

Stockton-on-Tees Multi Agency Team Around The Individual Panel

Terms of Reference

1. Introduction

Safeguarding means protecting an adult's right to live in safety free from abuse and neglect. It is about people and organisations working together to prevent and stop both the risks and experience of abuse or neglect, while at the same time making sure that adult's wellbeing is promoted including, where appropriate, having regard to their views, wishes, feelings and beliefs in deciding on any action. (The Care Act Statutory Guidance, 2014 Chapter 14)

Difficulty in engaging with individuals who are pursuing high risk behaviours or not looking after themselves may have serious implications for an individual's health and wellbeing. It can also impact on the individual's family, local community and wider services.

The Team Around the Individual Panel will consider cases in respect of adults aged 18 years or over, where existing mechanisms within agencies for resolving or minimising risk have not been achieved. Whilst many people are well served by current single agency and multi-agency working practices, there is a small but increasing number that require a different, more creative approach involving many agencies. It is also recognised that there are a small number of individuals who have multiple needs and may be at risk of significant harm but fall outside of the criteria for Adult Safeguarding enquiries or who have made a capacitated decision not to engage with enquiries.

The focus of the panel is on addressing the risk to the adult and in doing this will also consider other persons affected, the panel will enable better risk sharing and risk management between agencies and facilitate better outcomes for people.

2. Purpose

The Team Around the Individual Panel has developed from the need to establish a multi-agency way of supporting work on complex and/or high-risk cases, including but not limited to chaotic lifestyles, self-neglect, hoarding, fire risk, alcohol & substance misuse. The purpose of the Team Around the Individual Panel is to facilitate, develop risk management plans, monitor and evaluate. The panel will support agencies in their work to lower and manage risk.

3. Objectives

- To share information to identify, clarify and agree on risk
- Promote safety and wellbeing of high risk adults in Stockton-on-Tees
- Improve multi agency communication pathways
- To utilise resources more efficiently
- To develop risk management plans
- For those who are not engaging, co-ordinate a risk management plan to seize the opportunities that can enable engagement and/or monitor the well-being of the person.
- To improve agency accountability
- To share risk across agencies
- Identification of a lead/key worker

4. Background

<https://www.tsab.org.uk/key-information/safeguarding-adult-review-sar-reports/>

A Safeguarding Adult Review (SAR) was initiated in 2015 by Teeswide Safeguarding Adults Board (TSAB) following the death of a 39-year-old woman referred to as Carol. The SAR 3 Carol case was published 9 June 2017. Carol was attacked and murdered in her home during the early hours of 8th to 9th December 2014. She was discovered dead at home by her landlord on the morning of 9th December 2014. Two teenage girls, aged 13 and 14, were arrested for Carol's murder.

As a result of Carol's death, TSAB were required to consider if a SAR should be conducted. A SAR is a multi-agency review process which seeks to determine what relevant agencies and individuals involved could have done differently that could have prevented harm or a death from taking place. The purpose of a SAR is not to apportion blame but capture positive learning to improve systems and professional practice for the future.

In making a decision to initiate a SAR, TSAB complied with the Care Act 2014, the main provisions of which came into force in April 2015. Under the Care Act, Safeguarding Adults Boards (SABs) must initiate a SAR when an adult in its area with needs for care and support dies or suffers significant negative impact as a result of serious abuse or neglect (known or suspected), and where there is concern that partner agencies could have worked more effectively to protect the adult (The Care Act 2014, section 44).

Carol had been identified as having multiple care and support needs, and many agencies and professionals had had involvement with Carol going back some years. This case was therefore chosen to be reviewed in that the death met the legal criteria. An independent lead reviewer was appointed by TSAB to facilitate and lead the review.

The SAR 3 Carol case was published 9 June 2017 and relevant findings were identified. Finding 4 & 5 are applicable to the setting up of a High Risk Panel

FINDING 4: There is a lack of clarity on thresholds, inconsistent process and ownership for multi-agency adult safeguarding leaving some frontline professionals managing complex and high risk cases, and hindering vital information sharing and effective responses.

FINDING 5: There is a disjoint between both children's and adults safeguarding processes and community safety services, leaving community safety services insufficiently informed of vulnerable children and adults and welfare agencies insufficiently informed by community intelligence.

