

CITY OF  
WOLVERHAMPTON  
COUNCIL

# Adults and Safer City Scrutiny Panel

19 October 2021

**Time** 6.00 pm **Public Meeting?** YES **Type of meeting** Scrutiny

**Venue** Council Chamber

## Membership

**Chair** Cllr Val Evans (Lab)  
**Vice-chair** Cllr Sohail Khan (Con)

### Labour

Cllr Qaiser Azeem  
Cllr Olivia Birch  
Cllr Rashpal Kaur  
Cllr Rupinderjit Kaur  
Cllr Lynne Moran  
Cllr Anwen Muston  
Cllr Jacqueline Sweetman

### Conservative

Cllr Simon Bennett  
Cllr Stephanie Haynes

### Independent

Cllr Harman Banger

Quorum for this meeting is three Councillors.

## Information for the Public

If you have any queries about this meeting, please contact the Democratic Services team:

**Contact** Earl Piggott Smith  
**Tel/Email** 01902 551251 email: [earl.piggott-smith@wolverhampton.gov.uk](mailto:earl.piggott-smith@wolverhampton.gov.uk)  
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Wolverhampton WV1 1RL

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# Agenda

## Part 1 – items open to the press and public

- | <i>Item No.</i> | <i>Title</i>   |
|-----------------|--|
| 1               | <b>Welcome and Introductions</b><br>[The Chair to welcome everyone to the meeting]   |
| 2               | <b>Meeting procedures to be followed</b><br>[The Chair will explain how the meeting will proceed, how questions are to be asked and any matters of meeting etiquette.] |

### BUSINESS ITEMS

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 3 | <b>Apologies</b>  |
| 4 | <b>Declarations of Interest</b>   |
| 5 | <b>Minutes of previous meeting ( 20 July 2021)</b> (Pages 3 - 12)<br>[To approve the minutes of the previous meeting as a correct record] |

### DISCUSSION ITEMS

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 6 | <b>Safer Wolverhampton Partnership Board - update</b> (Pages 13 - 34)<br>[Hannah Pawley, Community Safety Manager and Superintendent Simon Inglis, WMP, to present report] |
| 7 | <b>Mandatory Vaccinations for Social Care Homes - update presentation</b> (Pages 35 - 52)<br>[Becky Wilkinson, Deputy Director Adult Services, to present briefing]        |
| 8 | <b>Adults and Safer City Scrutiny Panel 2021- 2022 Draft Work Programme</b> (Pages 53 - 62)<br>[Earl Piggott-Smith, Scrutiny Officer, to present report]                   |

# Adults and Safer City Scrutiny Panel

Agenda Item No: 5

## Minutes - 20 July 2021

### Attendance

#### Members of the Adults and Safer City Scrutiny Panel

Cllr Qaiser Azeem  
Cllr Harman Banger  
Cllr Simon Bennett  
Cllr Olivia Birch  
Cllr Val Evans (Chair)  
Cllr Stephanie Haynes  
Cllr Rashpal Kaur  
Cllr Sohail Khan (Vice-Chair)  
Cllr Lynne Moran  
Cllr Anwen Muston  
Cllr Jacqueline Sweetman

#### Members of Adults and Safer City Scrutiny Panel that attended via Teams

Cllr Rashpal Kaur  
Cllr Jacqueline Sweetman  
Cllr Harman Banger  
Cllr Qaiser Azeem

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## Part 1 – items open to the press and public

*Item No.*      *Title*

- 1      **Welcome and Introductions**  
Cllr Val Evans, Chair, welcomed everyone to the meeting and advised it was being live streamed to the press and public. Cllr Evans advised that she was not expecting any exempt or restricted items on the agenda. A recording of the meeting would be available for viewing on the Council's website at a future date.
- 2      **Meeting procedures to be followed**  
Cllr Evans explained the protocol to be followed during the meeting for asking questions and reminded everyone that microphones should be muted and cameras off, unless they have been invited to speak.
- 3      **Apologies**  
Apologies were received from the following members of the panel:
  - Councillor Rupinderjit Kaur
  - Councillor Rashpal Kaur

4      **Declarations of Interest**

Cllr Anwen Muston declared a non-pecuniary interest in agenda item 7 as a relative receives personal care arranged by the local authority.

5      **Minutes of previous meeting**

The panel members voted and approved the minutes of the meeting held on 16 March 2021 as being a correct record.

6      **Principal Social Worker Annual Report 2020 - 2021**

The Chair invited Jennifer Rogers, Principal Social Worker, to present her report to the panel. The Principal Social Worker (PSW) advised the panel that the 2020 -21 annual report sets out the progress made during the year and key priorities identified for 2021-2022. The report details the work of the PSW in improving the quality of social work practice across both children's and adult's services.

The PSW commented that a key area of work has been the response of the service to the Covid-19 pandemic and maintaining the safety and wellbeing of social workers. The PSW advised the panel that new policies were developed in response to the pandemic.

The PSW was responsible for leading the Council's response to Care Act easements, which allowed adult social care providers to re-prioritise their resources if there was a spike in demand for lower priority needs and if met would mean the Council being unable to meet their statutory duties.

The panel were advised that local guidance was drafted after a short public consultation which had positive responses, including an easy read version, however it was not necessary to implement to any changes to the process.

The PSW advised the panel that she supported social work teams to consider legal and human rights challenges for people living in care home and the need to reduce the risk of infection by restricting visits by their carers and relatives.

A key role of the PSW is ensuring the quality of social work practice and support continual learning and improvement of social workers. The PSW led on quality assurance activity in adults during 2020-2021. The percentage of audited case files rated as 'good' or above decreased slightly from 83 percent (2019-2020) to 78 percent (2020-2021). The reduction in quality may have been due to the early impact of the pandemic as social workers adjusted to different ways of working.

The PSW advised the panel the situation has since improved and in January 2021, 90 percent of case files were rated as being 'good' or 'outstanding' as result of changes in social work practice. The PSW advised the panel of the findings from an external peer review challenge of social work practice completed in October 2020. The case files examined during the review were consistently rated as 'good' and there were no causes for concern.

The PSW commented on the work done to develop and deliver the recruitment and retention plan with colleagues in Human Resources, Organisations Development and Communications Team. The PSW outlined a range of other initiatives aimed at supporting the current and future workforce and to further embed good practice.

The Chair invited the panel to comment on the report.



The panel thanked the PSW for the report, which was well presented, and covered progress made during the year in response to the challenges, particularly the pandemic.

The panel queried reasoning for the conclusions about the quality of social work practice based on sample of 80 cases which represents about two percent of people who received a service from adult social care.

The PSW accepted that the number of case files audited included is low compared to previous years and added that in a normal year about five percent of cases would be audited. The PSW explained that impact of Covid 19 has limited some of the planned audit activities during the first part of year.

The PSW reassured the panel that the number of cases audited is expected to increase for the rest of the year and there are other changes planned to get a more accurate picture of the quality of social work practice.

The panel queried the individual case workload of social workers and asked for explanation in future reports of the term 'strength based' social work practice. The PSW accepted the point about the term and agreed to give an explanation in future reports to the panel. The PSW reassured the panel that social worker case workloads are closely monitored to check that they are manageable, while accepting that this is a constant challenge in managing demand for support with the resources available.

The PSW advised the panel that members of the independent children's review team have been invited to meet with social workers to give feedback on what they think is working and not working and share this learning. The information will help to shape future recommendations for the service.

