

HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

14 FEBRUARY 2016

WSAB Annual Report – 2015-16

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 2015-16. 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 first full 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 Board identified seven key business objectives for 2014/15. Overall progress for the year was strong, with the majority of these being met. Those that were not achieved during this period have subsequently been completed.
5. A primary objective for the year was to ensure that stakeholders had the necessary policies and procedures in place to deliver the requirements of the Care

Act. An annual assurance completed by key partners demonstrated that these were all in place, alongside staff training and support.

6. Other notable achievements include the introduction of clear and accountable governance processes and structures for the Board, alongside provision of some dedicated staff support. Ratification and publication of a number of Multi-agency protocols, guidance, procedures and strategies. Awareness raising through the publication of posters and publications. Finally there have been a number of cross cutting pieces of work with other boards, including collaborative work around the transition of young people into adult services with the Children's Safeguarding Board.

7. The introduction of the Care Act (2014) has brought changes in safeguarding terminology and reporting criteria. It also introduced a 'three stage test' clearly outlining those adults (over 18) where safeguarding duties apply.

8. These changes make it difficult to make comparisons to previous years. Whilst some comparisons have been made where there are similarities, it is important to note that these cannot be taken as an absolute and rigorous comparison.

9. Activity data indicates that there is a high level of awareness of the process to report safeguarding concerns across the county, with the number of 'concerns' of adult abuse cases raised remaining a similar level to the level of 'Alerts' raised in previous years. However a significant proportion of these are found to be 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.

10. 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.

11. Physical abuse was 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.

12. 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.

13. 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

14. Not applicable

Privacy Impact Assessment

15. Not applicable

Equality and Diversity Implications

16. 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 2015/16 Summary
- Worcestershire Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report 2015/16 – Available on line.

Contact Points

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