

NHS Devon Board

Annual Safeguarding Report 2022/23

Date of committee	Date report produced
05/07/2023	19/05/2023

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If this paper needs to be presented at a private meeting, please state why and mark as **CONFIDENTIAL**:

Executive summary (250 words max) – high level overview of the content of the report and the reasons why it is being presented

The Safeguarding Annual Report provides assurance to the Board that we are fulfilling our statutory duty to meet our safeguarding requirements. The paper outlines structures, processes, governance arrangements and activity that the team undertake. Since completing the report, the decision by Government to not progress LPS has been communicated.

Committees that have previously discussed/agreed the report, and outcomes of that discussion

25/04/23 Safeguarding and Vulnerable People Steering Group – amendments agreed
17/05/23 Quality and Patient Experience Committee – approved.

Key recommendations and actions requested – please be explicit on what you are asking the committee/board to do

1. To approve report and agree publication
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

Impact on NHS Devon objectives

Objective	Impact
Improve population health	Improves quality of care
Improve services and reduced unwarranted variation	Tackles inequalities due to abuse, neglect and disability
Make more efficient use of our resources	Improved working with provider safeguarding teams, multiagency partners and internal teams
Develop our culture and how we operate	Identifying learning from reviews and embedding change in practice

Outline the implications of matters covered in this report for the following areas (if none, please state)

Area	
Quality of services	Improves quality of care
Health inequalities	Tackles inequalities due to abuse, neglect and disability
Workforce	Training to improve skills and competency of staff. Supervision.
Resources and finance	Improved working with provider safeguarding teams, multiagency partners and internal teams
Legal	Ensure statutory functions are undertaken
Digital and Data	
Involvement, Engagement and consultation	Consultation as part of review processes and service design.

Safeguarding Annual Report 2022/2023

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 ICBs (integrated care boards) are responsible in law for the safeguarding element of the services they commission. They also have statutory responsibilities to employ Designated Professionals to provide expertise and leadership to the ICB and local health economies to influence local thinking and practice and the capacity to do so. The Designated Safeguarding professionals play a key role in promoting good professional practice and providing advice, expertise and supervision across the health system; including advice to ICB commissioners. Additionally, the designated professionals hold commissioners to account in respect of the statutory responsibility to ensure due regard is given to the safeguarding of adults and children through appropriate contracting of services.
- 1.2 The safeguarding team consist of an interpersonal trauma and violence lead; a mental capacity act lead; designated nurses and doctors for safeguarding children and children in care and care leavers; designated nurses for safeguarding adults; primary care safeguarding nurses and a named GP; and administrative staff.
- 1.3 The team gain assurance of the safeguarding element of the services NHS Devon commission through attendance at those providers safeguarding governance meetings, regular meetings with and supervision of provider safeguarding leads, and identification of both good and poor practice through the serious incident and case review processes (safeguarding adult reviews, domestic homicide reviews and child safeguarding practice reviews). The team also hold regular meetings with the safeguarding leads from the independent providers. This gives an opportunity to provide education, support, and advice.
- 1.4 The Chief Nurse is the Executive Lead for Safeguarding, and with the Deputy Chief Nursing Officer, Head of Safeguarding and the designated professionals, is an active member of the safeguarding partnerships that exist in Devon – 2 safeguarding adult partnerships, 3 safeguarding children's partnerships, 3 corporate parenting boards and 3 community safety partnerships and 1 domestic abuse board. The team also contribute to the various Partnership subgroups, ensuring effective interagency relationships with the local authorities, police and third sector organisations that enable robust system response to abuse and neglect, effective information sharing and a positive learning culture.
- 1.5 NHS Devon monitors safeguarding activity through the Safeguarding and Protection of Vulnerable People Steering Group. This group is a subgroup of the Quality and Performance Committee. It meets on a quarterly basis and is

the key group overseeing the work of the safeguarding team and providers' safeguarding performance. The Steering Group's membership has been strengthened to include commissioning lead representation from across service areas. The management of safeguarding risks is strong with scrutiny and detailed updates provided to the Group. The Safeguarding and Protection of Vulnerable People Steering Group. ensures responsibilities and statutory duties are met. The ICB Board receives the Quality and Performance Committee Chair's report which summarises quality and safety matters, including safeguarding activity and related risks. The Group regularly reviews training compliance and ensures policies are updated. All safeguarding policies are up to date. Board members received safeguarding training on 16 November 2022.

