

SAFEGUARDING ADULTS

Summary

1. The Independent Chair of the Worcestershire Safeguarding Adults Board (WSAB) has been invited to discuss progress and developments in safeguarding vulnerable adults in Worcestershire. This will include work underway to ensure the Board's compliance with the Care Act, and oversight of the key risks.

2. The Director of Adult Services and Health and the Cabinet Member with responsibility for Adult Social Care have also been invited.

Background

3. Safeguarding vulnerable adults is an important and ongoing part of the work of the Adult Care and Well Being Overview and Scrutiny Panel, and regular discussions have been arranged since the Panel's more in-depth scrutiny review of safeguarding adults in 2011, which recommended regular dialogue between this Panel, the WSAB Chair and the Director and Cabinet Member, as part of the Panel's monitoring role.

4. This will be the Panel's first update with the recently appointed new Chair of the Worcestershire Safeguarding Adults Board, Kathy McAteer.

Overview and Progress Update

5. The WSAB Chair intends to provide an update to the Panel, with specific focus on the Board's work to ensure its compliance with the Care Act and an oversight of the key risks.

6. Earlier discussions with the outgoing Board Chair have included safeguarding alerts and analysis of alert trends, looking at financial challenge and transformation, the Mental Capacity Act, the Winterbourne View Action Plan and the role of scrutiny and councillors in adult safeguarding.

7. More recent areas of joint discussion with the Directorate's officers and the Cabinet Member have included domiciliary care monitoring, and how to safeguard vulnerable groups in the face of reduced available funding, the Directorate's 'Future Lives' plans and also care assessment processes as part of the new models of care, which will involve greater use of online mechanisms and self-service.

Purpose of this Meeting

8. The Panel has the opportunity to extend its understanding of the role and work of the Worcestershire Safeguarding Adults Board and to hear the Board's perspective on the challenges facing adult social care budgets.

Next Steps

9. Arising from the discussion, members are asked to determine:
 - any further information needs or potential areas for scrutiny
 - any comments to forward to the Cabinet Member.

Contact Points

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Background Papers

In the opinion of the proper officer (in this case the Head of Legal and Democratic Services) the following background papers relate to the subject matter of this report:

- Worcestershire Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report
<http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/cms/social-care-and-health/safeguarding-adults/safeguarding-adults-board.aspx>
- Safeguarding Adults Scrutiny Report November 2011
http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/downloads/file/3280/safeguarding_adults
- Agenda and Minutes of:
 - Adult Care and Well Being Overview and Scrutiny Panel: 30 September 2010, 9 March and 11 May 2011, 8 December 2011, 26 June and 7 November 2012 and 5 September 2013

All of which are available on the Council's website at:

<http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/cms/democratic-services/minutes-and-agendas.aspx>