Emma Bennett, Director of Children and Adults, added that there is a major independent review ongoing on the recruitment programme for social workers. The findings will be published in 2022 and will comment on the balance between early intervention and the number of child protection investigations.

The Director commented on the contributions of the PSW to the review. The Director advised the panel that she currently chairs the West Midlands DCS network and a small group of members meet regularly with the lead reviewer working in Wolverhampton and the PSW also contributes to the discussion about how current system works.

The panel welcomed the different routes to becoming a social worker and the support for people with different life experiences to join the profession in recognition of the national shortage.

The panel queried if the PSW had any concerns about the extent to which she can meet the responsibilities of the role as detailed in the report and also if the appointment of a deputy would make the workload more manageable, if it was an issue. The PSW accepted the demanding workload of the role but this reflected the importance of the role in helping to drive improvements in social work practice in both children's and adults. The PSW also highlighted the quality of support offered by her team in helping to manage the workload.

The panel queried how social workers currently working remotely who may be concerned about a possible return to the office, would be supported.

The PSW commented that as the country moves into a different phase of response to the pandemic working arrangements may change. There is an acceptance of the limits of remote work for social workers, which is traditionally based on face to face meetings.

The PSW commented on the difficulty some social workers have experienced from home working and who were keen to work directly with people. However, the experience of the response to the pandemic has highlighted how well social workers can adapt to changes in working practices and the service has learned valuable lessons about what things can be done successfully remotely.

The PSW highlighted the benefits of remote working such as reduced travelling time, getting better and attendance and conversations at virtual team meetings. The PSW added that if there are social workers concerned about a return to the office setting then work will done to develop guidance and provide the level of support needed. The PSW reassured the panel that there would be no rush to make changes and social workers would be consulted about any planned changes to the current working arrangements.

The Chair thanked the presenter for the report and invited panel members to ask question

The panel welcomed the report and the focus on offering different career opportunities for both young people and mature students to become social workers. The panel welcomed the opportunity for people to gain skills and knowledge through workplace learning.

The panel queried the feedback from the survey which reported similar levels of satisfaction with learning opportunities from social workers in children's and adults and wanted further details.

The panel also queried what further work is done to increase the levels of satisfaction in the future.

The PSW commented on the range of career and learning opportunities available to social workers and the encouragement and support offered. The PSW commented on the specific learning and development offer to new and aspiring managers and the work being done to include this work as part of the professional conversations and supervision sessions. The work is being done in recognition of the challenge when social workers or senior social workers want to move into a management role.

The PSW commented on the work being done to listen to and respond to what social work staff say about what they need to help their learning and development and to offer more practice based sessions, for example training in preparation for changes to Liberty Protection Safeguards which is due to be introduced on 2022.

Resolved:

The panel agreed to endorse the report of the Principal Social Worker and the priorities identified for 2021-2022.

- 7 **Mandatory Vaccinations for Social Care Homes**  
Emma Bennett, Director of Children's and Adult Services, introduced the report to the panel on behalf of Becky Wilkinson, Deputy Director Adult Services, who had submitted apologies for the meeting.

The Director outlined the progress from earlier consultation on Government proposals to make it mandatory for care home staff, volunteers, ancillary and visiting professionals to receive the COVID vaccination. The consultation was done between April and May 2021 and included staff, residents, providers and families.

The Director advised the panel that following the consultation the Government announced that the proposal would be implemented. The proposal was approved in Parliament last week and will be considered by the House of Lords. If the proposal is approved, it will be implemented in October 2021.

The Director advised that any worker entering a care home will need to have received double vaccination and the Government are also considering extending the mandatory vaccines rule to include the flu vaccination.

The Director updated the panel on the current vaccine situation in Wolverhampton care homes.

The Director advised that the number of care home staff who have refused to be vaccinated has reduced from 500 to 310 since the report was published. The number of care home residents who have been vaccinated has increased to about 94 percent. It is estimated that 85 percent of care home staff have now been double vaccinated. The Director advised the panel that it is unlikely that the percentage of residents vaccinated will increase any further, this may be due to a small cohort of residents either refusing or who have a medical exemption.

The service is working with those care homes where they have less than 100% staff vaccination rate.

The Director briefed the panel on the most common reasons given for 'outright refusals' when asked, for example concerns about the impact of the vaccine on fertility. There is work being done to better understand the concerns of people in the group who are not medically exempt, and focus efforts on persuading them about the safety of the vaccine.

The Director briefed the panel on the potential impact on the Council and the care market of the proposed changes. The Director highlighted the risk that the change will reduce the supply of care workers at the time when the sector is recovering from the impact of the pandemic and shortage of workers in retail and hospitality services. This development has led to care workers moving away from the sector as lockdown measures ease attracted by higher wages. The Director also highlighted the increased costs for the sector as fewer people are working in the sector, which has led to an increase in the hourly rate and agency costs. These changes will increase costs for the Council and the fees paid by residents if there are fewer permanent staff in the market and the greater use of agency staff.

The Director briefed the panel about the work being done across the Council and with the care home sector on vaccination plans for other professional groups that will be visiting care homes, such as therapists who will also need to double vaccinated to work in these settings.

The Director commented on the possible lengthy HR and legal processes that will have to be followed for managing care home staff who refuse to be vaccinated. The Director briefed the panel on the range of work being done to prepare for the changes.

A project team has been created and has representation from colleagues in public health, adult services, HR and legal services. The Director advised the panel that some dedicated support has been given to care home providers where there is a low vaccine uptake. This work has been supported by the offer of site visits to care homes from quality and safety nurse who will be available to speak care staff about their concerns.

The Director advised the panel that the care home providers have been asked to review their continuity and contingency arrangements in preparation for the change and to include having a risk assessment plan for unvaccinated care staff.

The panel discussed the timeline for the new arrangements and when care staff would need to have had their first vaccination asap in order to have their second jab in time to meet the October deadline. The Director advised the panel that the Council is working closely with the trade union representatives to discuss the implications of the change and to encourage affected staff to get vaccinated.

The Chair thanked the presenter for the report and invited panel members for comments and questions.

The panel queried the process for identifying those care staff who have and who not yet been vaccinated and what proof, if any, would they need to provide to confirm this.

The Director advised the panel that the checking the vaccine status of a care worker would be based on partly on conversations and information collected via the Government's national capacity tracker. The information includes details about vaccination rates, which can be used to have further conversations with the care home providers if there are concerns about care staff vaccination rates.

The panel queried if vaccinated care staff working alongside unvaccinated care staff was creating any issue. The Director responded that she was not aware of any issues and the expectation is that this would hopefully be picked up through HR processes the closer to the date when new changes are made.

The panel discussed the issue of respecting the choices of care staff who do want to be vaccinated and the need to protect care home residents from risk.

The panel queried the testing arrangements for care home staff. The Director reassured the panel that testing for Covid 19 is done regularly – care home staff undertake daily lateral flow tests and a weekly PCR test. At present an estimated 15 per cent of care staff are unvaccinated who are either refusing the vaccine or who have a medical exemption.

The panel proposed that the current figure of 310 people who are refusing a vaccine as a benchmark against which progress can be assessed and the also how well current efforts to persuade staff are working. The panel requested a rolling monthly update on the numbers.

The Director advised that the panel that there was a plan to provide an update to the panel at the end of August 2021 on progress.

The panel queried the vaccine update figures, and specifically the 69 per cent of home care staff who have vaccinated and if this also included care staff from other commissioned care providers. The Director confirmed that this figure includes both groups of care workers.

The panel expressed concern about the lack of information about the planned changes for people receiving home care and queried if the communication plan also covered people in this situation and not just home care providers.

