

FEBRUARY 2021 | QUARTER THREE

SAFEGUARDING TODAY

A quarterly newsletter from the Quality & Compliance department

Welcome once again to our quarterly Safeguarding Newsletter for the Walsingham Support Group, this is the third edition and as always we want it to be informative, interactive and to provide useful information about current safeguarding legislation, what's hot, what's not and how we as the Walsingham Support Group are performing compared to national averages.

We want our Safeguarding Newsletter to continue to be insightful, thought-provoking and realistic and not only capture what's taking place within the Walsingham Support Group but to also look at what's going on nationally with regards to Safeguarding for Vulnerable Adults. To achieve this, we need your input and feedback, as the newsletter progresses, we aim to bring in top tips for safeguarding and share some of the great practice that we see across the Walsingham Support Group.

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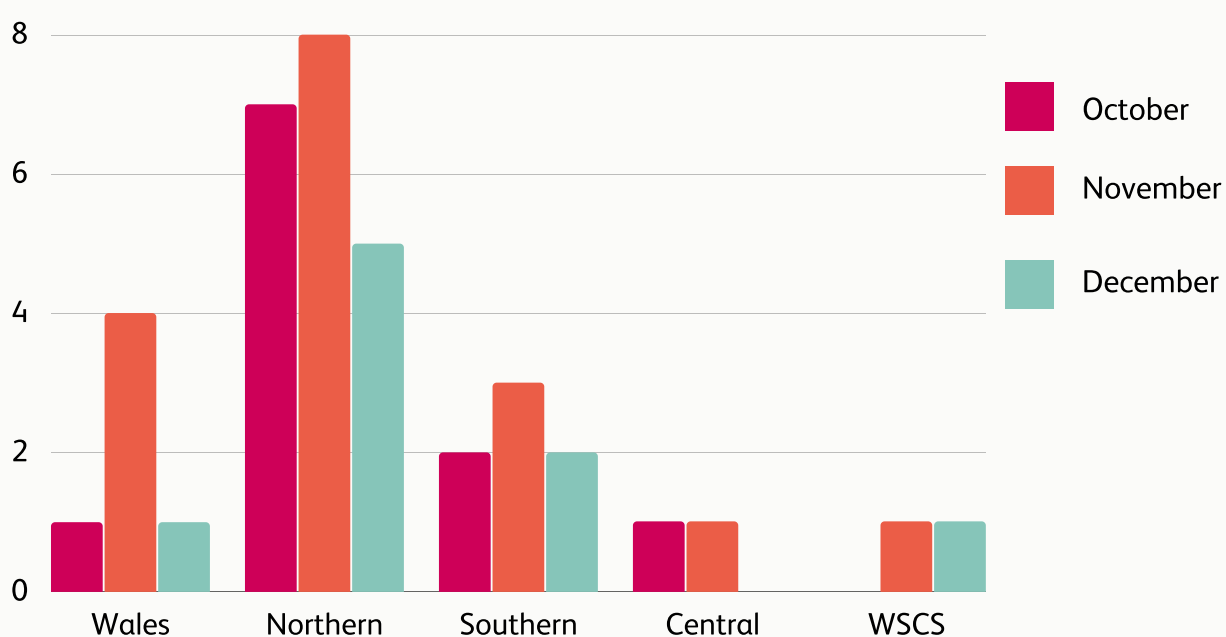
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DID YOU KNOW?

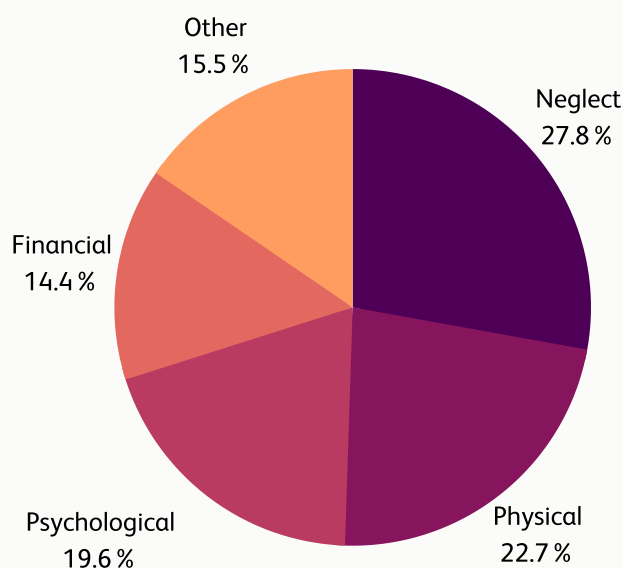
We hold quarterly Serious Incident Recommendations Board meetings (SIRBs) in every region where we provide support (North, Central, Wales, South, Walsingham Support Community Solutions and a National Meeting) we discuss all the potential safeguarding concerns over the past quarter, try to discover trends and themes into what is happening, and put things in place to try and mitigate the risk of these happening again. 37 potential Safeguarding Incidents were recorded on RADAR for quarter 3 – October to December 2020 the graph shows a breakdown of incidents recorded within each Region for this period:





