



## Professional Challenge and Professional Curiosity

The Josh SAR case found that practitioners involved in raising safeguarding concerns missed opportunities to challenge practice. This was due in part to staff not being fully aware of the TSAB Self-Neglect policy and the safeguarding arrangements that could have been put in place. Staff did not question or challenge when safeguarding concerns were not taken forward and lacked some professional curiosity to question decision making.

## Why Professional Challenge?

- It promotes a learning culture.
- It promotes positive, good practice.
- It creates open and transparent multi-agency working.
- It promotes good outcomes for adults at risk of or experiencing abuse

## Additional Resources and Training Materials

- [TSAB SAR Reports](#)
- [TSAB Policies, Procedures and Guidance](#)
- [Waltham Forest SAB Resource Pack](#)
- [Norfolk SAB Professional Curiosity Guidance](#)

With thanks to Waltham Forest Partnership Boards and Norfolk Safeguarding Adults Board



## Getting Support

Recognise it may be difficult to challenge other professionals

Be good to yourself and look after your own well-being.

Use the support available to you: supervision, management support, peer support.

Be familiar with policy and procedures.

## Examples of Types of Dispute

- Response to safeguarding concern
- Roles and Responsibilities
- Mental Capacity issues
- Decision making
- Service provision
- Information sharing and communication.

## Professional Curiosity

- ✓ Be flexible and open minded
- ✓ Think the unthinkable, believe the unbelievable
- ✓ Use communication skills; review records and check facts
- ✓ Use case history and explore information from the adult and those close to them
- ✓ Pay attention to how people look and behave

**Never assume and be wary of assumptions already made.**

## Stages of the Process

Stage 1: Professional to professional discussion

Stage 2: Escalate to Line Manager/ Safeguarding Lead

Stage 3: Escalate to Senior Manager

Stage 4: Escalate to Teeswide safeguarding Adults Board