The Director responded that mandatory Covid 19 vaccinations for the wider care sector will be part of future Government plans. The plan will include a consultation on mandatory flu vaccine for care sector workers. The service will continue to encourage all care staff working with vulnerable people to get vaccinated.

The panel queried current data on how many elderly people in need of care and the number of care homes that would be needed in the future to meet expected demand. The panel also queried how this figure compares to the number of people who are cared for at home.

The Director responded that over the last over the last 18 months there has the been a reduction in the number of people moving into residential care settings. The care home sector has experienced a high proportion of deaths among the elderly population as a result of Covid – 19. The specific figures were not currently available. The Director agreed to investigate the impact matter further and report the findings to a future meeting.

The panel expressed concerns about local reports of increasing numbers of people being taken out of residential care homes to receive care at home and the likely impact on the need for more health and social care sector workers to support them.

The panel discussed the risks to residents contracting Covid 19 when care workers are moving between different homes to support people in the community. The panel commented on the importance of care workers being vaccinated to protect vulnerable people in such circumstances and wanted reassurance the lessons from the past had been learnt.

The panel acknowledged the important and valuable work of care home staff particularly during the pandemic. The panel expressed concern that with areas of employment such as hospitality experiencing severe job shortages that current care home staff may choose to move to in response to the requirement to be vaccinated, which may lead to future workforce challenges.

The Director accepted the risk of current staff leaving and explained that the approach taken by the service has been to work closely with the care home sector to support people who have concerns.

To support this work, a tender for an occupational health professional is being prepared which will offer an extra source of support to care home providers. The Director added that there are also discussions between the local university and health colleagues around giving people the skills needed and developing a succession plan.

The panel discussed the issue of low pay and working conditions of care home staff and the link to possible reasons for their reluctance to be vaccinated.

The Director acknowledged the concerns of the panel and offered reassurance that in view of this the service is seeking to persuade care home staff to choose to accept the offer to be vaccinated.

The panel thanked the Director for the presentation.

Resolved:

1. The panel agreed to note the actions and progress made in the presentation to prepare for a planned introduction by Government for the mandatory vaccination of care home staff in October 2021.
2. The panel agreed to receive an update from the Director of Children's and Adult Services in September 2021 on the number of unvaccinated care home staff.
3. The panel to be briefed on any progress updates on the preparation for the mandatory vaccination of care home staff to the panel meeting on 19.10.21.

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### **Adults and Safer City Scrutiny Panel 2021-2022 Draft Work Programme**

The Chair invited Earl Piggott-Smith, Scrutiny Officer, to present the draft work programme report.

The Scrutiny Officer outlined the criteria for suggesting topics for the work programme and the opportunity to add extra meeting dates, if needed. The Scrutiny Officer added that there was also the opportunity for panel members to meet informally with lead officers on matters of interest and report findings to a future meeting. The Scrutiny Officer briefed the panel about future work programme items and invited panel members to comment on the draft document.

The panel discussed the issue of increased cases of domestic violence during the pandemic and suggested this should be included as part of the report on safer city theme for the panel meeting in October 2021. The panel requested details of the support for people in Wolverhampton and suggested inviting representatives of community organisations to also share their experiences at the meeting. The panel agreed to invite representatives of The Haven to the panel meeting.

The panel welcomed the future agenda item on the care home fees in view of the comments made about the impact of the pandemic on the finances of care home and evidence to suggest people are looking at alternative forms of care.



The panel requested details of the membership and remit of the Safety Advisory Group. The Scrutiny Officer agreed to investigate and arrange for the information to be sent to panel members.

The panel agreed to add an extra panel meeting in March 2022 to the schedule.

Resolved:

1. The panel agreed to note the report.
2. The panel agreed to add the 16 March 2022 to the schedule of meetings for 2021- 2022.
3. The panel work programme to be updated to include suggested additional items and comments from the panel.
4. The Scrutiny Officer to send panel members details of the membership and terms of reference of the Safety Advisory Group.

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## Adults Safer City Scrutiny Panel

19 October 2021

<b>Report title</b>	Safer Wolverhampton Partnership Update	
<b>Cabinet member with lead responsibility</b>	Councillor Jasbir Jaspal Health and Wellbeing	
<b>Wards affected</b>	All	
<b>Accountable director</b>	John Denley, Director of Public Health	
<b>Originating service</b>	Communities	
<b>Accountable employee(s)</b>	Lynsey Kelly Tel Email	Head of Communities 01902 550042 <a href="mailto:Lynsey.Kelly@wolverhampton.gov.uk">Lynsey.Kelly@wolverhampton.gov.uk</a>
<b>Report to be/has been considered by</b>	Public Health Leadership Team	29 September 2021

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### Recommendations for action or decision:

The Scrutiny Panel is recommended to:

1. Provide feedback and scrutiny on the current activity of Safer Wolverhampton Partnership.
2. Provide feedback and scrutiny on current activity and future plans to address domestic abuse.

## **1.0 Purpose**

- 1.1 To provide an update on current priorities of Safer Wolverhampton Partnership (SWP).
- 1.2 To outline current and proposed activity around SWPs response to domestic abuse.
- 1.3 To provide an overview of updated Channel guidance.

## **2.0 Background**

- 2.1 Safer Wolverhampton Partnership is Wolverhampton's Community Safety Partnership (CSP). The Crime and Disorder Act (1998) created CSP's in each local authority area to bring together key partners to work together to address crime and disorder.

## **3.0 Safer Wolverhampton Partnership Priorities**

- 3.1 The SWP Community Safety and Harm Reduction Strategy (2020-2023) sets out the priorities of the partnership:
  - A. Reducing Offending** - Preventing offending by identifying those at risk of criminality at the earliest stage and offering the appropriate intervention and support to deter criminality. Reducing reoffending by ensuring effective management of high-risk offenders and the provision of effective intervention to change behaviours and address causal factors linked to offending.
  - B. Preventing Violence** - Identifying those in need of support at an early stage to prevent violence and escalations of violence. Ensuring a coordinated approach to ensure that appropriate intervention is offered at the earliest opportunity.
  - C. Harm Reduction** - Reducing the harm caused by victimisation and repeat victimisation to ensure those who are most vulnerable are effectively safeguarded, supported and empowered.
  - D. Building Community Capacity** – building trust and confidence with communities and supporting people to become active within their local area and co-produce solutions to local issues.
- 3.2 The main focus of SWP when delivering against priorities remains on collaborative working and influencing mainstream delivery of members of the partnership to ensure a coordinated approach to addressing crime and disorder.
- 3.3 In addition to its key role of embedding partnership responses to crime and harm reduction, SWP receives an annual grant from the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC) to commission projects and interventions, supporting mainstream activity to deliver against strategic crime and community safety priorities.
- 3.4 SWP received a grant allocation of £150,000 for 2021-2022 and a breakdown of activity against this grant is broken down in Appendix One.

- 3.5 In addition to grant funded activity SWP also delivers against a number of statutory functions, including the completion of Domestic Homicide Reviews and overseeing Wolverhampton's response to the Prevent Duty.
- 3.6 As part of its statutory function SWP delivers Wolverhampton's Channel Panel, a multi-agency approach to identifying and supporting individuals at risk of being drawn into extremism. Refreshed Channel guidance was launched in November 2020 and aims to strengthen the quality and consistency of panels and the practice of panel members across England and Wales, more effectively managing the vulnerability of individuals at risk of being drawn into terrorism.
- 3.7 In order to display compliance with the new guidance, SWP have completed an annual assurance statement for the Home Office. A summary of key changes within the guidance can be found in Appendix two.

