

South West Safeguarding Annual Report 2022/ 2023 v 0.1

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Foreword

Welcome to the NHS England South West Safeguarding Annual Report. We would like to start by celebrating the enormous contributions that our South West Chief Nursing Officers, Designated and Named Professionals, Prevent, Mental Capacity Act and other safeguarding leads working in regional and local systems have made to our successes and celebrations over the past year. Their commitment, skill and passion has been central to high quality, safe services being provided to our populations and people we serve.

On the 1st of July 2022, across England, we witnessed the birth of Integrated Care Boards (ICBs) as outlined in the Health and Care Act 2022 and the beginning of a new climate of ICB leadership and accountability. Since then, and with supporting integration of health and care as directed by the Health and Care Act, NHS England has been working with ICBs as they take on a range of delegated functions from NHS England. With general practice commissioning already delegated to ICBs, Pharmacy, Optometry and Dental (POD) services as well as complaints were delegated from April 2023.

This financial year has continued to be challenging, focusing on how essential care, including safeguarding and child and adult protection, keeps going during industrial action and continuing to strive to work together with mutual respect and common purpose to join-up and integrate our work wherever possible to safeguard and best serve our communities living in the South West.

We end the financial year with welcoming colleagues from Health Education England as we become the New NHS England on the 1st of April 2023. This year will see the continuation of the change programme for the NHS England workforce and preparation for our New Ways of Working.

Between November 2022 and March 2023, we have undertaken six out of seven bespoke ICB Safeguarding Revisits. The final was completed in May 2023. The process and outcome are reported later in this report. The Annual Report provides an update on progress made against our 22/23 priorities and our safeguarding activity including

statutory review data, awards and celebrations, key achievements, and challenges across our seven ICB areas and provides an outline of our future priorities.

Before we move into the main body of the report, we would like to introduce the South West Regional Safeguarding Team.



Sue Doheny
Regional Chief Nurse



Penny Smith
Director of Nursing Leadership
& Quality



Dr Rosie Luce
Assistant Director
of Nursing (Safeguarding)
and Regional Safeguarding
Lead (RSL)



Nick Rudling
Head of Safeguarding
Transformation



Roslynn Azzam
SW Liberty Protection
Safeguards Clinical Lead
(fixed term contract)



Joanne May
Safeguarding Officer



Sally Harwood
Business Support Assistant
(Safeguarding)

In June 2022, Roslynn Azzam joined on an 18-month fixed-term contract as South West (SW) Liberty Protection Safeguards (LPS) Clinical Lead. Roslynn also supports the team across the safeguarding portfolio bringing her experience as a registered social worker.

During August 2022 we said farewell to Mel Munday, Professional Safeguarding Lead, who secured a new post as Associate Director of Safeguarding/ Designated Nurse for Safeguarding Children in NHS Gloucestershire ICB.

In May 2023 we said farewell to Sally Harwood, Business Support Assistant.

Acknowledgements

We would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the continued support of the South West Commissioning Support Unit (CSU) and specifically the Business Intelligence team; Kirsty Hall and Elen Hall, who have continued to provide us with comprehensive and timely data analysis during 2022/23.

Awards

Over the past year across our region, safeguarding teams have received the following awards:

One Gloucestershire Homeless Specialist Nurse won the Safeguarding Award as part of the HSJ Patient Safety Awards 2022. NHS Gloucestershire Royal Hospital's emergency department, leading to a more holistic pathway for people experiencing homelessness who attend the emergency department (ED) to access accommodation direct from the ED. This improved process, along with dedicated support roles, has improved the standard of care experienced by this group of people, who come from multiple vulnerable groups, and reduced frequent and future attendances. The judges felt this project was a clear winner with fantastic outcomes and impact. The presenters excellently evidenced the patient experience, improving patient quality and significant cost savings within health.

NHS Devon, along with Devon and Cornwall OPCC, Devon County Council, Plymouth City Council and Torbay Council received a High Commendation in the Best Use of

Integrated Care and Partnership Working in Patient Safety HSJ Patient Safety Award in October 2022 for the Whole Systems for Whole People project. The project works to improve support to people experiencing domestic abuse and/or sexual violence. Whole Systems for Whole People was driven by shared understanding of how local services do not always meet the needs of people with multiple complex needs and those affected by domestic abuse and/or sexual violence.

Both Lizzie Cann, NHS Devon CCG, and Anne Fry, NHS Bristol, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire CCG, were both awarded the Safeguarding Star Award after the National Safeguarding Team received the following nominations:

Lizzie was nominated for her restless drive to improve the care of children in care and care experienced young people. She works collaboratively with partners and providers to ensure that children in care have a voice. For example, Devon's young people reported that they find being referred to as a looked after child or LAC derogatory, so she led a work stream to change the way we refer to young people within the CCG and providers.

Lizzie is also leading on a new project to raise understanding of the sensory needs of children in care by working with the Children's Commissioning Team and has procured a training package for foster carers across the CCG footprint.

Anne has had the most amazing career and is an inspiration to all those she works with and a role model. Anne has an amazing amount of knowledge and skill in one woman – that and her ability to work well with everyone across all boundaries and levels. She has been an amazing champion and the team have often relied on her often for her cool and pragmatic advice and approach.

Key achievements/celebrations:

Powerful words expressed through a poem, composed as a successful multi-media assignment for Bournemouth University Level 7 Master Module, reminded Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Safeguarding Team why we do our work across the safeguarding partnership and for the populations we serve. The learning and development opportunity

was linked to the South West regional funding allocation for named and designated professionals ongoing continuing professional development.

Publication of the [NHS England South West Internal Safeguarding Training Framework](#). The Framework aims to provide information on mandatory safeguarding requirements, including Prevent for all staff (and Mental Capacity Act training where required) and takes account of recent and future workforce changes.

An amazing 103 safeguarding professionals across South West ICSs have now completed the 20-credit, level 7 (Masters) Risk and Decision, accredited module with Bournemouth University. This fully evaluated training programme was commissioned by NHS England South West, funded by Health Education England.

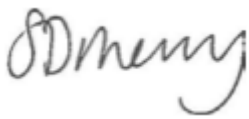
The South West Safeguarding Regional Team organised and supported two regional conferences. The Celebrating Research in Safeguarding Conference on 9th February 2023, featured speakers from the region undertaking research in safeguarding at all academic levels as well as Health Education England (now part of NHS England) who set out opportunities for practitioners to become involved in research. On 22nd March the Prevent Regional Conference featured multi-disciplinary speakers to support our regional Prevent leads meet their level four and five training competencies as set out in the new NHS Prevent training and competencies framework. These were the first face to face conference events for our SW safeguarding professionals since pre-pandemic and served as a great networking opportunity for all.

Devon ICB have commissioned an Interpersonal Trauma Response Service which has been launched. This service will provide domestic abuse and sexual violence training for all Practice staff and a specialist worker for children affected by domestic abuse, adults affected by domestic abuse or sexual violence, and adults concerned with their own behaviour in relationships. Also, their Domestic Abuse and Serious Violence work in Devon was showcased at the Domestic Abuse Commissioners 'Festival of Practice' held in Manchester on 28th – 29th March 2023.

Colette O'Neill, Designated Professional for Safeguarding Adults, NHS BaNES, Swindon and Wiltshire ICB, achieved an MSc in Safeguarding with Distinction. Following this,

Colette presented 'Nurses affected by their own childhood trauma and adversity – what are their experiences in and the workplace? A Qualitative Systematic Review' at the Safeguarding Adult National Network (SANN).

The South West Regional Safeguarding Team are pleased to present this annual report and look forward to continuing to work together with our partners over the coming year.



Sue Doheny
Regional Chief Nurse



Dr Rosie Luce
Assistant Director of Nursing (Safeguarding)
and Regional Safeguarding Lead (RSL)

APPROVED

Introduction

During 2022/23, we have seen directions set out for ICBs within published draft and statutory guidance to assist ICBs to prepare for the Serious Violence Duty and the Stable Homes, Built on Love: Implementation Strategy and Consultation around Children's Social Care Reforms 2023.

