



Response to Brian Safeguarding Adult Review by Keeping Bristol Safe Partnership

In August 2021, an 81-year-old man named Brian sadly died in his home. Brian was paralysed from the waist down and also experienced a number of complex health conditions. Brian relied on visiting carers and his son, Alan, who Brian lived with and who was his primary caregiver. A number of organisations had contact with Brian or were involved in his support plan over the years.

As Independent Chair of the Keeping Bristol Safe Partnership (KBSP), I am responding on behalf of the Partnership to the findings from this review. I would like to start by expressing my sincere condolences to everyone affected by Brian's death and gratefully acknowledge their efforts and support during the review.

The purpose of a Safeguarding Adult Review (SAR) is to use learnings from the case under review to promote and reinforce effective practice and identify where improvements or adjustments to the system need to be made. SARs should be open and transparent and present the learning identified in an effective and accessible way. The purpose of a SAR is not to apportion blame.

After receiving a referral for a SAR in August 2021, the Keeping Bristol Safe Partnership agreed to commission Parminder Sahota, an independent author, to lead on this review. Parminder is independent from the services involved with Brian and had no contact with him.

The review examined agency responses and support given to Brian before his death and also considered the last four years of his life to discover any relevant history, signs or maltreatment before his death.

Representatives from the agencies involved with Brian during the period under review provided written reports and attended a series of review panel meetings. The independent author analysed this information and produced the final report, including recommendations for improvement to practice in Bristol.

The learning themes considered by the Keeping Bristol Safe Partnership come into five categories:

- Balancing the choice between alternative and conventional treatments
- Engaging with carers
- Coercion and control
- Making safeguarding personal
- Safeguarding

The independent author made five thematic recommendations to the KBSP to improve practice in Bristol for adults with care and support needs. The Partnership has fully accepted these recommendations and is committed to delivering changes as a result of these findings. These recommendations as well as our plan for addressing the recommendations can be seen below. From

this review, the Partnership has also published a learning briefing for professionals. This briefing can be used for individual learning, team meeting briefings or individual supervision to ensure that the findings are disseminated widely.

It is my intention that this SAR will result in professionals reflecting on their practice and delivering improvements where necessary and appropriate in accordance with the recommendations.

One of the overarching themes in the report was the focus on carers. A carer is someone who looks after a partner, relative or friend to help them to stay living at home. I want to use this opportunity to encourage anyone who is a carer to do a carer's assessment to help find out about the support available that could help in their caring role. Please contact Carers Support Centre's Carers Line on 0117 965 2200 or visit [Carers Support Centre](#) for advice and information.

I commit to overseeing changes in practice as recommended in this report to deliver improvements across all agencies.



Sally Rowe

**Independent Chair
Keeping Bristol Safe Partnership**

Recommendations and Partnership response:

1. Balancing the choice between alternative and controversial treatments. It is recommended that the Partnership ensure that practitioners and carers help individuals to make informed decisions about their treatments without disregarding their personal preferences.

The KBSP Health partners have since reminded practitioners that patients' care records should clearly document a patient's preferences to treatment, mental capacity, the principle of making unwise decisions and the agreed upon response to future emergencies.

The KBSP Health and Social Care partners will also introduce a Support Plan decision summary which will include a section for practitioners to record a summary account of people's views. They will also review the use of contingency planning on the support plan and deliver training to remind practitioners of the importance of consulting patients on all decisions about their care.

2. Engaging with carers. It is recommended that the Partnership ensure that carers are offered a carer's assessment and that practitioners can support informal carers to do their activities and tasks.

Adult Social Care will develop new practice guidance for carers that is co-produced with lived expertise and includes clear statements about ensuring that a Carers Assessment is offered to everyone. They will also develop training on with carers that draws upon best practice and lived experience.

The KBSP Business Unit will introduce clear signposting on the KBSP website to direct carers towards the information about the free carers assessment and carers self-assessment.

3. Coercion and control. It is recommended that the Partnership ensure compliance with the statutory guidance: Controlling and Coercive behaviour, making sure that staff are able to record and refer concerns and consider all aspects of domestic abuse.

The KBSP have developed training that includes recognition of coercion and control. This training is available on the KBSP website and will continue to be advertised to all partners.

4. Making safeguarding personal. It is recommended that the Partnership ensure that the professionals are able to hear the voice of the adult without others being present. This is particularly important when there is reason to suspect domestic abuse or coercive and controlling behaviour.

The Partnership have been assured that partners have policies and procedures in place to not interview suspected victims in the same room as a potential perpetrator. The Partnership will ensure that training about domestic abuse and sexual violence is promoted to practitioners and that uptake is monitored.

5. Safeguarding. It is recommended that the Safeguarding Adults Board ensure that the safeguarding escalation procedure is streamlined and available to all staff, and that staff are empowered to escalate decisions where needed.

The Bristol Safeguarding Adults Board have updated the escalation procedure and this is now available on the KBSP website. The KBSP will ensure that the escalation procedure and challenging decisions are incorporated into the training programme.