#### **4.0 Domestic Abuse**

- 4.1 Tackling domestic abuse is a key priority of SWP and activity is underpinned by SWP's Interpersonal Violence Strategy (2019-2022). Reports of domestic abuse have been increasing year on year as has associated demand on statutory agencies and specialist domestic abuse services.
- 4.2 Domestic abuse is an underreported crime and therefore a focus for SWP is raising awareness of domestic abuse, in order to ensure that professionals and communities are able to recognise the signs of abuse and victims are able to access the support which they need. The restrictions around Covid-19 heightened the need to reach out to victims who may have been at increased risk of abuse, particularly if they were living with their perpetrator.
- 4.3 The Domestic Abuse Act (2021) places a duty on local authorities to ensure that there is a partnership response to addressing domestic abuse. In addition, local authorities are required to commission support for victims of domestic abuse and their children within safe accommodation.
- 4.4 In order to respond to increasing and changing demands around domestic abuse and ensure a robust response to victims, as well as ensure compliance with the new duties set out in the Act, SWP has undertaken the following activity:
  - A. Multi-agency governance of the city response to domestic abuse has been reviewed. This resulted in the creation of an Interpersonal Violence Board to oversee delivery against the Interpersonal Violence Strategy as well as a Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) and One Day One Conversation (ODOC) governance group to oversee the provision of support for victims and management of perpetrators in high-risk cases;
  - B. A domestic abuse needs assessment has been produced, this included extensive engagement with specialist domestic abuse organisations as well as statutory partners

to map the services available for victims of domestic abuse and their capacity. It also included engaging victims of domestic abuse in focus groups to ensure that their views were central to the report. The needs assessment is informing current commissioning around domestic abuse safe accommodation services and will be central to refreshing SWPs current strategy around Interpersonal Violence.

- C. As a partnership SWP understood that restrictions around Covid-19 would be particularly challenging for victims of domestic abuse, particularly those living with their abusers who may have had less opportunities to seek help, faced further isolation and have less contact with those who support them. In order to deliver key messages to victims and encourage them to seek support to remain safe SWP supported the development of a regional #NoExcuseForAbuse campaign led by the West Midlands Police and Crime Commissioner, as well as successfully delivering a 16 day virtual 'Orange Wolves' campaign to deliver key messages to victims that they are not alone, support is available in Wolverhampton and lockdown restrictions do not apply to those at risk of domestic abuse.
  - D. SWP have worked closely with specialist domestic abuse services throughout the pandemic to ensure that victims and children living with domestic abuse can continue to get the support which they need. We maintained regular contact to understand any risks and challenges which they were facing and worked in partnership to mitigate against these so that they can continue to offer vital specialist support to victims.
  - E. SWP is working closely with other Community Safety Partnerships and partners across the region to ensure that we share best practice, are giving consistent messaging and there is a robust regional response to protecting victims and their families. We're also live to additional funding announced for services protecting victims of DA and support local providers to access this to increase capacity locally and regionally.
- 4.5 Domestic abuse continues to be a priority area for SWP and plans are in place to refresh the multi-agency Interpersonal Violence Strategy to ensure that it reflects findings from the above activity as well as recent themes and trends. The new strategy will be developed in partnership and launched in April 2022 following a full consultation.
  - 4.6 The government announced in December 2019 that it would to bring forward legislation to create a new Serious Violence Duty. The Serious Violence Duty is expected to come into effect in 2022 to 2023. The exact date is dependent on the Parliamentary timetable.
  - 4.7 The Serious Violence Duty will require local authorities, the police, fire and rescue authorities, specified criminal justice agencies and health authorities to work together to formulate an evidence based analysis of the problems associated with serious violence in a local area, and then produce and implement a strategy detailing how they will respond to those particular issues.

- 4.8 The Serious Violence Duty provides an opportunity to ensure that the Tackling Violence and Exploitation Strategy and Interpersonal Violence Strategy are closely aligned to ensure that there is a consistent and robust violence prevention offer within Wolverhampton. It also provides an opportunity to widen the focus of the current Interpersonal Violence Strategy to extend activity to promote the safety of women in public spaces, including the night time economy, building on existing work including the creation of Wolverhampton's 'Safe Haven'.

## **5.0 Financial Implications**

- 5.1 Delivery of SWP priorities and activity is largely delivered through existing local authority and partner resources. Wolverhampton's Police and Crime Commissioner grant allocation of £150,000 in 2021-2022 is being used to fund specific activity to complement existing activity, a breakdown of which can be found in Appendix One.
- 5.2 In addition to local authority and partner resources and the annual grant from the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner, SWP oversee the implementation of additional relevant grant funded projects. For example, MHCLG grant funding around delivery of the Domestic Abuse Act (2021).

[LD/07102021/Q]

## **6.0 Legal implications**

- 6.1 Sections five and six of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 require the Council and other responsible authorities to formulate and implement strategies to reduce crime and disorder in the area. Subsequent revisions to the Act (Police and Justice Act 2006) places a duty on Community Safety Partnerships to prepare strategic assessments with the purpose of informing the partnership plan revisions.
- 6.2 Section nine of the Domestic Violence, Crime and Victims Act 2004 places a statutory responsibility on Community Safety Partnerships to complete a Domestic Homicide Review (DHR) when a person has died from a domestic related death.
- 6.3 Additional statutory duties have been placed on the local authority as part of the Domestic Abuse Act (2021) and SWP hold strategic responsibility for implementation of this duty.
- 6.4 The Serious Violence Duty will place additional statutory responsibilities on SWP and section four of this report outlines proposals to ensure that the City of Wolverhampton Council are compliant with the new duty when the legislation is passed.

SZ/11102021/P

## **7.0 Equalities implications**

- 7.1 SWPs programme of delivery for 2021-2022 is based on an assessment of need and contributes towards implementation of the strategic priorities in the Community Safety and Harm Reduction Strategy 2020-2023. This results in SWP activity actively

addressing inequalities of individuals and communities which are disproportionately impacted by certain crimes on the basis of gender, age, ethnicity, religion, sexuality and disability. A full equality analysis has been undertaken on the strategy; there are no negative implications from its delivery.

## **8.0 Health and Wellbeing Implications**

- 8.1 SWP are committed to taking a public health approach to crime and violence prevention, influencing whole systems to bring about change at a population level. Delivery against priorities outlined within this report impacts positively on the health and wellbeing of communities and reduces the physical and mental harm of becoming a victim of crime.

## **9.0 Covid Implications**

- 9.1 The activity of Safer Wolverhampton Partnership supports the corporate priorities of 'Relighting Our City', particularly by supporting the most vulnerable residents as the city recovers from Covid-19.
- 9.2 The restrictions around Covid-19 have increased the risk to victims of domestic abuse, particularly those who live with their perpetrators. Reports of domestic abuse have increased throughout the pandemic, as has the demand on specialist services. Increasing the support which victims can access within domestic abuse safe accommodation services will contribute to the partnership response to reduce harm to these victims and ensure that they can access the support which they need.

## **10.0 Appendices**

- 10.1 Appendix One – Breakdown of activity against SWP grant allocation.
- 10.2 Appendix Two – Summary of updated Channel Panel Guidance.
- 10.3 Appendix Three – Slide deck for presentation at Adults and Safer City Scrutiny Panel.

