from relationship breakdown, declining health, loss of work or the death or rehoming of pets.

Targeted support and reasonable adjustments may need to be considered for adults with intersecting needs such as autistic adults and adults with learning disabilities, and links are provided to resources specific for these needs.

Important references are also made to the link between bereavement and the escalation of other risks such as self-neglect and other forms of abuse and neglect.

Bereavement services are also signposted.

 **Read and share the new Bereavement 7-Minute Briefing now.**

Spotlight on CJ's Lessons Learned Briefing

This spotlight feature highlights an older briefing that remains relevant today.

CJ was a young adult with autism and ADHD whose life was shaped by instability, exploitation and substance misuse.

Key learning emphasises the importance of robust Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) processes, effective preparation for adulthood, and coordinated multi-agency responses for young people with complex needs. It also reinforces the need for professional curiosity, continuity of relationships and timely responses to escalating risk.

This briefing is essential reading for professionals working with adolescents and young adults, supporting safer transitions and stronger safeguarding practice.

 **Read and share CJ's Lessons Learned Briefing now.**





Safeguarding Lead Spotlight

Jackie Channell

I am part of an amazing team within the ICB and have been in my current position for 14 years . My role as Associate Chief nurse for safeguarding is incredibly interesting and varied . No two days have ever been the same . I have oversight and involvement with all aspects of safeguarding across health systems including hospitals , community services and primary care , and offering support and advice as required. I spend much of my week working with the safeguarding partnership , chairing, or participating in meetings and reviews and managing any escalations.

I trained as a mental health nurse in 1989 and worked within adult mental health and then CAMHS for several years . When I was a senior CPN, I took on the role as lead for safeguarding (over 20 years ago) and then became the organisations safeguarding lead for a mental health and learning disability trust. After this I became the Designated nurse for Warwickshire, initially for safeguarding children, and then for safeguarding adults, domestic abuse and PREVENT.

One of the most rewarding aspects to my role is working with partners within the safeguarding adult's board . Over the years we have achieved so much !

Whilst I will be leaving my post in July, my commitment to safeguarding will remain and the ICB safeguarding team will continue our dedication to safeguarding in the NHS , protecting those most vulnerable and our commitment to the Board.

Outside of work my hobby is keeping ducks We have 3 Delilah, Olive and Mabel – watching them devour watermelon and peas is so satisfying 😊



Warwickshire Safeguarding Children Partnership / Adults Board: Think Family Protocol Refreshed

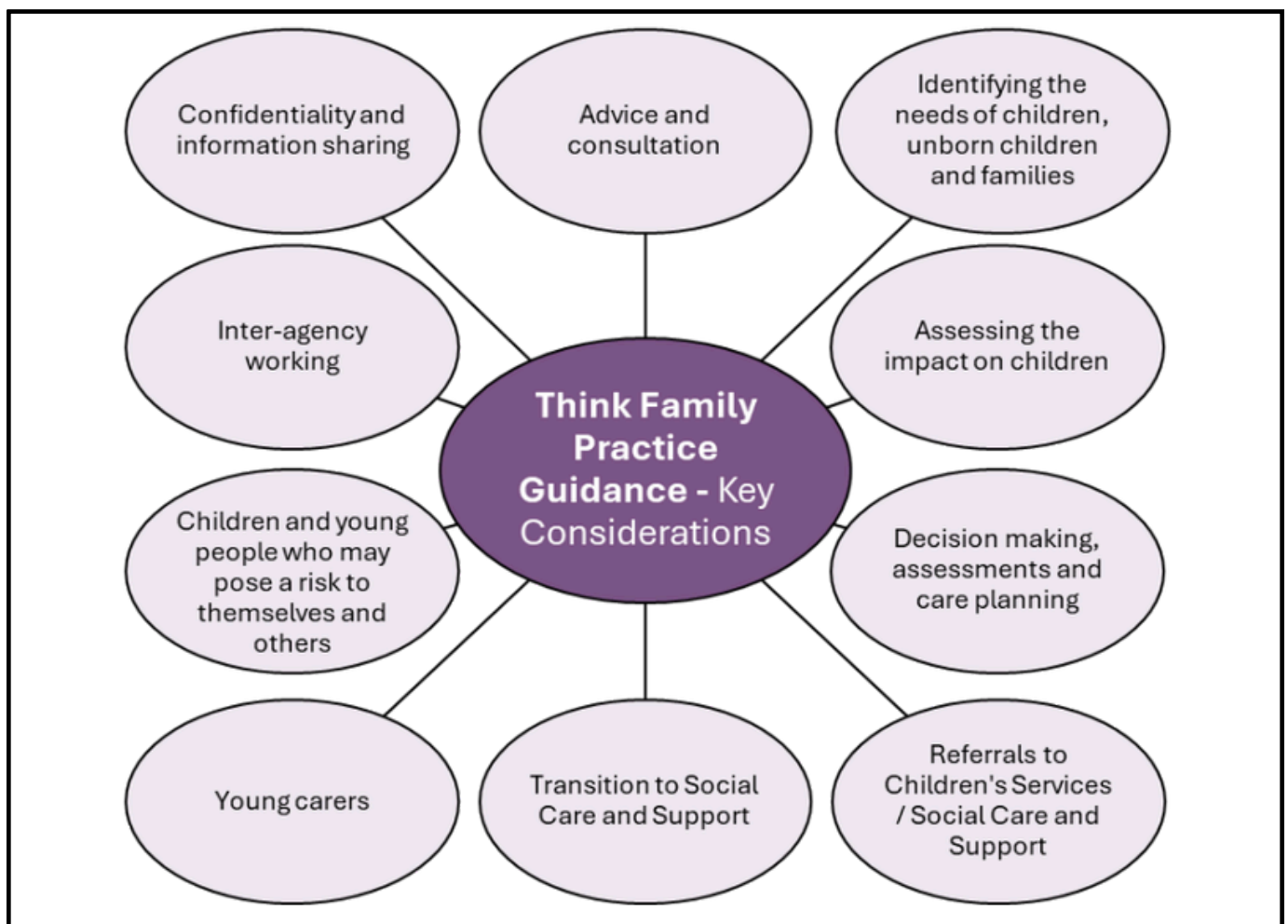
The Warwickshire Think Family Protocol is a joint commitment of the Warwickshire Safeguarding Children Partnership and Warwickshire Safeguarding Adults Board.

