



SUPPORTING ADULTS AT RISK, EXPERIENCING MULTI-EXCLUSION HOMELESSNESS

Improving support for Adults at risk and sleeping rough

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WEBINAR: HOUSE KEEPING

- Please put all microphones on **MUTE**
- If you would like to ask a question, please use the **CHAT** function
- **RESPECT** the stories you hear and protect the identity of adults at risk through **CONFIDENTIALITY**
- Take care of your own **WELLBEING** throughout this session

HOW TO REPORT CONCERNS IN BARNET

Social care direct at Barnet council are the point of first contact

- **Tel 020 8359 5000 text (SMS) 07506 693707**
email socialcaredirect@barnet.Gov.Uk

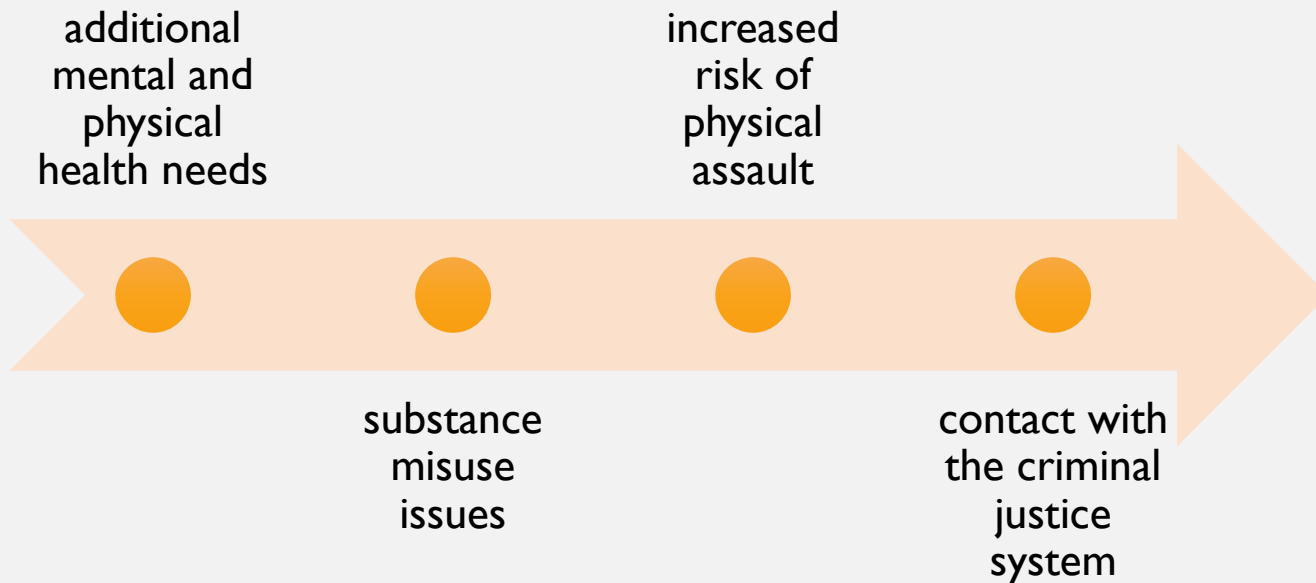
Police community safety unit in an emergency 999

- **Tel 020 8200 1212 email sxmailbox-tib@met.Pnn.Police.Uk**
- What happens after you report abuse:
<https://www.Barnet.Gov.Uk/sites/default/files/assets/citizenportal/documents/adultsocialcare/whathappensafteryoureportabusebookletmay12.Pdf>
- Your concern should always be taken seriously and acknowledged. Usually the adult at risk will be consulted and you should always be told if the concern will be investigated.
- If you hadn't had this it is ok to ask again!



SAFEGUARDING & MULTI-EXCLUSION HOMELESSNESS

Prolonged periods of rough sleeping increases the likelihood that individuals develop:



This dramatically reduces life expectancy for those experiencing chronic homelessness. The rise in the rough sleeping population with complex needs across London raises significant challenges for services- particularly those with restricted eligibility due to their immigration status. They require a multi-agency, partnership approach which utilises statutory, voluntary workforces and community resources to offer trauma informed responses to individuals' needs which is aligned with equality and human rights principles.

