LeDeR Annual Report 2022/23
Southend Trends

Introduction

The Learning from Lives and Deaths (LeDeR) Programme started in 2017 with the aim to reduce the health inequalities faced by people who have a learning disability (LD).

As of July 2023 LeDeR reports on deaths of people with LD and or Autism aged 18 and above. However, before July 2023 LeDeR reported on deaths of children aged 4 and over with LD and or Autism. When somebody with a learning disability or autism dies, their death should be notified to LeDeR.
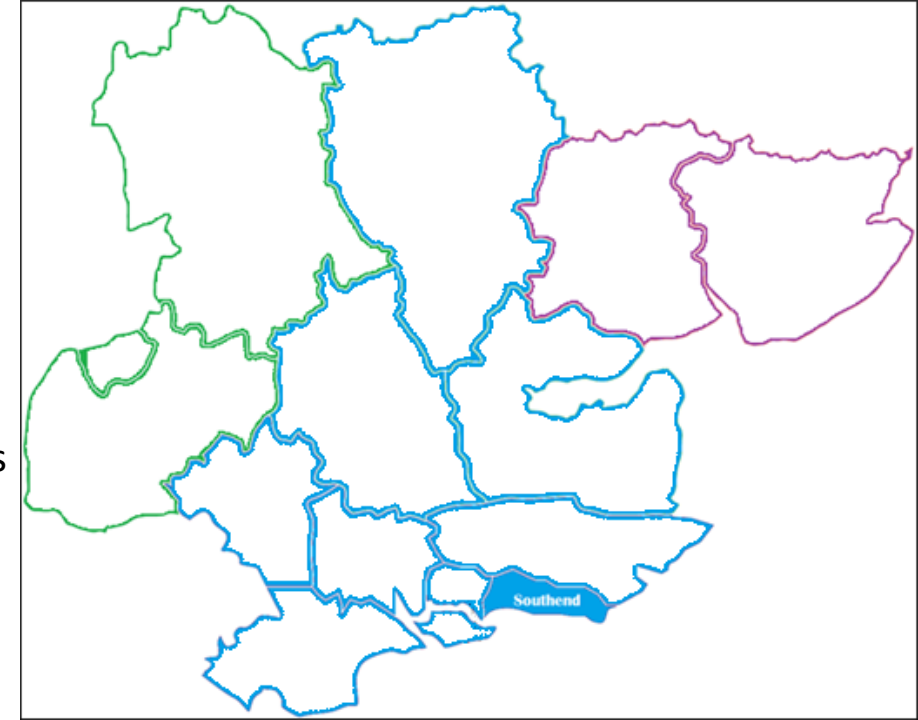
LeDeR is a review of all aspects of the care and support a person received in their life and death. This is done to improve quality of care and support by learning from what went well, and making recommendations for changes.

The LeDeR programme works alongside other quality improvement measures currently in place to reform services and improve health outcomes. If other reviews and enquiry processes need to take place then the LeDeR review will be put on hold until after these are completed, to ensure we capture the learning from the findings in our reviews.

When the LeDeR programme started there were two things we wanted to achieve across Southend, Essex and Thurrock:

1.   We wanted the number of deaths notified to LeDeR to increase every year.
2.   We wanted to see the average age of death of people with a learning disability increase, "to close the gap" as on average people with LD were dying up to 20+ years younger than the general population.

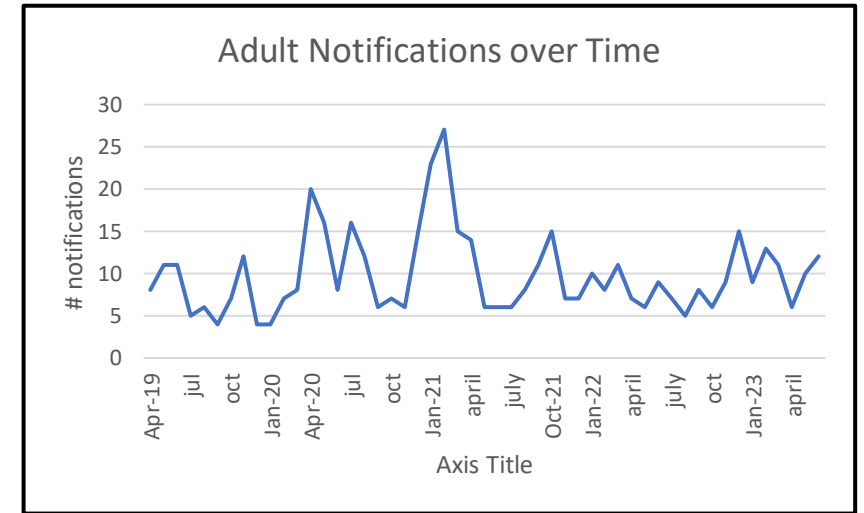This set of slides identifies some trends from a Southend perspective.

