

Safeguarding Adults News

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Kingston Safeguarding Adults
Board

Chair's Blog Spot

Hello,

Welcome to the summer newsletter (not sure where summer has gone!). I have been Independent Chair for the Kingston Safeguarding Adults Board for a year.

In my first blog I said that my plan was "to refresh how we work together and with Kingston residents to ensure that we can continue to work towards our vision '*for individuals within the community of Kingston to be able to live a life free from abuse and neglect*' during challenging times."

The SAB has made the first strides to refreshing how we work. We held a successful Development Day in December 2022 and committed to changes. However, we are not in the place we need to be, yet. As I reflect on my first year, I am particularly mindful of the changes to the senior leadership for Kingston across the strategic partners. New faces but with the same level of commitment as their predecessors. My expectation is that by the December 2023 Development Day, we will be much closer. I hope to be able to talk more on activities in the October newsletter.

In July we held the SAB with a packed agenda. The golden thread was how individuals experience safeguarding and what needs to change. I was delighted that the SAB agreed that we would plan to get out into the community for Safeguarding Adults Week in November. I have committed to be out and about in Kingston on the Monday and Wednesday. Details to follow.

Have a good, safe, summer.

Best wishes,

Nicky

Board Summary

On the 13th July 2023, KSAB held a virtual meeting. This SAB continued the focus on learning from recommendations from SARs. The Board in particular focussed on how learning has been embedded from two of Kingston's SARs as well as learning from SARs in other boroughs.

The Board received a presentation by Sarah Brown, Service Development & Commissioning Lead for Public Health on Drug and Alcohol Deaths. A Panel was set up in 2022 for members to review drug and alcohol-related deaths within the borough and to examine the involvement of a range of services in the deceased's life. The aim of learning lessons to improve future practice and therefore reduce the number of substance misuse-related deaths. A few key themes emerged from the deaths reviewed and in response to these emerging themes, actions are already underway.

The Board also received a presentation by Scott Bacon and Helena Wright from Healthwatch Kingston and provided an update on the Outcomes from the Making Safeguarding Personal project. The MSP Annual Report identified recommendations for safeguarding practice and learning; improvements required in offering advocacy and discussing outcomes, along with acknowledging positive practice in outcomes for Adults at Risk.

The board discussed its structure, roles, and governance of the KSAB. The structure of KSAB is to move from numerous sub-groups to work streams. The board were briefed on how the format of the next Annual Report will be changed to focus on making it more interesting and how this is presented to the public. There was discussion on the change in model used by police 'Right care Right person' and the impact of this to safeguarding. There was a focus this month on data relating to drug and alcohol deaths and although there is a gap in this data, there is ongoing work to pull this data out and improve recording of this on safeguarding forms. A paper was shared on sharing resources across SWL. The Comms Sub-group shared the Communications Work Plan and the board were briefed on the updated KSAB Risk Register

The next scheduled KSAB is on 19th October 2023 commencing at 1.00pm

Please send all enquiries and information to ksab@kingston.gov.uk

Spotlight on....VASA

“Vulnerable Adults Supported into Adulthood Panel”

The VASA Panel is a partnership approach between organisations in the Kingston and Richmond boroughs to consider cases of adolescent who remain at high risk of contextual harm and exploitation despite previous intervention efforts at the point of transition in to adulthood or up to 25 years. The purpose of the panel is to provide advice, guidance and signposting that prevents, manages or reduces contextual harm and exploitation for eligible adolescents.

Members of the panel are made up of representatives from Health, Housing, Safer Kingston Partnership, Contextual Safeguarding, Probation, Leaving Care, Adolescent Safeguarding, Adult Social care, Youth Justice, Police, Way2Work. They support the panel by contributing towards discussions, providing intelligence and offering advice and guidance.

VASA Award - Bespoke Fund

The VASA Award is a bespoke fund that can be used towards items and opportunities that aim to prevent further risks and harm. The VASA panel will award funds to support 18-25 year olds in Kingston and Richmond who are known to the VASA panel, IOM or the core support services.

