

1 – Background

North Lincolnshire Safeguarding Adults Board hold a range of scrutiny and assurance events across different themes as part of our Scrutiny and Assurance Framework.

During a Line of Sight to Practice event, a panel consisting of Safeguarding Adults Board representatives consider a number of adult's cases in relation to a specific theme, previously agreed by the Protection and Accountability Group.

After a process of single agency case audits, the panel meet with practitioners to identify areas of best practice, further improvement relating to multi agency practice and agree strategic action across the partnership around the identified theme.

7 – Next steps

An overview of the event is presented to the SAB Protection & Accountability Group for consideration. Actions from the event will be monitored and reviewed as part of the SAB scrutiny and assurance action plan.

The learning will also be shared with other key partnerships and forums including the Changing Lives, Changing Futures Partnership.

6 – Further information

- [SAB Website – Homelessness and rough sleeping tools and resources](#)
- [Radical safeguarding toolkit – Homelessness](#)
- [Recognising the link between trauma and homelessness](#)
- [How to use legal powers to safeguard highly vulnerable dependent drinkers](#)
- [Crisis – Homelessness knowledge hub](#)

5 – Reflect on the learning

To inform your practice you can

- Discuss this area of work with your supervisor in the context of collaborative working across agencies when supporting people who are homeless or rough sleeping
- Watch '[Clarissa](#)' the film which shares the real life experiences of someone experiencing homelessness and some of the reasons why they are less likely to seek support
- Reflect upon your understanding of legal frameworks which can be used to support those homeless and rough sleeping
- Read our briefing on Executive Functioning and Homelessness, which will increase your understanding of when you need to consider mental capacity when working with people who are homeless or rough sleeping

2 – Why was this theme chosen?

In May 2024, the Department for Levelling Up, Housing & Communities and Department for Health & Social Care shared some recommendations for Safeguarding Adults Boards regarding individuals rough sleeping. These recommendations included ensuring the SAB have the necessary mechanisms in place to hold partners to account around working with people rough sleeping. It was acknowledged that there is often significant overlap between rough sleeping and the presence of safeguarding concerns, including the significant risk of abuse, neglect and escalation of health and care needs.

Therefore, this event was an opportunity for Safeguarding Adults Board representatives to seek assurance as to the quality and effectiveness of multi-agency practice and how partner agencies are working to fulfil their safeguarding responsibilities. Partners were also able to explore whether there were any areas for further improvement in protecting adults at risk.

3 – Strengths and good practice

- There is evidence of person-centred and strengths-based practice. Practitioners work flexibly to meet the persons needs
- There are positive relationships between partners and examples of effective collaboration and information sharing
- The Forge are instrumental in supporting those who are homeless and rough sleeping and practitioners spoke highly of the staff and their role in coordinating support for people
- Support from the Community Inclusion Nurses has led to a number of positive outcomes for people. They were described to be proactive in supporting those who are rough sleeping to address their health needs despite challenges in people attending formal appointments
- The Homelessness Target Priority Group and the Complex Case Panel were raised as key mechanisms for partners to collaborate and develop strategies to support those rough sleeping
- In one case, a local bank implemented strategies to protect the person from financial abuse and exploitation. This worked positively and highlighted the strengths in utilising support from the wider community

4 – Key learning

- Although trauma-informed practice was recognised as important, there was a lack of consistent application in adapting practices to address the trauma experienced by individuals
- There were concerns about health inequalities, with some individuals not receiving necessary screenings and vaccinations despite frequent interactions with healthcare services
- There are challenges around how specialist services, including mental health, can be provided where there is less flexibility in undertaking formal assessments. The panel considered whether assessments could be utilised for dual diagnosis
- Getting homeless individuals to engage consistently with services was identified as a theme. The approach of labelling them as 'difficult to engage' was critiqued, and more effort should be made to understand and address the reasons behind their lack of engagement
- The use of language was highlighted as an area for development, both verbal and within the documentation submitted
- Unplanned prison releases was raised as a challenge. More partnership in-reach work for prison releases to prepare individuals for their transition back into the community would be of benefit

7 Minute Briefing