The strategy and the Children Social Care National Framework are the first steps that incorporate government reforms, including the Supporting Families Programme, Family Hubs and Start for Life Programme, the NHS 10-year plan, the Special Educational Needs and Disabilities and Alternative Provision Review and the Schools White paper.

Across government there has been a commitment to align with wider reforms to improve children and family services, including the Reducing Parental Conflicts Programme, Domestic Abuse Act and the 10-year drug strategy, From Harm to Hope. Cross Government initiatives are also set to align with improvements arising from the transition from Commissioning Groups to NHS Integrated Care Boards.

The South West Regional Safeguarding Team offer to our ICBs (former CCGs) has included continuing to support and improve the South West safeguarding workforce learning and development to attain level 4 and level 5 competencies in readiness for 2023/24 (when all ICB safeguarding workforce and training plans need to be aligned to current and future Intercollegiate documents Royal Colleges standards, due for review from December 2023).¹

Our safeguarding governance structures 2021/22 provided a clear mechanism of flow and exchange of information (see [Appendix 1](#)). During 2022/23 one of our key areas of work was to support the transformation of ICBs. Our oversight of South West ICBs is outlined within the next section.

¹ [Safeguarding Children and Young People: Roles and Competencies for Healthcare Staff | Royal College of Nursing \(rcn.org.uk\)](#)
[Looked After Children: Roles and Competencies of Healthcare Staff | Royal College of Nursing \(rcn.org.uk\)](#)
[Adult Safeguarding: Roles and Competencies for Health Care Staff | Royal College of Nursing \(rcn.org.uk\)](#)

South West ICBs Safeguarding

During 2022/23 the South West Regional Safeguarding Team have worked with and supported the ICBs as they have established themselves from CCGs and transformed across a range of key areas. Below outlines some of these key areas and highlights each of the ICBs key achievements and challenges within year and their priorities for the year ahead.

South West ICB Heat Maps

Every quarter the National Safeguarding Team request that each region complete a set of assurance PowerPoint slides on an ICB level against a RAG rating assessment. This has been used to inform a regional and national 'heatmap'. The Key Lines of Enquiry (KLOEs) within the slide deck initially focussed on CCG transition to ICBs, more specifically they were seeking an agreed and signed off safeguarding governance arrangement within the emerging ICB. All 7 of our South West ICBs are now reporting as 'green' status. Over the quarters the ICB heatmap has evolved to include additional and topical KLOEs. The collated national picture is presented at the National Safeguarding Steering Group (NSSG) which was chaired by Hilary Garratt, Deputy Chief Nursing Officer for England. The South West collated slides are also presented to the South West Safeguarding Steering Group for information and to support our overall systems oversight.

Themes and considerations from ICB visits

The South West Regional Safeguarding Team visited all 7 ICBs in order to review the progress on issues raised following the visits/meetings we held last year and the journeys so far within the Integrated Care Board (ICB) and local Integrated Care Partnerships (ICPs). The approach was formally discussed and approved on 21 July 2022 with members of the South West Safeguarding Steering Group. All ICB Chief Nursing Officers and Chief Executives were written to outlining the purpose and providing several Key Lines of Enquiry for the systems to focus on when we met. Some of the ICBs kept the attendance to ICB staff whilst others chose to invite and include Local Authority, Police or other Safeguarding/Community Safety Partnership chairs. In 2024 we hope to see more ICB and ICP safeguarding executive leaders attending the annual revisits.

Schedule of ICB visits	
NHS Devon ICB	10 th November 2022
NHS Bath and North East Somerset, Swindon and Wiltshire (BSW) ICB	17 th November 2022
NHS Cornwall & Isles of Scilly ICB	6 th December 2022
NHS Bristol, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire (BNSSG) ICB	8 th February 2023
NHS Somerset ICB	22 nd February 2023
NHS Gloucestershire ICB	21 st March 2023
NHS Dorset ICB	23 rd May 2023

The South West Regional Safeguarding Team reviewed and summarised a range of information into a safeguarding presentation which was shared with the local systems to frame the conversations and included any KLOEs. Information reviewed and summarised included:

- Safeguarding and Community Safety Partnership effectiveness & relationships
- Adherence to the Safeguarding Accountability and Assurance Framework and NHS Standard contract
- ICB responses and positions on national ICS heat map exercise.
- ICB responses to the Safeguarding Commissioning Assurance Tool (S-CAT)
- Current safeguarding workforce gaps/concerns
- Formal safeguarding risks on ICB register
- ICB Annual reports for Adult & Child, Looked After Children, Child Death Overview panels
- Safeguarding review data and learning from Safeguarding Adult Reviews, Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews and Domestic Homicide Reviews.
- Recent inspections of ICS health services which may have identified learning/recommendations for safeguarding
- Modern Slavery Statements
- Data from national published reports (DoLS, Safeguarding Adults, LAC)
- ICB Safeguarding Training

- ICS NHS Trusts Prevent Training compliance Annual reports for Adult & Child Safeguarding, Looked After Children, Child Death Overview panels (where available)
- Progress and readiness for implementation of the new Liberty Protection Safeguards

Following each ICS meeting the South West Regional Safeguarding Team summarised the discussion and key points in a letter. Following accuracy checks with those present the final version was shared. Overall, the ICSs stated they welcomed the focus and time set aside to review their existing and future safeguarding arrangements and risks. It was a great opportunity for some ICB's to have their safeguarding team alongside their Chief Nursing Officer and Chief Executive for a focused safeguarding discussion particularly at a time of challenge and change in the systems. It has been encouraging to hear that the process and visits have been of as much benefit to the ICBs as it has to the South West Regional Safeguarding Team.

The South West ICBs have slightly different safeguarding challenges and the risks within their Integrated Care Systems which may be nuanced to that system, however there are a few common themes:

- CCG safeguarding statutory responsibilities and functions have transferred to ICBs, and most ICB teams and roles are a 'lift and shift' from the previous CCG organisation with much of the ICS transformation opportunities for safeguarding emerging from the wider health system. Some of this work is already advanced in some ICSs with provider integrations of teams and resources such as sharing training and policy development.
- One of the common focussed areas of work that ICBs have raised in our site visits to date has been how they deploy a single ICB safeguarding team, resource and capability across their integrated care areas/localities (ICS place level).
- A further theme in most systems has been in relation to vacancies in some of the safeguarding statutory roles. Whilst there has been ongoing work into the challenges and solutions for the recruitment to Designated Doctors for Safeguarding Children (especially paediatricians), ICBs have been reporting that other specialist roles in safeguarding are also difficult to recruit to. This has been

a subject of consideration and work through the South West Safeguarding Workforce and Learning & Development Reference Group.

ICB system 3 key achievements, priorities, and challenges

As part of our assurance and support function, the South West Regional Safeguarding Team request end of year information from each ICB Safeguarding Team. We asked for 3 key achievements, 3 key celebrations and 3 key challenges. A summary of these are outlined in the following table to provide a sense of some of the key areas of focus. Each ICB will have a number of organisational and partnership priorities they are working to.