<b>Safer Wolverhampton Partnership Local Delivery (2021-2022)</b>	
<b>Harm Reduction/ Violence Prevention</b>	
Tackling interpersonal violence, including violence against women and girls.	
<b>Domestic Abuse Specialist post</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Violence against Women and Girls Specialist post to ensure a continuation of specialism within the Authority to support the new forthcoming national Domestic Abuse Bill</li> <li>Training to partners and communities around domestic abuse and violence against women and girls</li> <li>Coordination of partnership board to address interpersonal violence (including domestic abuse, sexual violence, stalking and harassment, forced marriage, female genital mutilation and honour-based violence) in partnership</li> </ul>	£40,000
<b>Harm Reduction/ Violence Prevention</b>	
Tackling violence and exploitation	
<b>Targeted activity around exploitation and modern-day slavery</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Public awareness campaigns and events/conferences to raise awareness of modern-day slavery and exploitation.</li> <li>Supporting activity around Wolverhampton Exploitation Hub.</li> <li>Training around exploitation and modern-day slavery to upskill partners and communities.</li> </ul>	£10,000
<b>Youth violence and exploitation targeted outreach support</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continuation of outreach support to target locations where there is an identified risk to young people of exploitation or violence, including focused work within West Midlands Police (WMP) Impact areas.</li> </ul>	£40,000
<b>Specialist school holiday provision</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provision of school holiday activities to engage young people in a positive way and provide diversion from exploitation and criminality. Activity to compliment universal holiday/virtual squad offer.</li> <li>School holiday activity will be delivered in targeted locations where young people are at increased risk of criminality and exploitation, including WMP Impact areas.</li> </ul>	£30,000
<b>Harm Reduction/ Reducing Offending/ Building Community Capacity</b>	
Supporting the community and addressing vulnerability	
<b>Activity to reduce victimisation and repeat victimisation</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To assist in the delivery of a place-based approach and empower grass roots delivery, including targeted activity in WMP impact areas.</li> </ul>	£15,000

Appendix One – Breakdown of Activity Against Police and Crime Commissioner  
Grant Allocation

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Coordinated approach to addressing neighbourhood crime.</li> <li>• Target hardening of properties to reduce repeat victimisation.</li> <li>• Working with communities to empower them, build trust and confidence and increase reporting of crime and information sharing.</li> <li>• Responding to public place violence, including a focus on female and vulnerable victims.</li> <li>• Providing personal safety advice and equipment to communities (including vulnerable groups) to prevent victimisation and repeat victimisation.</li> </ul>	
<b>Community engagement, cohesion and hidden crime</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Coordination of Community Cohesion Forum</li> <li>• Engagement with faith and community groups to increase cohesion</li> <li>• Training and awareness of Prevent via Workshop to Raise Awareness of Prevent (WRAP) training within communities and with key partners</li> <li>• Raise awareness of under reported crimes, including hate crime, and hidden domestic abuse crimes</li> <li>• Addressing perceptions of crime – including targeted activity to address fears and concerns around the safety of women.</li> </ul>	£15,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>£150,000</b>



## Appendix Two – Summary of Updated Channel Duty Guidance

The Channel duty guidance which was launched in November 2020.

### **Overview of the revised duty guidance**

The refreshed Channel duty guidance has implications for how Channel panels are delivered across England and Wales from November 2020. It has been developed in conjunction with Counter Terrorism Policing HQ (CTPHQ), Channel chairs, deputy chairs and other key stakeholders who have been instrumental in shaping this guidance.

The guidance will strengthen the quality and consistency of panels and the practice of panel members across England and Wales more effectively managing the vulnerability of individuals at risk of being drawn into terrorism.

There were 561 individuals supported through the Channel process nationally during 2018/19; the highest recorded compared to previous years. This highlights the continued importance of Channel panels as part of the national infrastructure in preventing individuals from being drawn into terrorism; they continue to be a cornerstone of the government's response to protecting the public.

### **A summary of key changes featured within the updated guidance are:**

- Greater emphasis placed on the statutory nature of panels, the requirement to have regard to the guidance and expectations on local ownership and delivery;
- Introduces arrangements for monitoring local compliance with Channel/PMAP duty guidance;
- Introduces the concept of minimum core competencies for panel chairs and deputy chairs, directing levels of skills, experience and completion of Home Office training for these roles;
- Introduces guidance for local governance and proposes minimum requirements to direct panel form and function, including auditability;
- Provides opportunity for chairs to gain UK National Vetting Security Check clearance at 'SC' level from police;
- Extends availability of referral data to panels from police, to support practice delivery, governance and performance oversight;
- Sets the expectation that local authorities inform the Home Office of their named chair and deputy chair, and that the Chief Executive of the local authority is satisfied with the appointment;
- Sets the expectation that the Channel chair and deputy chair will be independent from Home Office funded posts;
- Introduces the expectation to convene panel meetings monthly where a live case is held.

## **Local Authority Duties**

Local authorities will be asked to complete an annual assurance statement. This will enable local Channel implementation to be documented, assured and for progress to be recorded.

key practical requirements for local authorities include

- Designating a Channel chair and deputy chair; core competencies have been introduced covering skills, training and experience to fulfil the roles
- Embedding Channel within local governance arrangements
- As a statutory function, ensuring Channel is incorporated within local authority constitutions
- Updating local Data Protection Information Notices (Privacy notices) to reflect Channel panel and the use of personal data

Local Authority Chief Executive approval and sign off is required for the Channel Assurance statement. Completion is required by all local authorities in England and Wales as stated in the refreshed Channel guidance. The assurance statement for Wolverhampton was returned to the Home Office in April 2021.

## **Overview of the purpose of the Assurance Statement**

The assurance statement captures Wolverhampton's compliance with the requirements laid out under sections 36 – 41 of the Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015 (CTSA) (as amended by the Counter Terrorism Border Security Act 2019) relating to Channel panels and improving outcomes for those identified individuals who are vulnerable to being drawn into terrorism.

This assurance statement forms part of a self-assessment for local authorities capturing Channel practice within each local authority area and levels of compliance against aspects of Channel delivery articulated in the Channel Statutory Duty Guidance 2020. Section 36 (7) of the CTSA states that panels must have regard to this guidance.

This is the first annual assurance statement issued to local authorities, so will be used to set a baseline for local authority Channel practice from the financial year 2020/21; future submissions will capture assessments over the preceding year.

The information gathered from this statement will also be used to identify where additional support to Channel panels needs to be undertaken, direct OSCT (Office for Security and Counter Terrorism) support, or provide a trigger for further reviews or observations, such as dip sampling.

The assurance statement will form part of a strengthened quality assurance framework giving the OSCT oversight of the Channel Panel enabling them to provide assistance and support where identified. This will be integrated with a new professionalisation and support programme for chairs, deputies, and panel members, comprising of enhanced training provision, panel observations and Channel peer support

The statement forms part of the strengthened quality assurance framework for Channel panels across England and Wales with findings reported into OSCT business assurance

arrangements. Responses to this first assurance statement will provide a baseline, capturing a current assessment of the Channel panel for Wolverhampton. This will provide the benchmark against requirements contained within the refreshed guidance, identifying any areas for improvement which are to be progressed over the coming year.

There is a professionalisation and support programme to accompany the guidance launch. The programme will comprise training for chairs, deputies and panel members, Hydra training, panel observations and Channel peer support will take place. A series of regional roadshows are planned for the autumn to address any queries arising since the guidance launch. Both the Chair and Deputy Chair from Wolverhampton have attended all training and keep the panel informed of updated guidance. Training opportunities are also shared with panel members.

