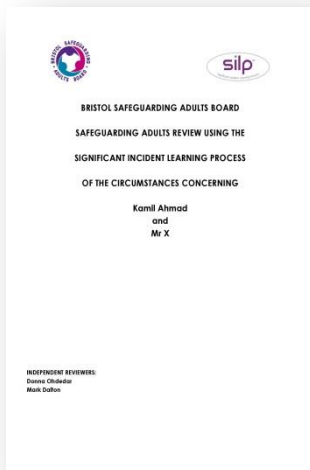




## Bristol Safeguarding Adults Board Newsletter

Welcome to our newsletter, the next three pages include updates from the Board and set out the key items that have been discussed and agreed at the quarterly Board meeting.

### Kamil Ahmad and Mr X Safeguarding Adult Review



Kamil was a Kurdish asylum seeker who was murdered in 2016 by Mr X, a white British male, whilst both were residents in the same supported living accommodation for individuals with mental health needs. Mr X was convicted of murder in 2017 and is now serving a life sentence.

The Bristol Safeguarding Adult Board commissioned a Safeguarding Adult Review (SAR) to examine the care provided to both men. Click [here](#) to read the full report, board response and briefing for professionals.

### Annual Conference

The joint Bristol and South Gloucestershire Safeguarding Adults Board Conference was held on 12<sup>th</sup> June and attended by 122 professionals. The theme for this year was Adult Exploitation, Mate Crime and Coercive Control. The presentations from the conference and workshops are available on our [website](#).

### Stop Adult Abuse Week

The Conference was held during Stop Adult Abuse Week and as part of this we produced a leaflet on [Mate Crime](#) to help people spot the signs and get support.



## **A different perspective on MCA Assessments from our Learning and Development Sub Group**

I often hear professionals concerns over the difficulty they have around capacity assessments and really worry about what they are doing. Potentially this could be down to their level of knowledge, experience and learning in this area, however, some of it is down to the language we use when discussing capacity assessments and that we have forgotten what a capacity assessment is.

The reason I say this is because I hear so often, “I’m doing a capacity assessment on this service user/patient....’. If we stop and really look at what is being said here. If we are ‘doing’ something ‘on’ someone, then it doesn’t appear that we are being enabling, engaging and promoting an individual’s autonomy: in other words it doesn’t sound like a nice thing to be involved in. Secondly, what is our mind-set if we are saying this? Are you really thinking that the person has the ability to make this decision? Or is it more likely that you think that the person lacks capacity? And if our frame of mind, our unconscious bias, leads us to think this then we are not following Principle 1 of the MCA – Everyone is assumed to have capacity unless established they lack capacity.



By altering the words we use when thinking about capacity, I think we will find the work we do in this area a bit easier. Because at the end of the day, you are there to support someone to make a decision and you are doing that through having a conversation with them, ensuring that they have all the relevant information, using all available methods of assisting that

person to make that decision (Principle 2). Whilst having that conversation, you will be considering the functional test of capacity: can the person you are having the conversation with understand, retain and use/weigh the information that you have provided and can they communicate.

So, if we change our mind-set, change the language we use, it should take some of the worry and fear away. So let’s start saying “I’m off to support Gary make a decision about ....” As we are all well versed and confident in having conversations the interactions we have should be less daunting when it comes to a person’s ability to make a decision. Be enabling, promote autonomy and follow the Principles of the MCA.

## Domestic Abuse

Next Link provide Domestic Abuse services in Bristol and gave a presentation to the Board about the barriers to people reporting, such as coercive control. Part of the Boards Strategic Plan for 2018-2021 is to develop resources in respect of coercive control/carer stress to raise awareness of domestic abuse of adults with care and support needs.



## Annual Report



The annual report for 2017/18 has been published. This is a record of the work of the Board in the last business year including updates on the Strategic Plan, policies, Safeguarding Adults Reviews and our annual conference.

## Training Update

The Board received the findings of the 2018 self-assessment Training Survey, which was completed by 80 organisations. The Learning and Development Sub Group (LDSG) will use the findings from the survey to inform their work this year, such as raising awareness of the importance of MCA and DOLS training for organisations working with adults with care and support needs.

The BSAB will be running an inter-agency training programme between September 2018 and March 2019, which will be advertised shortly.

The LDSG have produced a [resource update](#) that includes links to the Training Standards and the Guidance on making a safeguarding referral to Bristol's front door service.

## Further information

You can find lots more information about the BSAB on our website and Twitter:

[www.bristolsafeguarding.org](http://www.bristolsafeguarding.org)  [@BristolLSAB](https://twitter.com/BristolLSAB)

If you have a safeguarding concern about an adult in Bristol, please [click here](#) to find out how you can report your concerns.