

ADULT CARE AND WELL BEING OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL 20 MARCH 2024

WORCESTERSHIRE SAFEGUARDING ADULTS BOARD ANNUAL REPORT 2022/23

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, which will include the Board's Annual Report 2022/23.
2. The Annual Report includes details of contributions from each of the key partner agencies of the Board and these illustrate the work that is taking place across the County by the partner agencies to protect adults at risk from harm.
3. The Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Adult Social Care has also been invited.

Background

4. The Panel will be aware that 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.
5. 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.
6. 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.
7. 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.

8. 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 adults with care and support needs. Discussions also enable the Panel to keep up to date with safeguarding statistics and trends, and to explore any issues identified through Safeguarding Adult Reviews (SARs), and also through the Panel's own scrutiny work.
9. Worcestershire Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report is also presented to the Health and Wellbeing Board.

Worcestershire Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report 2022-2023

10. Worcestershire Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report 2022-2023 is attached at Appendix 1, and is available on the Safeguarding Worcestershire website by following this link [WSAB Annual Report 2022 - 23](#)
11. 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)

12. The WSAB has continued to develop the Rapid Review process. Adhering to the requirements of the Care Act 2014, the process ensures representation from all agencies are involved at the earliest stage, along with the person, family, and carers, where possible. This facilitates more robust decision making on whether the SAR criteria are met and ensure that the learning is shared at the earliest opportunity.
13. Ten SAR referrals were received during this year. SAR criteria was met in 3 of these referrals and two of these were undertaken through a Rapid Review and one went through the full SAR process. The remaining two were received at the end of the year.
14. Three mandatory SARs were completed and signed off by the WSAB. These were:
 - a) Alison SAR
 - b) Dorothy SAR
 - c) Ruth SAR
15. Each of these SARs can be found on the dedicated SAR webpage [WSAB Locally Published SARs and Review page](#)

Board Objectives

16. Objectives for 2022/23 included taking forward work to address Exploitation, Rough Sleeping and the Lead Professional. The WSAB also continued to take forward its communication plan and build links across the Integrated Care Board (ICB).
17. A key achievement during the year was the introduction and implementation of the Complex Adult Risk Management (CARM) Framework. This was developed in response to multiple SARs advising on the need for a lead professional where multiple organisations are involved in work with an adult who has complex needs and engagement is difficult. [Link to CARM page](#)
18. During 2022/23 there were a total of 38 referrals to CARM. Of these 16 were appropriate to progress to a CARM meeting and have safety plans in place. The remaining referrals were progressed through other pathways including, self-neglect, adult safeguarding and for social care assessments. Issues sought to be addressed included access to mental health services, domestic abuse, homelessness and risk of eviction, substance misuse, the long-term management and support of self-neglect or hoarding. Improvements identified through a review of the framework include:
 - Improved networking and engagement of organisations best placed to provide support to the person.
 - Evictions have been delayed whilst further work is progressed thereby reducing potential homelessness / further mental health breakdown.
 - Alternative ways of working are identified rather than fixed procedures eg early/late appts to reduce anxiety / trigger points.
 - Risk is agreed and shared between agencies.
 - Practitioners are using CARM as part of their toolkit of response to complex cases.
 - Information gathering for DHR35/SAR has identified that agencies were communicating and there was a Lead Practitioner in place due to the CARM framework.
 - Reduction in 'revolving' door referrals.
 - Continuity and consistency for adults
19. Other achievements during the year include:
 - a) Development of Assurance Panels to bring more rigor and transparency in ensuring that the recommendations from SARs are implemented. The first of these panels oversaw the implementation of the recommendations from the Thematic SAR into the death of Rough Sleepers. Other panels are looking at Carers and the Dorothy SAR.
 - b) Provided challenge on the recommissioning of the Homelessness service overseen by Worcester City Council, via the Cardon Banfield foundation.
 - c) Taking forward the updated Self-Neglect and Hoarding policy, which was produced collaboratively with a range of stakeholders and is based on the approach of no wrong door. The updated Policy clarifies the support pathway and introduces the concept of significant harm requiring a S42 enquiry. A copy of the policy can be found here: [WSAB Self-neglect policy Link](#)

- d) A joint policy framework with Herefordshire (to cover the ICB area)
- e) Introduction and implementation of a comprehensive communication plan, of which notable actions include:
 - i. the development of podcasts addressing areas identified through SARs
 - ii. WSAB Website Local Learning Resources Page
 - iii. successful safeguarding week with virtual sessions and a joint learning event
 - iv. the sharing of themed SAR learning Briefings
 - v. awareness raising campaign on the CARM Framework and Self-Neglect and Hoarding Policy.
 - vi. Redesign of the WSAB website in collaboration with carers, people with lived experience and practitioners

Activity Data

20. The number of concerns reported during this business year (Table 4.1 of the Annual report) saw a slight decrease on the previous year, which saw a significant increase. Of those concerns raised there was a 10% increase of concerns raised which meet section 42 criteria. Further data information can be found in section 4 of the Annual Report (page 19 onwards).

Purpose of the Meeting

21. 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 2022/23
 - identify any further information needs or potential areas for scrutiny.

Supporting Information

Appendix 1 [Worcestershire Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report 2022-23](#)

Contact Points

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Specific Contact Points for this report

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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 24 March 2023, 15 March 2022, 28 January 2021
- Care Act 2014 Schedule 2 Safeguarding Adults Board

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