- 1.6 The Internal audit of safeguarding that reported in the Summer of 2022 found that the arrangements surrounding the safeguarding function for the then CCG had been significantly strengthened and gave an overall assurance opinion of 'Satisfactory'.
- 1.7 In November 2022, an NHS England Safeguarding Visit took place between the Assistant Director for Nursing (Safeguarding) & Regional Safeguarding Lead, NHS England Southwest, and key strategic leads for safeguarding within NHS Devon. Feedback from this meeting highlighted:
 - Safeguarding remains a priority during times of pressure and change within the system
 - improved relationships and workings between ICB safeguarding and ICB commissioning across the commissioning cycle
 - the value of the Domestic Abuse and Serious Violence Pathfinder Lead, the commissioning of Primary Care Interpersonal Trauma Response Service and the highly commended Health Service Journal award for Devon ICB
 - clear communication flows and oversight of workstreams to fulfil the ICS statutory duties, including supervision and training requirements
 - There is a strong health voice within the safeguarding partnerships and the Devon ICB CNO chair two of them, with other ICB team members leading on sub-group work.
- 1.8 The Designated Doctor for Safeguarding Children post has remained vacant although a doctor has been identified to undertake the role and is waiting back fill to enable their release from clinical work. It is hoped the post will be filled by the end of the financial year. In the meantime, this vacancy has been captured on the risk register and is a recognised issue both regionally and nationally. As a mitigation, the designated nurse resource was increased, and medical expertise is provided by the Designated Doctors for Children in Care and the Named GPs as required.
- 1.9 Preparation for the anticipated changes to the Mental Capacity Act (MCA) Code of Practice, which includes guidance on the new Liberty Protection Safeguards (LPS) system continues. NHS Devon, along with local authorities and health providers will be a Responsible Body under the new arrangements. An LPS Steering Group has been established to support preparation for LPS implementation. The implementation date for LPS has yet to be published.

- 1.10 In April 2023, NHS Devon will take on delegated responsibility for dental, ophthalmic and pharmaceutical services (POD). Currently, the impact of this on the team and safeguarding are unknown. The team will work closely with the Collaborative Commissioning Hub to support the design and delivery of POD services.
- 1.11 The closer working relationship between the safeguarding team, commissioners and the patient safety and quality team has enabled NHS Devon to provide robust responses to patient safety and safeguarding issues and support the development of commissioning solutions. This approach also supports the implementation of recommendations arising from statutory reviews to effect change, embedding safeguarding into the commissioning cycle. It has also supported healthy challenge where needed and has highlighted areas of need in relation to safeguarding supervision, which has been responded to.

2.0 Safeguarding Adults, Mental Capacity Act and Prevent

- 2.1 Six Safeguarding Adult Reviews (SAR) were completed during 22/23. Two of these were not published by the Safeguarding Adult Partnership due to the potential to cause distress to those involved. Two have been published and the remaining two will be published before March 31st, 2023. The team has contributed to one SAR published by a local authority outside of Devon. The team are also contributing to two other SARs led by other local authorities where patients have been placed out of area.
- 2.2 Learning from the one SAR has been disseminated to general practice regarding the importance of swift registration when a person is moved to a care home and is a new patient within the practice's catchment area. Additionally, learning from a Coroners regulation 28 prevention of future deaths has been circulated to all healthcare providers and Safeguarding Adult Partnerships emphasising the link between self-neglect and the risks of developing sepsis through poor personal care. A thematic review relating to self-neglect has been published. NHS Devon has incorporated SAR learning into training delivered to GPs.
- 2.3 The Designated Nurse has coordinated work between Devon and Cornwall Police and the health provider delivering services within the police custody suits to enable them to have access to the Devon and Cornwall Care Record (DCCR). This will enable more effective management of detainee's healthcare whilst they are in custody.
- 2.4 The Designated Nurses have supported the development and introduction of a Quality Assurance Framework for Torbay and Devon Safeguarding Adult Partnership. As chair of the Quality Performance and Assurance Sub-Group, the Designate Nurse is driving this work forward.

- 2.5 The safeguarding adult team are continuing to strengthen links across NHS Devon, by working closely with the commissioning and patient safety team to meet recommendations arising from both published and unpublished SARs and in relation to safeguarding enquiries.
- 2.6 The Counter Terrorism Act (2015) places a statutory duty on the NHS to have due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism. The team are active participants in the Devon & Cornwall CONTEST Board and attend Channel Panels and Prevent Partnerships across Devon.
- 2.7 The Designate Nurse has supported the Devon and Torbay Anti-Slavery Partnership to develop a multiagency memorandum of understanding which will enable agencies to support individual victims of modern slavery within Devon and Torbay. Further work will be undertaken next year with the Plymouth Anti-Slavery Partnership.
- 2.8 Significant work has been undertaken by the Designated Professionals to support the health and safeguarding arrangements for asylum seekers and refugees across Devon. Working with commissioners and the local authorities, the designated nurses have clear oversight of safeguarding concerns and contribute to relevant meetings, in addition to working with health providers supporting people in hotels locally.
- 2.9 The Mental Capacity Act Lead (MCA) is working closely with the newly appointed MCA practitioner to upskill NHS Devon staff in preparation for the responsibilities under the Liberty Protection Safeguards arrangements.

