

# **ADULT CARE AND WELL BEING OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL 24 MARCH 2023**

## **SAFEGUARDING ADULTS**

---

### **Summary**

1. The Independent Chair and Board Manager of the Worcestershire Safeguarding Adults Board (WSAB) have been invited to discuss progress and developments in safeguarding vulnerable adults in Worcestershire. This will include the Board's Annual Report 2021/22.
2. The Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Adult Social Care has also been invited.

### **Background**

3. The Safeguarding Adults Board is an independent board, which seeks to promote wellbeing and reduce the risk of harm for people with care and support needs. Statutory partners include the County Council, Clinical Commissioning Groups, National Health Services and West Mercia Police.
4. Safeguarding in Worcestershire has a dedicated website: [www.safeguardingworcestershire.org.uk](http://www.safeguardingworcestershire.org.uk) which includes useful information, definitions, information about who does what, newsletters, the Board structure, leaflets and WSAB Board papers.
5. The Care Act 2014 placed safeguarding adults on a statutory footing for the first time and made safeguarding boards a legal requirement, although Worcestershire's Board has been in place for several years.
6. The Care Act states that the main objective of a Safeguarding Adults Board is to assure itself that local safeguarding arrangements and partners act to help and protect adults in its area who:
  - have needs for care and support (whether or not the local authority is meeting any of those needs) and;
  - are experiencing, or at risk of, abuse or neglect; and
  - as a result of those care and support needs are unable to protect themselves from either the risk of, or the experience of abuse or neglect.
7. Regular meetings have taken place between the Panel and the Safeguarding Board Chair since the Panel's more in-depth scrutiny review of safeguarding adults in 2011, which recommended regular dialogue between this Panel, the Worcestershire Safeguarding Adults Board Chair and the Director and Cabinet Member, as part of the Panel's monitoring role.

## Issues for the Panel to Consider

8. Worcestershire Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report 2020-2021 is attached at Appendix 1, and is available on the Safeguarding Worcestershire website by following this link [WSAB Annual Report 2021-22](#):
9. The Annual Report provides an overview of the activity of the Board during the year. 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. The guidance provided by the Care Act clearly sets expectations for the minimum content for Safeguarding Adults Boards (SAB) and Annual Reports (Schedule 2.4 (1) a-g).

## Safeguarding Adults Reviews (SAR)

10. This year the WSAB introduced a 12-month pilot for a rapid review process. The concept of a rapid review was introduced for Local Safeguarding Children Partnerships and locally it was found to identify learning effectively and efficiently. As a result, it was possible to agree recommendations to improve systems and share learning more quickly and there has been a positive cost benefit with a saving of approximately 50% in comparison to following the current SAR protocol for all referrals.
11. During 2021/22, 6 referrals were received by WSAB. A decision was made that the SAR criteria were met in relation to three referrals and it was agreed that the rapid review process was appropriate.
12. Two SARs were completed and signed off by the Board during the year. All the SARs which were published can be found by following this link. [Safeguarding Adults Reviews](#).
13. One joint Domestic Homicide (DHR) and SAR is still awaiting Home Office sign-off before publication can take place (approximately 12-18 month back-log due to COVID-19).

## Board Objectives

14. Objectives for 2021/22 were carried over from the previous year due to the need for Health and Care Staff to prioritise their response to Covid-19. Overall good progress was made against the objectives for the year against a background where statutory partners have continued to face significant funding pressures and increased workloads.
15. Key achievements include:
  - a) an extensive review of the Self-Neglect Policy which was relaunched in May 2023. This was undertaken in consultation with a wide range of stakeholders from across all sectors and based on the approach of no wrong door, whereby every contact is seen as an opportunity for intervention and all agencies work with the person rather than referring them elsewhere. The review clarifies the support pathway and introduces the concept of significant harm requiring a S42 enquiry. A copy of the

policy can be found by following this link [WSAB Self-Neglect and Hoarding Policy](#)

- b) Appointment of an Exploitation Coordinator to take forward work on adult exploitation.
  - c) Establishment of an Assurance Panel to provide oversight and assessment of the implementation of the recommendations of the Thematic Review into Rough Sleeping
  - d) Development of a Complex Adult Risk Management (CARM) frameworks which sets out a clear approach for multi-agency meetings when working with people with complex needs who are at risk of abuse or neglect but don't meet other social care or safeguarding criteria. Further details on this along with a copy of the CARM framework can be found by following this link [WSAB CARM Framework](#)
16. The Board also continued to develop its engagement of People with Lived Experience (PWLE) and wider stakeholders in developing all of the above work.
17. The Board has continued to seek assurance on how organisations have managed the impact of Covid-19. This has been further exasperated by the difficulties in recruiting and more recent industrial action, so continues to be a focus of the Board.

### **Activity Data**

18. Whilst activity data saw an increase in the number of concerns reported compared to the previous year (Table 4.1 page 18) a large proportion of concerns reported relate to people who have been the subject of concerns previously. (Table 4.2 page 18).

### **Conclusion**

19. The Annual Report includes details of 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.
20. Discussion of the Annual Report provides the Panel with an opportunity to verify that systems across Worcestershire, including those of the County Council, are working well to safeguard Worcestershire's vulnerable adults. Discussions also enable the Panel to keep up to date with safeguarding statistics and trends, and to explore any issues identified through serious case reviews, and also through the Panel's own scrutiny work.
21. Worcestershire Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report is also presented to the Health and Wellbeing Board.

### **Purpose of the Meeting**

22. The Panel is asked to:
- Consider and comment on the Worcestershire Safeguarding Adults Annual Report
  - understand and discuss key safeguarding statistics from the WSAB

Annual Report 2021/22

- identify any further information needs or potential areas for scrutiny.

## Supporting Information

Appendix 1 [Worcestershire Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report 2021-22](#)

## Contact Points

Bridget Brickley, Board Manager,  
Worcestershire Safeguarding Adults Board,  
Email: [BBrickley@worcestershire.gov.uk](mailto:BBrickley@worcestershire.gov.uk)

### Specific Contact Points for this report

Emma James / Jo Weston, Overview and Scrutiny Officers, Tel: 01905 844964 / 844965  
Email: [scrutiny@worcestershire.gov.uk](mailto:scrutiny@worcestershire.gov.uk)

## Background Papers

In the opinion of the proper officer (in this case the Assistant Director for Legal and Governance), the following are the background papers relating to the subject matter of this report:

- Agendas and Minutes of the Adult Care and Well-being Overview and Scrutiny Panel on 15 March 2022, 28 January 2021, 6 November 2019, 12 September 2018, 27 September 2017, 21 November 2016, 22 January and 13 October 2015 and 5 September 2013
- [Care Act 2014 Schedule 2 Safeguarding Adults Board](#)

All agendas and minutes are available here: [agendas and minutes](#)