From April to December 2020 there were a total of 97 potential safeguarding incidents reported on RADAR if we compare this figure with the same period for 2019 when 52 potential safeguarding incidents were reported, we can see that across the organisation we have seen an increase of 4% in reported incidents. This tells us that awareness throughout the Walsingham Support Group, for the need to report safeguarding concerns, have significantly increased over the past year.

Over the past 9 month period, the most common safeguarding concerns reported were for:



To provide some context to these figures we can look at the NHS England Safeguarding Adults Report 2019/2020, which reported that there were 475,000 concerns of abuse reported between the period 1st April 2019 to 31st March 2020. Neglect was the most common area of concern reported which accounted for almost 32% of all concerns raised (152,000) and of these approximately 63,800 occurred in the person's own home. The report states that the impact of the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak was not a material factor in an increase of safeguarding concerns reported in this period as the pandemic only took hold at the very end of this annual reporting period.



SAFEGUARDING QUARTERLY THEMES:

At the regional and national Safeguarding Incidents & Recommendations Board meetings (SIRBs) at we also set quarterly themes which focus on safeguarding matters. This quarters theme was “Social Isolation” and we asked you to think about what has been going on within your Service/Region for the people we support to support to help them overcome Social Isolation. Some of the examples we received back included some wonderful and imaginative ideas and activities that have been taking place across the organisation, these include:

- A significant increase in the use of Zoom for the people we support with maintaining contact with family members and friends.
- At our creative learning service, people we support have accessed a wide range of online courses available Monday to Friday and services in the Central Region have reported huge interest in these activities from many of the people we support and a renewed interest for some people.
- In House Discos, hot tub nights, bingo, karaoke, pamper sessions, baking, themed activity days, quizzes, are just some examples of what’s been taking place around the Regions.



The theme for the next quarter will be; “County Lines” this is the name for illegal drug-running operations where children and adults at risk are exploited to deliver drugs for people, often under duress, or being coercively controlled into thinking what they are doing is right or okay. There has been a large increase over the past year of the number of adults who have Learning Disabilities and/or Autism being caught up in County Lines, and it has become apparent that abusers are focussing on this vulnerability and looking to exploit this. A focus on what County Lines is, on how we can prevent this from happening to people we support and what we can do if a person we support is caught up in the drugs trade could be life-changing. The County Lines issue is much more prevalent in rural communities such as Cumbria, North Yorkshire and the Home Counties (Berkshire, Buckinghamshire, Essex, Hertfordshire, Kent, Surrey & Sussex).

Please share any resources you have or experiences by emailing safeguarding@walsingham.com.



SAFEGUARDING EDUCATION (WHAT'S NEW!)

We would like to continue sharing with you some of the fantastic safeguarding resources out there, we would like to draw your attention to County Lines as this is our chosen theme for the next quarter. To help you with this please follow the links below:

- A [video](#) taking a look at Cuckooing which is a form of crime, termed by the police, in which drug dealers take over the home of a vulnerable person in order to use it as a base for county lines drug trafficking. The crime is named for the cuckoo's practise of taking over other birds' nests for its young.
- A look at [County Lines](#) which is where illegal drugs are transported from one area to another, often across Police and Local Authority boundaries (although not exclusively), usually by children or vulnerable adults who are coerced into it by gangs. The 'County Line' is the mobile phone line used to take the orders of drugs. Importing areas (areas where the drugs are taken to) are reporting increased levels of violence and weapons-related crimes as a result of this trend.
- A [documentary](#) that was recently featured on BBC2 which tells the harrowing stories about victims of disability hate crime.
- [Stories](#) from adults with disabilities about the abuse they faced, or stories from professionals about safeguarding adults. These are all real stories and are spoken by actors. If you want any more information regarding the people behind these stories, our Safeguarding Practitioner was involved in some of the real-life cases behind these – you can always ask!



