

HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD

23 MAY 2023

WORCESTERSHIRE SAFEGAURDING ADULTS BOARD

(WSAB) ANNUAL REPORT 2021/22

Board Sponsor

Mark Fitton, Strategic Director for People

Author

Bridget Brickley, WSAB Manager

Priorities

This report is relevant to the following Joint Local Health and Wellbeing Strategy priorities:

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Prevention & inequalities | <input type="checkbox"/> Homes, Communities & Places |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mental Health & Wellbeing | <input type="checkbox"/> Jobs & Opportunities |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Healthy Living at All Ages | |

Safeguarding

This report has a direct impact on safeguarding children or adults.

Item for Decision, or Information & Assurance

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Decision | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information/assurance |
|-----------------------------------|---|

Recommendation

- 1. The Health and Wellbeing Board is asked to:**
 - a. Receive assurance that the Worcestershire Safeguarding Adults Board is meeting the requirements of the Care Act; and**
 - b. Consider any cross-cutting themes and to refer issues either directly to the WSAB or, through the next Joint Cross Cutting Issues meeting to be held between the Chairs of the four Boards.**

Executive Summary

2. Worcestershire Safeguarding Adults Board (WSAB) 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.
3. Safeguarding in Worcestershire has a dedicated website: www.safeguardingworcestershire.org.uk which includes useful information, definitions, information about who does what, newsletters, the Board structure, leaflets and WSAB

Board papers. A copy of the WSABs Annual report for 2021-22 can be found by following this link [WSAB Annual Report 2021-22](#):

4. 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

5. 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.

6. During 2021/22 6 referrals were received by WSAB. A decision was made the SAR criteria were met in relation to three referrals and it was agreed that the rapid review process was appropriate.

7. 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](#).

8. One joint Domestic Homicide review (DHR) and SAR is still awaiting Home Office sign-off before publication can take place (approx. 12-18 month back-log due to COVID19).

Board Objectives

9. 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.

10. 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, it 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](#)

11. The Board also continued to develop its engagement of People with Lived Experience and wider stakeholders in developing all of the above work.

12. 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

13. 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)

In conclusion

14. 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.

15. 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.

16. Worcestershire Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report is also presented to the Health and Wellbeing Board

Impact on health disparities

17. The work of the Worcestershire Safeguarding Adults Board is not directly focused on reducing health disparities generally or within specific groups or communities but various health and social care agencies, within the Worcestershire Partnership, work to provide better outcomes for some of the most vulnerable people in our communities.

Legal, financial and HR implications

18. Not applicable

Contact point and partnership working

Name: Bridget Brickley
Job Title: WSAB Manager
Email: bbrickley@worcestershire.gov.uk

Background Papers

19. In the opinion of the proper officer the Director for People, the following are the background papers relating to the subject matter of this report:

- [WSAB Annual Report 2021-22:](#)