

ADULT CARE AND WELL BEING OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL 12 SEPTEMBER 2018

SAFEGUARDING ADULTS

Summary

1. The Independent Chair and Board Manager of the Worcestershire Safeguarding Adults Board (WSAB) have been invited to discuss progress and developments in safeguarding vulnerable adults in Worcestershire. This will include the Board's Annual Report 2017-2018.
2. The Director and the Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Adult Social Care have also been invited.

Background

3. Safeguarding vulnerable adults is an important and ongoing part of the work of the Adult Care and Well Being Overview and Scrutiny Panel and this will be the Panel's fifth update on the work of the Safeguarding Board. The minutes of the Panel's previous discussion on 27 September 2017 are available [here](#)
4. For the benefit of new Panel members, the Safeguarding Adults Board is an independent board, which seek to promote wellbeing and reduce the risk of harm for people with care and support needs. Statutory partners include the County Council, Clinical Commissioning Groups, National Health Services and West Mercia Police.
5. The Council's website has a section dedicated to safeguarding adults, www.worcestershire.gov.uk/wsab which includes useful definitions, information about who does what, newsletters, the Board structure, leaflets and WSAB Board papers.
6. The Care Act 2014 placed safeguarding adults on a statutory footing for the first time and made safeguarding boards a legal requirement, although Worcestershire's Board has been in place for several years. Derek Benson, the Independent Chair of the Safeguarding Adults Board is also the Chair of the Worcestershire Safeguarding Children Board.
7. The Care Act states that the main objective of a Safeguarding Adults Board is to assure itself that local safeguarding arrangements and partners act to help and protect adults in its area who:
 - have needs for care and support (whether or not the local authority is meeting any of those needs) and;
 - are experiencing, or at risk of, abuse or neglect; and
 - as a result of those care and support needs are unable to protect themselves from either the risk of, or the experience of abuse or neglect.

8. Regular meetings have taken place between the Panel and the Safeguarding Board Chair since the Panel's more in-depth scrutiny review of safeguarding adults in 2011, which recommended regular dialogue between this Panel, the Worcestershire Safeguarding Adults Board Chair and the Director and Cabinet Member, as part of the Panel's monitoring role.

Worcestershire Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report 2017-18

9. Worcestershire Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report 2017-18 will be available on the County Council's website [here](#) and copies will be circulated separately to members of the Scrutiny Panel.

10. Discussion of the Annual Report provides the Panel with an opportunity to verify that systems across Worcestershire, including those of the County Council are working well to safeguard Worcestershire's vulnerable adults. Discussions also enable the Panel to keep up to date with safeguarding statistics and trends, and to explore any issues identified through serious case reviews, and also through the Panel's own scrutiny work.

11. Following the last update, the Panel has been provided with details of WSAB's newsletters, terms of reference and details of the virtual network. Comments were also forwarded to the Council's Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care, including suggestions for a training budget for the Board, concern that the Board's work was affected by lack of capacity, and the need for raising awareness about power of attorney.

12. Worcestershire Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report is also presented to the Health and Wellbeing Board and Healthwatch.

Purpose of the meeting

13. The Panel has the opportunity to:

- learn about the role of the Safeguarding Adults Board
- understand and discuss key safeguarding statistics from this year's Worcestershire Safeguarding Adults Board's report
- identify any further information needs or potential areas for scrutiny.

Supporting Information

Appendix 1 - Presentation on Worcestershire Safeguarding Adults Board

Worcestershire Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report 2017-18 – copies have been circulated to the Panel and the report will be available on the County Council's website: http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/info/20363/safeguarding_adults/1105/safeguarding_adults_board_documents

Contact Points

Specific Contact Points for this report

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Background Papers

In the opinion of the proper officer (in this case the Head of Legal and Democratic Services) the following are the background papers relating to the subject matter of this report:

- Agendas and minutes of the Adult Care and Well-being Overview and Scrutiny Panel on 27 September 2017, 21 November 2016, 22 January and 13 October 2015 and 5 September 2013