



## Message from our Chair

This is our first full year as a statutory board under the Care Act 2014. Though Worcestershire Safeguarding Adults Board (WSAB) has been working as a partnership board for many years, the Care Act required some significant changes to be made, to take on a more strategic role and to get better assurance that key partners work together effectively to improve safeguarding, wellbeing and independence.



Following a consultation process we approved our 3 Year Strategic Plan and our annual business plan. We are pleased to see that the new safeguarding procedures that were required by the Care Act are being implemented, as well as seeing good progress in the implementation of the Care Act across all agencies. The board has worked specifically on the development of new multi-agency guidance on Self Neglect, as this was a gap that had been identified. We started work on developing a new Performance & Quality Assurance Framework by collecting information from all agencies. This important work will continue into next year and will help us improve our local assessment of risks and better plan our future priorities.

Protecting and safeguarding people at risk of abuse or neglect is an important job and we have taken steps to further develop and strengthen partnership working. We have worked on improving community awareness of abuse.

A key challenge for the Board has been to get better engagement with people who have experienced safeguarding processes and to make sure that we listen to what people tell us.. We feel it is important to take the time to do this properly rather than too quickly and risk a tokenistic approach.

I have continued to be impressed with the commitment and hard work of all the partner agencies and I have no doubt that the Board will continue to build on its' current strengths to meet the challenges ahead.

**Kathy McAteer**

Independent Chair of Worcestershire Safeguarding Adults Board

## Board Structure

The WSAB is made up of representatives from 14 key agencies and sectors who are involved in safe-guarding adults in the county. They help to shape the Board and are responsible for the delivery of the Boards objectives. To do this they work within Sub Groups, each one with a clear focus on its remit.

Worcestershire County Council  
West Mercia Police  
NHS Redditch & Bromsgrove CCG  
NHS Wyre Forest CCG  
NHS South Worcestershire CCG  
Worcestershire Health & Care NHS Trust  
Worcestershire Acute Hospitals NHS Trust  
National Probation Service  
Worcestershire Voices  
Regulatory Services (Trading Standards)  
Representative from the Care Homes Association  
Representative from the Worcestershire Carers Association  
Lead Councillor for adult social care

Chairs and  
Sponsors  
Sub Group

Case Review  
Sub Group

Community  
Awareness &  
Prevention

Learning  
Development &  
Practise  
Sub Group

Policy  
Sub Group

Performance &  
Quality Assurance  
Sub Group

# Changes from the Care Act

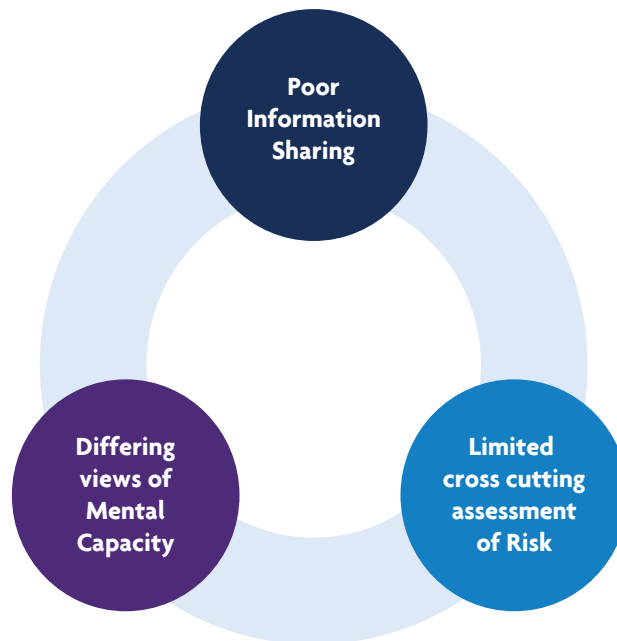
The Care Act (2014) removed the Serious Care Review (SCR) function replacing it with a statutory requirement to undertake Safeguarding Adults Reviews (SARs). They are commissioned when:

- there is reasonable cause for concern about how WSAB members or other agencies providing services, worked together to safeguard an adult,
- and
- The adult has died, and WSAB knows or suspects that the death resulted from abuse or neglect (whether or not it knew about or suspected the abuse or neglect before the adult died)
- or
- The adult is still alive, and WSAB knows or suspects that the adult has experienced serious abuse or neglect.
  - A Safeguarding Adults Review (SAR) is a multi-agency review process which seeks to determine what relevant agencies and individuals involved could have done differently that could have prevented harm or a death from taking place. A SAR is not to apportion blame. It is to promote effective learning and improvement to prevent future deaths or serious harm occurring again.

