

HEALTH AND WELL-BEING BOARD 10 OCTOBER 2017

WORCESTERSHIRE SAFEGUARDING ADULTS BOARD ANNUAL REPORT – 2016/17

Board Sponsor

Director of Adult Services and Health

Author

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Relevance of Paper – Priorities

Older people and long term conditions

Mental health and well-being

Alcohol

Domestic Abuse

Relevance - Groups of Particular Interest

People with mental health needs

People with learning disabilities

Older People

Item for Decision, Consideration or Information

Information

Recommendation

- 1. The Health and Well-being Board is asked to consider any cross cutting themes and to refer issues either directly to The Board or, through the next Joint Cross Cutting Issues meeting to be held between the Chairs of the four Boards.**

Background

2. The Annual Report provides an overview of the activity of the Board during 2016-17. This includes the safeguarding activity that took place to protect people in Worcestershire with care and support needs at risk of harm during this period.
3. The report covers the second year as a statutory board under the Care Act 2014. The guidance for the Act clearly sets expectations for the minimum content for Safeguarding Adults Boards (SAB) and Annual Reports (Schedule 2.4 (1) a-g).
4. The work programme for 2016/17 was ambitious and overall good progress was made against the objectives for the year. However, the ability to progress some of the actions was impacted by capacity issues facing the Board during the year. Statutory partners have continued to face significant funding pressures and

increased workloads; there has been turnover in board membership and sub group leadership during the year, and the support to the board has been stretched. We are seeking to address this in our plans for 2017/18.

5. A key achievement was the development of the dataset to better understand the key safeguarding risks in Worcestershire. Linked to this we were closely involved in a joint regional conference with trading standards that focussed on doorstep scams and financial abuse. The Board also held a successful learning event for managers and practitioners, which was well attended and received.

6. Activity data indicates that there is a high level of awareness of the process to report safeguarding concerns across the county. Whilst the level of inappropriate referrals, where the issue raised is not a safeguarding matter and therefore did not meet the appropriate level for a statutory enquiry to take place, saw a reduction, developing awareness of safeguarding issues remains a priority.

7. It is important to note that a significant number of non-statutory enquires were also completed during the year. Whilst there is no obligation to undertake a formal enquiry, it was felt proportionate to undertake this approach as it would enable the Local Authority to promote the persons wellbeing and support the preventative agenda.

8. Physical abuse was again the highest reported type of primary abuse followed by neglect, then psychological and financial abuse, in that order. These abuse types are usually the most highly reported because the signs are more visible.

9. A key part of the Care Act (2014) was the introduction of Making Safeguarding Personal which aims to put the person at risk at the centre of the process. Embedding this person centred approach was a key priority for the WSAB. Of those cases which required a statutory enquiry two thirds identified a personal outcome they would like to achieve through the process. Of these cases the majority felt that this outcome had been achieved or partially met.

10. Finally, the report includes contributions from each of the key partner agencies of the Board. These illustrate the work that is taking place across the County by the partner agencies to protect adults at risk from harm.

Equality and Diversity Implications

11. The report contains references to the demographic of the County and cross references safeguarding activity to the demographic. The outcomes show there is a continued under-representation of BME citizens being referred for safeguarding protective arrangements.

Supporting Information

- Worcestershire Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report 2016/17 – Available on line.

Contact Points

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