

# Adult and Safer Scrutiny Panel

## 31 January 2017

<b>Report title</b>	Safeguarding Adults' Board Report 2015-16	
<b>Cabinet member with lead responsibility</b>	Councillor Sandra Samuels Adults	
<b>Wards affected</b>	All	
<b>Accountable director</b>	Linda Sanders , Community	
<b>Originating service</b>	Adults' Safeguarding	
<b>Accountable employee(s)</b>	Dawn Williams	Head of Service - Safeguarding & Quality , Adults & Children
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<b>Report to be/has been considered by</b>	Wolverhampton Safeguarding Adults Board	15 September 2016

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### Recommendation(s) for action or decision:

The Scrutiny Panel is recommended to:

1. Consider and provide comments on the Safeguarding Adults' Board Report 2015-16
2. To support the delivery of the key challenges for 2016-17.

## 1.0 Purpose

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide the Panel with a copy of the [Wolverhampton Safeguarding Adult Board's \(SAB\) Annual Report](#) to inform the Panel of safeguarding activity 2015/2016 and to present the Panel with progress made against the priorities for 2014-15.
- 1.2 Since April 2015 all Safeguarding Adults' Boards are statutorily required to produce an annual report. It is published on the Wolverhampton Safeguarding Website and is a copy must be shared with the Chief officer and leader of each Council, the Police and Crime Commissioner and is presented to the Chair of the local Health and Wellbeing Board.

## 2.0 Background

- 2.1 The Chair of the Safeguarding Adults Board through the Safeguarding Manager - Adults is responsible for ensuring there is an annual report on behalf of the Wolverhampton Safeguarding Adults Board. The annual report contains contributions from the partner agencies who are members of the Safeguarding Board.
- 2.2 The report provides information regarding local safeguarding initiatives, the work and structure of the Safeguarding Board, progress against previous year priorities, partner achievements, and safeguarding data performance. The executive summary summarises the key headlines from the full report and has been developed in recognition of the needs of the potential audience.
- 2.3 The annual report and executive summary was presented as a final draft at the September Safeguarding Adults Board. It was endorsed by Board members and is now available on the [Joint Safeguarding Board](#) website
- 2.4 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. In line with statutory guidance we now have a strategic plan that identifies our priorities. This plan is included as **Appendix 1**.

## 3 Progress against Priorities

- 3.1 The annual report outlines our progress. The report provides individual assurance statements from the organisations represented at the Safeguarding Adults Board. More detail on both progress and future priorities can be found in the body of the annual report. In line with my report to this Board last year we have succeeded in obtaining greater quality and consistency of those reports which in turn provides greater comparability when summarising the progress we have made.
- 3.2 For each of the Board's priorities there is a lead 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.

- 3.3 Over the past 12 months I want to highlight six issues that you will find in the report. They are:
- 3.3.1 To improve both communication and engagement we have created a new shared safeguarding website with social media presence for the public, staff and organisations in conjunction with the Wolverhampton Safeguarding Children's Board. This ensures there is more accurate and up to date information to help professionals and members of the public better protect adults;
  - 3.3.2 Page 42 of [Wolverhampton Safeguarding Adults' Board Report](#) highlights a 29% increase in safeguarding concerns which reflects higher levels of public awareness and concern. The parallel reduction in the numbers that translated into safeguarding enquiries was in part attributable to a different interpretation of what an enquiry is under the new Care Act 2015 guidance;
  - 3.3.3 The introduction of a range of case studies into the report will help readers understand the reality of how agencies work together to safeguard people;
  - 3.3.4 We have improved our assurance on the quality and consistency of practice through the introduction of case file audits;
  - 3.3.5 We commenced our first Safeguarding Adult Review under new guidance that helps us understand the reasons why, despite our best efforts, adults have not been protected effectively and what we need to do to learn from such situations; and
  - 3.3.6 We started gathering greater information about people's individual experience of intervention designed to safeguard them and what the public understand about how we try to protect and safeguard people at risk of abuse.
- 3.4 This year our annual report has some shared content with the Children's Safeguarding Board Annual Report. Issues such as domestic abuse, trafficking or forced marriage do not fit into neat age-related compartments and our response has to demonstrate that we do not think that way.
- 3.5 There is more to do and the report outlines our priorities over the next 12 months and beyond. In particular, I wish to highlight the following:
- 3.5.1 We are looking for all partner agencies to demonstrate how they are reflecting the new Department of Health guidance in supporting individuals exercise choice and control over their situation and how they wish to be safeguarded.
  - 3.5.2 We need to have a greater understanding of the levels and consistency of safeguarding training offered within partner agencies and be assured that in all circumstances it is sufficient and fit for purpose.

3.5.3 We want to produce improved performance information which will increase our ability to identify some safeguarding concerns earlier and secure more robust qualitative information on the experience of safeguarding and how this should shape future priorities in terms of awareness raising and multi-agency practice

#### **4 Equalities implications**

4.1 How and in what ways we safeguard children must reflect the differing cultural values and norms within communities. Although the legal framework is universal how we ensure children and parents understand recognise and respond to potential safeguarding issues varies and is reflected for example in our work to reach out to faith communities and through our links with the Refugee and Migrant Centre.

#### **5.0 Environmental implications**

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

#### **6.0 Schedule of background papers**

6.1 Report to Wolverhampton Safeguarding Adults' Board 15.09.2016.