

Health and Wellbeing Board

12th January 2022

Warwickshire Safeguarding Annual Report 2020-2021

Recommendation

1. The Health and Wellbeing Board receive the 2020-2021 Annual Report for Warwickshire Safeguarding and note the work that has been progressed by the partners during the course of the year.

1.0 Key Issues

- 1.1 Warwickshire Safeguarding is required to produce and publish an annual report in accordance with the statutory requirements governing its establishment i.e. The Care Act 2014 (Adults) and Working Together 2018 (Children).
- 1.2 The partnership is required to share its annual report with the following offices, including its members and wider public:
 - Leader of the Local Authority and the Chief Executive, reflecting the fact that they are responsible for establishing the Boards
 - Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner
 - Clinical Commissioning Groups
 - The Chair of the Local Health and Wellbeing Board
 - The Local Healthwatch

2.0 Options and Proposal

- 2.1 The annual report provides a high-level overview of key performance data in relation to safeguarding children, young people and adults, details of work undertaken against each of the strategic priorities; and learning and improvement work conducted throughout the year.
- 2.2 In September 2019 Warwickshire Safeguarding implemented its new local partnership arrangements to oversee the safeguarding of children and adults and agreed a new strategic plan setting out its strategic priorities which centred around:
 - Effective Safeguarding
 - Prevention and Early Intervention

- Exploitation

Along with the rest of the country the partnership was faced with the challenges presented by the implications brought about by Covid-19, which effectively resulted in having to adapt the way in which the partnership continued to operate and execute its statutory functions, whilst still evolving as a new joint partnership.

It is credit to the partners who have remained committed to their role within the partnership that has enabled statutory duties of the partnership to be effectively delivered. This should be acknowledged.

- 2.3 Throughout the period covered by this report the partnership continued to meet, albeit through virtual platforms, to scrutinise, discuss, challenge safeguarding practices across the county. The Executive Board has continued to meet on a monthly basis to discharge its statutory duties by overseeing, reviewing and agreeing the coordination of local work to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and adults across Warwickshire.

The two Safeguarding Partnership Groups (children and adults) have contributed to the partnership's assurance work through thematic reviews and safeguarding reviews for children and adults.

The Subgroups have continued to develop and execute their respective workplans which have enabled the development and publication of the new partnership Exploitation Strategy and allowed Safeguarding Adults Reviews and Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews to be considered and published.

The Education Subgroup meetings have continued to provide opportunities to liaise with education settings to ensure the impact of Covid-19 lockdown is fully considered in the interest of the most vulnerable children and young people across the county. Joint messaging with the Assistant Director of Education has enabled direct learning from reviews to be shared with the education sector immediately.

- 2.4 Throughout 2020-2021 the partnership continued to receive a significant number of referrals for consideration of cases to be reviewed relating to both child and adult specific cases:

Total number of referrals for review received 2020 - 2021:

- Children = **13** CSPR referrals
- Adult = **7** SAR referrals

Total number of referrals progressed to Review 2020 - 2021:

- Children = **7** CSPR referrals were put forward for progression to formal CSPR review
- Adult = **6** SAR referrals were put forward for progression to formal SAR review / reflective learning review / thematic review

The majority of these referrals were processed under the new Rapid Review arrangements introduced under Working Together 2018, requiring partnerships to undertake initial scoping of cases and determine whether a case meets the statutory criteria for a national or local review within 15 working days.

The Safeguarding Reviews Subgroup's membership has worked very hard to achieve this timeframe for all its referrals and ensured all decisions reached are based on evidence of information scrutinised/challenged. Partner agencies have remained dedicated and ensured safeguarding has remained a priority area of work throughout the pandemic period and have committed resources to support this work.

The Business Team has continued to work with partners to ensure key messages and learning emerging from the reviews work is developed and effectively communicated across the wider partnership through the production of Lessons Learned Briefings, 7 Minute Briefings and News Bulletins.

During the pandemic period the Business Team have been able to maximise the opportunity to deliver multi-agency workshops using the virtual platforms to reach a greater audience. These have been well received and provided valuable feedback to support further development of on-line learning events for targeted audiences.

- 2.5 The level of safeguarding concerns and contacts received at the front door via the MASH or Adults Safeguarding Team has seen a reduction during this period and this can potentially be attributed to the impact of the pandemic and lockdown conditions imposed across the country.

Whilst the introduction of the new Multi-Agency Contact Form in respect of children's safeguarding has enabled greater discussion at an earlier stage, to agree the required course of action and clearer signposting for support, there is a notable decrease in the number of contacts received during 2020-2021 and this is understood to have been impacted by the closure of schools.

Partner agencies have continued to support individuals at risk of abuse or neglect throughout the pandemic and have had to adapt their conventional methods of engagement using on-line platforms to maintain contact and oversight.

3.0 Timescales associated with the decision and next steps

- 3.1 The Annual Report has been published on Warwickshire Safeguarding's website and distributed amongst partner organisations for wider circulation.

Background papers

1. Warwickshire Safeguarding Annual Report 2020-2021

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