

Report title	Wolverhampton Safeguarding Children Board and Wolverhampton Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report 2017-2018	
Decision designation	AMBER	
Cabinet member with lead responsibility	Councillor Sandra Samuels OBE, Adults Councillor Paul Sweet, Children and Young People	
Key decision	No	
In forward plan	Yes	
Wards affected	All Wards	
Accountable Director	Mark Taylor, Strategic Director, People	
Originating service	Wolverhampton Safeguarding Boards	
Accountable employee	Dawn Williams	Head of Safeguarding
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Report to be/has been considered by	Strategic Executive Board	2 October 2018
	Children, Young People and Families Scrutiny Panel	5 September 2018
	Adults and Safer City Scrutiny Panel	25 September 2018

Recommendation for decision:

The Cabinet is recommended to:

Endorse the final report of the Wolverhampton Safeguarding Children Board and Wolverhampton Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report 2017-2018.

1.0 Purpose

- 1.1 This Annual Report aims to inform Cabinet of the safeguarding activity during 2017-2018, highlighting the progress made against the priorities for that period.
- 1.2 The Annual Report is agreed by the Wolverhampton Safeguarding Executive and was approved at the Wolverhampton Safeguarding Board on 14 September 2018. Some amendments have been made to the Annual Report based on feedback from meetings with the Cabinet Members for Adults and Children and Young People, and the respective Scrutiny Panels.
- 1.3 The Annual Report provides an overview of how partners, including City of Wolverhampton Council, have discharged their safeguarding responsibilities over the preceding year.

2.0 Background

- 2.1 This item was considered as pre-decision scrutiny on 5 September 2018 by the Children, Young People and Families Scrutiny Panel, and by the Adults and Safer City Scrutiny Panel on 25 September 2018, and will therefore not be available to call in once a decision is made by Cabinet.
- 2.2 The Wolverhampton Safeguarding Boards (WSB) are statutory bodies set up in accordance with the Children Act 2004, and Care Act 2014, respectively. The Boards are a partnership of enthusiastic members, dedicated to the improvement of practice and services that safeguard children in Wolverhampton.
- 2.3 WSB works closely with other strategic boards including the Health and Wellbeing Board, and the Safer Wolverhampton Partnership.
- 2.4 The Annual Report is a summary of WSB work during 2017-2018.
- 2.5 This report is formally the responsibility of the Independent Chair of the Safeguarding Boards, Linda Sanders. The content, in accordance with Working together to safeguard Children, 2018, must be submitted to the Managing Director of the Council, the Leader of the Council, the local Police and Crime Commissioner and the Chair of the Health and Wellbeing Together Board.
- 2.6 Overall, the Wolverhampton Safeguarding Children Board (WSCB) believes that arrangements for safeguarding children in Wolverhampton during this period was effective and that there remains a strong commitment to safeguarding children across the partnership.

3.0 Progress

- 3.1 The Annual Report reflects on the achievement of the WSB against four key priorities; these being:

- 3.2 **Priority 1: We will operate an effective board that focuses its work on local safeguarding priorities including support, challenge and holding multi-agencies to account for their contribution to the safety and protection of children and adults living in the City of Wolverhampton** – This has been achieved by bringing together areas of governance such as a joint risk assessment and a joint strategic plan. Furthermore, promotion of the ‘Think Family’ approach across the partnership and increased infrastructure to support the Boards service delivery.
- 3.3 **Priority 2: We will develop rigorous approaches to monitoring and evaluating the impact of services on safeguarding children & adults, and we will drive improvements in practice through timely and robust methods of learning and development** - During this reporting period, the Performance Committee (children’s) and the Quality and Performance Committee (adults) fully reviewed their performance scorecards to ensure that they provide a holistic, multi-agency picture of safeguarding across the partnership and thresholds for intervention. Action was also take to strengthen the multi-agency audit activity
- 3.4 **Priority 3: We will ensure that everything we do promotes improved practice to help safeguard and meet the needs of those children and adults who are particularly vulnerable or are at increased risk of abuse and harm** - Quality assurance activity across the boards help in understanding the experiences of children and adults when their needs are identified or as they receive services. Through ensuring Thresholds to accessing services are consistent, focusing on hospital admissions, understanding the impact of Private Fostering and the exploring the challenges posed by Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards the Boards have promoted and tested practice across Wolverhampton.
- 3.5 **Priority 4: We will ensure that we engage children and families, adults and communities of all backgrounds and make up, in the work of Wolverhampton Safeguarding Boards** - The Boards have led three key campaigns over the reporting Period; ‘Orange Wolverhampton’ (awareness raising of the Violence against Women and Girls agenda), ‘Empowering Hard to Reach Communities’ (addressing Domestic Violence in the City in conjunction with the Domestic Violence Forum) and 'What is Safeguarding?' which focused on raising awareness of safeguarding amongst the public. Engagement has also been achieved in the embracing of the work of the B-Safe team and working closely with Health Watch to understand the needs of vulnerable adults in the City.

4.0 Evaluation of alternative options

- 4.1 The Annual Report is a statutory requirement. This Annual Report attempts to offer the reader a format which is accessible and understood. The bringing together the reports of the Adults Safeguarding Board and the Children’s Safeguarding Board is an attempt to align the business of both Boards and encourage a ‘Think Family’ approach.

5.0 Reasons for decision

- 5.1 Cabinet have a statutory responsibility to have sight of the Safeguarding Board Annual Reports as the Local Authority is a lead partner in the delivery of the safeguarding agenda. Cabinet oversight supports rigorous governance of Safeguarding within the City of Wolverhampton and enhances the credibility of the priorities of the safeguarding partnership.

6.0 Financial implications

- 6.1 There are no direct financial implications as a result of publishing of the WSB Annual Report.
- 6.2 Any costs associated with the production of the WSB Annual report are covered within the Safeguarding Partnership approved budget.

[NM/19092018/M]

7.0 Legal implications

Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018 is a statutory document which outlines the forums at which the Safeguarding Boards Annual Reports must be presented.

[RB/09102018/J]

8.0 Equalities implications

- 8.1 The WSB Annual Report is relevant to all residents of Wolverhampton and includes the protected characteristics of Equality Act 2010.

9.0 Environmental implications

- 9.1 There are no environmental implications arising from this report.

10.0 Human resources implications

- 10.1 There are no human resources implications arising from this report.

11.0 Corporate landlord implications

- 11.1 There are no corporate landlord implications arising from this report.

12.0 Appendix

Appendix 1 - Wolverhampton Safeguarding Children Board and Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report 2017-2018