

# Multi Agency Quality Assurance Audit: Domestic Abuse August 2021



The adults reviewed for this multi agency audit are aged between 18 and 85. Four of them are female and two are male. Four adults live with partners, and one has a history of homelessness and is staying with a friend and one lives with their adult child.

The adults in the audit have a range of needs including dementia, being a carer, drug & alcohol misuse, mental health, eating disorder, exploitation

## What we are worried about?

The audit group saw concerns in terms of:

- No face to face contact – and although this was under lockdown restrictions this would still have been possible and should have been attempted
- Adults moving across local authority boundaries and lack of join up, identified that some of this has been related to a place to stay in lockdown.
- Referral not made when the 18 year old presented age 17 disclosing grooming.
- Adults who say no to help, when there is still risk
- Although Article 8 rights are considered, needs to be a balance between this and mental capacity act and Best Interests decisions
- Use of DASH, when there is dementia.
- Historical abuse can be reported to the police, the adult supported and signposting for them if they are not ready to take action

The audit of 3<sup>rd</sup> August 2021 reviewed the records of six adults who were identified through Adult Safeguarding under the criteria of Domestic Abuse. None of these adults were known for domestic abuse prior to the first lockdown in March 2020. The aim of the audit was to ascertain whether there were good multi-agency standards for managing cases and whether organisations have implemented a robust and consistent response in line with statutory and good practice guidance, SGSAB policies and procedures and the six key principles underpinning all adult safeguarding work.



Organisations that audited their involvement with the six adults were: Adult Social Care, GPs, Sirona, AWP, NBT, Police, Next Link, Bromford Housing



## Themes for Learning –

Cross Border working, exacerbated by covid 19 lockdowns.

- Work collaboratively with other organisations, especially when they are out of area
- Ensure the adult is given details for support available, even if the adult says no to support now

## When someone says 'no' to help

- Be persistent, don't automatically give up
- Consider who is the best person to engage with the adult
- Keep the door open



A partner having care and support needs may be an additional barrier to leaving an abusive relationship



Ask a second question, when someone discloses concerns about difficulties at home, be curious



When someone has moved from outside the area, make contact with previous worker



Ask the person if they feel safe

## What Good Practice did we see?

- Voice of the adult is heard
- identifying who else is involved, wider family
- Improvement in recording accurately as Domestic Abuse
- Good communication between organisations
- Use of DASH was seen
- Risk Assessments and Safety Planning evident
- Some good positive relationships with professionals
- Domestic Abuse being asked about as part of routine assessment

Contact SARSAS 0808 801 0456

Contact The Bridge 0117 342 6999

Contact Safe Link 0333 323 1543

Click these circles for more information

Domestic Abuse  
Training available  
here

Domestic Abuse  
Guidance is  
available here

Domestic Abuse,  
Stalking &  
Harassment form  
here (DASH)

Contact Next Link –  
Specialist Domestic  
Abuse Team  
here