ICB	<u>Key achievements</u>	<u>Key challenges</u>	<u>Priorities for 23/24</u>
BNSSG	<p>Uplift of financial investment within the ICB Safeguarding Team.</p> <p>Engagement of GPs in our Primary Care training offer.</p>	<p>Increasing number of Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children and safeguarding risks associated with hotels accommodating these families.</p> <p>Supporting all partnership arrangements (subgroups) across the footprint where there is duplication.</p>	<p>Development of a Children in Care Improvement Plan including an Enhanced and dedicated Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children pathway.</p> <p>Creation of a Systemwide Learning Assurance Network (sharing academic evidence-based research and audits).</p>

<p>Gloucestershire</p>	<p>Ongoing progression of the ICS Safeguarding Integration Group and its core functions- strategy developed.</p> <p>New posts: Associate Director Integrated Safeguarding and Safeguarding Adult Lead Nurse roles, plus additional part time Children in Care admin support agreed.</p> <p>Safeguarding Team now leading workstreams e.g., Domestic abuse and Serious Violence Duty and membership of relevant partnerships.</p>	<p>Understanding how safeguarding embedded in delegated Primary Care functions from April 23. Plus ICB 'small service' contracts.</p> <p>Transition – adult safeguarding parity and embedding trauma informed health care.</p> <p>Capacity of statutory roles in team (both safeguarding and children in care) - risk register entries and benchmarking undertaken to evidence gaps and impact.</p> <p>Current vacancies</p>	<p>Further progress the 2023 Safeguarding Integration Strategy across the ICS.</p> <p>GP Quality Assurance visits and more robust assurance of primary care.</p> <p>Support with safeguarding elements of our ICB Primary Care Offer.</p> <p>Succession planning for Designated Nurse Children in Care post and recruitment to Designated Nurse Safeguarding Children post.</p> <p>Ensuring all ICB staff are trained at appropriate mandatory level</p>
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		unable to recruit to following retirement (Des Dr Children in Care and Child Death).	for both safeguarding and Children in Care and that this is robustly monitored.
Devon	<p>Launch of commissioned Primary Care Interpersonal Trauma service.</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>Designated Doctor post remains vacant.</p> <p>Dental access for children in care and care leavers remains a challenge.</p>	<p>Roll out of ICON across Devon.</p> <p>Safeguarding Conference for Primary Care planned for 2024.</p> <p>Support NHS Providers to secure permanent funding for Health IDVAs.</p>
Dorset	We disseminated new learning about managing virtual consultations, gained	We needed to adjust our safeguarding governance	Our safeguarding priorities for 23/24 will draw

	<p>from a Safeguarding Adults Review, to NHS partners in Dorset.</p> <p>We helped develop a joint protocol for the assessment of intrafamilial child sexual abuse following learning arising from Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews (CSPRs).</p> <p>We co-produced a new protocol to improve the quality and timeliness of information supplied to child protection conferences by GP practices in Dorset.</p>	<p>arrangements to meet the challenge of the transition from CCG to ICB.</p> <p>We needed to develop a new role of Consultant Nurse for Community Safeguarding to meet the challenge of the increased need for specialist expertise in our contribution to the workstreams of the local Community Safety Partnerships.</p> <p>We needed to get better access to safeguarding and health data to help us meet the challenge of supporting colleagues who</p>	<p>from the priorities we have co-produced with local safeguarding partnerships. In particular, these priorities are well-aligned to three priorities in our Joint Forward Plan which are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Improving the lives of people impacted by poor mental health. 2. Preventing children from becoming overweight. 3. Increasing the percentage of older people living well and independently.
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		<p>plan and commission services for children. We achieved this through collaboration with the Dorset Insight and Intelligence Service.</p>	
<p>BSW</p>	<p>Leading on Unborn and Under 1 practice improvement across three LA's and three partnerships.</p> <p>MCA Course Commissioning.</p>	<p>Increasing complexity of cases.</p>	<p>Development of legal literacy within the ICS</p> <p>Development of a BSW wide non-mobile baby policy in agreement with the safeguarding partnerships. As a result, we will learn how to achieve system agreement.</p> <p>Development of a learning framework based on emerging SCIE quality markers for conducting</p>

			statutory reviews and disseminating the learning in a way that measures impact.
Cornwall & Isle of Scilly	<p>Pilot primary care domestic abuse service commenced in March 2021 and has continued throughout this year. The aim of the service is to increase general practice knowledge and skills in relation to domestic abuse. It also provides a straightforward referral pathway for primary care.</p> <p>Our two trusts have one Integrated Safeguarding Team. The team covers the whole life journey and works with teams supporting people with mental health needs and neurodiversity. The Integrated</p>	<p>There are safeguarding workforce challenges, in recruiting a designated doctor for safeguarding children and a named GP. We continue to proceed with creative ways to ensure our system can meet the requirements of these posts.</p> <p>Making sure we embed the learning from safeguarding reviews, such as DHRs SARs, rapid reviews and CSPRs. It is</p>	<p>Continue to improve our response to domestic abuse and sexual violence. As part of the Sexual Violence Pathfinder Project, we will work with providers across Cornwall, the Isles of Scilly and Devon. A key area of development will be trauma stabilisation.</p> <p>Work with partners in the system to ensure that health assessments and reviews for</p>

	<p>Safeguarding Team were shortlisted for the nursing times award for integrated care. A short video about the service is available.</p> <p>There has been progress in the way we hear the voice of the person and their loved ones in our safeguarding board and partnership work. For example, our Annual Children Safeguarding Partnership Conference had some sessions led by young people in Cornwall. This has enabled partners to better understand what feeling 'safe' means for a young person growing up in Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly. Our Safeguarding Adult Board now offers the opportunity for family members to be involved in the</p>	<p>also important that we address them in a timely way rather than wait for reports to be published. One of the developments this year has been the agreement to establish a multi-agency DHR Learning Oversight Group.</p> <p>Although we have made improvements in or recognition of domestic abuse, a key challenge remains to continually improve, ensuring all our workforce have the skills to recognise, ask about and respond to domestic abuse and sexual</p>	<p>looked after children are completed within statutory timescales, providing the national data returns to NHS England. We meet the requirements of the Care Leavers Covenant.</p> <p>To support improvements in how we always take into consideration that children may have more than one influential adult figure in the family and that their needs and risks are considered as part the child's assessment and family support.</p>
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	<p>selection of authors for safeguarding adult's review.</p>	<p>violence. This challenge is highlighted in some of our domestic homicide reviews.</p>	
<p>Somerset</p>	<p>Successful engagement of system partners in identifying top 3 priorities for the ICS (through the safeguarding steering group), which includes transitions, domestic abuse and neglect and hardship.</p> <p>Commencement of Domestic Abuse Notifications sharing project between Police and primary care, securing funding for admin post now devolved to provider setting.</p> <p>Successful conclusion of High Court review of adoption and successful business case to secure</p>	<p>Capacity due to unprecedented demand from SAR and DHR related work and ongoing vacant Named GP for Safeguarding Post.</p> <p>Non implementation of LPS.</p> <p>Inconsistent statutory health assessment performance.</p> <p>Major dental access issues for Children Looked After and Care Leavers.</p>	<p>Improve involvement of primary care in case review (SARs, DHRs Rapid Reviews and LCSPRs) process and associated learning and improvement work.</p> <p>Promoting MCA competency and confidence across health system with particular focus on primary care, under 18 and SEND.</p> <p>Agree at a local and regional level what the</p>

	<p>additional investment for adoption health posts.</p> <p>Successful recruitment to key roles within the ICB safeguarding team - Designated Nurse for Children Looked After and Care Leavers, MCA and DOLS Lead and Deputy Designated Nurse for Safeguarding Children.</p>	<p>Unprecedented numbers of child safeguarding reviews where NAI was a feature.</p>	<p>implementation of the Serious Violence Duty looks like and how this activity will be funded.</p> <p>Support the ongoing transformation of safeguarding governance arrangements in the ICB and ICS, (ICB Safeguarding Assurance Meeting and ICS Strategic Safeguarding Steering Group)</p>
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NHS England South West ongoing support for ICBs

The South West Regional Safeguarding Team continues to support ICBs and system safeguarding workforce through a range of forums and one to one support. A selection of these is described below. New opportunities this year included quarterly one to one meeting focussing on the Liberty Protection Safeguarding (now focussing on the Mental Capacity Act) and a monthly peer support for ICB Heads of Safeguarding.

