

Board Update – Message from the Chair

These are unprecedented times and I know that you will be working hard to support vulnerable people across Worcestershire, many of whom have health and care needs that without your support would be at increased risk during this Covid-19 pandemic.

A virtual Board meeting was held as scheduled in March. The primary focus of this meeting was to review how the WSAB manages its responsibilities under the current situation. It was unanimously agreed that much of the work undertaken by the WSAB would be placed on hold for the moment as it would not be feasible to ask organisations, rightly prioritising frontline services, to engage in these processes at the current time.

Please note that frontline Safeguarding services are still operating.

In the interim I will be holding fortnightly meetings with statutory partners to seek assurance that their emergency plans address any safeguarding risks and identify any issues which emerge through this situation. We will also regularly review the role of the WSAB as things move on.

Whilst the Sub-Groups will be temporarily stood down the WSAB business unit will continue to support our communication function, with support from the Council's Communications Department, ensuring that any key safeguarding messages and documents are circulated.

I appreciate that this is not an ideal situation; however, I hope that you understand the decision that has been taken to ensure that frontline services can continue to meet the demands created by this difficult and unforeseen situation.

Derek Benson
WSAB Independent Chair

WSAB – Covid-19 Adults Safeguarding Risks and Poster

These challenging times have the potential to increase the risks of safeguarding our most vulnerable citizens, so it is important that all partners have or are considering a process for managing safeguarding risks as part of their Covid-19 emergency planning. Some of the risks that Covid-19 raises are outlined in the attached document. [Safeguarding Risks](#)

The attached document is aimed at people who are offered or need support whilst self-isolating [Self Isolating Risk Poster](#).

Can we also remind people to encourage those with health and support need to register with the County Councils 'Here to Help' site via the following link: [Here to Help](#)

National Covid-19: Guidance and easements

The Government have published guidance for Local Authorities on easements to the Care Act during the current Covid-19 situation. This provides guidance on how LA's can provide the best possible care during this exceptional period. Details on Safeguarding can be found under Annex D. The document can be found by following this link: [LA Care Act Easements - Covid-19 Guidance](#)

Guidance has also been released by the government regarding the Mental Capacity Act (MCA) and Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards (DoLS) during the Covid-19 pandemic which can be found here [Covid-19 MCA/DoLS Govt Guidance](#).

The document makes it clear that the Mental Capacity Act 2005 remains in place and has not changed. Practice under this act should be proportionate, including around best interest decisions should remain the same in all ways, including recording.

The WSAB have created a temporary place on the website where all information regarding Covid-19 can be found: Details can be found here:

<C:\Users\Swilks\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\INetCache\Content.Outlook\09VUAWW3\Articals to consider.docx> [WSAB Covid-19 News](#)

Network Group

The Adults Safeguarding Network Group which was scheduled for April 29th has been **cancelled**. Once things have returned to normal, we will notify members of a new date.

This group is open to organisations who directly deliver services for adults with care and support needs, including voluntary sector and services that operate at a district level. The purpose of the group is to share information about Safeguarding and look at how to address issues which don't meet the Section 42 criteria but where there is a concern.

For more information on joining us at future meetings contact SafeguardingAdultsBo@worcestershire.gov.uk

Board Documents

During January to March the Board have published the following documents:

The WSAB and WCC created the attached briefing note explaining Making Safeguarding Personal (MSP) [MSP Briefing Note](#)

The WSAB updated its training strategy which can be found here [WSAB Training Strategy](#)

They also published a joint paper with the County Council Adult Social Care training department providing details of safeguarding training which had been identified through the Safeguarding Network and can be found here: [Training Materials](#)

Other Documents and Information

Promoting Sexual Safety

The CQC published the Promoting Sexual Safety through empowerment report. The report was prepared following meetings with people using services and their families and carers.

It looks at how adult social care services keep people safe from sexual incidents. It also looks at how services can support them to express their sexuality. The report can be found through the [following link](#)

Adult safeguarding and homelessness: A briefing on positive practice

The attached briefing has been recently published by ADASS. It has been designed to support leaders, such as members of Safeguarding Adults Boards (SABs), as well as commissioners, practitioners and operational managers who are working across relevant sectors and agencies in this field, to support people who are at risk of or experiencing abuse or neglect. [Safeguarding and Homelessness](#)