OVERVIEW: LEGISLATIVE ASSESSMENT DUTIES

Staff from SAB partner agencies must be mindful of the wider duties to assess and meet need that sit alongside the duty to enquire and take action when an adult at risk is experiencing abuse/neglect and can't protect themselves. s6-7 and s45 Care Act 2014 requires practitioners to be aware of referral mechanisms within organisations and ensure cooperation with other depts. and partner agencies. Practitioners must understand obligations owed to individuals and their carers under:

- The Children Act 1989 and Care Act 2014,
- Mental Capacity Act 2005 and Mental Health Act 1983

You must also recognise when statutory partners' duties to assist arise. Given what we know about characteristics of those experiencing MEH, of particular importance will be:

- Prison Governors and Probation to support those with care needs on release from prison
- Home Office duties (to determine immigration status and provide safe accommodation & support)
- Access to education or work,
- Access health, public health and social care support
- Access to housing (duty to refer) and welfare benefit eligibility

MENTAL CAPACITY AND ‘ABILITY TO KEEP THEMSELVES SAFE’


It is vital that capacity assessments are recorded and consider the interface with the wider obligation to act if someone does not have the ability to protect themselves (s42(1) Care Act). This means a proper exploration of the risks and their ability to understand those risks and execute actions/decisions that will reduce risk.

So many SAR reports have identified overreliance on assumptions about ‘lifestyle choices’. Practitioners often do not evidence compliance with NICE guidance re executive functioning. A person’s weighing-up process must be embedded in the practice of professionals working with adults experiencing MEH and at risk of self-neglect or other forms of abuse.

An extensive programme of training in the Mental Capacity Act 2005 has been delivered across the Safeguarding Partnership, but there are also useful on-line webinars and tools to improve practice and support us to have difficult conversations.



SECURING APPROPRIATE MULTI-AGENCY INPUT INTO SUPPORTING ADULTS AT RISK AND SLEEPING ROUGH



Within reasonable timescales practitioners must gather sufficient information to understand what legal duties to assess and provide support are owed to the adult at risk by the relevant statutory agencies

AND

Identify how the facts of a specific case impact on those agencies' duties so that partners engage effectively and can be held to account.

COMMUNICATION OF SAFEGUARDING CONCERNS

The fact that information is passed between different professionals by way of email or formal referral results in a cautious approach to communicating low-level safeguarding concerns.

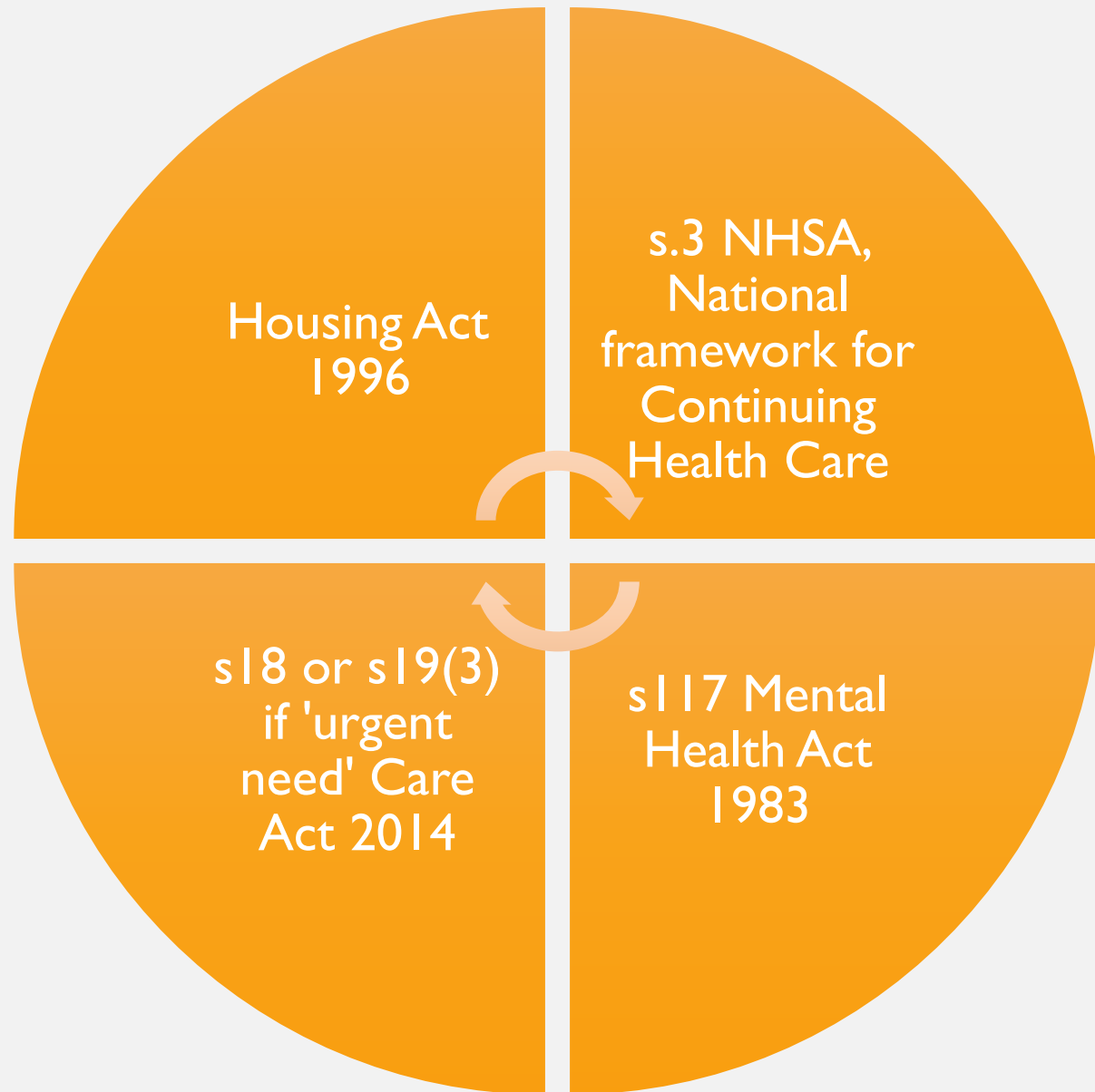
When different agencies have co-located services, there can be a more natural flow of information as 'soft' intelligence is more likely to be shared verbally.