Delivery providers can apply for one-off awards to deliver group projects and community improvements that will reduce risks for the 18-25 cohort. Examples are accredited course fees up to Level 3 (A-level equivalent); tools, equipment or uniforms for a job; childcare fees to attend activity/interview/training; household appliances; clothing; groceries; passport or provisional driving licence application or test; UCAS application; self-care expenses; positive activities; community projects/events.

The panel meet on the **first Wednesday of every month**, from 10am to 1pm.

Criteria for all referrals will be considered for adolescents who are aged between 18-25 years; at risk of sexual exploitation, criminal exploitation (including County Lines), or high risk of harm; Transition cases (3 months before 18th birthday) and have not been discussed on any other panel or agreed transfer.

The panel will consider any referral made that meets the criteria. The referring person or agency will be invited to attend the meeting to present their referral. The panel will confirm sign posting options or different panels for cases that do not meet the VASA panel criteria.

All completed referrals must be received at least **five** working days before each panel and emailed to kingstonandrichmondvasa@kingston.gov.uk.

For further information, please contact Sade Harvey, Vulnerability and Violence Prevention Co-ordinator by emailing kingstonandrichmondvasa@kingston.gov.uk.

Subject Matter Expert Sessions

S.M.E sessions have been arranged as follows:

➤ **Basic Safeguarding Awareness**

This session is an introduction to Adult Safeguarding and is aimed at those individuals who are new to their roles and require a basic understanding. The session will cover all areas of adult safeguarding including the types of abuse, triggers, indicators plus much more. **The sessions are aimed at RBK New Starters, partner organisations, the voluntary sector and charity organisations only.**

Dates: 28th September 2023
 21st November 2023

All sessions are run virtually from 10.00am to 12.30pm. Reserve your place before they get all booked by emailing ksab@kingston.gov.uk. A calendar invite will be forwarded to you.

Your feedback from each of these sessions is invaluable to us, so wherever possible, please provide feedback – thank you.

➤ **New S.M.E. Sessions**

What would you like to hear about, is there something new you would like to learn or need a refresh on a topic, please get in touch and let us know on ksab@kingston.gov.uk.

➤ **Lunchtime Learning from SARs Sessions** aims to improve your understanding of SARs (Safeguarding Adult Reviews) and to also share recommendations and findings from the reports. There are two sessions remaining **17th August 2023** (Ella SAR) and **21st September 2023** (Connie SAR).

Each session commences at 1.00pm for an hour. You can reserve your place by emailing ksab@kingston.gov.uk

KiSPA (Kingston Safeguarding Practice Award)

The Kingston Safeguarding Adults Practice Awards (KiSPA) was introduced to recognise and reward exemplary safeguarding practice.

Nominations are always welcome and should be submitted on a Nomination Form and forwarded to ksab@kingston.gov.uk for consideration.

KSAB Sub-Group Update



SAR Sub Group

At the last SAR Sub-group meeting on 11th July, the sub-group welcomed a new Chair and received updates for the ongoing SARs. One new referral was received and considered at the meeting.

The next meeting is scheduled for 26th September 2023 and all new referrals should be submitted in advance and sent to sar.referral@kingston.gov.uk.

Details of how to make a SAR Referral can be found [here](#).



Training Sub Group

At the last Training Sub-group meeting on 21st June, discussions were held on how to take the recommendations from SARs forward as learning for organisations. The Chair agreed to present this discussions to the board. The group also discussed the variety of training requests received and how the sub-group will transition to a work stream.

The next meeting is scheduled for 27th September 2023



Communications Sub Group

At the last Comms Sub-group meeting on 21st June, the group discussed the updated Engagement and Communication Work Plan. The sub group has decided to give particular focus in the next quarter to meeting the objectives identified around increasing and improving service user, provider and community engagement. The group also discussed a T&F group to look at the development of the Safeguarding 'Business Pledge'; development of an online survey for residents; updating webpages; new Annual Report format; proposed posters and leaflets and two 7MB's on Contextual Safeguarding and Criminal Exploitation.

The next meeting is scheduled for 27th September 2023.

Participation and Feedback

We would welcome articles highlighting your, your colleague's or even your organisations achievements or publicising planned events.

We would also like feedback and suggestions on how we can ensure the newsletter is relevant and helpful.

Please participate by emailing us at ksab@kingston.gov.uk with the subject line 'SAB Newsletter'