The Designated Safeguarding Professional Forum

Within the South West, the Regional Head of Safeguarding Transformation co-ordinates and chairs the Designated Professionals Forum attended by ICB Designated Nurses and

Doctors for Adults, Children and Children in Care across the region. The forum met quarterly throughout 2022/23 and in addition to the usual updates, news, case discussions and business as usual items other topics, discussions and external presentations have included:

- Child frequent callers to 999 - new initiative with social care
- Safeguarding supervision for Designates - Independent providers and funding
- Sudden Unexpected Infant Death (SUDI) awareness raising
- National Panel Review in Arthur and Star Child Safeguarding Practice Review's (CSPRs)
- Serious Violence Duty Consultation
- Local authority Designated Officer (LADO) and Designated officer for Adults (DOFA) roles and arrangements
- Workforce and succession planning
- Pharmacy, Optometry & Dentistry delegation

The South West Prevent Health Network

Prevent is one of the four elements of CONTEST, the government's counter-terrorism strategy. It aims to stop people becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism. The Home Office works with local authorities, health and a wide range of government departments, and community organisations to deliver the Prevent Strategy. The Prevent strategy covers all forms of terrorism, including far right extremism and some aspects of non-violent extremism. There are duties set out nationally around prevent as well as requirements set specifically for health commissioned services in the NHS standard contract which require Trusts to have a named Prevent lead (often a safeguarding lead within the organisation but doesn't have to be), Prevent policy and a training strategy.

Within the South West, the Regional Head of Safeguarding Transformation co-ordinates and chairs the South West Health Prevent Leads network attended by ICB and Provider leads across the region. The Regional Head of Safeguarding Transformation also attends a multi-agency South West regional Prevent Partnership, chaired by the South West Home Office Prevent Advisers and a National Health Prevent partnership chaired and led by the Department of Health and Social Care National Prevent team. At a local

level health organisation within systems will also be part of a local Prevent partnership which will report into their respective Community Safety Partnerships.

The forum moved to meeting six-monthly from October 2023 and agreed to have a greater focus on learning and Continuous Professional Development. In addition to the usual updates, news, case discussions and business as usual items other topics, discussions and external presentations have included:

- Updates from the National Department of Health and Social Care Prevent Team
- Presentations from the South West Counter Terrorism Police Team
- Presentations and updates from the South West Regional Home Office Prevent Advisors
- Prevent information sharing arrangements
- Training: compliance, revised national competency framework, approaches.
- Discussions and presentation on the [Independent Review of Prevent](#) and associated recommendations.

The Head of Safeguarding Transformation undertook an assessment of NHS Trusts position on their Prevent training in September 2022. This included benchmarking against the NHS [Prevent training and competencies framework](#) and to what extent it had been implemented into local training needs analysis. The assessment also sought to commit NHS Trusts to describing what plans they had in place to ensure application of the framework and improve training compliance levels where they were short of nationally set targets. These assessments were co-ordinated via the ICB Prevent leads to ensure local system ownership and oversight of plans. Over the last two quarters the compliance level across the region at the Prevent basic awareness training (BPAT – Level 1&2) and the level 3 training has improved. As of end of 2022/23 of the South West NHS Providers that submit this training compliance, **86%** of staff are up to date with their Prevent level 1&2 (basic awareness), this just above the 85% target. At the higher level 3 (WRAP) training **82%** of staff requiring this level are compliant, which is just below the 85% target. This is an improvement on the 77% at the end of 2020/21 but a slight drop compared to 83% in 2021/22. However, the Trusts that have seen a significant drop in compliance is generally due to a review of their training needs analysis against the new competency

framework which has identified larger cohort of staff requiring the training. These Trusts have plans in place to increase the number of staff receiving this training.

In addition to above, the Head of Safeguarding Transformation, alongside the Home Office Regional Prevent Advisors, organised and hosted a South West multi-agency in-person conference in March 2023. This was aimed at Prevent leads across a range of partner and specifically ensuring health Prevent leads has an opportunity to meet their level 4 & 5 training requirements (as per the national NHS [Prevent training and competencies framework](#)). The conference was evaluated and overall, the vast majority of the attendees fed back that it was a well organised and relevant conference which met their learning needs – see **Figure 1 & 2** below. There was some learning about aspects of the content and the day which will be fed back into any future planning of events.

Figure 1: The content of the event was what I expected and met my learning objectives (1= strongly disagree to 5= strongly agree)

4.61
Average Rating

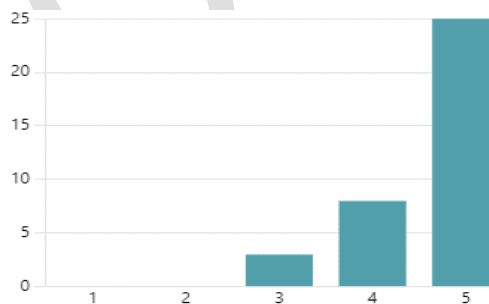
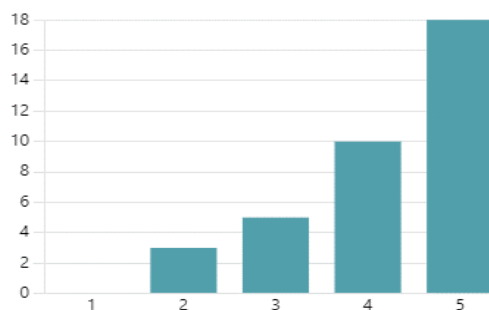


Figure 2: The event has improved my competencies at an enhanced level of training and knowledge at level 4/5/ specialist (1= strongly disagree to 5= strongly agree)

4.19
Average Rating



Feedback from participants of the SW Prevent Conference:

Local case study was most useful as something to take away and build into training offers and work we are doing around young people and Prevent.

Engaging and thought provoking and helpful to discuss some of the challenging issues with others around the table.

The conference encouraged reflection and prompted me to think differently about my work.

The research around ASC was very useful for me too, particularly around commissioning of services and messages to take back to my organisation.

Mental Capacity Act and the Liberty Protection Safeguards

The South West Liberty Protection Safeguards (LPS) NHS Regional Group met bi-monthly throughout 22/23. In June 2022, we worked together on our individual responses to the government consultation on the Draft Code of Practice and associated documents. Roslynn Azzam also started as the South West LPS Clinical Lead in June 2022, working together with the other regional leads to develop the LPS maturity matrix. A clear South West LPS workplan was developed to reflect regional priorities and input to national workstreams. South West ADASS (Association of Directors of Adult Social Services) appointed an LPS lead to support Local Authority implementation and our regional South West LPS Clinical Lead worked closely with them to ensure a joined up regional approach

wherever possible. Two LPS maturity matrix responses (October 2022 and March 2023), charted the progress of ICBs towards readiness for LPS implementation.

In April 2023, the Department of Health and Social Care announced that whether and when LPS may be implemented, will be a decision for the next parliament. We will continue to work to ensure that the progress made during 2022/23 in our regional network and by individual ICBs will be put to good use in improving Mental Capacity Act practice as well as applying improvements around deprivation of liberty under the existing legal frameworks. This will build on our work in expanding awareness among children's services and transitions, improving links with primary care, clarity of governance and leadership as well as workforce development and implementing learning from reviews. This will include continued focus on appropriate application of the Mental Capacity Act and legal frameworks to promote the wellbeing of those with learning disabilities including young people who have been disproportionately impacted by pressures within the health and care system including poor care and poor health outcomes.

South West Safeguarding Workforce, Learning and Development Reference Group

With the support of the South West Safeguarding Workforce, Learning and Development Reference Group and the South West Regional Looked After Children Network, we successfully commissioned Bond Solon to pilot and deliver a Legal Literacy in Looked After Children and Adoption course. This training aimed to improve understanding the legal frameworks that underpin our safeguarding roles and responsibilities as well as highlighting the importance of a human rights-based approach. This also improves the ability of the safeguarding workforce to advocate for improved outcomes for this group, face disproportionately negative educational, social and health outcomes. The training was delivered in January, March and April 2023.

Feedback received following the events noted 100% of those in attendance said that they will be able to apply what they had learnt back in the workplace.

Other feedback received included:

Much better knowledge of human rights, found the course to be beneficial.