Notifications

In 2022/23 out of 113 notifications across Southend, Essex and Thurrock (SET). Of those 113 notification we had 10 notifications to LeDeR from Southend across the year. Of those 9 were for deaths that occurred within the period April 2022 and March 2023. The other remaining notification occurred before this time period.
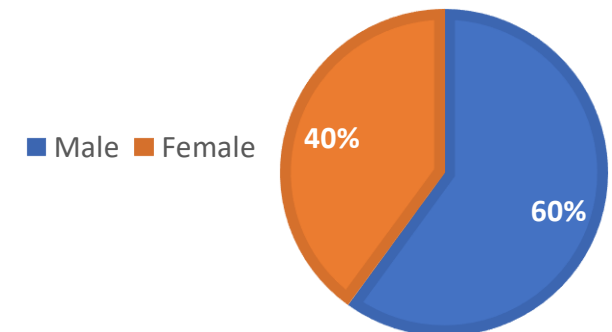
Most notifications are made close to the day when the person died, this data is helpful for us to understand some of the trends around deaths as they occur.

The notifications of deaths in Southend were spread out throughout the year. This is in contrast to the SET footprint as a whole where we typically we see an increase in notifications each winter (see right SET 'Adult Notifications Over Time' graph).

Adult Notifications over Time

Gender of Notifications Received

In 2022/23 out of 10 notifications received from Southend 6 were male and 4 were female. This is similar to the gender split in notifications across SET.

Male Female 40% 60%

Deaths Of Those Reviewed

Overall the average age of death has gone down slightly this year across SET, which we are monitoring. We believe that we are still seeing the impact of Covid-19 on our notifications and across health provision.
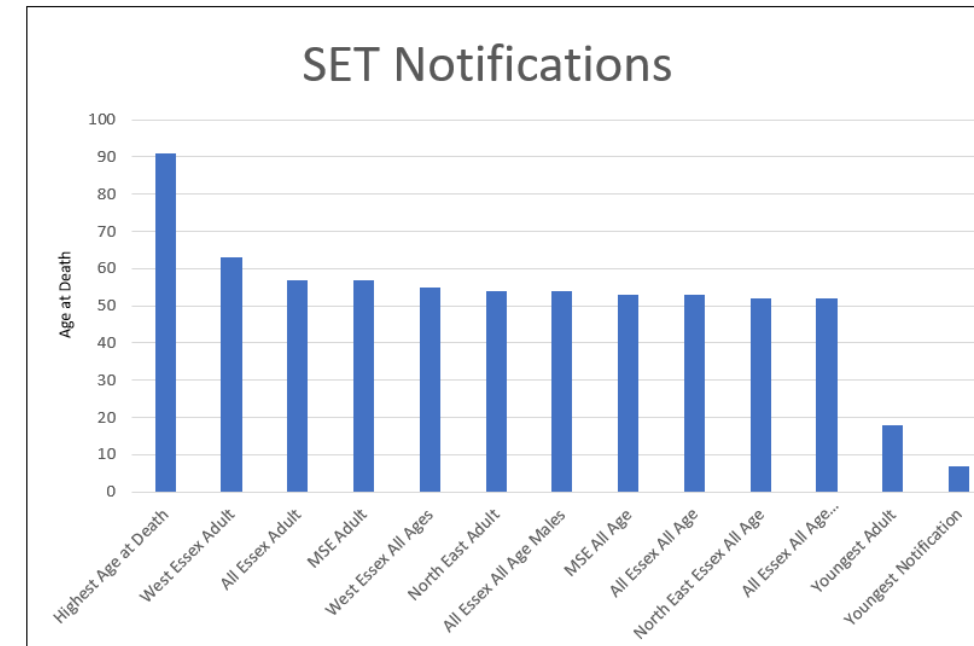
The impact of Covid-19 throughout 2020 and 2021 had a significant impact on the numbers of deaths reported and the average age at death. This impact continues to be seen across 2022 and 2023.

