

## **HEALTH AND WELL-BEING 25 SEPTEMBER 2018**

### **WORCESTERSHIRE SAFEGUARDING ADULTS BOARD (WSAB) ANNUAL REPORT 2017-18**

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**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 2017-18. 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 third 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. 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. However turnover in board membership and sub group leadership during the year was low compared to the previous year.

5. Key achievements during the year included the development of the performance management framework to understand the key safeguarding risks in Worcestershire. The Board also held a successful learning event for managers and practitioners, which well received and oversubscribed. This focused on the learning from Safeguarding Adults Reviews. It also addressed the Boards priorities of Making Safeguarding Personal, understanding Section 42 criteria and Mental Capacity Assessments. Additional workshops have been arranged for those who were unable to attend.

6. In terms of developing wider engagement in the work of the WSAB alongside representation from Carers there is also representation from Advocacy services and a Chair was appointed to represent people with lived experiences. A reference group is now being developed to expand this input.

7. Cross cutting work also continued to evolve, particularly around Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE). Transition policies and procedures were reviewed to ensure that they are working effectively, with a pathway being established across children's and adults services which includes those young people where CSE has been identified.

8. Activity data indicates that awareness of the process to report safeguarding concerns across the county continues to improve. 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, again saw some reduction. However developing awareness of safeguarding issues remains a priority.

9. 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.

10. As with previous years physical abuse was the highest reported type of primary abuse followed by neglect. The other main areas were financial and psychological and financial abuse, in that order. These abuse types are usually the most highly reported because the signs are more visible.

11. 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.

## **Legal, Financial and HR Implications**

12. Not applicable

## **Privacy Impact Assessment**

13. Not applicable

## **Equality and Diversity Implications**

14. 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 and at

[http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/downloads/file/10247/wsab\\_annual\\_report\\_april\\_2017\\_to\\_march\\_2018](http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/downloads/file/10247/wsab_annual_report_april_2017_to_march_2018)

## **Contact Points**

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