

Health and Wellbeing Board

20 January 2016

Warwickshire Safeguarding Adults Board – Annual Report 2014-15

1. Recommendations

- 1.1 The Committee is asked to note the Annual Report 2014-15 of the Safeguarding Adults Board (SAB)
- 1.2 The Committee acknowledges that there have been no Serious Case Reviews (Safeguarding Adult Reviews) commissioned during the period covered by this Report
- 1.3 The Committee endorses the multi-agency commitment to Making Safeguarding Personal which will be a key component of the Board's Strategic Plan and performance reporting for 2016 and beyond.

2. Context

- 2.1 Under the Care Act 2014, the Safeguarding Adults Board is required to publish an Annual Report detailing what it has done during the year to achieve its main objective and implement its strategic plan.
- 2.2 This Report covers the period 2014-15 which has to be viewed as transitional as it overlaps pre and post Care Act Guidance being issued by the Department of Health in October 2014 and the implementation of the Care Act on April 1st 2015.

3. Key Issues

- 3.1 As referenced above this was a period of major change in dealing with the implementation of the Care Act 2014. This far-reaching legislation confirmed the SAB as a statutory requirement, established by the local authority with the Chief of Police and the CCG's as defined members. Much work was done to redefine the Board membership and produce

an agreed constitution endorsed by all agencies. The Board also produced its first Strategic Plan 2015-2018 which is currently being reviewed.

- 3.1.1 The profile of the Sub-Committees of the Board was revised to reflect the Care Act changes and to ensure effective multi-agency delivery of the Board's objectives. The Report details the work of each of these groups and reflects high commitment and productivity from all those engaged. Of particular note is the completion and adoption by all 14 local authorities. of West Midlands Adult Safeguarding Policy and Procedures. The contribution by Warwickshire to the drafting and editing of these was substantial.
- 3.2 Activity and Performance Measurement. The Safeguarding Adults Return detailed in Appendix 4 shows only minor variation from figures in previous years with many changes being as a result of classification amendments to make the figures more safeguarding specific. These figures are still markedly activity rather than outcome focussed and a challenge for all SAB's is to discover more about the individual experiences of safeguarding and understand the benefits gained from our services. All this ties in with making Safeguarding Personal – supporting and empowering people at risk of harm and anti-social behaviour to resolve the circumstances which caused this and be in control of decisions in their lives.
- 3.3 Mental Capacity Act(MCA)/Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards(DoLS). The March 2014 Supreme Court Judgement (Cheshire West case) had a huge impact upon this service across the country. In Warwickshire there was an increase in active cases from 89 in 2013/14 to 713 in 2014/15. The SAB has monitored the response to this higher demand and endorsed the priority criteria being applied to generate a waiting list for assessment and for review. The government has now expedited the Law Commission review of the legislation and we have contributed to consultation on this.
- 3.4 Governance. A Governance Group has responsibility for the management of the SAB Budget, monitoring delivery of the Strategic Plan and the integration of the work of the Sub-Committees. The Board has operated within its allocated budget and operated effectively throughout the year.

4. Conclusion

- 4.1 The work of the multi-agency Safeguarding Adults Board is dependent upon the commitment of time and effort of the services engaged with it.

Its image and productivity relies on the enthusiasm of all involved to deliver consistent and high quality services to the most vulnerable and those at risk of abuse. The task of an Independent Chair in co-ordinating this is complex but made all the easier in Warwickshire by the constructive dialogue in meetings being followed through by those leading to deliver effective outcomes. This Annual Report reflects a great deal of investment by all agencies to ensure the safety and wellbeing of Warwickshire residents across service settings.

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