

## MESSAGES FOR PRACTICE: Safeguarding Adults in Care Homes & Supported Living Placements

As a response to several Adult Practice Reviews (APRs) involving Care Homes and Supported Living Placements in the Gwent region since 2017, this Messages for Practice highlights some key themes for practitioners. Gwent-wide Adult Safeguarding Board wish to share this as part of our ongoing commitment to collate and disseminate learned themes from Reviews. The full reports for these APRs can be found on: [www.gwentsafeguarding.org.uk](http://www.gwentsafeguarding.org.uk).

### Considering Mental Capacity

- Consideration of a person's mental capacity should include their ability to weigh up the implications of their wishes being carried out, e.g. if they wish to have their care arrangements changed, do they fully understand the implications of these changes?
- Where an individual is determined as not having the mental capacity to decide on proposed accommodation, or care arrangements, practitioners should assure the correct legal safeguards are in place.
- Responsible Individuals and Managers of Care Homes and Supported Living Placements must ensure their services are compliant with the Mental Capacity Act and Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards, ensuring that the least restrictive options for the environment are in place.

### Care Plans, Monitoring & Reviews

- There need to be strong links between assessment, risk management arrangements and care plans. These must be updated as circumstances or regulations change.
- The care commissioned should be the care that is delivered.
- All professionals involved in the care of individuals must read the service delivery plan, as this informs the monitoring of care arrangements.
- Regular reviews for all residents should be undertaken within the agreed timescales.
- The monitoring of the care commissioned identifies changes to the care being delivered.
- Where a decline in health and wellbeing is noted a multi-agency professionals meeting should be considered.

### Practitioners Providing Care

- The monitoring of the delivery of care should include feedback from the practitioners who are providing this care.
- Care providers to ensure that practitioners providing care are suitably qualified and experienced to support the individuals they care for.
- Monitoring, review and inspection arrangements evaluate care staffing levels and competencies against each individual's care needs and risk level.
- Where there are staffing shortages the Responsible Individual must ensure that a risk assessment and action plan against those risks are in place.

### Self-funded Places

When residents enter a care home on a self-funding basis, the pre-admission assessment should give consideration to previous professional involvement.

### Families of Residents

- Care Homes and Supported Living Placements should provide easy access to their Statement of Purpose and clearly identify the Responsible Individual and/or Manager to whom they should raise concerns and make complaints
- It is key that there is effective communication with families to ensure they understand the processes and are aware that they have the right to request reviews of care needs at any time.
- It's important for practitioners to recognise the loss that carers and family members experience when they transition from being a carer to being an advocate for their family member.

### Wales Applied Risk and Research Network (WARRN) assessments

- (WARRN) assessments need to give equal weighting to physical, mental health and behavioural risks. WARRN risk assessments promote a holistic view of a person's care needs.
- WARRN risk assessments should prioritise catastrophic risks even when the probability of these occurring is low.

**Falls Policy:** All Care Homes should have a Falls Policy in line with NICE guidance