A meeting for Channel chairs will take place in October where a review of assurance statements, referral patterns and thresholds will take place, this will be followed by a Peer Review of Panels and/or Dip Sampling Cases.

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# Safer Wolverhampton Partnership Update

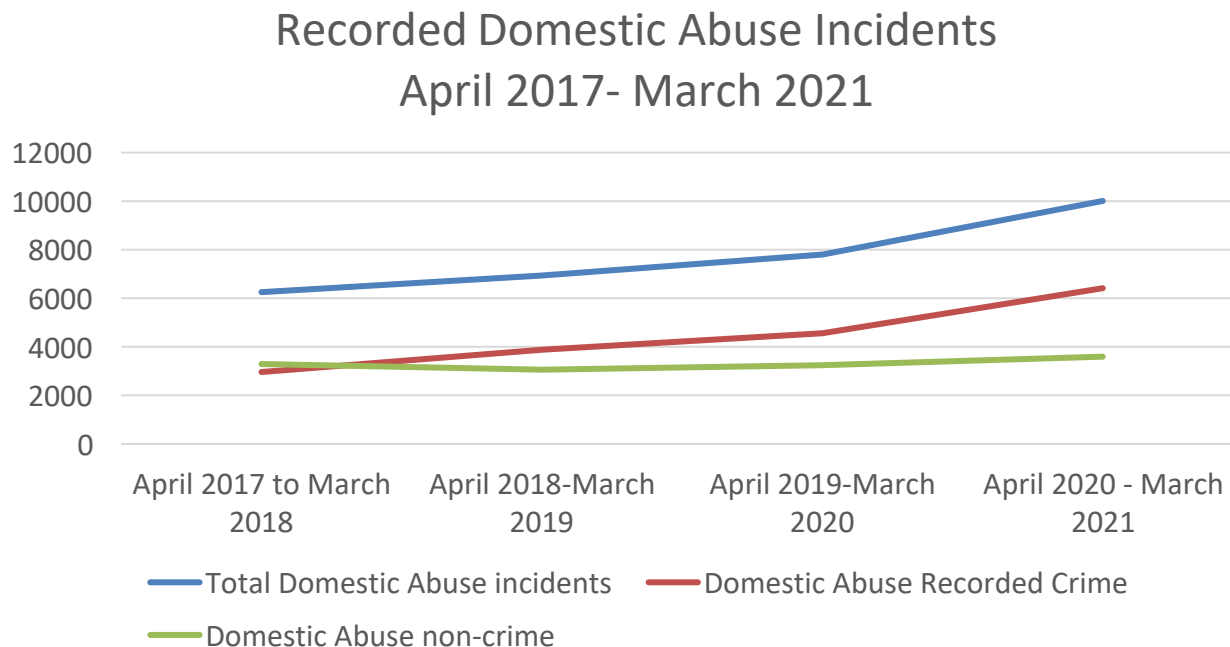
19 October 2021

# Safer Wolverhampton Partnership (SWP) Priorities



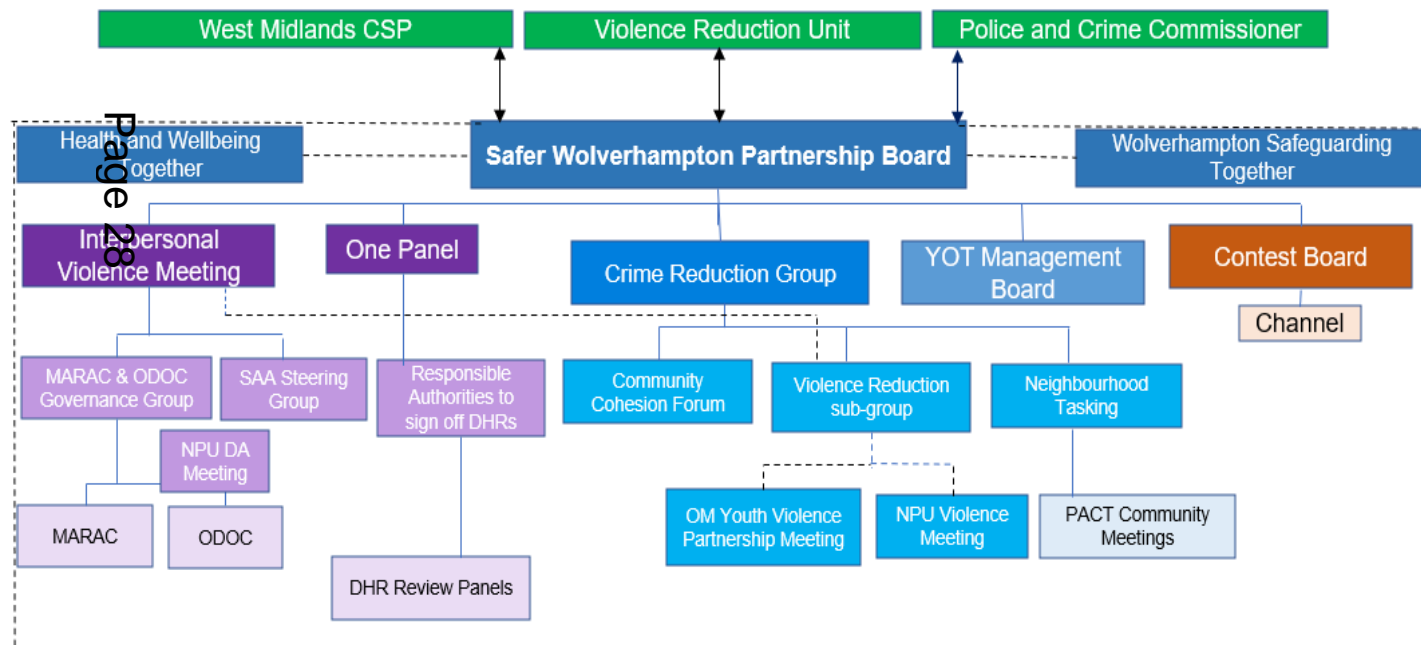


## Focus on: Domestic Abuse



# Domestic Abuse Activity

Multi-agency governance of the city response to domestic abuse has been reviewed





## Activity

Development of domestic abuse needs assessment to steer strategy implementation and future commissioning:

- Analysis of local, regional and national domestic abuse data to understand trends and themes;
- Mapping of local domestic abuse services and their capacity;
- Extensive engagement with professionals and specialist domestic abuse services;
- Focus groups with victims.

## Activity

Coordination of domestic abuse response during Covid-19:

- Regular reviews of crime and service data to understand the impact of restrictions;
- Regular communication with specialist domestic abuse services to understand the impact on services, provide infection prevention advice and mitigate against any risks to services to ensure that victims had continued access to specialist support;
- Ensuring that victims were aware that lockdown restrictions did not apply when fleeing abuse and supporting to facilitate movement where appropriate;
- Working closely with neighbouring community safety partnerships and regional partners to ensure a consistent regional response to domestic abuse.

## Activity

Delivery of key messages to professionals and victims to ensure that victims of domestic abuse are able to access the support they need:

- Updated training delivered virtually to a range of professionals;
- Promotion of local, regional and national domestic abuse campaigns;
- Successful virtual Orange Wolves campaign – 16 days of action to raise awareness of interpersonal violence and violence against women and girls.

