

Health and Wellbeing Board

19th November 2014

Warwickshire Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report 2013-14

Recommendation(s)

1. That the Health and Wellbeing Board consider and comment on the WSAB Annual Report 2013-14, which is attached.

1.0 Key Issues

- The report provides evidence of multi-agency partnership working in practice across Warwickshire to help protect vulnerable adults who are experiencing or at risk of abuse and neglect. Examples include the 2012-15 Strategy and Business Plan, 7 WSAB Sub Committees, and dedicated sections reporting progress and achievements from across the partnership.
- Safeguarding activity continues to increase year on year in line with national trends. 2,307 alerts were received in the report period, an increase of 17% from 2012-13.
- Referrals are received from a wide range of sources, which is very positive and indicative of the impact of training programmes and key messages now being heard regarding adult safeguarding.
- The most prevalent forms of abuse recorded related to financial (33%) and physical (28%), with emotional abuse at (17%). Older people are more likely to experience abuse than younger adults, with women more likely to be victims, but abuse is evidenced across the whole age range from 18 years upwards.
- In line with national trends and accepted research most perpetrators of adult abuse are family members, and most abuse occurs in the home, not care homes or hospitals as the media tend to indicate.
- The Care Act 2014 will introduce new legal powers for adult safeguarding that will include placing safeguarding adults boards (SAB's) on a statutory footing, requirement to conduct serious case reviews under certain criteria, and the power for local authorities to 'require' a partner agency to supply information in order to discharge it's duties. The production of annual strategic plans and SAB annual reports will also become a legal requirement from April 2015.

2.0 Options and Proposal

In light of the statutory requirements of The Care Act 2014 relating to Safeguarding Adults Boards, it is proposed that Warwickshire Safeguarding Adults Board develop a governance structure which includes reporting to the Health and Wellbeing Board from April 2015. This will be contained in the Board's Strategic Plan which will be submitted to the Health and Wellbeing Board.

3.0 Timescales associated with the decision and next steps

The governance structure of Warwickshire Safeguarding Adults Board is currently being reviewed and needs to be fully implemented prior to April 2015. This will result in revised membership of the Board and its working relationship with the local authority, which has lead responsibility for safeguarding, and with other partner agencies. Responsibility for delivery will now rest with the Independent Chair of the Board accountable to the County Council Chief Executive.

Background papers

None

	Name	Contact Information
Report Author	Wendy Fabbro	wendyfabbro@warwickshire.gov.uk 01926 412665
Head of Service	Marie Seaton	01926 742123
Strategic Director	Wendy Fabbro	01926 412665
Portfolio Holder	Cllr Jose Compton	01926 402936