

Briefing Document for SAR Harry

This document provides an overview of the key themes and lessons to be learned following a Safeguarding Adults Review (SAR) undertaken by Salford Safeguarding Adults Board (SSAB).

This briefing provides a summary of the key themes and learning to come from the Safeguarding Adult Review for Harry. It also includes a range of resources which professionals can access to support learning, continuous improvement and development.

The SSAB recognizes the importance of sharing the learning from Safeguarding Adult Reviews (SARs), but also wishes to respect and protect Harry's right to privacy. Therefore, only limited information will be disclosed and the full SAR report will not be published.

The SSAB SAR panel decided that the criteria for a **Mandatory SAR** had been met to identify any learning with regards how agencies worked together. An Independent Reviewer was commissioned to lead the review.

1. About the Adult

Harry (pseudonym) is a White British male and has been a resident of Salford all his life. Harry has struggled from a young age to manage his mental health with the additional challenge of having a drug addiction.

Harry has lived relatively independently with some additional support from his family for over 20 years. Harry was a victim of exploitation that had serious consequences on his health and wellbeing.

2. Areas of good practice identified during the review.

- **Recognition of the needs of the informal carer** - The professionals involved recognised the important role fulfilled by a family member who supported Harry. A carer's assessment was requested and an application was made for a carer's personal budget.
- **Effective communication** – For a period of time, there was evidence of good communication between the police and mental health services.
- **Professionals working together** –At certain points there was evidence of partners working together and joint visits were undertaken with Housing and Police.
- **Exploitation in Salford** – the Independent Reviewer acknowledged the valuable work that has been accomplished by the Joint Exploitation Subgroup (this is a multi-agency group which is led by the Safeguarding Adult Board (SSAB), Children Partnership (SSCP) and Community Safety (CSP)). The subgroup has been involved in the development of the following:
 - A local [Salford Exploitation Strategy](#)
 - The Salford [Cuckooing Reporting Pathway](#)
 - A [7-minute briefing on Cuckooing](#)

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- The [Joint Protocol between Salford Local Housing Authority and Registered Providers](#) for households at risk of, or who are experiencing exploitation (including cuckooing).
- **Effective partnership working within [the Connect Team](#)** was acknowledged as an example of good practice.

3. Key Learning and local resources

- The **importance of effective management of safeguarding (s.42) concerns** - there may be occasions whilst there is an active safeguarding enquiry and newly identified safeguarding concerns/risks are identified. These concerns/risks should also be reported via the safeguarding process; this enables the lead authority for safeguarding to build a fuller and more comprehensive picture of the risks. To report safeguarding concerns please visit [Worried About An Adult | Salford Safeguarding Adults Board](#).
- **The voice of the adult must be listened to** –even though safeguarding is about supporting the adult to ensure they are safe, there may be occasions the adult wishes to live with a level of risk. Enabling the adult to retain control over their own lives and to make choices and decision is essential. **Always remember** if there is no trusted person who can support the adult through the safeguarding process, the adult should be referred to our local Advocacy services - [Home - Mind in Salford](#)
- **Mental Capacity** – The Mental Capacity Act (MCA) is designed to protect and empower people who may lack the mental capacity to make their own decisions about their care and treatment. It applies to people aged 16 and over. **Always remember**, mental capacity is decision-specific and needs to be revisited frequently to ensure it is a true reflection of that person's ability at that time in their life when the decision needs to be made. [Tri-x Mental Capacity Act 2005 Resource and Practice Toolkit](#).
- The importance of **Multi Agency Risk Management** - Managing risk together will always be easier than managing risk alone. It also promotes effective communication and [information sharing](#). Where risk are not being managed, the adult has capacity, and is putting their life at risk, – make a referral to the [High Risk Assurance and Advisory Panel](#).
- **Exploitation** - We know criminals are getting more sophisticated and exploitation has been steadily increasing in our local areas. Salford has a range of relevant resources available, including webpages for information and a local strategy and pathways which supports you to know how to report concerns and share intelligence ([Cuckooing Reporting Pathway](#)). **Working together** is essential to ensure prevention and disruption of criminal behaviour - [See the SSAB Webpages on Exploitation for further information](#).
- **Professional Curiosity** – trust your gut, if you get a feeling something is wrong, don't walk away -keep asking those questions! Discuss with peers and line managers. For further

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information about Professional Curiosity visit the Partners in Salford website where is a useful [Professional Curiosity toolkit](#) which can be shared across your teams.

- **Equality, Diversity and inclusion and how this links to Unconscious bias** - Unconscious bias is the result of social stereotypes about certain groups of people that individuals form outside their own conscious awareness. **Everyone** naturally holds unconscious bias and we must be aware of it because it stems from our tendency to organise our own social world and is a result of our personal life experiences.

Unconscious bias can mean that decisions are sometimes influenced by false beliefs or assumptions. It includes when a person thinks:

- better of someone because they believe they're alike
- less of someone because that person is different to them, for example, they might be seen to have 'eccentric' views, different race, religion, age or have different values of beliefs.

Remember, if an adult says they don't feel safe, or they are at risk of abuse or neglect:

- Listen to their reasons for why they feel that way,
- Use professional curiosity to understand more about their individual circumstances,
- Continue to explore their reasoning until you are satisfied that they are safe, or any identified risks are being managed.
- **Escalation** – if you have concerns and you don't feel the right people are listening or taking the action that is required, always remember, **it's okay to share and escalate your concerns**. Firstly, speak to your line manager or safeguarding lead and then always remember the SSAB has an escalation pathway to support you. Please refer to the [Multi-Agency Escalation Policy and Procedure | Salford Safeguarding Adults Board](#)

4. What we would like you to do next

- Have a look at the useful links and resources mentioned in this document - they are there to support you.
- Share this document across your team(s), discuss in your team meeting or supervision to ensure the learning is be shared and embedded into practice.
- Reflect on the above and see how you can increase your understanding and knowledge. This can then improve your practice.
- If you wish to provide any feedback on this document or any of resources shared with you, we welcome your comments. You can email us on ssab@salford.gov.uk
- For more information about the work of the SSAB, please [visit our website](#).