



# Cheshire East Safeguarding Adults Board

## *Reflective Review Themes and Trends*

### *Lessons for Practice*

This document identifies the overarching themes and trends from the analysis of the Reflective Reviews undertaken by the Cheshire East Safeguarding Adults Board from February 2012 to July 2013. This will aid front line practitioners to improve their practice in safeguarding vulnerable adults.

#### **INTRODUCTION:**

Since the introduction of the Multi Agency Reflective Review policy, 11 reflective reviews have taken place. The reflective review process enables professionals to have dedicated time to reflect on practice issues across agency boundaries, following a serious incident, and to consider areas of good practice as well as areas of improvement.

#### **Key themes for front line professionals:**

The detailed findings and analysis from the reflective review process is presented to the Local Safeguarding Adults Board and to senior managers, however, several overarching key themes have been identified to support the safeguarding practice of front line professionals.

##### ***1. The Service User's Voice:***

Service user involvement is integral to successful front-line practice. Workers need to ensure the adult's wishes and feelings are **considered and recorded** as part of any assessment/ planning/ review process.

The service user should be the centre of safeguarding plans and all decisions made in accordance with Mental Capacity and Best Interest principles

##### ***2. Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards/ Mental Capacity Act***

Some people who live in hospitals/ care homes cannot make their own decisions about their care or treatment because they lack the mental capacity to do so. Front line professionals need to give particular focus to understanding issues and improving the safeguarding for Vulnerable Adults under DOLs/ MCA.

[http://www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/social\\_care\\_and\\_health/health\\_advice/mental\\_health/mental\\_capacity\\_act\\_2005/liberty\\_safeguards.aspx](http://www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/social_care_and_health/health_advice/mental_health/mental_capacity_act_2005/liberty_safeguards.aspx)

### **3. Out of Area placements:**

When a service user is placed out of area, this can increase their vulnerability, the Reflective Reviews have highlighted issues of poor cross boundary communication. The re-launched Multi-agency Safeguarding Policy (May 2013) includes a section focussing on protocols for cross boundary placements.

[http://www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/social\\_care\\_and\\_health/adult\\_social\\_care/vulnerable\\_adults/safeguarding\\_policies.aspx](http://www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/social_care_and_health/adult_social_care/vulnerable_adults/safeguarding_policies.aspx)

### **4. Sharing Information:**

There is a robust expectation about the sharing of concerns between agencies. However the uncertainty about the legal framework can sometimes hamper effective information sharing. Cheshire East has a Multi-agency information sharing protocol which has been signed off by all partner agencies at the Safeguarding Adults and Children's Board.

[http://www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/social\\_care\\_and\\_health/children\\_and\\_families/lscb\\_-\\_safeguarding\\_children/professionals/information\\_sharing.aspx](http://www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/social_care_and_health/children_and_families/lscb_-_safeguarding_children/professionals/information_sharing.aspx)

In care settings the reviews of residents care should be holistic and include information sharing from all agencies involved. Information sharing is vital in protecting vulnerable adults

### **5. Early Intervention:**

Where appropriate, it is important that partners aim to provide support to vulnerable adults and their families/carers early to avoid concerns escalating. Early intervention means intervening and communicating with partner organisations as soon as possible to help adults at risk. We have not always done good assessments early enough that have led to early help.

### **6. Self Neglect/ Poor engagement**

The Reflective Reviews have highlighted when vulnerable adults are not engaging with agencies, or where there is a pattern of non engagement; and in cases of Self neglect, agencies need to refer to the Cheshire East Self Neglect Protocol. This will provide a multi-agency framework to monitor and manage high risk situations and record agreed actions. Non engagement should lead to closer multi-agency working where there are concerns not withdrawal. [http://www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/social\\_care\\_and\\_health/adult\\_social\\_care/vulnerable\\_adults/safeguarding\\_policies.aspx](http://www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/social_care_and_health/adult_social_care/vulnerable_adults/safeguarding_policies.aspx)

**The Cheshire East Safeguarding Adults Board are responsible for protecting vulnerable adults from abuse, reducing the risk of abuse, and supporting people to stop abuse where it happens.**

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