



Title	Ella SAR: KSAB Response (updated May 2023)
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Safeguarding Adult Reviews (SAR) are commissioned under the Care Act s44 when an adult dies and the SAB knows or suspects that the death resulted from abuse or neglect, and there is reasonable cause for concern about how agencies worked together to safeguard the adult. The purpose of a Safeguarding Adult Review is to learn from what has happened and to ensure that there is change.

This SAR was completed by Social Care Institute for Excellence (SCIE) reviewers using the Learning Together methodology. With this approach the reviewers produce findings and questions to help the Kingston Safeguarding Adults Board (KSAB) to address the systems issues identified.

Firstly, the KSAB would like to offer condolences to the family and commit to embed the learning from Ella's experience to improve the outcomes for young adults who are at risk of abuse or neglect. The KSAB would also like to thank the reviewers for a comprehensive report and executive summary. The findings reach beyond Kingston, but the Board commits to taking a proactive approach to ensuring that the learning from the review is shared to inform national thinking about FII in young adults.

Since the publication of the SAR, there has been contact from some members of Ella's wider family. The KSAB welcomed the family views and facilitated a meeting with the reviewers.

Anyone affected by the issues raised in the SAR, are advised to go via the following links for further advice:

- If concerned about an adult at risk <https://www.kingston.gov.uk/adult-safeguarding/safeguarding-adults-mean>
- If concerned about the abuse of a child, contact the single point of access between 8:00am - 5:15pm, Monday - Thursday, and Friday between 8:00am - 5:00pm 0208 547 5008

In light of new information, there was consideration of whether there needed to be additional work completed on the SAR. The KSAB concluded that there was no additional learning, in respect of safeguarding adults, beyond that which had already been identified.

Ella's lived experience was highly complex and led to a thorough review through the SAR process. This involved multiple organisations, many outside of the Royal Borough of Kingston-upon-Thames. Although not formally diagnosed, there was the indication that Ella had lived potentially at risk of Fabricated or Induced Illness (FII). Therefore, the SAR asked what this case could tell us about what's helping and hindering professionals across agencies from recognising potential FII in young adults, raising concerns and progressing them effectively.

The SAR reviewers undertook analysis of the information they had received and, through their findings, raised questions for the KSAB in relation to:

- The lack of guidance for adult social care in responding to FII as an adult safeguarding issue
- Lack of guidance for GPs and other health professionals on FII as an adult safeguarding issue

The KSAB commits to promote any national guidance that is produced to support adult social care and health professionals in identifying and responding to suspected FII in an effective and sensitive way. The learning from the SAR has been disseminated through local forums and is being shared with the national safeguarding adults' network.

The SAR reviewers raised further questions for the KSAB in relation to:

- Insufficient legal literacy to support necessary intervention in cases of FII in young adults
- GPs not sharing information in cases of suspected FII in young adults due to advice from the Medical Defence Union.
- Private health providers not having centralised access to NHS GP data, preventing information sharing
- Use of systems to identify and cascade concerns in the prescribing of controlled drugs.

The KSAB has considered these questions and has developed an action plan to support work to strengthen these areas. However, the KSAB recognises that FII is a rare occurrence. Therefore, the actions the KSAB is taking forward are focused on how effective health and social care systems are, more generally, in preventing abuse or neglect of adults with care and support needs, and in improving the outcomes for adults who have been subject to abuse or neglect during their childhood.

Legal Literacy

- A key area of work for the KSAB is in working with the Safeguarding Children's Partnership on transitional safeguarding. As part of this work, mental capacity and supported decision-making is being discussed, to support adult workers to have a greater understanding of the legislation relating to children.
- The issue of mental capacity and unwise decisions is already a key area of the KSAB work in the self-neglect workstream. There will be additional checks on how an individual's life history, including childhood trauma, can be incorporated into the risk assessments for self-neglect.

Information sharing within Primary Care

- The KSAB is of the view that there needs to be more exploration of the extent of this issue. Therefore, the Named GP for safeguarding children and adults has been asked to take to the national Named GP network. If there are wider concerns, then the KSAB Chair will

escalate nationally, with the appropriate agencies. In the meantime, the local GP forum has been advised of the SAR learning which promotes safeguarding practices as set out in the statutory guidance and GMC guidance for sharing information.

Private Health Care Information Sharing

- The Ella SAR highlighted the barriers to information sharing between the NHS and the private health sector. Although this is not a solely Kingston issue, the KSAB recognise that the local population have access to a wide-ranging private health sector. Therefore, work is underway to strengthen links with the private sector to raise awareness of how information should be shared in relation to safeguarding adults. These agencies will be invited to commit to the KSAB safeguarding pledge and common objective. This is a long-term piece of work which, although commencing with the identification of private GPs, will seek to establish links with other private organisations providing health and therapeutic support to the local population.

Systems for sharing incidents involving fraudulent efforts to obtain opiates.

- The KSAB consider that the ICB Medicines Management Team would have protocols in place for this issue. Therefore, this has been shared with the MM Optimization Chief Pharmacist to raise awareness of the issue of safeguarding within medicines management. It is expected that the KSAB will be informed of any further learning on this matter in July 2023.

Nicky Brownjohn
Independent Chair for KSAB