



1 Background

The LSAB received information from the police relating to 34 adults who were the victims of financial exploitation in a Lincolnshire market town. It was believed the individuals had been targeted due to their vulnerabilities. The police led the operation.

2 Why was a SAR commissioned?

The LSAB commissioned a SAR to see if there were any lessons to be learnt regarding how agencies worked together to safeguard individuals.

3 SAR Information

The review considered a seven-year period with a focus on the most recent 18 months. The SAR looked in detail at the experience of 10 people. Three of the ten were willing to contribute their views to the review.

4 What the review identified

The review found there wasn't a hidden picture and abuse was known to the agencies working with the individuals.

The circumstances of all cases were complex, and the adults were often unwilling and unable to accept help.

The majority of individuals had MH needs. Drug and alcohol dependency often left individuals in highly vulnerable situations.

5 Learning

The rightful focus on capacity and consent had eclipsed consideration of coercive control.

6 Section 6

There were substantial blocks in multi-agency working. Agencies routinely did not record details of alleged perpetrators which severely impaired police efforts to gather evidence and secure prosecutions.

There were occasions when safeguarding referrals were made through the safeguarding process, but decisions were made to not take any further action.

This created missed opportunities to reduce the risks to the individual and the wider community.

7 Section 7

The views of individuals made valuable contributions to the learning.

The review highlighted many committed practitioners / agencies. The majority of people involved found the review process positive.

The police investigation began when one officer began to piece together information in relation to the individuals, the officer was very proactive in raising his concerns.