



17 April 2018

Statement from Annie Callanan
Independent Chair
West Sussex Safeguarding Adults Board

The West Sussex Safeguarding Adults Board has today published the Safeguarding Adults Review (SAR) into injuries sustained by two adult men, Matthew Bates (30 years) and Gary Lewis (63 years) both of whom have learning disabilities, and had suffered broken femurs within a 24 hour period and were admitted to hospital where they remained for several months. Both men subsequently moved from Beech Lodge, where they were resident at the time of their injury, to other care homes.

While we discuss the outcome of this SAR it is important to remember to keep those most affected, Matthew and Gary and their families, at the forefront of the review.

Matthew and Gary are two separate individuals who could have been subject to two separate reviews. Careful consideration was given by the Safeguarding Adults Board as to the most effective process to apply to gain the most from the review. However, given the similarities of the two cases; the time period and the fact that both adults were resident at the same care home it was considered that it would be more productive to look at the cases together, rather than commissioning separate reviews.

Whilst the review examines the actions of various agencies, it is important to retain focus on how the injuries sustained by Matthew and Gary and subsequent professionals' interaction with the families have impacted on the individuals. The review author has spoken to and worked with Matthew and Gary with the support of family members, who have represented them and acted as their advocates, on a number of occasions.

Both families have expressed concerns about how agencies have responded to the injuries. Despite the high level of contact they have had with a number of agencies, both families believe that agencies have not been honest and open with them.

A number of agencies were involved in the care, support and protection of both Matthew and Gary, including Surrey County Council, commissioners of Matthew's placement at Beech Lodge and London Borough of Camden, commissioner of Gary's placement at Beech Lodge.

Other agencies involved were: Sussex Police, West Sussex Learning Disabilities Contract Team, the Care Quality Commission, West Sussex Adults' Services, Surrey and Sussex Healthcare NHS Trust, South East Coast Ambulance Service and Sussex Health Care.

Beech Lodge is one of a number of homes operated by a private company known as Sussex Health Care. During the period of this review, Sussex Police commenced a wide ranging investigation into a number of serious incidents (deaths) which occurred across several care homes owned by Sussex Health Care. At this time Matthew and Gary's circumstances do not form part of that ongoing investigation.

The review author also makes connections between the cases reviewed here and those reviewed as part of the SAR carried out following deaths at Orchid View.

The Safeguarding Adults Board takes note of those connections and will look at both the specifics of the cases involving Matthew and Gary and work through all recommendations to make sure we, as a Board, meet our commitment to improving services.

The overarching role of the West Sussex Safeguarding Adults Board is to help and safeguard adults with care and support needs.

The Safeguarding Adults Board is aware that it must, as an organisation, lead adult safeguarding arrangements across West Sussex to oversee and coordinate the effectiveness of the safeguarding work of its member and partner agencies.

The core duties of the SAB are to:

- Develop and publish a strategic plan
- Publish an annual report detailing how effective their work has been and;
- Commission safeguarding adult reviews (SARs) for any cases that meet the criteria.

The purpose of the SAR is for all partner agencies to identify lessons that can be learned from complex and/or serious Safeguarding Adults cases, where a vulnerable adult has died or been seriously injured.

The purpose of a SAR is not to reinvestigate or to apportion blame but to establish where and how lessons can be learned and services improved for all those who use them and for their families and carers.

As such it is our stated intention, as a Safeguarding Adults Board in West Sussex, to implement the recommendations of this and former and future reviews to identify where and how services will improve and to drive that improvement

The full report, available on the Safeguarding Adults Board's [SAR page](#), reflects both the SAR findings in full and all recommendations.