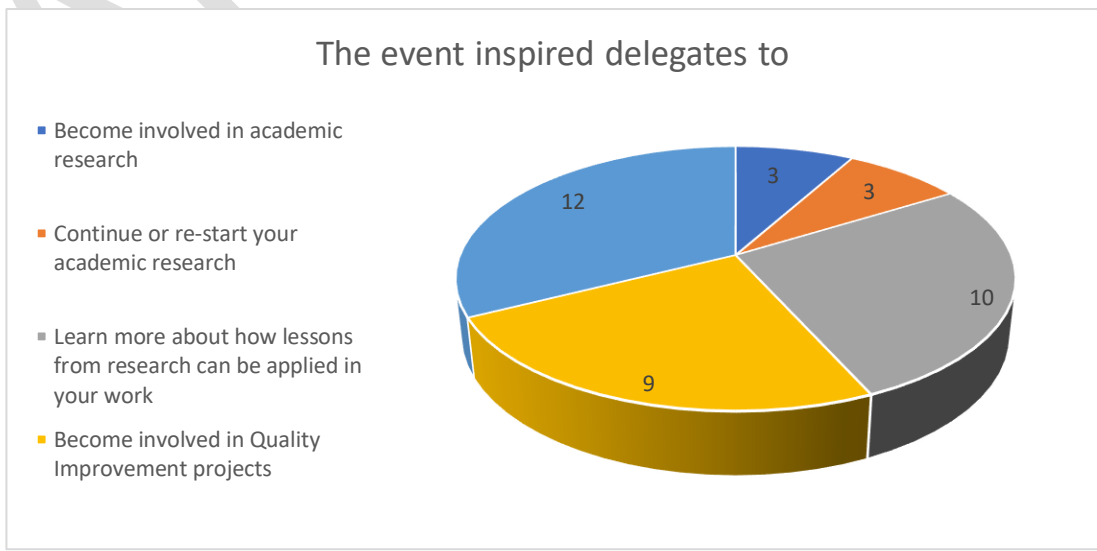
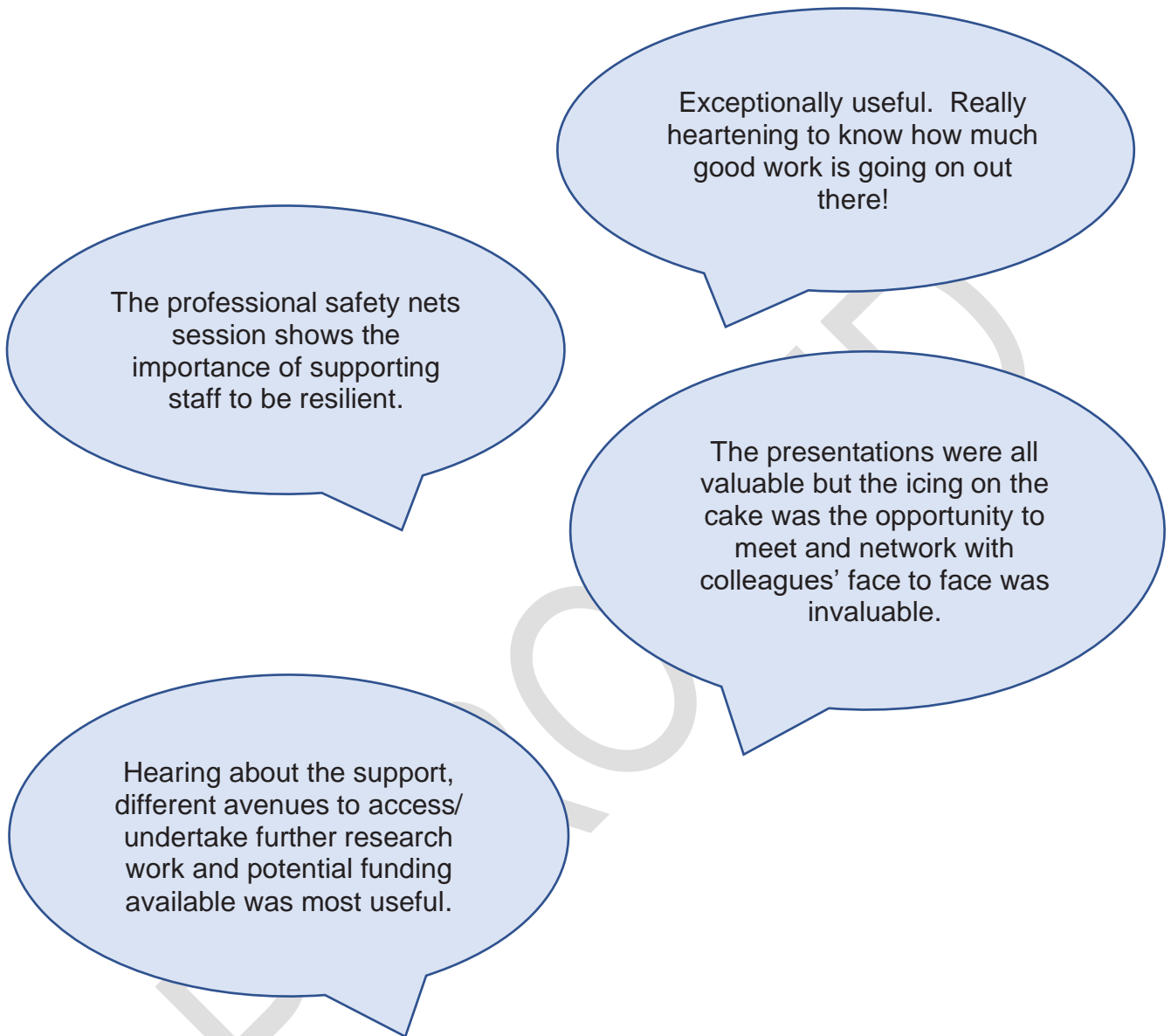
Such a valuable experience to have a subject matter expert delivering training at such a high standard.

The training covered a lot but was well explained and gave plenty of time for questions.

Articulate, Clear, Informed.

Last year we also committed to innovate, support, and build on research across our South West Safeguarding Workforce. We held our first 'Celebrating Research in Safeguarding' event on 9th February 2023. Presentations included highlighting the Chief Nursing Officer's Research Strategy as well as an introduction to the Integrated Clinical and Practitioner Award programme. There were five featured research projects from Barnardo's, Bournemouth University, Devon and Cornwall Sexual Assault Referral Centre, and practitioners from BNSSG and Devon ICBs.

Feedback from participants of the SW Research in Safeguarding Conference:



Across our systems we provided £121, 000 funds for local learning and CPD offers. Some examples include:

- NHS Gloucestershire ICB have purchased a safeguarding supervision course undertaken by 16 safeguarding leads across the ICS which has also supported subsequent integration progress in this area. Cornwall ICB has also commissioned supervision training.
- Somerset are planning a Safeguarding System Conference arranged for 20th September 2023 utilising the NHS England South West funding.
- MCA 6-day ICB funded programme to improve legal literacy across health organisations within BSW including Train the Trainer models.
- NHS BNSSG ICB have commissioned; safeguarding supervision for 32 delegates (two cohorts), Level 4 SAFE Adults training (16 delegates), Level 4 NSPCC Children (16 delegates) and funded two MSc modules for Band 7s in Provider organisations.

NHS Dorset ICB has been successful in being one of 10 ICB pilot 'pathfinder' sites for initiating the care leaver covenant nationally with the aim to offer employment to 250 care leavers over three years.

By quarter three the South West Workforce, Learning and Development Reference Group had completed our agreed areas of work. With no guaranteed programme funds coming into this workstream, the South West Regional Safeguarding Team decided to pause this Reference Group and pick up any matters arising around the safeguarding workforce profile, learning and development and research through the South West Safeguarding Steering Group, which is held on a quarterly basis.

