

Torbay & Devon Safeguarding Adults Partnership Newsletter

Safeguarding is everyone's business

Working in partnership to enable the people of Torbay and Devon to live free from abuse and neglect, and to promote the message that safeguarding is everybody's responsibility'

ISSUE 3, JANUARY 2026



LATEST NEWS FROM THE PARTNERSHIP BOARD (from Paul Northcott)

The last twelve months have been extremely busy for the TDSAP and at our last meeting we were pleased to sign off our current annual report. The report highlights the achievements not just for the Board itself but also celebrates the hard work of professionals in Devon and the progress that has been made by all of our partner organisations in the area of adult safeguarding. This report will be widely circulated across all agencies and can also be accessed [via our website](#). I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of those that were involved in this work as I know that the work of the Board and its subgroups place an additional demand on professionals who are already working hard to meet the needs of those who are vulnerable in our communities. We have already started to plan for our next twelve months of activity. We will be reviewing our priorities at our next Board to ensure that they continue to be relevant and that they are driving improvements in services and meeting the expectations of those that use our services. We will ensure that these priorities also address any feedback that we may receive as part of the CQC inspection.

We have seen the departure of one of the central members of our team, Jon Anthony, the Associate Director of Social Work and Professional Practice. Jon has worked tirelessly for the residents in Torbay and for the Board and we would all like to wish him well in his retirement.

We look forward to working with you all in the next twelve months.

SAFEGUARDING ADULTS REVIEWS (SARS)

SAR Thomas

The Safeguarding Adults Review for Thomas was completed and agreed by the TDSAP Board in late September 2021. The publication of the SAR was delayed to await the outcome of the inquest into Thomas's death.

Progress on embedding the SAR recommendations into operational practice continued in advance of publication. The TDSAP Board signed off all SAR recommendations as complete, in early 2025. Following contact with the Orchard family, the TDSAP Board agreed to publish the SAR in December 2025.

To read the full report, including a copy of the family's statement, please visit [our website](#).

PERSONAL STORY AT THE BOARD —Resistance to Engagement

Experienced Social Worker, Elliott Taylor-Hawkins, attended the TDSAP Board meeting in December and shared with Board members the story of 'Yana'.

Yana experienced severe self-neglect, hoarding and a suspected psychosis. Resistance to engagement by any partner agency was a long standing issue posing significant challenges and compounding physical and mental health deterioration. Yana had come to live in very poor conditions, was malnourished and dehydrated, and lived with significant risk of infection to untreated wounds. A rat infestation further increased the risks in the living environment with Yana persistently refusing support.

Elliott highlighted, through the work undertaken, that partnership working is essential in complex circumstances of self-neglect to ensure a coordinated multi agency response where there is clarity regarding different roles and how communication with the adult at risk can be kept consistent as part of the relationship building process to gain meaningful trust.

This coordinated multi-agency approach ensured appropriate information sharing, joint planning and action, and the flexibility to adapt strategies, as a team, when this was required. This persistent partnership approach supported Yana's situation to stabilise, and saw her engaging more openly with professionals and eventually accepting crucial support to improve her health and steer away from what had become a life-threatening situation.

Elliott's account was very powerful and demonstrated how outcomes for adults at risk can be improved and strengthened through a collaborative partnership approach where agencies all have a role to play in complex safeguarding circumstances.

PRACTICE RESOURCES

[Multi agency safeguarding guidance](#)

[Self-neglect and hoarding guidance](#)

[Risk management](#)

[Easy read](#)

[SAR policy](#)

[TDSAP resources \(inc. SGA leaflet & poster\)](#)

[Provider safeguarding guidance](#)

[Escalation protocol](#)

[Information sharing protocol](#)

[Domestic abuse and unhealthy relationships](#)

[Training strategy](#)

TRAINING & DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Loan Shark Awareness—Eventbrite Talks – Jan, Feb & Mar 2026

From this talk you will gain a basic & working knowledge surrounding illegal money lenders (loan sharks) i.e. what makes them illegal, how they operate and find new borrowers, the effects that they have on borrowers, who the Stop Loan Shark team are, how they operate plus how to link this knowledge into a conversation with a service user, family member or friend to find out if they could potentially be in debt to an illegal money lender and just as importantly, how to make a report and what happens next. It is estimated that 1.2 million people in England alone are currently in debt to loan sharks and this figure is estimated to rise to 3 million within the next 3 years!