Safeguarding Adult Team Strengths

Regular training and Prevent updates are provided to independent providers (including those from the Voluntary Community Sector) and GPs.

A good working relationship with the safeguarding adult partnerships enables the team to support the work of the partnerships and provide respectful challenges when required.

The appointment of the MCA Practitioner has supported the MCA Lead with the planning for LPS implementation and a programme of activity to improve the legal literacy of NHS Devon staff.

Safeguarding Adult Team Areas for Progression

The team plan to further improve NHS Devon staff legal literacy in relation to MCA and the Court of Protection in preparation for LPS responsibilities.

Continue to develop NHS Devon's safeguarding intranet pages to include resources relating to modern slavery and MCA/LPS.

As there is no statutory process in the Care Act for dealing with concerns relating to people in a position of trust. The Safeguarding Adult Team will continue to provide independent oversight and assurance to local authorities and providers that processes relating to healthcare staff are robust.

3.0 Safeguarding Children

- 3.1 The Designated professionals have integral roles within the Safeguarding Children Partnerships, supporting the quality assurance and child safeguarding practice review (CSPR) processes within each Partnership.

2022/2023	Number	Themes
Rapid Reviews completed	6	Safe Sleeping Neglect
Rapid Reviews in progress	0	Adolescent mental health & suicide
CSPR in progress	3	Non-accidental injury
Published CSPR	3	

- 3.3 All deaths of children are reviewed by the Child Death Overview Panel (CDOP), which is attended by one of the Designated Nurses. Learning from CDOP is fed back into the Partnerships and health community.

Safeguarding Children Team Strengths

The team are continuing to work with the senior leadership team, NHS England, and healthcare providers across the system to develop an effective safeguarding structure across NHS Devon ICB and ICS. They have worked with Provider Safeguarding Leads to ensure that Partnership meetings have the right representation, and the health system contributes appropriately to the Partnership arrangements.

The Designated Nurses have been reviewing the coaching and mentoring arrangements for all safeguarding professionals in Devon and will be ensuring there are robust arrangements in place.

Safeguarding Children Team Areas for Progression

Access to robust supervision for designated professionals remains a challenge. Reduced capacity has meant that forums at which supervision may have been

accessed could not always be prioritised, posing a threat to resilience in practice. Work is underway to review supervision arrangements and embed more robust access.

4.0 Children in Care

- 4.1 NHS Devon has a duty to assist local authorities to provide support and services to meet the physical and mental health needs for children and young people experiencing care or leaving care. The Designated Nurses attend the Corporate Parenting Board meetings held by the three local authorities. They are also active members of the three Health Steering Groups for Children in Care (CIC) and Care Leavers (CL) in Devon.
- 4.2 Promoting the Health and Wellbeing of Looked After Children (2015) states ICBs are responsible commissioners for the health of CIC originating from their ICB footprint even when they are placed in another area. The Designated team have a process in place to notify a receiving ICB as a CIC originating from Devon moves to their area. Contact is also made with other ICB's when a child from their area moves to Devon.
- 4.3 **Numbers of Torbay, Plymouth and Devon LA CIC placed outside of Devon**
(Data from notifications the LAs provide to NHS Devon March 2023)

Local Authority	Number of Children	Number placed outside of originating local authority area	Percentage
Torbay	319	157	49%
Plymouth	500	190	38%
Devon	883	284	32%
Total	1702	631	37%

- 4.4 NHS Devon has a statutory responsibility to ensure that children entering care receive an initial health assessment (IHA) by an appropriately qualified medical practitioner. Thereafter depending on age, a six monthly or annual review health assessment (RHA) is undertaken. Services have been commissioned with acute and community providers to ensure this responsibility is met. Assurance is received from providers via monthly submission of compliance data and quarterly CIC professional meetings.

- 4.5 2022/23 has seen an increase in unaccompanied asylum-seeking children (UASC) arriving in Devon. They have arrived via a variety of routes including the national Referral Transfer Scheme and the new migrant hotels. The designated nurses have helped coordinate a response to ensure that health needs are being identified and addressed and that safeguarding concerns are highlighted and managed in a safe and coordinated manner.