Everyone has a responsibility to take a 'Think Family' approach in the context of safeguarding children and adults. The protocol requires that practitioners, managers and services working with either adults or children work together in a holistic way to safeguard children, young people, adults, carers and families.

As well as making the statutory framework clear, this document promotes principles including providing early help, valuing diversity, sharing information effectively, and listening to the views and wishes of those being supported.

 **To find out more, read the refreshed Think Family Protocol and visit the Think Family Guidance webpage.**

The following diagram highlights key considerations:





The Casey Review into Adult Social Care so far: What it Means for Safeguarding

Update from the Casey Commission, March 2026

The Independent Commission on Adult Social Care, chaired by Baroness Louise Casey, is examining how adult social care in England supports, protects and values people with care and support needs. In March 2026, Baroness Casey wrote to the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, setting out urgent concerns and calling for immediate action ahead of the Commission's first report later this year.

Baroness Casey highlighted three key areas on which government action is needed before the publication of the first report later this year: adult safeguarding, dementia and Motor Neurone Disease.

Baroness Casey describes a safeguarding system where national responsibility has not been taken for protecting vulnerable adults, meaning that concerns identified repeatedly in reviews are being treated as isolated local problems, without national scrutiny, action or consequences.

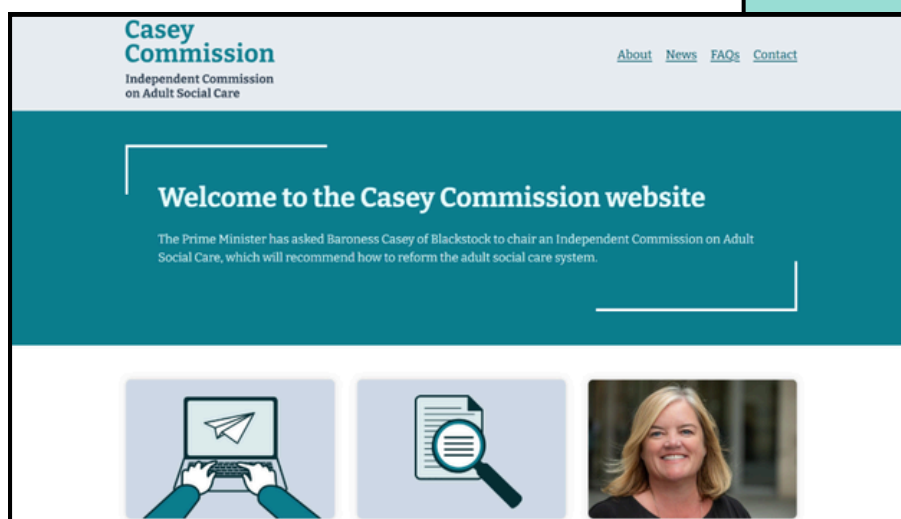
To address this, she calls for the urgent establishment of a new National Safeguarding Board with statutory responsibility for adult safeguarding, reviewing Safeguarding Adults Reviews and identifying risks. An urgent review of existing safeguarding duties and powers has also been called for, to test whether current arrangements provide sufficient clarity and leverage in high-risk situations.

