

**Lead Practitioner Role**

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| *When a person has complex needs, a lead practitioner is required to co-ordinate, monitor and review care. The lead practitioner acts as a point of contact and is responsible for the multi-agency support plan. The lead practitioner will ensure that the preferred outcomes of the person are reflected in the support plan. In most cases it will be clear which person should be the lead practitioner, but if this is not the case then a meeting should be arranged to agree who will take on the role.* |

Learning from Safeguarding Adults Reviews and Serious Case Reviews has shown the importance of the co-ordination of care when people have complex needs. See link below:

<https://www.safeguardingworcestershire.org.uk/documents/sar-rn/>

Where a person has complex needs and requires support from a range of agencies, WSAB and Worcestershire Safeguarding Children Board (WSCB) request that a lead practitioner is identified.

In some situations, there is guidance to ensure that care is co-ordinated, such as the Care Programme Approach for people with severe and enduring mental health problems. However, this is not the case in all situations, e.g. complex physical health needs or self-neglect.

In situations where there is not a clear lead practitioner, a multi-agency meeting should be arranged in order to agree who will take on the lead practitioner role. Such a meeting can be called by practitioners from both the statutory or non-statutory sector.

The lead practitioner will:

* Act as a point of contact
* Co-ordinate and monitor support
* Develop a multi-agency support plan
* Maintain regular contact with the person
* Ensure the adult's preferred outcomes are reflected in the support plan
* Regularly review the support plan
* Ensure that carer's needs are identified as applicable
* Ensure that mental capacity and advocacy are considered when key decisions are made

If you are working with a person with complex needs, make sure that you are clear who the lead practitioner is. If you are not clear, arrange a meeting to discuss and agree the lead practitioner role.