Average Age Of Death

The median average age of death in Southend was 53.8. This is younger than the average age across MSE and the SET Footprint which was 57.3. Although it is important to note that 10 deaths is a very small sample size and this could be why it is below the average age of death across SET as a whole.

Within the notifications for Southend for this year the age range was 19-79.

However, it is important to note more people are dying in their 40s than you would typically expect – 4 out of 10 notification. Across SET the largest decade of death is typically people in their 60s. Out of the SET LeDeR Annual report we had 7 deaths of people in their 40s notified. 4 out of the 7 deaths which were notified came from Southend. This is a Southend specific trend.

SET Notifications

Trends: Completed Reviews Primary Cause Of Death

Out of the 14 completed reviews this year the leading cause of death was respiratory conditions which mirrors the trend across SET .

The respiratory conditions within primary cause of death are broken down as 1 recorded as bronchopneumonia, 1 recorded as community acquired pneumonia and 5 recorded as aspiration pneumonia. Covid 19 is also referred to within cause 1.b on one patients death certificate.
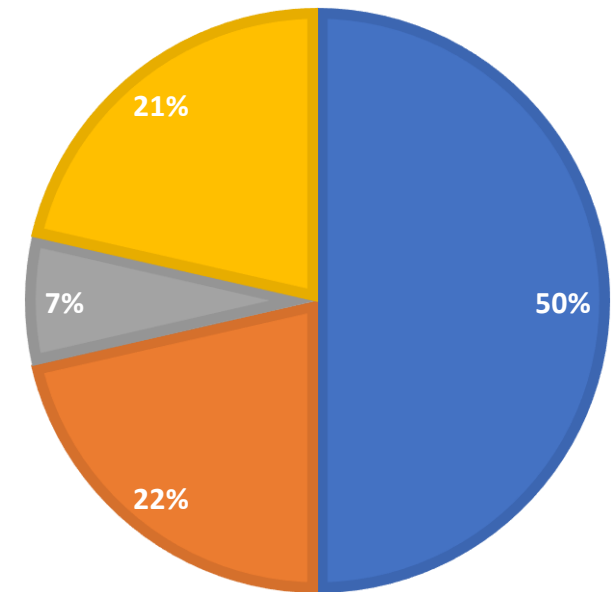
The other primary causes of death in Southend completed reviews were 3 recorded as dementia/Alzheimer's, 1 recorded as cancer and 3 recorded as cardiac/circulatory. The pie chart on the right shows the split between the four primary causes of death.

For comparison, if we had reviewed a sample of deaths of people from the general population, we would expect to find the leading cause of death to be Dementia and Alzheimer's, followed by heart diseases and chronic lower respiratory diseases.

Clearly there is a difference in the leading causes of death for people in the general population and people with a learning disability. This continues to inform the work of the SET Health Equalities Team and Partners. In particular, there has been a focus on respiratory illness throughout 2022 and into 2023.

PRIMARY CAUSE OF DEATH SOUTHEND COMPLETED REVIEWS

- Respitory Conditions ■ Cardiac ■ Cancers ■ Dementia

21%
7%
50%
22%

Trends: Completed Reviews Other Key Takeaways

- Out of the 14 completed reviews were 13 White British and 1 was Asian British.

- 50% of the reviews we completed were of people who died in hospital. The remainder died at home, in hospice or a nursing home.

- For most of 2022/23, the LeDeR system did not specifically collect Annual Health Check information to be recorded in initial reviews. However, in the majority of reviews it is captured in the narrative along with information on any accompanying Health Action Plan. Therefore, we can conclude that out of the completed reviews the majority had received annual health check within the year (10 confirmed, 2 don't know, 2 not up to date). However, only 3 Health Action Plans were seen by reviewers.

- There were six people with downs syndrome and 6 with epilepsy which matches the trend across SET that a high number of people who were reviewed were managing a genetic and / or long term health condition.

- There were no cross cutting themes across the Southend completed reviews that were different to the SET footprint as a whole. So the themes and recommendations from the SET LeDeR Annual Report 2022/23 will fully apply to Southend.