In his response, the Rt Hon Wes Streeting MP, Secretary of State for Health and Social Care strongly welcomed the focus on adult safeguarding and confirmed he will implement the recommendations outlined in Baroness Casey's letter.

Explore the Casey Commission website, on which you may sign up for updates from the Casey Commission, to hear the latest news.

Read Baroness Casey's letter to Rt Hon. Wes Streeting MP Secretary of State for Health and Social Care.

Read the Rt Hon Wes Streeting's reply to Baroness Casey.





Carers Week, 8th-14th June 2026: Building Carer Friendly Communities

Carers Week 2026, running from 8th – 14th June, launches with the theme Building Carer Friendly Communities, calling for unpaid carers to be better recognised, identified and supported across all parts of society. For multi-agency safeguarding professionals, this message is highly relevant.

Unpaid carers are essential partners in safeguarding, often providing frontline support to adults with care and support needs. Yet there are challenges for services to identify and reach out to carers, who may be overwhelmed by caring responsibilities, experience financial strain and social isolation or experience their own declining health. These pressures can increase safeguarding risks, both for carers themselves and for the people they support.

Carer friendly communities align closely with the principles of Making Safeguarding Personal. They encourage professionals across health, social care, housing, policing, education and the voluntary sector to work together to identify carers early, listen to their lived experience, and respond in coordinated, proportionate ways. GP practices, hospitals, adult social care teams and community organisations all have a role in recognising carers and connecting them to timely support.

During Carers Week is a perfect time to raise workforce awareness and promote a whole family approach.

Explore how your organisation can help to protect people by building carer friendly communities on the [Carers Week website](#).



Explore Resources

Find out more about support for carers and Carers Week by following the links below:

- [Carers Week website](#)
- [Warwickshire County Council, Carers](#)
- [Caring Together Warwickshire](#)





Learning Disability Week: Do you see me?

Learning Disability Week is led by Mencap and takes place in the third week of June each year: Monday 15th to Sunday 21st June in 2026. This is a time to raise awareness of what it is like to have a learning disability and to celebrate what people with a learning disability bring to society.

People with learning disabilities deserve to live their lives in safety and maintain choice and control over their lives.

In 2025-2026 financial year, just over 10% of the safeguarding concern forms received by Warwickshire Adult Social Care and Support identify Learning Disability and Support as the primary support reason of the person the concern is about.

Key practices to support people with learning disabilities to keep themselves safe from abuse and neglect include using accessible or easy read resources to recognise risks, empower them to understand their rights and say 'no', create safe environments with trusted people and balancing safety with the right to live independently.

The theme of this year's Learning Disability Week is, 'Do you see me?' Strengths-based practice is vital to identify strengths and capabilities when working with a person, to see and value them first, not their disability.

For more information and resources on Learning Disability Week, including easy read options to share with people with learning disabilities, visit the **[Mencap website](#)**.



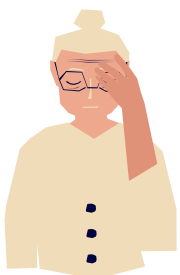


Dementia Action Week: 18th-24th May 2026

Dementia Action Week is an awareness raising campaign led by Alzheimer's Society, encouraging people and organisations to act on dementia. You may notice people wearing the blue and yellow Forget Me Not badge as a symbol of support to represent individuals affected by dementia and.

There are resources available on the Alzheimer's Society website including digital resources for special media and email signatures and posters which can be printed for public-facing areas, and which raise awareness of people's dementia stories, fundraising opportunities and the disease.

If you know someone with dementia, remember that you can register them with [Safe and Found Online](#). This free and simple service collects details of people who may go missing (such as people with dementia). This can save vital time in putting together a search and rescue plan in a missing persons event, when police can access the information. You can also register a similar profile with the [Herbert Protocol](#).



If you would like to find out more, visit the [Alzheimer's Society's Dementia Action Week page](#) or discover more about the disease and support available on the [Alzheimer's Society](#) website.

Your Events

If you have an event, learning or anything to promote in this newsletter, contact the team at
WSAB@warwickshire.gov.uk

Meet the Team



Elaine Coleridge-Smith
Independent Chair

Amrita Sharma
Business Manager

Jenn Coxley
Quality, Learning &
Improvement Officer

Jen Wrottesley
Business Development
Officer

Contact us at
WSAB@warwickshire.gov.uk

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
Family Connect (Children): 01926 414144

Quick Links

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