5. Core membership

Named representatives from the following agencies will form the Team Around the Individual Panel

- Adult Social Services, Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council
- Community Safety, Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council
- Environmental Health, Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council
- Housing Options, Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council
- Thirteen Housing
- Cleveland Fire Brigade
- Cleveland Police
- North Tees and Hartlepool NHS Trust

Agreed reps are to be of sufficient seniority to commit their agency to actions and arrange for these to be carried through post-panel. If they are unable to attend, they will send a well-briefed colleague to represent them or if this is not possible, they will alert the Chair prior to the panel. If this is not possible, written feedback on the specific case should be provided prior to the panel to help inform the discussion and actions.

Discretionary invites will be made for guest attendees from other agencies/representatives to attend particular panels where their expertise/contributions would benefit a specific case. This will include but not be limited to the following.

- Harbour
- CGL
- A Way Out
- TEWV
- Designated Professional for Safeguarding Adults, Clinical Commissioning Group

6. Criteria for cases to Team Around the Individual Panel

- Clear evidence must be shown by professionals currently working with an adult that all attempts to engage and multi-agency management of the case **(except in cases of immediate high risk where professional judgement is required)**.
- The professional considers the adult may be at risk of significant harm but the Adult safeguarding criteria has not been met.
- The individual concerned is deemed to have Mental Capacity and:
 - . Who are at risk due to severe self-neglect/self-harm
 - . Risk Taking Behaviours
 - . Change Resistant
 - . Refusal to engage in services
 - . Abuse by a third party but is not willing to engage in safeguarding or services
 - . That is a 'frequent caller' to services
 - . Where the agency is struggling to maintain a high risk situation as a single agency
- Anyone can present a case to the High Risk Panel where there is a complex or challenging risk issue and where guidance and decision making are needed.

7. Team Around the Individual arrangements

It should be noted that the Team Around the Individual Panel will act in an advisory capacity and will make recommendations on what would be reasonable in terms of managing risks while balancing the rights of all concerned. As such it will not seek to reverse decisions that may have previously been agreed, it will offer a reflective space for consultation, reconciliation, problem solving and agreement in cases where the level of risk raise concerns. The panel has no specific budgetary or official decision making powers.

A delegated independent chair from the local authority will be responsible for chairing a monthly meeting with the support of an administrator. The aim is that a single referral document where the referrer provides a case summary, all relevant details and presenting issues will be sent prior to the meeting. The agency making the referral will present the case to the panel followed by

focused consideration of risk, options and solutions before agreeing actions. At the beginning of each panel a short update of the previous meetings referrals will be made in order to monitor agreed actions/outcomes. The panel representatives/agencies agree to take responsibility for delegated actions and principally support the referring agency with managing risk.

8. Data protection/information sharing/confidentiality

The Team Around the Individual Panel is not a public forum and attendance is limited to those agencies who are able to provide a contribution to cases. Discussions at panel may involve the presenting agency and guest attendees in dealing with issues that are sensitive and/or controversial, or that fall under the Data Protection Act. Therefore representatives will need to ensure discretion and care in performing their duties and responsibilities so that confidentiality is maintained. This responsibility for confidentiality is extended to all panel attendees.

The Teeswide Safeguarding Adults Board (TSAB) Information Sharing Protocol/Agreement <https://www.tsab.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2015/11/ISA.Oct.2017-agreed-website-version.pdf> will govern information sharing and data protection for the Team Around the Individual Panel. All representatives will adhere to the strict data protection requirements set out under this protocol and not divulge information to anyone outside of the panel. This is with the exception of colleagues who are employed by the agency presenting the case to the panel and are dealing with the case internally.

Whilst consent of the individual presented to the Team Around the Individual Panel is always desirable, it is recognised that this may not always be achievable in practice. It is also acknowledged that cases presented to the panel are likely to fall into a category of risk where consent by the individual may be overridden, namely: in the public interest and/or risk of life/serious harm.

9. Equalities

The panel shall value equality and diversity within the community and work for the elimination of discrimination against anyone based on: race, colour, ethnicity, age, disability, national origins, sexual orientation, faith, gender, marital status or income.

10. Partnership

Panel representatives should at all times show respect and courtesy in their dealings with each other and those presenting cases, and seek to take a collaborative solution focussed, problem solving approach to find ways of improving each individual case.

11. Governance

The Team Around the Individual Panel will report to the Teeswide Safeguarding Adults Board (TSAB) annually.

12. Venue for meetings

To be confirmed

13. Capturing learning

The agenda for each Team Around the Individual Panel meeting will include time to debate how cases previously presented have been resolved or how substantial progress has been made. The objective of this discussion will be to capture best practice and organisational learning. It is the responsibility of panel representatives to communicate best practice and systemic learning within their own organisations as it is identified. The circumstances and methods used to resolve or advance cases will be documented by the administration support and used to inform wider learning