DO YOU KNOW THE TEN TYPES OF ABUSE THAT ARE DEFINED WITHIN THE CARE ACT 2014?



PHYSICAL ABUSE: –

Is any contact which harms or is likely to cause unnecessary and avoidable pain and distress including hitting, slapping, pushing, kicking or misuse of medication.



DISCRIMINATORY ABUSE: –

Is any form of unjust or prejudicial judgement of another person.



FINANCIAL OR MATERIAL ABUSE: –

Is a form of mistreatment or fraud which forcibly involves the control of someone's money or assets.



INSTITUTIONAL ABUSE: –

Is the mistreatment, abuse or neglect of an individual by a regime of people or organisation.



PSYCHOLOGICAL ABUSE: –

Is when a person is subjected to behaviour that could induce emotional trauma



DOMESTIC ABUSE: –

Is the abuse of an individual within a domestic setting. This would include but is not limited to; parent to child (or vice-versa), partner to partner, sibling to sibling.



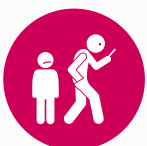
SEXUAL ABUSE: –

Is any action that refers to an individual being pressured or coerced into something sexual that they may not want to do.



MODERN SLAVERY: –

Is the mistreatment, exploitation or abuse of an individual into slavery. This includes slavery, human trafficking, forced labour and domestic servitude.



NEGLECT AND ACTS OF OMISSION: –

Is failure to provide necessary care, guidance or attention to an individual.



SELF-HARM: –

While not a direct form of abuse, the Walsingham Support Group recognises that we have a duty of care in circumstances where a person we support self-harms.

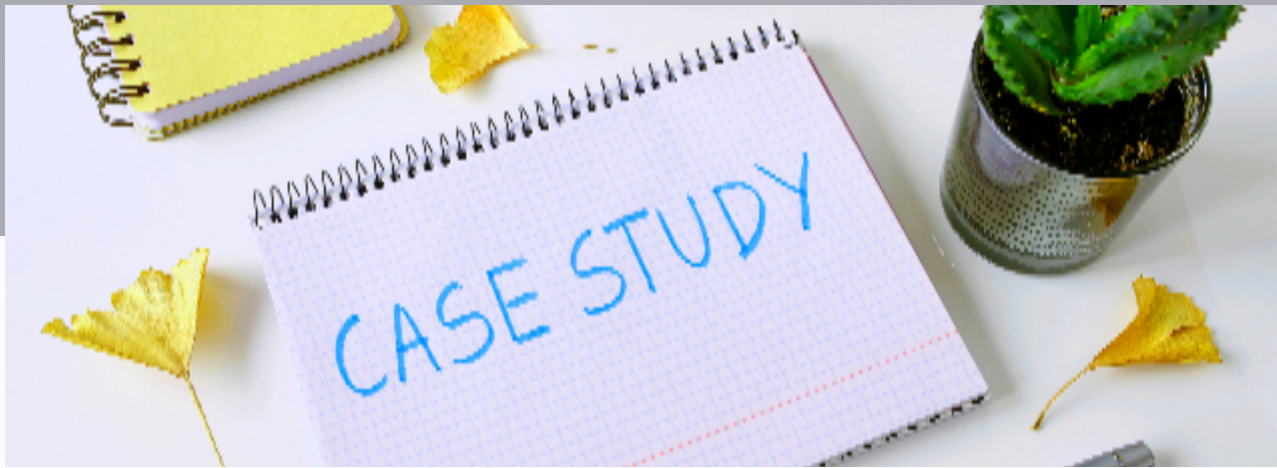


CASE STUDY

In every edition of our Newsletter we will include a case study based on an experience within the Walsingham Support Group in which we will take one incident and anonymise it and try to use this as a case to learn from:

A Safeguarding alert was raised with regards to an individual we were supporting through a transitioning process into a new Service. The nature of the safeguarding concern was neglect, over a period of 3 months, concerns had been raised internally regarding a number of issues including how the individual had been responding to the transition process and the impact on the other individuals in the service where the person was being supported to transition in to.

