

BOOK REVIEW

Safeguarding Adults Under the Care Act 2014. Understanding Good Practice

Editors: Adi Cooper and Emily White (2017)

London: Jessica Kingsley Publishers

288 pp

ISBN: 978 1 78592 094 3; eISBN: 978 1 78450 358 1

Length: 288 pages

Price: RRP £19.99

This is a new edited book about adult safeguarding which will be of value to established specialist safeguarding practitioners, to those health and social care professionals working in more generalist roles and to students. The book has been very successfully written to be of relevance to ‘practitioners’ working with adults across health, housing, criminal justice and social care fields. Indeed the term ‘practitioner’ has been used throughout, and although this is a little cumbersome or forced in some places, it does serve the purpose of providing a text with an inclusive inter-professional stance.

The book is presented in three sections: section 1 provides an overview of the principles underpinning the approach to practice based on the Care Act 2014 and subsequent statutory guidance (Department of Health, 2016). There is a real sense that this section promotes ‘Making Safeguarding Personal’ (as explained by Lawson, chapter 1) with chapters exploring how work needs to be organised around the person rather than a problem which needs a solution (Stanley, chapter 2), family group conferencing (Taylor and Tapper, chapter 3) and recovery, resolution and restorative justice (Gunner, chapter 4).

Section 2 then considers risks and legal implications. A framework to support the assessment of risk, based on human rights, is proposed which includes client, practitioner and organisational perspectives (White, chapter 6). Further chapters in this section consider the mental capacity act (Baker, chapter 7), wider implications of the law (Bateman, chapter 8), and what helps and hinders engagement with family members when difficulties are encountered. This section is backed up by a useful four-page appendix which summarises common legislation relevant to safeguarding.

Section 3 on its own justifies the purchase of the book. It concerns new approaches to safeguarding which practitioners need to embrace if their work is to be effective and they are to be fully engaged with the implications of the Act (Care Act 2014). This section covers self-neglect and hoarding (Braye, Orr and Preston-Shoot, chapter, 10), domestic abuse (Pike and Norman, chapter, 11), human trafficking (Botting, Elliott and Olivier, chapter 12) and financial scamming (Lee, Johnson, Fenge and Brown, chapter 13).

The book benefits from chapters being written by a wide range of authors, with a total of 27 contributors, who collectively provide breath, depth and evidence-based perspectives with both academic and specialist service viewpoints. Despite the large number of contributors, the editors appear to have endeavoured to provide some standardisation in the chapter formats with case studies used to illustrate points (e.g. chapters 4 and 12) and further aid the explanation of concepts in the narrative (e.g. chapters 1 and 10) or guide the reader through a person-centred decision pathway (e.g. chapters 5 and 7). Some of the case studies are based on published legal proceedings (e.g. chapter 8) or research findings including analysis of safeguarding adult reviews (e.g. chapter 9). The case study scenarios are based on a range of adults including clients and carers with learning disabilities, older people and other

vulnerable groups. Each chapter is well referenced drawing on academic studies, case law, government publications and professional press articles describing innovative practice and individual cases.

Overall, this is a useful addition to the safeguarding literature. It starts from first principles making it suitable as a key text for undergraduate students while also providing new insights into contemporary issues which established practitioners may not have considered before in relation to the Care Act 2014. The text helps the reader envisage how principles are put into practice and can therefore stimulate practitioners at all levels to reflect on whether they are truly providing a person-centred and outcomes focussed approach to safeguarding.

References:

Care Act 2014, c.23., London: TSO (The Stationery Office). Available at: http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2014/23/pdfs/ukpga_20140023_en.pdf (last accessed 28 Dec 2017)

Department of Health (2016) *Care and support statutory guidance*, London: Department of Health

Review length: 603 words

Nigel Davies

Head of Nursing at the University of East London and a former NHS executive director with responsibility for safeguarding.