## Future Plans and Proposals

- Review of Interpersonal Violence Strategy – to be informed by a full consultation, equalities impact assessment and needs assessment;
- Extension of current strategy focus to incorporate safety of women in public spaces – building on current activity around safety of women at night;
- Ensure that domestic abuse, interpersonal violence and violence against women and girls is central to local implementation of the new Serious Violence Duty;
- Aligning the Interpersonal Violence Strategy with the Tackling Violence and Exploitation Strategy and West Midlands's Police Violence, Abuse and Intimidation against Women and Girls Strategy (2021-2024).

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# Mandatory Vaccination update Adults & Safer City Scrutiny Update – 19<sup>th</sup> October 2021

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Presenter:

Becky Wilkinson

Deputy Director of Adult  
Services

Agenda Item No: 7

[wolverhampton.gov.uk](https://www.wolverhampton.gov.uk)



# Recap of where we are

- The Mandatory vaccination policy covers all CQC registered care homes and includes anyone in an employed or voluntary position entering a care home
- The policy does not include families of relatives living in the care setting
- The policy becomes law on 11 November 2021 and registered managers within the care setting have a legal duty to prevent any scheduled admission to anyone who is unvaccinated, emergency situations will be exempt
- The CQC are the regulatory body



# Work undertaken so far

- 46 people in ASC are not vaccinated but are in posts that have been identified as requiring a double covid vaccination from Nov 11<sup>th</sup>.
- This number includes a small number of people working in CWC CQC Registered Care homes who still require double covid vaccinations before Nov 11<sup>th</sup>.
- Reminders have been posted on City People indicating deadline dates for first and second covid vaccinations ie. 16<sup>th</sup> Sept and 11<sup>th</sup> Nov.
- Webinar held for all internal staff 14<sup>th</sup> September 2021
- Line Managers have explained the legal requirement and timeline to staff members who have yet to be vaccinated.

# Work undertaken so far

- Letter dated 1<sup>st</sup> Sept. sent to all members of staff in ASC whose roles require a double covid vaccination.
- Letter again indicates legal requirement, deadline dates and the requirement for line managers to see evidence of vaccination compliance eg NHS Covid passport.
- From w/c 6<sup>th</sup> Sept, line managers are meeting with all members of staff identified as requiring double covid vaccination, who have yet to be vaccinated.
- All managers using the same script in their 1:1 and will ask whether the member of staff intends to obtain their initial covid vaccination
- The number of relevant staff who have still not been at least vaccinated once by Sept 16<sup>th</sup> will be recorded and managers will await further guidance from HR.

# Internal Vaccination

- **Bradley Resource Centre** – very small numbers refusing vaccination (out of 52). Through changes to rota's if this remains the case this is a manageable risk within the service
- **Duke Street Bungalows** – small numbers of staff refusing (out of 49,). Through changes to rota's this risk is manageable within the service, further 1:1s with staff due to take place
- **Ernest Bold** – small numbers refusing , further 1:1s to take place with staff and plans to be considered over the next 2 months. The current risk is that Ernest Bold will have to reduce the number of people attending the service.

# Internal Vaccination

## **Social Workers and visiting staff to care homes**

- 401 adult services staff have been identified as requiring the vaccination.
- Current HR advice (in more detail below) is to manage each case on an individual basis through a HR process
- CWC at this stage will be able to maintain current levels of care and visits and adult services can manage the risk within the service. Guidance on managing this process has not been released by the NHS or the LGA

# Internal Vaccination

## Ancillary & Contractors

- All areas of the council that touch Adult Social Care have been identified and Heads of Service for these areas consulted to ensure staff are aware of the need to be vaccinated from 11/11/21
- Heads of Service have provided assurance to Adult Services that relevant staff are vaccinated, no unvaccinated staff will be deployed to care homes
- HR have agreed a reasonable and proportionate approach

# Commissioned Care Vaccination

## Current data shows:

There are currently 2293 eligible staff, 2092 have had the first vaccination & 1951 have had both vaccinations. For residents, there are currently 1534 eligible residents, 1506 have had the first vaccination & 1454 have had both vaccinations.

- At 11/10/21 95% of staff have been received their first dose of vaccination

# Commissioned Care Vaccination

- Eighteen care homes have indicated they have concerns about future staffing levels due to recruitment and retention alongside the mandatory vaccination requirement.
- Each home that has indicated concerns will be supported by commissioning to understand how to manage and mitigate the risks. This includes working with skills for care to develop an increased workforce, understanding if care homes will need to reduce bed availability with reduced staffing and in this event if this impacts on the financial viability of the home.

# Next steps – HR & Legal

## Employee Consultation

- Following recent guidance we are working with unvaccinated staff to support the take up of the vaccination and explore other options.
- Current legal advice and guidance is that dismissal should be a last resort when all other alternatives have been explored, offer of redeployment and other support to be developed.
- Each case will be reviewed on an individual basis,



# Next steps – HR & Legal

## **Recruitment and New starters**

- Wording for job adverts has been compiled with legal and HR to notify of the vaccination requirements for affected roles.
- Job descriptions are being reviewed to be included as an essential criteria and a condition of employment.
- Pre employment check process to be developed.

# Next steps – HR & Legal

## **Recording and Storage of vaccination data**

- Data Impact Privacy Assessment completed in collaboration with Information Governance
- HR Privacy notice to be updated.
- Data storage solution to be developed in Employee Check tab in Agresso, to include ability to hold booster vaccination data and flu vaccination status (should this be a future requirement).

# Next steps – HR & Legal

## Agency Workers

- To ensure that agency providers comply with legal requirements for COVID vaccination a meeting has been held with Yoo Recruit. Yoo recruit to advise on their internal processes for checking compliance and confirm status of current affected workers.
- HR liaising with the Commercial Team to determine if there is a requirement to formally notify Yoo Recruit of the vaccination requirement.

# Health and Safety

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- Notwithstanding specific requirements around mandatory vaccinations, the City Council as an employer, and a provider of services retains general health and safety responsibilities under Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974 to persons in their employment (Section 2) and persons affected by provision of services (Section 3).
- To this effect all settings have conducted service risk assessments and have included risk mitigation measures specific to foreseeable prevention of infection from Covid19.

# Equalities and Diversity

- E&D have been represented at Adults IMT throughout the process and supported the approach taken.
- E&D have been an important member of IMT in terms of our approach to staff with protected characteristics and considering different formats support needs to be given in
- Our E&D rep has not raised any issues that we are acting unfairly to any groups of staff.

# Trade Unions

Trade Unions have been consulted regularly through weekly HR/TU meetings

All correspondence sent to staff has been seen and approved prior to circulation

Key issues from the TU

- What will CWC's approach be to those staff who continue to refuse?
- Supportive of our approach so far and will continue to support us encouraging staff to take up the vaccination

# Overall picture for care provision

## Home Care

There has been an increase in hours commissioned for Home Care to support the acute hospital to discharge people home with 4 weeks of rehabilitation and alongside the future potential mandatory vaccination of home care staff this has resulted in issues with recruiting and retaining care staff and the ability to take on additional packages of care.

The contractual framework was varied in the short term to enable providers off framework to take on packages of care. To date this is managing the situation, however this is being closely monitored and raised as a potential risk to meeting care needs.

## Residential & Nursing Care

The current situation for bed based care shows significant numbers of beds available, in the short term if vaccinated staff is an issue for providers, we will support the sector to close unnecessary beds, this will present a financial challenge for homes which we will need to monitor and agree a longer term approach to the changing demands in the care sector



# Reflections

- Adults IMT have been well supported by colleagues in HR, Legal, Equalities, Public Health, Comms, Health and Safety.
- Trade Unions have engaged and encouraged staff to take the vaccination

## **Limiting factors:**

- Late release of national guidance has prevented Local Authorities from adopting a standardised approach across the country
- Care market stability was fragile prior to implementation of the mandatory vaccination policy, additional staff leaving the sector means CWC must manage the further risk of care shortages heading into winter.



