

HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

15 FEBRUARY 2022

WORCESTERSHIRE SAFEGUARDING ADULTS BOARD

ANNUAL REPORT, 2020-2021

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 and substance misuse

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 Worcestershire Safeguarding Adults Board (WSAB) 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 2020 to 2021. 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 guidance provided by the Act clearly sets expectations for the minimum content for Safeguarding Adults Boards (SAB) Annual Reports (Schedule 2.4 (1) a-g). Early in the pandemic the Department of Health and Social Care contacted all Safeguarding Adults Boards (SAB) in recognition of the impact that it might have in meeting its statutory duties, including Annual Reports. The letter stated, given that local challenges may vary, each SAB should decide on whether to delay or reduce the coverage of the report. Whilst the WSAB produced an Annual Report to its normal timescale there has been a slight reduction in the level of data available for this report.

4. Whilst some progress was made against the objectives for the year, this was against a background where statutory partners not only continued to face significant funding pressures and increased workloads, but also when they had to adapt services to meet the demand and needs of COVID-19.
5. For the first six months of the year, some areas of work which were usually undertaken by the WSAB were suspended to ensure that Health and Social Care services had capacity to respond to the demands on their services. This resulted in some objectives being carried over to the following year.
6. Safeguarding Adults Reviews (SARs) continued throughout the year. During 2020/21 there were 8 referrals requesting consideration for a SAR to be undertaken. SARs were commissioned for 2 of these. Of the remaining 6 referrals, 2 resulted in single agency actions being recommended, 3 required no additional actions, and 1 decision was pending with the scoping meeting being held in April 2021.
7. 6 SARs were completed and signed off by the Board during the year. These included the rough sleepers thematic review. All the SARs which were published can be found by following this link. [Safeguarding Adults Reviews](#).
8. Whilst achievements were limited, due to the pandemic, progress was made on some key areas. During the initial stages of the pandemic the Board took a proactive role in ensuring safeguarding information was circulated across statutory and non-statutory organisations on a regular basis. This included the publication on a monthly newsletter. A virtual learning event was also held to share the findings from the Thematic Review into Rough Sleeping.
9. Cross cutting work continued to evolve. A Task and Finish group set up to take forward work on exploitation, produced a research project by the University of Worcester which informed future work areas. The WSAB, South Worcestershire Community Safety Partnership and Public Health also agreed to fund an exploitation coordinator for two years. Strong links were also built with the Strategic Housing Partnership to ensure the delivery of the recommendations from the thematic SAR into Rough Sleeping.
10. Representatives from the reference groups became more engaged in the work of the Board, including supporting a review of the SAR process to improve communication and working closely with the Learning Development Practice and Communication (LDP&C) sub-group to provide advice on information which goes out to the public.
11. Activity data saw a slight decrease in the number of concerns reported compared to the previous year. (Table 4.1). However, the percentage of concerns reported which met section 42 criteria increased significantly to 27%, indicating that the level of awareness around what constitutes a safeguarding concern has improved. In addition, the number of cases that don't meet criteria, but where some level of enquiry has taken place is also now recorded.
12. 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

1. Not applicable

Privacy Impact Assessment

2. Not applicable

Equality and Diversity Implications

3. 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 2020/21 – Available online via the following link:
[WSAB Annual Report 2020 to 2021](#)

Contact Points

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