Statutory Safeguarding Reviews across the South West

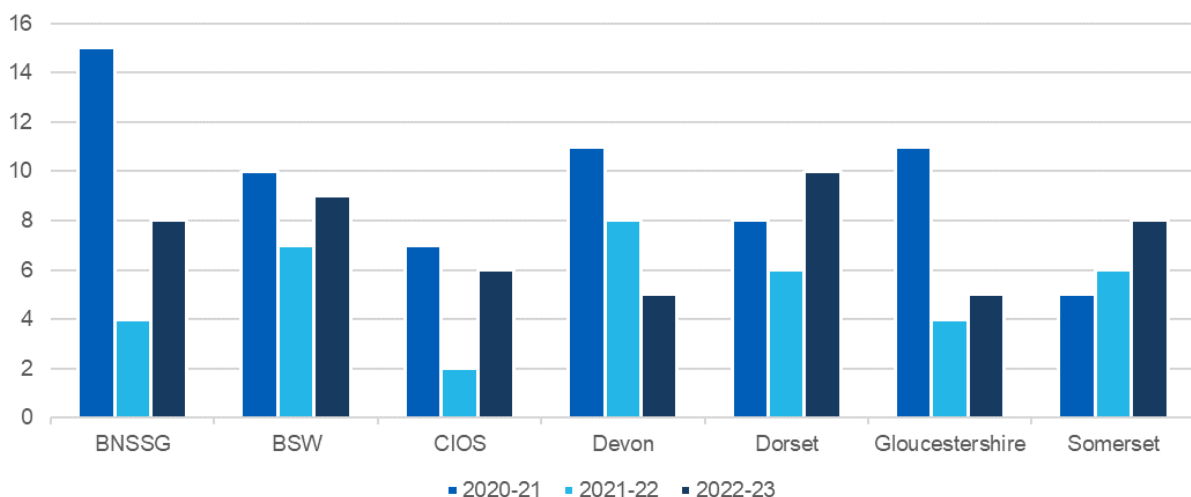
The Regional Team continue to support individual systems with oversight of statutory safeguarding reviews. ICBs complete quarterly returns which report the number of open/ongoing and closed reviews in their respective system. These are subsequently collated, analysed and reported at the NHS England Safeguarding Steering Group. The new NHS England Digital National Safeguarding Review Tracker Tool (S-CRT) was

launched in 2022 and although is not mandatory South West ICBs have been encouraged and supported to input their local reviews. South West ICBs have made progress in populating the Tracker Tool apart from for domestic homicide reviews where there is still a discrepancy between those reported on the regional report and the national tracker. The South West Regional Safeguarding Team will continuously review the need to collect data directly based on the uptake and reliability of the national tool.

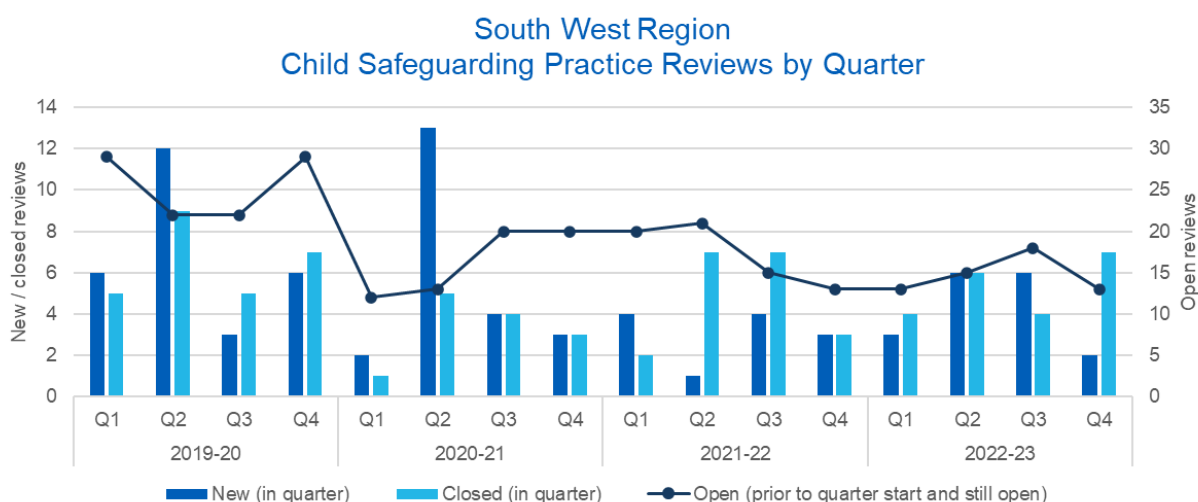
Regional Child Rapid Review and Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews (CSPRs)

The below chart shows the number of initiated Rapid Reviews by system over the last three financial years for the South West Region. Each ICS had variation in the number of rapid reviews initiated over the three financial years. Many ICSs saw a higher number of rapid reviews initiated in 2022-23 than in 2021-22, but generally numbers were lower than in 2020-21. Somerset had a consistent increase in rapid reviews over the three financial years, while Devon saw a decrease.

South West Region by ICS
Child Safeguarding Rapid Reviews Initiated by Year



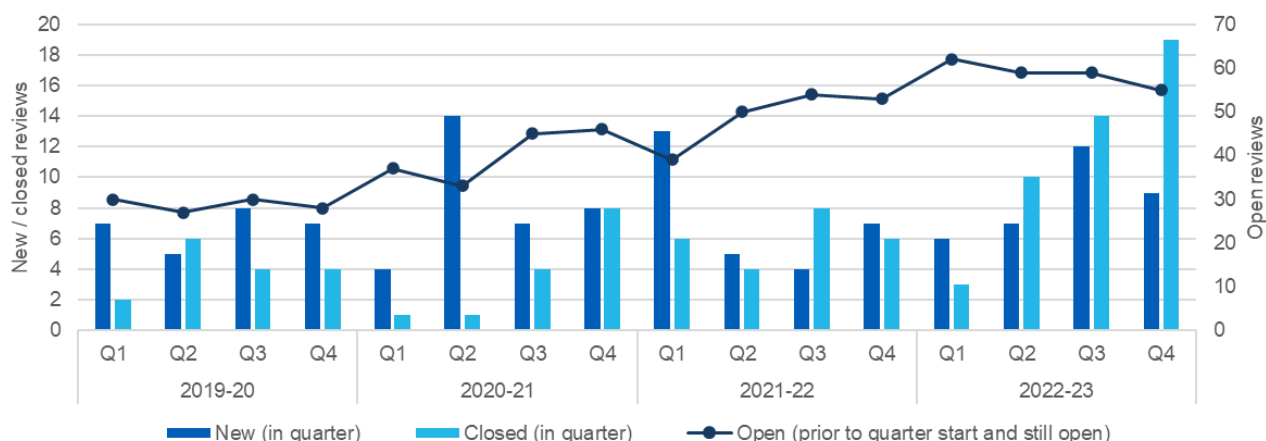
The below chart shows the number of new, open and closed Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews by quarter for the South West Region. The number of open CSPRs rose slightly during the first three quarters of 2022-23, to 18 open CSPRs at the end of quarter 3, but subsequently fell in quarter 4, to 13 open CSPRs. There were 2 new CSPRs in quarter 4 2022-23 across the South West region, with 7 closed during the same period, resulting in a fall in the number of open reviews. In 2019-20 and early 2020-21, the number of open, new and closed CSPRs was more variable, potentially due to the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic.



Regional Safeguarding Adult Reviews (SARs)

The chart below shows the number of new, closed and open SARs by quarter over time. The number of open SARs had generally been increasing over time (to a peak of 62 at the end of quarter 1 2022-23). However, the last three quarters of 2022-23 have seen that trend stabilize and the number of open SARs start to decline. For quarter 4 2022-23, there were 55 SARs open prior to the quarter start which were still open at the quarter end. There were peaks in the number of new SARs following the two Covid-19 lockdown periods, with no corresponding increase in closed SARs. Generally, the number of closed SARs had not kept pace with the number of new SARs, but in the last three quarters this trend has reversed, with the number of closed SARs higher than the number of new. In quarter 4 2022-23, there were 9 new SARs, and 19 closed SARs.

