

Health and Wellbeing Board

15th September 2020

Warwickshire Safeguarding 2019-2020 Annual Report

Recommendation

It is recommended that:

1. The Health and Wellbeing Board receive the 2019-2020 Annual Report for Warwickshire Safeguarding and note the progress the partnership has made against its strategic priorities 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 During the course of 2019-2020 the partnership finalised its new governance structure and constitution to enable it to transition into Warwickshire Safeguarding. The new strategic partnership infrastructure to safeguard children, young people and adults came into effect 29 September 2020 with a

newly agreed strategic plan setting out its priorities for 2019-2021 which centre around the following:

- Effective Safeguarding
- Prevention and Early Intervention
- Exploitation

2.3 Since September 2019 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 newly formed subgroups responsible for the management and oversight of safeguarding reviews and the exploitation of children and adults have put in place new terms of reference for each of their subgroups and continued to develop and execute their respective workplans.

The Education Subgroup meetings have continued to provide opportunities for wider engagement with schools and educational settings to improve understanding and awareness of the new ways of working introduced by Warwickshire Safeguarding; and engage them in the development and delivery of the partnership's strategic priorities.

2.4 A new Quality Assurance Framework has been developed and implemented to support the partnership fulfil its statutory responsibility to seek assurance on the effectiveness of safeguarding practices from across its partner agencies.

The 'Exploitation of Children and Adults' was the focus of Warwickshire Safeguarding's new strategic thematic review which sought assurance from a selection of partner agencies on their compliance with Warwickshire's safeguarding policy and procedures, the delivery of safeguarding training; and effective engagement of service users in decision making (children, young people, adults and families). Evidence of the above was gathered through the completion of single agency self-evaluations, on-line surveys with staff, conversations with professionals and service users.

This information was used to formulate an overarching multi-agency action plan for the partnership which has now formed part of the Exploitation Subgroup's workplan. A comprehensive report detailing the findings of this strategic thematic review has been published to support wider understanding and awareness of exploitation across the county.

2.5 Warwickshire Safeguarding has also introduced new and improved opportunities for sharing learning from Children's Safeguarding Practice

Reviews (formerly known as Serious Case Reviews) and Safeguarding Adults Reviews.

The development of 7 Minute Briefings enables the partnership to place the spotlight on specific areas of safeguarding practice to promote awareness and understanding of policy, procedure and application. Lessons Learned Briefings provide a snapshot overview of case specific details with key points of learning for both professionals working with children and adults, and the community at large.

These new resources have been welcomed by the partnership and are actively being used to support single-agency learning and development and service improvements.

- 2.6 The partnership has seen a significant increase in the number of safeguarding referrals being submitted for review of cases where the child or adult has experienced/or is suspected to have suffered abuse or neglect.

Warwickshire Safeguarding has now streamlined its processes to provide a consistent approach for the scoping of safeguarding review referrals for both children and adults, in line with Working Together 2018. This enables the partnership to swiftly gather information from partner agencies to undertake a Rapid Review of the case of the child or adult, review the involvement and role of each partner agency; and identify any key learning which can be shared across the wider partnership to help prevent similar occurrences in future cases. Provided below are total numbers of referrals and rapid reviews conducted:

- **No. of referrals received = 21** (11 Adult cases, 10 Children's cases)
- **No. of Rapid Reviews conducted = 14** (8 Adult cases, 6 Children's cases)
- **No. of referrals progressing to full review = 4** (1 Adult case, 2 Children's cases and 1 joint adult and child case)

3.0 Timescales associated with the decision and next steps

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

Background papers

1. Warwickshire Safeguarding Annual Report 2019-2020

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