

# Health and Wellbeing Board

10 January 2024

## Warwickshire Safeguarding Annual Report 2023-2024

### Recommendation

That the Health and Wellbeing Board:

1. Receive the 2023-2024 Annual Report for Warwickshire Safeguarding in accordance with the requirements of The Care Act 2014; and
2. Note the work that has been progressed by the partners during the course of the year and the changes proposed for the safeguarding partnership moving forward.

### 1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 This year's annual report provides a comprehensive overview of the multi-agency safeguarding activity undertaken by the partnership to safeguard and promote the welfare of Warwickshire's children, young people and adults with care and support needs during the course of 2023-2024.
- 1.2 2023-2024 saw a continued focus on exploitation with the development of new tools to support Warwickshire's response to missing children, a focus on home invasion, and a look at modern slavery amongst adults. The introduction of the new VARM process (Vulnerable Adult Risk Management) has helped create a framework for partners to facilitate the management of cases with adults experiencing an unmanageable level of risk, unrelated to abuse or neglect by a third party, but which could lead to imminent serious harm, death or injury.
- 1.3 A focused partnership wide event around the theme of 'Tackling Online Social Influences' allowed partners to address key influences impacting safeguarding with particular focus on 'Responding to youth produced sexual imagery', 'Reframing masculinity in society for young men and boys', 'Abuse via modern day technology and impact misogynistic online influences' and 'Understanding the world of hackers, fraudsters and online scammers'. The event provided rich learning to incorporate into the partnership's work.
- 1.4 During the year, a considerable amount of time was spent working closely with the Safeguarding Leaders to plan how Warwickshire could achieve compliance with the Government's revised document 'Working Together to Safeguard Children 2023 and build on the progress of the last 6 years.

Warwickshire was appointed a pathfinder authority for Children First. This opportunity inevitably required some changes to the way the Partnership operated, not least the separation of the safeguarding boards for adults and children. Moving forward into 2024-2025 Warwickshire Safeguarding Partnership has remained totally committed to its shared purpose of working together to support and safeguard children, young people and adults with care and support needs and will continue to retain existing opportunities to support joint working under the governance of the new partnership boards.

## 2. Timescales associated with the decision and next steps

2.1 The Warwickshire Safeguarding Annual Report for 2023-2024 was published on 03/12/2024.

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