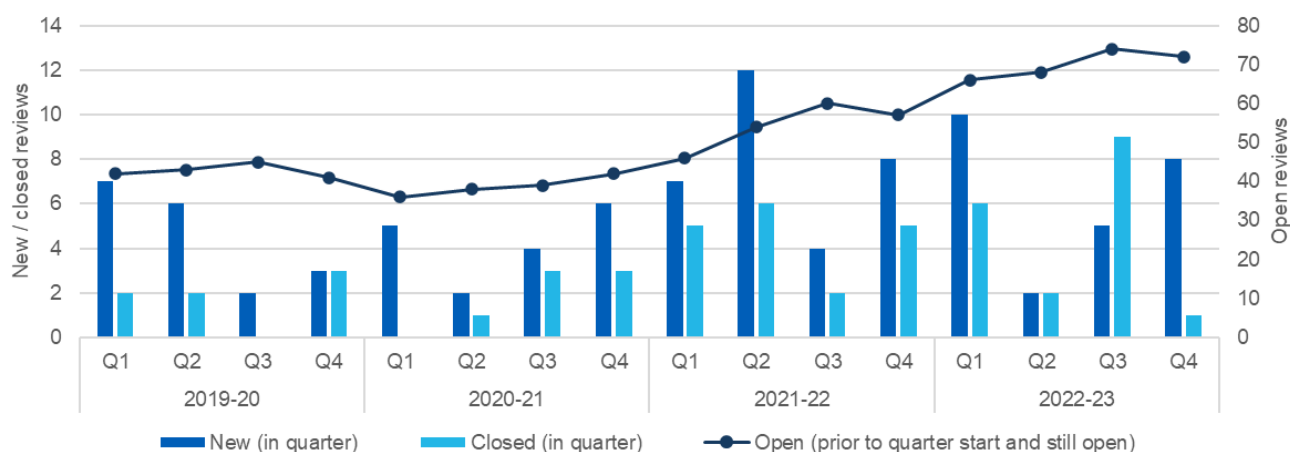
South West Region Safeguarding Adults Reviews by Quarter



Regional Domestic Homicide Reviews (DHRs)

The chart below shows the number of new, closed and open DHRs by quarter over time. The number of open DHRs by quarter has steadily increased since quarter 1 2020-21, though the last quarter of 2022-23 shows a slight decline. The number of new DHRs has also broadly increased over time, though overall slightly lower over 2022-23 than the previous year. The number of review closures has not generally kept pace with the number of new reviews, thereby resulting in the gradual rise in the number of open reviews. At the end of quarter 4 2022-23, there were 72 open DHRs. In this latest quarter, there were 8 new reviews, compared with 1 closure. The fall in the number of open reviews for Q4 2022-23 is due to a larger than usual number of review closures in Q3.

South West Region Domestic Homicide Reviews by Quarter



Themes arising from South West Safeguarding reviews:

In last years' annual report, the Safeguarding Professional Lead had undertaken a MSc work-based project to understand the South West regional learning from statutory reviews to compliment the above quantitative data. The focus was around the following areas of questioning: current issues identified in SARs and CSPRs, any learning themes arising from SARs and CSPRs in the last 5 years, either currently open or closed, challenges for the area in terms of embedding the learning and signposting to the published reviews for further analysis. For this annual report the same level of in-depth focussed analysis was not possible, however below are the some of the common themes that have been reported by our ICBs as part of their quarterly report.

Themes from Regional Child Rapid Review and Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews (CSPRs)

Themes arising from local children's safeguarding reviews are neglect, non-accidental injury in under 1s and 2s, visibility of fathers/ men in households, lack of engagement from parents with services with 'lack of risk assessment', 'a lack of professional curiosity' and concerns of 'parental mental ill health and substance misuse.'

Themes from regional Safeguarding Adult Reviews (SARs)

The most common themes arising in the region for safeguarding adult review are self-neglect, mental capacity assessment, and ineffective risk assessment linked to a lack of professional curiosity. There are other interlinked and important issues arising from reviews which also influence safeguarding practice such as poor communication.

Themes from Regional Domestic Homicide Reviews (DHRs)

The trend in the number of DHRs has been increasing. Some of this has been driven by an increasing number of cases where a victim took their own life (suicide) and the circumstances give rise to concern, for example it emerges that there was coercive controlling behaviour in the relationship. In these circumstances a review should be undertaken, even if a suspect is not charged with an offence or they are tried and acquitted (as reviews are not about who is culpable). In several DHR cases the victim and perpetrator may not be known to services or if they are, services were unaware of any concern relating to domestic abuse. There does appear to be a theme in the cases reported by ICBs that opportunities for raising domestic abuse concerns are not always recognised or reported, questioning the effectiveness of domestic abuse routine enquiry and understanding within some sectors or local systems.

Learning from reviews and Quality Improvement

Quality improvement (QI) is about giving the people closest to issues affecting care quality the time, permission, skills and resources they need to solve them. It involves a systematic and coordinated approach to solving a problem using specific methods and tools with the aim of bringing about a measurable improvement. When done well, QI can release great creativity and innovation in tackling complex issues which services have struggled to solve for many years. This makes QI well suited to address some common and persistent challenges that arise from various safeguarding work streams, not least themes in learning from safeguarding statutory reviews. The Head of Safeguarding Transformation began a discussion with systems to understand what QI methodologies were already being utilised within safeguarding teams as well as the current level of QI competency amongst South West safeguarding workforce. A small task and finish group was brought together in October to analyse the information gathered and discuss possibilities for further work in this area. There is also work occurring regionally with Mental Health Homicide Reviews exploring the use of Quality Improvement to assist with embedding learning from reviews. The group recommended that due to variable training within safeguarding teams, the pressures on teams and the need for improvement to be system driven and to avoid duplication or conflicting efforts, it will be important to make

links with existing QI initiatives across systems within the region. An opportunity exists to bring some regional discussion to the QI offer to systems through the Patient Safety Incident Response Framework (PSIRF) implementation work. There is a plan for these discussions to continue over the coming year and forms part of our regional workplan for 2023/24.

Safeguarding within Direct Commissioning

The Quality & Safeguarding Team within the Direct Commissioning Directorate have conducted a safeguarding survey across Pharmacy, Optometry and Dental (POD) commissioning in support of delegation of commissioning to the seven systems. Results have been compiled and initial findings have been shared with the commissioning teams. A strategy is in development to improve signposting to safeguarding resources within POD services. Findings and recommendations will be shared with the Designated Nurses for Safeguarding in region.

The NHS England Direct Commissioning Safeguarding Training Needs analysis has been undertaken and is nearing completion. The findings will be used to implement a directorate training delivery plan.

Safeguarding in Mental Health Provider Collaboratives

The Quality & Safeguarding Team within the Direct Commissioning Directorate have overseen and quality assured the development and implementation of baby abduction policy documents in each of the Perinatal Mother and Baby Units in region (Dorset, BNSSG and Devon). The Quality & Safeguarding Team have compiled a safeguarding due diligence pack for the SW Perinatal Mother and Baby Units to support transfer to a provider collaborative model. The Quality & Safeguarding Team have established their offer regarding safeguarding supervision to the Safeguarding leads for the South West Mental Health Provider Collaborative and the Dorset, Hampshire and Isle of Wight Adult Eating Disorder Provider Collaborative.

The Safeguarding Schedule (2k) for acute, direct commissioning 23/34 has been reviewed and revised to include requirements for a provider policy for PREVENT (Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015)

Safeguarding within the mental health collaborative

The South West Provider Collaborative lead by Devon Partnership NHS Trust includes child and adolescent mental health tier four hospital wards, adult mental health secure wards and eating disorder services. The Collaborative appointed a safeguarding manager who has started to build relationships with other area safeguarding leads and providers. In the coming year, they aim to co-develop safeguarding communities of practice with practitioners working in mental health services within the collaborative.

Other collaboratives covering the SW region include Wessex & Dorset led by Sussex Partnership Trust, Thames Valley & Wessex led by Oxford Health NHS Foundation Trust, Dorset Hampshire & Isle of White led by Dorset Healthcare University Trust.