In 2015/16 the Case Review Sub Group took five Serious Case Reviews and Safeguarding Adults Reviews to the Board.

Our Priorities	Our Achievements	Our Outcomes
1. Improve outcomes for people who Self Neglect	• Introduce newBoard governance processes and structures	• 2653 concerns raised
2. Collaborate with other partners to ensure effective assurance of cross-cutting issues.	• Appointment of a substantive Board Manager	• 343 were deemed to be Section 42 (13%)
3. Engage with key partners, including adults accessing safeguarding processes and with care & support needs	• Development of a process that studies partnership data to identify priorities	<b>Making safeguarding personal:</b>
4. Involve the community in safeguarding and improve community awareness of abuse	• Welcoming Regulatory Services as a new Board member	• 63% of people felt that their desired outcomes were achieved. Desired outcomes included;
5. Develop better understanding Worcestershire's risk profile to target board activity on the greatest local risks	• Work with housing providers	
	• Work with partner Boards such as Worcestershire Safeguarding Children Board, Health and Wellbeing Board Community Safety Partnership and Health-Watch Worcestershire	
	• Hosting a 'Transitions Event' with theWorcestershire Safeguarding Children Board	
	• Publishing documents such as;	
6. Embed the new Safeguarding Adult Review (SAR) process and seek assurance that lessons are leant and embedded across agencies		• To Before Involved In Making Decisions - 98% achieved
		• To Maintain Control Over The Situation - 90% achieved
		• Other Outcome - 83% achieved
7. Seek assurance that all stakeholders implement training strategies which meet the requirements of the Care Act and Making Safeguarding Personal		• To Be And To Feel Safe - 83% achieved
		• To Know That This Will Not Happen To Anyone Else - 71% achieved
		• To Have Access To Justice Or An Apology - 64% achieved

# Safeguarding Adult Reviews & Serious Case Reviews Common Interrelated Issues



The WSAB regularly considers common themes arising through reviews. The assessment and sharing of Mental Capacity is an area which has appeared in most cases. As a key objective for WSAB in 2016/17 is to seek greater assurance that the Mental Capacity is properly understood and being fully used by health and social care staff.

## Awareness posters



Do you have concerns about yourself or someone else being abused?  
**Safeguarding is everyone's business**  
For more information call the safeguarding team on 01905 768053.  
Contact the Police on 101 or in the event of an emergency call 999.



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Safeguarding Adults  
Elderly Abuse Poster  
April 2016

Safeguarding Adults  
Financial Abuse Poster  
April 2016

Safeguarding Adults  
Neglect Poster  
April 2016

Safeguarding Adults  
Hatecrime Poster  
April 2016

# Our Journey Forward 2016/2017

Each of our Sub Groups is working towards achieving the 5 Strategic Goals as shown below. By working together, with other service providers, service users and local communities we aim to achieve each of these objectives making Worcestershire a safer county for all of its adults at risk.

1. To improve the way that we communicate with the public and our partners and explain what the Board is and what it does.
2. To check that the Mental Capacity Act and Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards are properly understood and being used fully in their everyday work by health and social care staff
3. Improve the way that the Board listens to Worcestershire's adults with care and support needs and involve them in the Boards work. This will be clearly shown within the Board's Engagement Strategy
4. Build on the existing work with other Boards e.g. Children's Safeguarding Board, Health and Well Being Board and Safer Communities Board. We will also make the best use of time and money and improve how we share out the work amongst all agency workers that make up the WSAB Sub Groups.
5. To continue to work with partner agencies to show where there might be risks for adults (at risk of abuse or neglect) within Worcestershire and use this to target the work of the Board, by making sure that performance frameworks are worked to and carry out at least one deep investigation
6. Continue to improve community awareness of abuse and approve prevention Strategy
7. Complete any unfinished work from WSAB's 15/16 Objectives



More information about WSAB and safeguarding can be found at:  
[www.worcestershire.gov.uk/wsab](http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/wsab)

