

HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

9 FEBRUARY 2016

WSAB Annual Report – 2014-15

Board Sponsor

Richard Harling, 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

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 Board 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 2014-15. 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 activity data indicates that Worcestershire continues to perform strongly in alerting concerns of adult abuse when compared to other areas of England. This reflects an awareness of the alert process across the County.
4. Protection planning was also an area of high activity. Cases that met the threshold to go forward as a referral were subject to an assessment for protection planning. The plan provides a means to reduce the risk to the alleged victim whilst the safeguarding process is continuing.
5. Neglect was the highest reported type of primary abuse followed by physical and financial abuse, in that order. These abuse types are usually the most highly

reported because the signs are more visible. Self-neglect is to be included in the abuse type categories from April 2015 onwards.

6. The safeguarding processes operating in 2014-15 ceased in April 2015 with the introduction of the new Care Act (2014). The report therefore represents activity under policy and procedures that were due to come to an end.

7. The report provides details of the developments taking place to prepare the Board for the introduction of the Care Act (2014). A new Chair of the Board, Kathy McAteer was appointed. Kathy developed new Board strategy with the involvement of the community. The priorities for 2015/16 against the strategy are set out in the report.

8. During the period covered, a judgement by the Supreme Court impacted on the number of cases being referred to the Council (as the Supervisory Body) under the Mental Capacity Act (2005), Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards (DoLS). The number of cases went up to approximately 50 cases per week putting severe pressure on the system. The Council introduced a process of risk assessment for the referrals in order to manage the scale of demand. The demand is continuing to be assessed and managed in this way.

9. 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

10. Not applicable

Privacy Impact Assessment

11. Not applicable

Equality and Diversity Implications

12. The report contains references to the demographic of the County and cross references safeguarding activity to the demographic. The outcomes show there is an under-representation of BME citizens being referred for safeguarding protective arrangements. This trend will be further analysed during 2015/16 with more targeted information for these groups.

13. The Board will be assessing progress towards the target of Making Safeguarding Personal, this is a key part of the Care Act (2014). The aim is to put the person at risk at the centre of the process. The report indicates that practitioners currently have a level of understanding on how to include the person in safeguarding decision making which is encouraging for the future. The board intends to build upon this knowledge base to meet the aspirations of making safeguarding personal.

Supporting Information

14. Worcestershire Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report 2014/15

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