

# Adults and Safer City Scrutiny Panel

22 March 2016

<b>Report title</b>	Wolverhampton Safeguarding Adults' Board Report 2014-15	
<b>Decision designation</b>	AMBER	
<b>Cabinet member with lead responsibility</b>	Councillor Elias Mattu Cabinet member for Adults	
<b>Key decision</b>	No	
<b>In forward plan</b>	No	
<b>Wards affected</b>	All	
<b>Accountable director</b>	Linda Sanders People Directorate	
<b>Originating service</b>	Safeguarding and Quality	
<b>Accountable employee(s)</b>	S Ashton Jones	Safeguarding Manager – Adults
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<b>Report to be/has been considered by</b>	Wolverhampton Safeguarding Adult Board Sept 10 <sup>th</sup> 2015 Strategic Executive Board September 2015 Health & Wellbeing Board October 2015 Cabinet October 2015	

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## Recommendation(s) for action or decision:

The Scrutiny Panel is recommended to:

1. It is recommended that Scrutiny receive this report in order to ensure a clear understanding in relation to the work of Wolverhampton Safeguarding Adult Board (WSAB) over the last year.
2. Scrutiny note the range of work that is taking place to safeguard adults in Wolverhampton, and the continued challenges, developments and achievements in this critical area of work.

## 1.0 Purpose

1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide Scrutiny Panel with a copy of the Wolverhampton Safeguarding Adult Board's (WSAB) Annual Report and Executive Summary (**Appendix 1 & Appendix 2**), to inform Scrutiny of safeguarding activity 2014/2015 and to present the progress made against the priorities for 2013-16.

The Annual Report is agreed by the WSAB and provides an overview of how partners have discharged their safeguarding responsibilities over the preceding year.

## 2.0 Background

2.1 Wolverhampton Safeguarding Adult Board (WSAB) became a statutory body in April 2015 following the implementation of the Care Act 2014. The WSAB is independently chaired and its members are senior representatives of all the principle stakeholders working together to safeguard adults with care and support needs in the City.

The core duties of the Board are set out in Chapter 14 of the Care Act Statutory Guidance, issued under S78 of the Care Act 2014 which requires the Board to:-

- Co-ordinate, develop and publish a Strategic Plan for each financial year detailing how it will meet its main objective and what Members will do to achieve this;
- Publish an Annual Report detailing what the Board has done during the year to achieve its objectives and implement its Strategic Plan and what Members have done to implement the Strategy.
- Conduct any Safeguarding Adults Review in accordance with S44 of the Care Act 2014.

2.2 The Care Act 2014 requires each Local Safeguarding Adult Board to produce and publish an Annual Report evaluating the effectiveness of safeguarding in the local area. The annual report must also provide information about any Safeguarding Adults Reviews (SAR's) and how the Board is monitoring progress against its policies and intention to deliver its Strategic Plan. The annual report should be published in relation to the preceding financial year and should fit with local agencies' planning, commissioning and budget cycles. The report must be submitted to the following:-

- Managing Director and Leader of Wolverhampton City Council;
- The West Midlands Police Commander;
- The Chair of the Health and Wellbeing Board and
- The local Healthwatch

2.3 The 2014 /15 Annual Report includes information on national, regional and local safeguarding developments, the structure and work of the WSAB, progress against the Board priorities, strategic priorities for 2015-2016, partner achievements, safeguarding activity data and case studies. One issue to note in the report is the significant increase in safeguarding alerts, the number of alerts rose from 1308 in 2013/14 to 1600 in 14/15.

### **3.0 The Implications to Policy and Practice contained within the Care Act 2014**

- 3.1 The Annual Report provides information on the work that was undertaken during the year to ensure that WSAB has policies, procedures and practice which are compliant with the Care Act.
- 3.2 To support these changes Board membership has been reviewed. Statutory Guidance confirms that three essential members are The Police, The NHS and the local Council. The budget to support the work of WSAB is discussed under the Financial Implications heading.
- 3.3 To support the new philosophy and expectations behind the Care Act there are now revised regional procedures – owned and endorsed by 14 Safeguarding Adults Boards in the region. This has been no small task and Wolverhampton has played a prominent part in achieving this.
- 3.4 The Annual Report reflects the complex and wide ranging agenda that the Board, its working groups and partner organisations have been addressing throughout the year

#### **Progress against Priorities**

- 3.5 The Annual Report outlines our progress and an appendix to the report provides individual assurance statements from the organisations represented at the Safeguarding Adults Board. WSAB has reviewed the 2013-16 priorities to reflect changes in legislation and guidance. More detail on both progress and future priorities can be found in the body of the Annual Report. Obtaining greater quality and consistency of those reports will be an important part of improving the report further next year.
- 3.6 For each of the Board's Priorities there is a lead that is responsible for driving the priority forward. The leads are all Board members and they report regularly to the Board on both the progress made and challenges faced. The Priority Leads make up the Board's Executive Group.
- 3.7 Over the past 12 months work has been undertaken to prevent neglect and abuse. In particular:
  - Links have been developed to reach out to Faith Groups in the City to ensure that there is increased awareness of how to identify the signs of risk within congregations and communities.
  - The Cities main Social Housing providers have started a safeguarding group to ensure there is greater understanding and improved responses to safeguarding issues within housing providers.
  - Work has been undertaken with GPs to ensure they also understand what they can do to support and protect their more vulnerable patients.
  - People who have been assisted when at risk tell us that overall they feel much safer as a result of the intervention of those services that support them.
  - Increased awareness of the law concerning mental capacity and deprivation of liberty has led to a massive increase in requests for assessments of people who may not have given consent for decisions to be made on their behalf or it could be argued their liberty is being compromised. This has been both a local and a national challenge.

3.8 There is more to do and this report outlines the priorities over the next 12 months and beyond. In particular:

- Consulting with a wide range of local Citizens on future plans to check what professionals believe are the main priorities are endorsed by local communities.
- Reviewing the effectiveness of the training that professionals use, ensure that all professionals are up to date and recommend improvements;
- Continuing to work with individuals at risk to ensure they feel safe and when they want intervention, improving the protection they are offered.
- Ensuring that the WSAB has performance data that can help determine where further work is required particularly into prevention.
- Working with faith groups by targeting those who at present are unsure how and in what ways to protect those they know work and worship with.

3.9 It is encouraging that the numbers of incidents of safeguarding that are reported continue to rise as WSAB believe this represents greater awareness and commitment by care professionals and the public to report concerns and intervene earlier to keep people safe. It is equally encouraging that the vast people who had been subject to a safeguarding intervention felt safer as a result of this.

#### **4.0 Financial implications**

4.1 There are no financial implications arising from this report. The Safeguarding Adults financial budget is included in the Annual Report..

#### **5.0 Legal implications**

5.1 There are no direct legal implications arising from this report. The changes in law and guidance are covered under Section 3 above. The Annual Report is produced in line with The Care Act 2014

#### **6.0 Equalities implications**

6.1 There are no direct equalities implications arising from this report.

#### **7.0 Environmental implications**

7.1 There are no direct environmental implications arising from this report.

#### **8.0 Human resources implications**

8.1 There are no direct human resources implications arising from this report.

#### **9.0 Corporate landlord implications**

9.1 There are no corporate landlord implications arising from the Inspection report.

## **10.0 Schedule of background papers**

### 10.1 Reports to the;

- Wolverhampton Safeguarding Adult Board 10.09.2015
- Strategic Executive Board September 2015
- Cabinet October 2015
- Health & Wellbeing Board October 2015