# **Scrutiny Work Programme (draft)**

## **Adults and Safer City Scrutiny Panel 2021-2022**

<b>Contents</b>	<b>Page Number</b>
<b>Scrutiny – New Approach</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Work Programme considerations</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Adults and Safer City Scrutiny Panel draft work programme</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Scrutiny Panel Remit &amp; Functions</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>General Role of the Scrutiny Board and Scrutiny Panels</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Appendix A: Roles – Chair, SEB Lead and Scrutiny Officer</b>	<b>10</b>

## Scrutiny – A New Approach

1. **Roles and expectations** have been defined for the Chairs of Scrutiny Panels, Strategic Executive Board (SEB) leads and Scrutiny Officers; creating a collective understanding of scrutiny's role within the Council. These can be seen in Appendix A.
2. Effective **work planning and agenda setting** will take place to produce **jointly owned work plans**.
3. Regular briefings will be arranged with the Scrutiny Panel Chair, Vice Chair, SEB lead and scrutiny officer to enable a shared understanding of priorities and reviews of progress and recommendations.
4. **Improved communication:** 'You said we did' updates and publicity (including social media)
5. Creation of a **strong organisational culture** that supports scrutiny work that **adds real value** and **evidences impact**.

## Work Programme considerations:

1. Is the issue in the public interest?
2. How can scrutiny add value by looking at it?
3. Where is the evidence to support looking at this issue?
4. Can we evidence impact?
5. Is there a change to National Policy?
6. Does it affect citizens across the City?
7. Are there performance concerns?
8. Is it a safety issue?

## Adults and Safer City Scrutiny Panel

Chair: Cllr Val Evans	Vice Chair: Cllr Sohail Khan	SEB Lead: Emma Bennett	Scrutiny Lead: Earl Piggott-Smith
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Date of Meeting	Agenda Publication	Item Description	Lead Report Author	Council Plan Priority	Notes
				Strong, resilient and healthy communities	
20 July 2021	12 July 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Principal Social Worker Annual Report</li> <li>Mandatory Vaccinations for Social Care Homes</li> </ul>	Jenny Rogers  Becky Wilkinson		outline of plans for implementing programme and timeline
19 October 2021	11 October 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Safer Wolverhampton Partnership Board – update</li> </ul>	Hannah Pawley		The presentation to include the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Domestic Abuse Act 2021 – update on implementation</li> <li>Best practice update on CHANNEL guidance</li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mandatory Vaccinations for Social Care Homes – update</li> </ul>	Becky Wilkinson		
w/c 6.12.21 (tbc)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Social Care Market and Provider Sustainability - <b>briefing</b></li> </ul>	Becky Wilkinson		Invite representatives of the care providers sector to the meeting
15 February 2022	7 February 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Care and Support Provider Fee Review 2021 - 2022</li> <li>Supporting our vulnerable adolescents at risk of exploitation – including an update on Power2 Team</li> </ul>	Alicia Woods  Rachel King/Sandra Ashton-Jones		
16 March 2022		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Adult Social Work Health Check 2020</li> <li>Adult Social Care Workforce Health Check 2020</li> </ul>	Jenny Rogers/Courtney Abbott  Jenny Rogers/Courtney Abbott		



### **Future items**

1. Headlines from Self Assessment – Becky Wilkinson - date tbc
2. Adult Social Care Annual Report - Wolverhampton Local Account - date tbc
3. Briefing on Assisted Technologies Strategy - date tbc
4. Heather Clarke to share briefing paper on digital inclusion work with a focus on support for older people and care home residents with the panel when published.

## Scrutiny Panel Remit & Functions

### Adults and Safer City Scrutiny Panel

The scrutiny of services for older and vulnerable adults, local safeguarding arrangements for adults and crime and disorder in the city.

### Specific responsibilities

The Panel will have responsibility for scrutiny functions as they relate to:

- Older people assessment and care management
- Financial support services
- Libraries and community hubs
- Independent living centre
- Commissioning older people
- Carers support
- All age disabilities (disabilities)
- All age disability (provision)
- Safeguarding and quality
- Community safety

## **General Role of the Scrutiny Board and Scrutiny Panels**

### **Within the terms of reference set out in the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules, the Scrutiny Board will:**

1. Co-ordinate the work of the Scrutiny Panels and Scrutiny Review Groups.
2. Receive annual reports from the Councillor Champion and give consideration to the work undertaken and issues that the Councillor Champion wishes scrutiny to consider investigating further.
3. Maintain regular dialogue with the Cabinet on service improvement, performance management of cross-cutting issues, policy development and budgetary provision.
4. Oversee and ensure access to appropriate learning and development for scrutiny Councillors.
5. Discharge the call-in procedures relevant to its overarching role.

### **The Scrutiny Panels will:**

1. Maintain regular dialogue with the Cabinet, Scrutiny Board and Councillor Champions.
2. Ensure that members of the public and stakeholders are informed of and involved in issues within the remit of each Panel.
3. Discharge the call-in procedure relevant to their terms of reference.

## Appendix A: Roles and Responsibilities

### 1. Chair of Scrutiny Panel:

- To attend fortnightly meetings with the SEB lead and Scrutiny Officer
- To attend agenda setting meetings and other relevant briefings on a regular basis
- To contribute to the work planning for the panel and to bring forward relevant topics and issues for inclusion
- To chair meetings in a fair and open way and to encourage participation from panel members
- To attend Scrutiny Board (where appropriate) to provide feedback and updates on progress
- To prepare, when possible, questions in advance of a meeting to allow for healthy debate and to ensure that clear resolutions are made that add value and show impact
- To act as champion for scrutiny and to represent the best interests of the citizens of Wolverhampton

### 2. SEB Lead:

- Meet with the Chair, the Vice Chair and the Scrutiny Officer fortnightly to discuss upcoming issues, updates from previous meetings, workplans and any other relevant business as agreed by all parties.
- Recommend topics for inclusion on the workplan, working proactively with the Chair, Vice Chair and Scrutiny Officer to address any issues/opportunities/challenges that fit with the remit of the panel.
- To advise on the viability of any issues put forward by the panel for inclusion on the work plan.
- To attend relevant Scrutiny Panel meetings and provide an update at each meeting on any relevant issues within the remit of the panel. Also, attending Scrutiny Board (as appropriate) to provide feedback.
- To act as a champion for scrutiny in the Council and to encourage engagement with the scrutiny function and promote a healthy culture within which scrutiny can thrive

### 3. Scrutiny Officer:

- Provide support and guidance to the panel, its members, officers, partners and other stakeholders regarding the scrutiny function
- To ensure openness and transparency in the scrutiny function and to make sure that information is continuously shared and communicated between all relevant parties in a timely and suitable fashion
- To ensure that the appropriate persons are invited to meetings and that they are given adequate time to prepare and to provide guidance and support where appropriate
- To manage the administration of all relevant panels and meetings within statutory timescales
- To carry out research and information gathering exercises when required
- To provide advice on policy and legislation where appropriate
- To ensure that all resolutions are followed up and responses or actions fed back, monitored and recorded
- To act as liaison between the Chair and the SEB lead to ensure a shared understanding of priorities and work planning.
- To manage the agreed work plan and its outcomes to show impact and added value