	Torbay	Plymouth	Devon	Total
Numbers of UASC per LA	24	11	56	91

- 4.6 Designated Doctors have given assurance that all the Medical Advisors across Devon have been appropriately appointed in line with the statutory requirements.

	Torbay	Plymouth	Devon	Total
Numbers of Care Leavers per LA	158	258	484	900

Children in Care Team Strengths

A Designated Nurse is a member of the Coram BAAF Health Committee, working to redesign the IHA and RHA paperwork used across the UK.

A Designated Nurse has presented at national and regional conferences on their research around restorative supervision for business support staff working in safeguarding teams.

Designated professionals have worked closely with Women and Children's Commissioners, contributing to the Long-Term Plan (2020) and Core20Plus5, an approach to reduce the health inequalities for children and young people.

The Designated professionals have been instrumental in commissioning a pilot that improves the understanding of carers, health and social care practitioners of the sensory needs of CIC. The pilot has demonstrated that intervention can improve placement stability and reduce the need for more specialist placements. The next step is to secure continued funding.

The CIC team have taken an active role in an NHSE task and finish group to develop a system to collect data on children placed out of their originating area. The aim is to understand the movement of CIC and to ensure that their health needs are being met. The pilot stage will be completed by April 2023. The team will continue to work with NHSE to ensure the process is fit for roll across the country in 2023/2024.

Children in Care Team Areas for Progression

Dental access for all CIC and Care Leavers remains a challenge. The team will work with primary care commissioners to improve access.

Guidance has been written to improve the transfer of care process that occurs when a child moves placements and the care provider changes. Plan for 2023/24 is to implement this guidance across Devon.

5.0 Safeguarding Primary Care

- 5.1 The Primary Care Safeguarding Team (PCST) provide leadership, advice and support to the 121 general practices in Devon.
- 5.2 The PCST are active members of the Adult and Children's Partnerships subgroups and task and finish groups.
- 5.3 The PCST support and facilitate the GP contribution to serious incidents, safeguarding investigation, children safeguarding practice reviews, safeguarding adult reviews and domestic homicide reviews. They also support practices to ensure learning following local or national case reviews is embedded into practice.
- 5.4 The PCST have established a successful GP forum for Safeguarding Lead GPs. The team have delivered a variety of both adults and children topics including Prevent and managing allegations. These forums also provide peer supervision for GP safeguarding leads. PCST have increased the tailored learning opportunities for primary care, including bitesize breakfast sessions and pre-recorded webinars.
- 5.5 PCST produce updates in the weekly GP bulletin. This has streamlined the communication and is accessible to all primary care staff
- 5.6 The PCST have commenced quality assurance programme of work. This has been initially in Torbay with plans to roll out Devon wide. A quality assurance tool has been developed and is delivered alongside a supportive face to face visit and follow up.

Safeguarding Primary Care Team Strengths

Delivery of high quality, relevant forums to GP safeguarding leads.

Good engagement from practices with the PCST quality assurance work.

Broad training offer to Primary Care. Virtual delivery has been well received and allows GPs easier access to attend given their current pressures.

Safeguarding Primary Care Team Areas for Progression

Devon Training Hub have agreed to facilitate a safeguarding conference for Primary Care in 2024.

The PCST are looking at utilising a software platform that will allow Practices to access safeguarding information, including policies, procedures and training. The team aim to roll this out in 2023 with support from the NHS Devon IT team.

6.0 Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence

- 6.1 Over the last three years, NHS Devon has rolled out a Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence (DASV) Strategy and with progress made against the ambitions, it will be refreshed in 2023.
- 6.2 In October, NHS Devon was highly commended at the HSJ Patient Safety Award for our Whole Systems for Whole People collaboration with Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC), and our local authority partners. This work centred on domestic abuse, sexual violence and supporting people with multiple complex needs.
- 6.3 NHS Devon have attracted national attention for our work and recently hosted a visit from the Domestic Abuse Lead for NHS England and the Domestic Abuse Commissioner for England and Wales, who described our work as 'ground-breaking'. NHS Devon are still the only ICB to have a specific interpersonal trauma and violence lead role, a model that the DA Commissioner has said she would like to see every ICB adopt.
- 6.4 The Head of Safeguarding was invited by NHSE to speak at the Domestic Abuse Commissioner's inaugural conference, sharing the approach NHS Devon is taking to DASV.
- 6.5 The Interpersonal Trauma and Violence (ITV) Lead has been invited to sit on NHSE ICB Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Task and Finish Group which is pooling resources and best practise guidance for ICBs nation-wide to support their response to the Serious Violence Duty, The Victims Bill, and the Domestic Abuse Bill.
- 6.6 NHS Devon collaborated with system partners to apply for a grant to pilot a Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender (LGBT+) Independent Domestic Violence Advisor (IDVA) post. The success of this has been such that a second post with a sexual health and sexual violence focus has been created. LGBT+ people are greatly underrepresented within DASV services and experience multiple barriers to living free from abuse. During LGBT+ History Month the Domestic Abuse Commissioner's Office invited our Interpersonal Trauma and Violence Lead and Intercom to write a blog to showcase the importance of this specialist role.
- 6.7 Independent Domestic Violence Adviser (IDVA) provision has been continued in 5 providers and a new post within Livewell created. It is essential that all these posts are maintained, and that funding is found to increase provision in Trusts that have demand greater than IDVA capacity. They support a high

