

# Thematic SAR Learning Briefing



Our Thematic SAR involved three older adults who had complex care needs including advance stage dementia, multiple sclerosis, physical disability, alcohol misuse and self-neglect.

The full SAR report can be accessed on the [West Sussex Safeguarding Adults Board website](#).

## Actions we took before our SAR

- Introduction of a new safeguarding pathway with an online reporting form, [Safeguarding Thresholds Guidance](#) and professionals consultation line, 03302 228400.
- Publication and promotion of the [Pan-Sussex Policy and Procedures](#) providing a clear multi-agency pathway for working with adults who self-neglect.

## Learning you can take forward in your practice

- Make sure your practice is person-centred and reflects the principles of Making Safeguarding Personal
- Take proactive measures to improve health outcomes
- Adhere to Safeguarding Policy and Procedures
- Follow the self-neglect procedure
- Identify and manage risk effectively

## Resources you can use to support your practice

- [Making Safeguarding Personal Learning Briefing](#)
- [Pan-Sussex Safeguarding Policy and Procedure](#)
- [Information Sharing Guide and Protocol](#)
- [Escalation and Resolution Protocol](#)

For cases where an adult is putting themselves or others at significant risk by refusing services and all options have been explored, and the level of risk is still high, please consider a referral to our Multi-Agency Risk Management Subgroup ([MARM](#)).

## Questions to ask yourself in relation to the recommendations

The Review's recommendations have been developed into an action plan which will be monitored to seek assurance that these have been implemented. In summary, these are the areas of practice that require consideration:

### Conducting risk assessments and information-sharing

- Are you confident in completing risk assessments and are these used to impact decision-making?
- Do you involve other agencies to contribute to risk assessment when required?
- Are you aware of the process when an adult declines engagement and the need for communication and information-sharing of this between agencies?
- Do you regularly re-evaluate risk at critical points e.g., when there has been a change in need?
- Do you engage and support other involved agencies to be involved in safeguarding procedures?

### Sharing best practice and requesting feedback

- Are you supported to understand and share best practice in key areas, such as self-neglect?
- Are you given the opportunity to reflect on your own practice? Do you receive feedback and support with this?
- Do you seek and encourage the views and feedback of those involved in safeguarding processes?

### Policy and process

- Do you know how to report a safeguarding concern and are you aware of the need to report this in a timely way?
- Are you aware of safeguarding policy and frameworks, with a focus on when operational pressures may impact on compliance?
- Are you aware of how, where, and by whom, decisions about safeguarding are made?
- Do you know how to use the Escalation and Resolution Protocol if required?
- Do you regularly review and audit safeguarding decision making, how it is being interpreted, and the outcomes for individual?