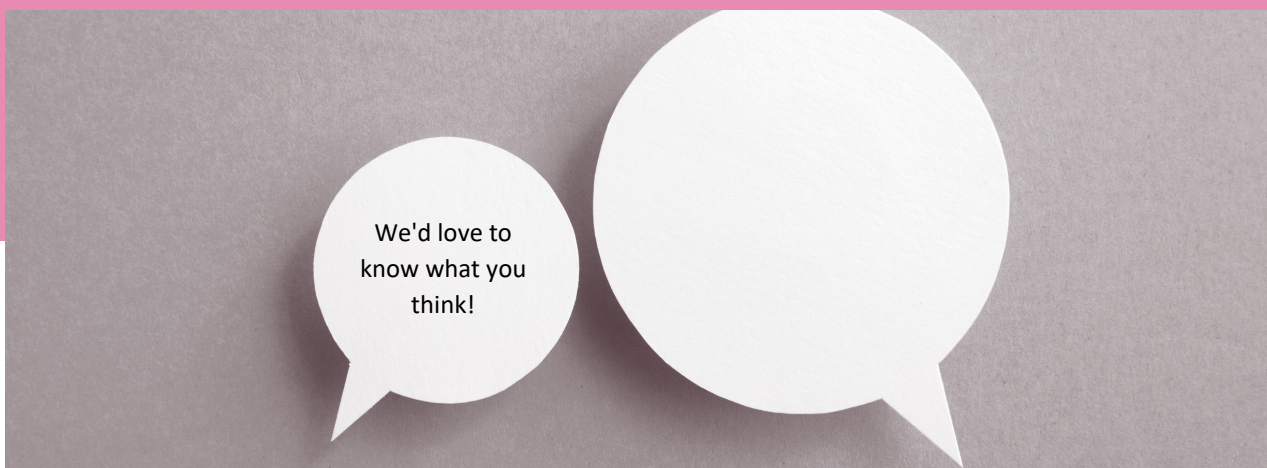
Support Plans and Risk assessments had been included in the transition plan, over several months meetings had taken place with the staff team where issues and concerns had been raised and discussed. At these meetings, all involved were reminded of the importance to share documents and report any concerns. The situation continued to deteriorate and have an impact upon individuals concerned with the transition process, this leads to increased stress and anxiety for some individuals including staff members resulting in a safeguarding concern being raised and eventually the transition process was temporarily stopped as a result of this.



CASE STUDY

The lessons learnt included:

- People we support may have issues with new people we support transitioning into their home.
- A slow transition can help identify problems regarding compatibility with the people we support.
- Staff may not always report concerns.
- Staff can report concerns directly to safeguarding if they are not happy with actions taken from managers.



HAVE YOUR SAY

How can we make our safeguarding training even better than what it is now? Please do email your ideas and suggestions to our safeguarding email address – this is safeguarding@walsingham.com and we will read every idea and suggestion and feedback to you what improvements we can make as a result of them

SAFEGUARDING QUIZ:

Here is a quick safeguarding quiz, complete it on your own or with your colleagues, it will only take a few minutes and is just a bit of fun. However, it will hopefully provoke some useful discussions and makes you think about some very serious issues in relation to Safeguarding (Answers can be found by emailing the Safeguarding Inbox – Good Luck!!)

1. Who is responsible for Safeguarding?
2. What is the difference between Safeguarding & Protection?
3. Which form/s of abuse is the most difficult to detect?
4. In Wales what Legislation set out the Local Authorities legal duties for how they protect Vulnerable Adults at risk?
5. In England what Legislation set out the Local Authorities legal duties for how they protect Vulnerable Adults at risk?
6. What does (SIRB) stand for?
7. Name 3 Counties where the existence of “County Lines” is more prevalent?

QUOTE OF THE QUARTER

Submitted by Caroline Morrison, Cumbria



***The truest test of integrity is a
blunt refusal to be compromised***

CHINUA ACHEBE

Please offer your
suggestions for
“Quote of The Quarter”
and this may be included
in the next safeguarding
newsletter!