

## **Statement of the Independent Chair of Barking & Dagenham Safeguarding Adults Board on the publication of a Safeguarding Adults Review into the case of 'Peter Smith'**

Barking and Dagenham Safeguarding Adults Board is today publishing a report into the care and safeguarding interventions provided to Peter Smith\* who fell and died in his own home after being discharged from a hospital rehabilitation ward.

*\* we have changed the name to protect the gentleman's identity.*

An external independent review was conducted and a report was produced by Lorraine Stanforth. It was overseen by the Board's Safeguarding Adults Review Committee. It was received and accepted at the full meeting of the Safeguarding Adults Board on 12<sup>th</sup> February 2020. Subsequently, and somewhat unavoidably delayed because of Covid-19, an action plan for Board partners and staff was agreed at the Safeguarding Adults Board meeting on 15<sup>th</sup> July 2020. There was, however, no delay in immediate actions which were all taken promptly after the circumstances of Peter Smith's death became understood. The report is published here in full.

### **Key issues which were the focus of the Board's attention were:**

- Need for improved 'whole-system' hospital discharge arrangements and relationships across professionals and agencies
- Better appreciation of the Mental Capacity Act and how professionals need to be supported to increase their confidence in this area
- Consistent mindfulness of the need for 'professional curiosity' on the part of everybody
- Improvements in colleague discussion, recording, management and escalation of risks
- Improved information for occupational therapists and provider organisation staff about processes for arranging assistive technology
- Better understanding about falls and physical vulnerabilities, including issues of nutrition, mobility and family support.

The Board agreed that an action plan be established which would ensure that the Safeguarding Adults Board could monitor and be assured (or not) that the improvements and changes identified as needed in the report are fully implemented by all relevant

partners, and that learning is more widely disseminated. The action plan is monitored by the Safeguarding Adult Review Committee.

**Brian Parrott**  
**Independent Chair**  
**Safeguarding Adults Board**  
**Barking and Dagenham**  
**November 2020**

**Barking and Dagenham Safeguarding Adults Board members:**

London Borough of Barking and Dagenham  
Metropolitan Police  
Barking, Havering and Redbridge NHS Clinical Commissioning Groups  
North East London NHS Foundation Trust  
Barking, Havering and Redbridge University Hospital NHS Trust  
Fire Service, Barking and Dagenham  
National Probation Service