number of staff affected by abuse. In 2023 NHS Devon will need to look at how sustainable funding for these roles can be secured.

Provider	DASV Resource
RDUH (E)	Full time, permanent IDVA
RDUH(N)	Full time, permanent IDVA
UHP	Full time IDVA grant funded for 1 year
TSDFT	Full time IDVA funded by Trust, funded for an additional year as a pilot
DPT	3 Full time IDVAs grant funded for 1 year
Livewell	1 Full time IDVA grant funded for 2 years

- 6.8 NHS Devon supported Plymouth City Council to apply for grant funding to commission IDVA training for 24 individuals across the ICS and local voluntary organisations. This included several health IDVAs.
- 6.9 The Interpersonal Trauma Response Service for General Practices is launching in April 2023. The service will train GP staff to ask questions about abuse and trauma and connect people affected to a specialist support service. The service will work with adult survivors, children affected by domestic abuse and people who are concerned about their own harmful behaviour.
- 6.10 The ITV Lead has organised several training events for health practitioners over the year including a webinar on LGBT+ domestic abuse, a session promoting Stop It Now, which is aimed at those who may sexually offend against children, the health contribution to the Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) process for people at high risk of domestic homicide, and is working with Devon and Cornwall local authorities and police commissioners on a project to upskill the workforce to support people with learning disabilities affected by domestic abuse and sexual violence. The programme of work is being delivered by Cornwall Women's Centre alongside women with lived experience across the Peninsular.
- 6.11 The ITV Lead has set up a health DASV practitioner network which creates opportunity to hear from frontline practitioners about DASV provision, data and gaps, to provide opportunities for peer support and problem solving and to provide the network with training and development opportunities.
- 6.12 NHS Devon has increased the number of DASV Support Champions across the organisation. They will receive training in the coming months and will act as a resource to colleagues affected by DASV or who want to seek advice on supporting someone they know.
- 6.13 There are currently 13 Domestic Homicide Reviews (DHR) underway in Devon. Learning from DHRs has highlighted lack of GP awareness of domestic abuse

and increasingly death by suicide. The ITV Lead is connecting with partners to explore prevention work on suicide.

- 6.14 Training on a trauma informed approach to sexual harassment investigations has been commissioned from ACAS in collaboration with the Sexual Assault Referral Centre. Provider HR teams have been invited to join NHS Devon HR team on the training.
- 6.15 Following selection as NHSE first sexual violence trauma pathfinder site, a Pathfinder Lead and Programme Support Office have been recruited. The focus of this work is on adult victims of sexual violence and abuse who have complex trauma related mental health needs. The Programme will be focusing on two groups:
- People with complex lives (substance misuse, homelessness, domestic abuse) who often do not engage with services and where childhood sexual abuse is often, the undisclosed original trauma.
 - People with high level of trauma related mental health needs who are asking for help but are refused.

The investment money will be used to:

- Develop a trauma stabilisation workforce development package to upskill practitioners to feel confident to support people with complex, trauma related mental health needs to manage their trauma symptoms and cope in the “here and now”.
- Prototype a new approach to working with women who have experienced sexual violence and abuse where building a trusted relationship and trauma stabilisation is at the heart of the work.
- Prototype new approaches to support people within complex, trauma related mental health needs that are current falling through the gaps in services.
- Develop a Trauma Resilience Hub based in the Devon and Cornwall SARC to provide advice, consultation and supervision to practitioners working with victims of sexual violence and abuse.

Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Team Strengths

Commissioning of Primary Care Interpersonal Trauma Response Service was completed.

Sexual Violence Trauma Pathfinder funding obtained.

High levels of collaboration with our partners across the County

Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Team Areas for Progression

Domestic Homicide Review processes are slow which undermines the timely implementation of lessons learned. Work will continue with partners to improve the process.

The ITV Lead has organised a conference on Older People Affected by DASV in May which representatives from across a wide range of health, social care, and partner organisations are attending.