All the awareness talks will be held via Microsoft Teams and will start at 09:30. The links to the talks will be sent out to attendees as an Outlook calendar invite a few days before each talk.

To book your place onto a talk, please use the links below. The “booking office” will close at 11:00 on the day before the talk.

If anyone has difficulty booking onto any of the talks, then please email dave.monk@birmingham.gov.uk

[12th February 2026](#)

[24th February 2026](#)

[25th March 2026](#)

[26th March 2026](#)



South Devon and Dartmoor Community Safety Partnership—Training Opportunities

Coercive and controlling behaviour will be held on **Wednesday 28th January at 11am**, for more details go to [Eventbrite - Coercive and Controlling Behaviour](#).



Safeguarding Vulnerable Dependent Drinkers—Training

An online session hosted by Alcohol Change UK. 09:30—12:00, Wednesday 19th March 2025

This course focusses on how to make the most effective use of the three main legal powers which can protect vulnerable dependent drinkers. For more information and to book onto this training please visit [this website](#).



MARM FRAMEWORK—Update

Multi-Agency Risk Management Framework (MARM)

The TDSAP have developed and agreed a Multi-Agency Risk Management Framework, with principles and guidance, for operational use across partner organisations.

What is MARM?

The MARM principles and guidance were developed to provide support for partner agencies working with adults where there is a high risk of harm to the person and a multi-agency approach would be beneficial, but the circumstances may sit outside of the statutory safeguarding adults framework.

When supporting adults in high risk situations, professionals are often involved in complex or urgent circumstances where responses are likely to require a solution based approach which has at its core, a focus on building trust and a rapport with the adult.

A MARM is a proactive approach from a preventative perspective where the presenting risk does not meet the criteria for a Section 42 (2) enquiry or other frameworks for managing risk but where, through sharing information at an early stage, support could be coordinated to prevent escalation of risk, and for partner agencies to provide a collaborative approach to managing the risk and identifying actions required to achieve better outcomes for the adult.

Crucially, a MARM does not replace existing frameworks for managing risk such as section 42(2) safeguarding adult enquiries, Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA), Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) etc.

Why do we need a MARM?

Learning from Safeguarding Adults Reviews (SARs) demonstrates that high risk behaviours may lead an adult to find themselves in situations where, without multi-agency intervention, there is a high probability that the adult's circumstances will deteriorate placing them at risk of harm, abuse or neglect.

The aim of the MARM is to act on early risk indicators through a multi-agency approach whereby partner agencies come together, in partnership with the adult, to promote person centred and preventative risk management plans. At the heart of the MARM is a multi-agency meeting where information is shared to improve outcomes for the adult at risk thus reducing risk of harm, abuse or neglect.

Next Steps

The MARM Framework is due to 'Go Live' on 9th March 2026 across Devon and Torbay. The MARM guidance will be coming your way very soon so please look out for this. As well as being shared with all partners, the guidance will also be uploaded to our website in due course.

To be added to the distribution list to receive future copies of the TDSAP Newsletter or to suggest future content, please email : safeguardingadultsboardsecure-mailbox@devon.gov.uk

Worried that an adult is at risk? Report your concern [here](#).

TORBAY
COUNCIL

Devon
County Council

If your concern is about a child, please visit [here](#) for Devon

and [here](#) for Torbay.

 **Torbay and Devon Safeguarding Adults Partnership**

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Devon & Cornwall
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watch

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South West

NHS
South Western
Ambulance Service
NHS Foundation Trust

 **Royal Devon**
University Healthcare
NHS Foundation Trust

NHS
University Hospitals
Plymouth
NHS Trust

One
Devon

Department
for Work &
Pensions

NHS
Devon Partnership
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NHS Foundation Trust