

Multi Agency Quality Assurance Audit: Exploitation Nov 2021



The adults reviewed for this multi agency audit are aged between 26 and 76. Four of them are male and two are female. The forms of Exploitation seen were financial, scamming, sexual exploitation and cuckooing.

The adults in the audit have a range of needs including Parkinson's disease, mental health issues, substance misuse, self harm, domestic abuse, learning disability and supported living

What we are worried about?

The audit group saw concerns in terms of:

- Late involvement of the police, would have had better understanding of risk if contact made sooner, recognising when something might be an offence and seeking advice
- Rise of mental health issues arising from extended periods of lockdown
- Reliance on online led to meeting of 'strangers' when face to face contact was not possible, risk of scamming increased
- Recording could have been more explicit and included clear outcomes
- Communication between agencies, especially when there is cross border working
- Identifying vulnerability to exploitation and understanding of healthy relationships
- Undertaking a risk assessment with the adult could have helped the adult understand what professionals were worried about
- One case identified concern about recording by an agency worker

The audit of 2nd November 2021 reviewed the records of six adults who were identified through Adult Safeguarding under the criteria of Exploitation. 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.



Themes for Learning –

Increase of loneliness, exacerbated by covid 19 lockdowns.

- Talk to the people you work with about their experiences
- The audit identified some impact already happening but the group identified that we will see an impact on mental health in the months ahead and practitioners need to look for signs

Adults who might have an autism or LD diagnosis but may fall through the gap if they don't meet the criteria for a specialist service

- Seek advice from specialist services for consultation even when they are not working directly with the adult



Spending time listening to the view of the adult led to empowerment and a better outcome



Identify when adults need access to information about healthy relationships, especially when there are vulnerabilities



Always talk to your own safeguarding lead when you have a worry



Lockdown seen to have exacerbated loneliness

What Good Practice did we see?

- Good involvement and relationship with the adult and hearing their views from more than one agency, creative, holistic approaches seen
- Good work considering capacity
- Good engagement with family
- Reports of concern being identified in lots of different places
- Good evidence of person centred practice
- Evidence of non statutory work by social care being effective
- Good communication and prompt responses
- Additional support offered during the pandemic that wouldn't usually have happened
- Evidence of working alongside the adult sensitively, without judgement
- Swift action seen from a bank and from Boots and it is reassuring that the community are more aware

Click these circles for more information

Exploitation of Adults Training available here

Exploitation Guidance is available here

SCAMS: The Power of Persuasive Language

Professional Curiosity Guidance available here



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