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Introduction

In April 2024, the Safeguarding Effectiveness Group ('SEG'), a subgroup of the Salford Safeguarding Adults Board, completed their sixth Multi-Agency Assurance Project.

Our aims were to develop existing understanding and contribute towards analysing the effectiveness of multi-agency safeguarding practices for adults with care and support needs who experience Domestic Abuse in Salford. We wanted to see how well agencies work together, the good practice involved in current Domestic Abuse support and services and to identify any areas where, in the spirit of continuous improvement, further development could be explored. We also wanted assurance that learning from previous Safeguarding Adult Reviews (SARs) was being implemented into daily safeguarding practice.

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The Process

A review was held of the multi-agency involvement with five adults who had been through the safeguarding process due to Domestic Abuse. Involved agencies completed self-assessment forms, explaining their roles, good practice and challenges faced, about how they 'made safeguarding personal', workforce confidence in supporting victim/survivors of Domestic Abuse, equality and diversity, record keeping and more.

A multi-agency audit group discussed the safeguarding of each adult, reflecting on what went well, learning points or where good practice could become excellent practice.

A 'general form' was also sent to a range of agencies across Salford, regardless of involvement with the above adults, to gain a bigger picture of the current position of Domestic abuse safeguarding in Salford.

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Participation

There were 28 self-assessment forms returned by agencies involved with the five audited adults. Responses were processed, added to the Outcome Report and discussed at the Multi-Agency Group.

Twenty-two agencies returned the 'General Form', which asked them to rate various aspects of their processes, training, practitioner support and awareness when supporting adults who have been victims / survivors of Domestic Abuse.

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Good Practice

- Agencies were adaptable, thinking of ways to work together to safely make contact
- Multi-agency meetings were held to create strategies for effective safeguarding.
- Agencies were considerate of the personal wishes of involved adults.
- Multi-agency meetings / conferences were held to create strategies for effective safeguarding of adults.
- Agencies evidenced strong information sharing and proactive working.

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Useful Links

- SSAB Domestic Abuse page: [Domestic Abuse | Salford Safeguarding Adults Board](#)
- SSAB published Safeguarding Adults Reviews: [Published SARs and other reviews | Salford Safeguarding Adults Board](#)
- Safe in Salford Domestic Abuse service: [Safe in Salford – Salford Foundation](#)
- Salford Domestic Abuse toolkit: [Domestic abuse toolkit | Salford Safeguarding Children Partnership](#)



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Key Considerations

- Agreed multi-agency joint visit process for home visits when there are risks to worker safety.
- Increased consideration of using face-to-face interpreters to improve communication with adults when English is not their first language.
- Cultural consciousness (cultural identity, nuances, dynamics, unconscious bias) inclusion in internal agency training.
- Improved awareness of available legal powers to better protect adults from Domestic Abuse.
- A clear process / pathway for the CMHT referral decision-making process, and a clear process to follow for agencies who cannot refer directly.
- Increase awareness for seeking legal services support with carer-perpetrator cases.

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Key themes

- Culture
- Delegated enquiries
- Familial and carer abuse
- Learning from other Greater Manchester SARs / High-Risk Panels
- Legal services and legal powers
- Multi-agency clarity of roles and limitations
- Non-engagement challenges
- Non-physical domestic abuse awareness
- Out of area safeguarding 'transfers'
- Perpetrator provision awareness
- Healthy vs. unhealthy relationship
- Removal of children from victim/survivors