Practitioners need to feel confident that information they share will be used proportionately by other agencies, so that each agency has all of the necessary pieces of the puzzle to identify when clinical or safeguarding risks are escalating.

When information is shared that indicate a risk, this needs to be given parity- especially if it is from those with expertise in engaging with adults experiencing MEH. Practitioners from VCFS regularly warn too little weight is given to their concerns- including in cases referred in Barnet for a safeguarding adults review this year.



**DUTIES TO
ACCOMMODATE:
HOUSING,
HEALTH AND
SOCIAL CARE
RESPONSIBILITIES**

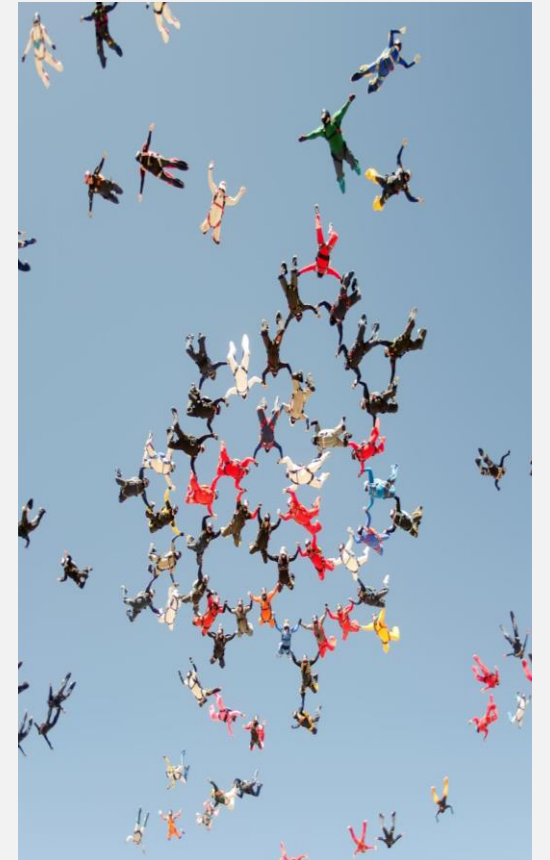


NEXT STEPS:

BSAB and partners are currently undertaking a thematic safeguarding adults review following the death of two adults within care and support need who had experience of MEH. We have also received further notifications of further deaths. We will also:

- Run series of practitioner events to support interagency safeguarding practice.
- Receive assurance on progress of the NCL ICB and public health work regarding health inequalities for those experiencing homelessness
- Work with London SAB to revise adult safeguarding policies, highlighting best practice and professional standards expectations to push for improvements to practice.

..... **How can you and your organisation take this forward?**



MORE
INFORMATION IS
AVAILABLE AT:

<https://homeless.org.uk/knowledge-hub/bitesize-strengths-based-practice/>

<https://homeless.org.uk/knowledge-hub/bitesize-learning-multiple-and-complex-needs/>

Homelessness code of guidance:
<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/homelessness-code-of-guidance-for-local-authorities>

Safeguarding and homelessness-a briefing on positive practice: <https://www.local.gov.uk/publications/adult-safeguarding-and-homelessness-briefing-positive-practice>

www.bailii.org Good search engine for UK and European case law