7minute briefing – October 2024:
Safeguarding Adults Review (SAR) for 'Jodie'
For all those working with adults, children and families

A SAR takes place when an adult with care and support needs is seriously harmed or has died due to abuse and/or neglect and there are concerns about how agencies have worked together. Its purpose is to look at what happened / why / what action will be taken to improve practice as a result of the review's findings.

Strategic Partnership Boards
SAFETY SAFEGUARDING WELLBEING

1 About Jodie

'Jodie' was a white woman in her early fifties whose decomposed body was found in a wheelchair being pushed by her mother within the local area, following calls of concern by neighbours about smells coming from the property of their registered social landlord managed home.

Jodie and her mother were very close and had little contact with the outside world, including professionals.

2 SAR findings

The review identifies improvements in how safeguarding referrals are responded to at the earliest opportunity. It also highlights the importance of a Think Family approach and how consideration should be given to all members of a household.

The Waltham Forest Local Safeguarding Partners have accepted the review's findings and recommendations and have committed to working together to improve practice.

SAR Jodie (01 02 03 04 05 06 07)

3 What needs to change?
A holistic approach is applied to safeguarding referrals
The SAR highlights the importance of mutual respect and human dialogue when making safeguarding referrals. This reinforces the need for effective two-way communication and information sharing between organisations. Mental capacity and self-neglect are themes that feature in the review which have previously been priorities for the SAB.

The SAR illustrates the consideration that must be given to other members of a household, particularly where there are vulnerable adults and / or children. There is a need for more robust actions when there has been no response to letters / calls by undertaking visits and ensuring that all the relevant voices are captured. Professional curiosity is an essential part of this - triangulating information is crucial, which means digging deeper into records, cross-referencing historical information etc.

7 WHAT YOU CAN DO NOW

- **SHARE this briefing** and [SAR Jodie](#) widely
- **FOLLOW UP safeguarding concerns** with a conversation where required
- **TRIANGULATE information you have** about individuals for whom there are safeguarding concerns
- **REFRESH your understanding of**
  - **mental capacity -** [refer to the local guidance to assessing mental capacity](#)
  - **self-neglect -** [use the local guidance](#)
  - **professional curiosity -** [use this resource](#)

6 What's next?
As part of the wider action plan for SAR Jodie, the SAB is organising a series of multi-agency audits which will be used to understand how practice has changed and what is different since Jodie's tragic death.

5 What needs to change?
Improvements within Adults Social Care
This SAR identified improvements specifically for Adults Social Care, some of which have already been acted upon. For example, a new templates now assists with initial assessments, how risk is rated has changed and a process exists for accounting for other individuals in the household. Work is underway to build on the changes with a view to testing how robust the systems are in relation to responding to safeguarding concerns.

4 What needs to change?
Escalation is a valued aspect of safeguarding practice
Escalation remains a common theme in learning reviews, both locally and nationally, which is reinforced by the findings in this SAR, particularly for the extraordinary.

This review stresses the importance of conversation in safeguarding as well as ensuring good record keeping, such as rationale for decisions. Whilst recommending that the escalation process should be updated and promoted it also provides a reminder to not get caught up in the constraints that might present within certain procedures and to pay attention when there is a sense of urgency.