Asylum seeker health and safeguarding

This year saw consistent concerns being raised for the welfare of people seeking asylum and other people newly arrived from other countries within the region. In October 2022, a paper was drawn up with contribution from the seven area ICBs in an attempt to summarise concerns. Concerns included risk of trafficking and exploitation, increased risk of female genital mutilation and child marriage, screening arrangements for private hosts, and the unique needs of unaccompanied minors.

Concerns arising from asylum seeker contingency hotels and bridging hotels included issue with GP registration due to uncertain status and duration of stay as well as concerns about inconsistent follow up for care and treatment due to moving with little or no notice. For children, this meant there was no clear process to follow up their welfare, health and educational needs. There were also concerns of people being placed in adult accommodation who are later found to be children including risks arising from room-sharing in hotels. There were reports of sexual abuse and harassment within hotel accommodation as well as poor nutrition causing significant health implications. Concerns were also raised about risks arising from right-wing nationalist extremism towards people from other countries and those hosting them.

These issues were raised in the refugee and asylum regional NHS group and with chief nursing officers across the southwest health system. The South West Regional Safeguarding Team ensured there was a safeguarding representative from all seven

integrated care systems (whether NHS or local authority) on the SW Migrant Health Network. Safeguarding professionals from affected areas become involved in health promotion initiatives and initiatives to reduce health inequalities as well as preventative safeguarding to promote and uphold human rights of people in their area. Safeguarding concerns relating to individuals are raised through local authority safeguarding procedures where they meet the relevant criteria as informed by multi-agency policies and procedures. Concerns were also be escalated through the regional safeguarding lead for the South East region who takes a lead in sitting on the National Asylum Seeker Health Steering Group (NASHSG) and working with the Home Office.

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Conclusion

In a year that has seen the introduction of Integrated Care Boards, indefinite postponement of the Liberty Protection Safeguards and the launch of consultations on reforms to Children's Social Care and Prevent, the South West Regional Safeguarding Team are proud to be a part of the NHS safeguarding workforce who have continued to work with their partners to improve the safety and wellbeing of people from St Agnes to Swindon. We have benefited from the return of face-to-face regional conferences as well as continuing virtual training and learning opportunities. All seven South West ICBs are reporting compliance against the national safeguarding heat map metrics. They continue to explore the best way to work as system-wide NHS safeguarding teams across integrated care areas and local partnerships. They do this in the context of recruitment challenges and NHS strikes. A particular shared concern is timely access to health checks and dental treatment for children in care. We also recognise the need for continued focus on health inequalities and the safety and welfare of those who are newly arrived in the country.

NHS Safeguarding (National NHS England Safeguarding Team) issued a refreshed "NHS safeguarding offer to ICBs" in May 2023. The NHS England South West Regional Safeguarding Team will adapt its offer in 2023/ 24 to accommodate new NHS England ways of working and to compliment support from the National Team. This will include continuation of regional forums and networks, support for embedding learning from reviews and working with the mental health collaborative and newly established regional commissioning hub. Together with the SW Safeguarding Steering Group, we will agree our regional priorities for the coming year. We will continue to work with our partners to address the challenges and adapt to the changing landscape of NHS services while always aiming to keep the people we serve at the centre of our efforts.

Challenges and Priorities for 2023/24

Challenges

1. Due to the New NHS England Change Programme, the regional safeguarding programme budget which usually supports regional staffing and multiple system-led improvement projects is, as yet, unconfirmed. This is likely to cause delay in understanding what financial support can be offered to system partners.
2. Since the establishment of ICBs and intention for re-balancing the arrangements for commissioning and oversight, there is an ongoing process to understand the new relationships between NHS England, NHS England South West, ICBs and NHS provider trusts for support and oversight in the new and iterative ways of working.
3. ICBs continue to work through application of the Serious Violence Duty and implement the relevant guidance in a way that best serves their local population. Although improvements have been made in or recognition of domestic abuse, a key challenge remains to continually improve, ensuring all our workforce have the skills to recognise, ask about and respond to domestic abuse and sexual violence.
4. ICBs and NHS trusts are re-focussing their efforts now that there is no expectation for imminent implementation of the liberty protection safeguards. This will mean reviewing and refocussing efforts on the Mental Capacity Act and working within the existing legal frameworks for authorisation of Deprivation of Liberty. There needs to be a renewed focus on the experience of people affected by these processes as well as ensuring adequate safeguards are available where needed.
5. Managing the volume of national consultations to ensure local system voices are heard in order to shape future legislation and statutory guidance whilst balancing local system pressures and demands.

Priorities

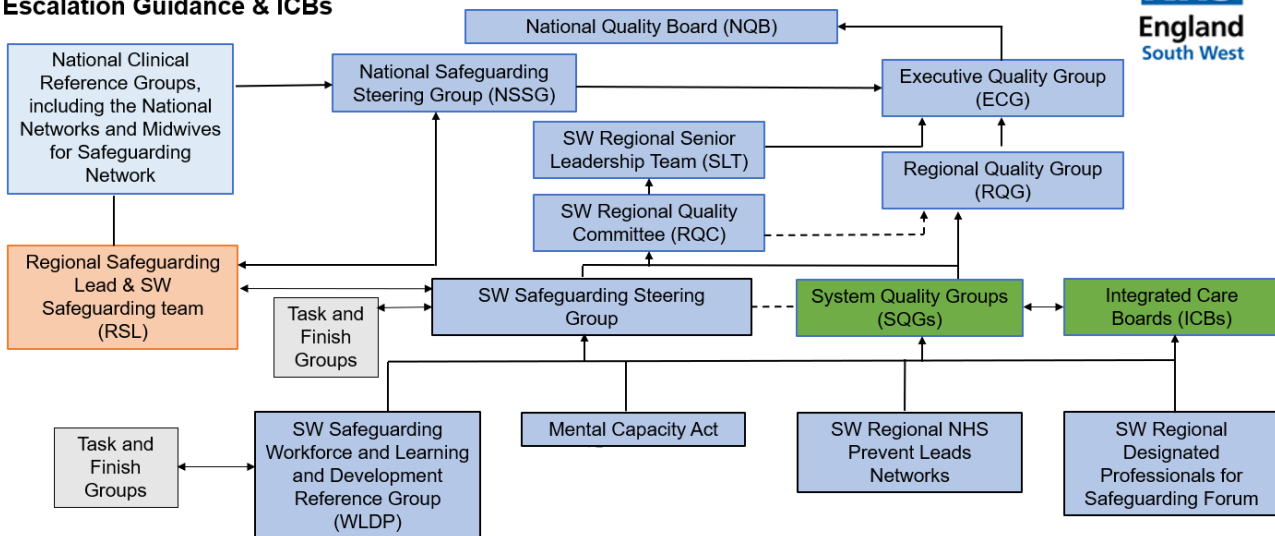
1. Regionally, our focus in 2023/24 is to deliver on the work plan which was agreed at the April South West Safeguarding Steering Group. This contains a range of objective under; ICB & ICP transformation, ICB oversight improvement, workforce, learning and improvement in addition to any deep dives.
2. Regionally we will continue to support the ICBs thought a ranges of opportunities to share, discuss and agree approaches to new and ongoing issues or guidance.

3. Support systems with engaging in and understanding the implications of the children's social care reforms including the consultation on an update to working together guidance.
4. As a regional team, we will need to work differently as a result of the NHS England new ways of working and South West Way approach. This will mean aligning our work and priorities to the NHS Operating Framework and working across our regional directorates to support ICBs in different ways.
5. How we individually and collectively learn from safeguarding reviews and fully embed learning identified from these is a focus in our work plan for 2023/24. This will need to align with the new Patient Safety Strategy and approach to learning across a system and the recently published findings and recommendations of the [delivery and continuous improvement review](#) conducted by Anne Eden.

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Appendix 1: South West Safeguarding Governance Architecture

SW Safeguarding Governance Architecture linked to the NHS England Quality Risk Response & Escalation Guidance & ICBs



KEY: NHS England national and regional governance meetings Black border – RSL team lead
Regional Networks – in and across ICBs but with RSL team attendance as required

