



Board Business

The Worcestershire Safeguarding Adults Board met virtually via teams in March. At the meeting a SAR on 'Ruth' was signed off. Details on this SAR will be shared widely once published.

There also continued to be a focus on the staffing pressures in the Health and Care sector. This included an assurance item on how potential risks from the recent industrial action were being addressed. The Board also received a report and verbal update from the Herefordshire and Worcestershire Health and Care NHS Trust on how they are addressing the issues raised by the CQC on Hill Crest Mental Health Unit in Redditch.

West Mercia Police gave an update on their Most Appropriate Agency work. This follows a review on how the police respond to requests for support from partner agencies, particularly Safe and Well checks with the revised approach due to go live from April 2023. The Board were informed that a team of professionals, based at the Operational Command Centre, have been trained to assess requests to ensure that the case is dealt with by the organisation which is best placed to respond. The revised approach is being reviewed at six months and it was agreed that the findings from this review will be brought back to a future Board meeting.

Other items included updates from the sub-groups on the work they are doing. Progress against this year's objectives is going well in each of these. It has been a busy year and the work of all participants was commended by Professor Keith Brown the WSAB independent Chair. Recognition was also given to the impact that the Complex Adult Risk Management (CARM) Framework is having. It was agreed that oversight of the framework would remain with the WSAB for a further year and costs would be covered though the funding from the WSAB reserves.

2023/24 Board Priorities

In January the WSAB held its annual strategy day. The purpose of the event is for Board representatives to reflect on the achievements of the current year, identify any gaps or areas which need to be carried over and consider any new areas of work which may need to be picked up by the Board. This ends with the Board agreeing the priorities for the next business year.

The ambition is to continue building on the work the WSAB are undertaking, including assurance exercises and communication work. The following three areas were identified as key areas to take forward during the year.

1. Further development of the Safeguarding Adults Reviews and Rapid Review process.
2. Further development and embedding of the CARM framework.
3. Implementation of the Exploitation Strategy

Spotlight on WSAB work

Safeguarding Adults Reviews (SAR) – Sharing the learning

SARs play a key role in identifying learning, which inform improvement recommendations, which the Safeguarding Adults Board (SAB) ensure are implemented. Over the years reoccurring themes have emerged, both locally and nationally.

Below are some links to learning briefings which the Worcestershire SAB have recently shared on themes from SARs:

Self-Neglect

This briefing identifies local SAR learning briefings where self-neglect has been a feature. It asks that practitioners and teams use these briefings in supervision, team meetings and training, ensuring that they are familiar with the local self-neglect policy. Alongside a link to the policy, there is a link to resources from the WSAB website.

[Link to SAR self-neglect learning briefing](#)

Mental Capacity Act

This document focuses on a SAR where application of the Mental Capacity Act (MCA) and making a Best Interest decision was not fully adhered to when a young person was transitioning from children to adult services.

Again, there are links to resources, including two podcasts the WSAB has produced, outlining the requirements of the MCA, alongside things to consider when engaging families

[Link to Lucy Learning Resource](#)

Reviews Published this quarter - Alison

Self-Neglect was also a feature of this SAR. Alison lived alone and had complex needs. The learning from the SAR focuses on multi-agency working and the need to consider executive function when assessing mental capacity.

Recommendations have now been submitted to the sub-groups who will consider how ensure that this is shared across the health and care sector.

[Link to Alison Learning Briefing](#)

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Policy Watch

Organisational abuse Procedures

At the March Board Meeting the WSAB signed off local Organisational Abuse Procedures. These provide guidance for a multi-agency approach to responding to concerns in relation to the Organisational Abuse of adults with care and support needs.

It applies to all services, whether private, independent or statutory; regardless of who funds their support or whether they are regulated by the Care Quality Commission (CQC). Its purpose is to help staff give more informed and effective support to people who need an adult safeguarding service because of Organisational Abuse.

A copy of the procedure can be found by following this link

[Organisational Abuse Procedures](#)

National resources

The following guidance was published in November 2022. It describes how to commission and deliver effective advocacy; identifying who should be offered advocacy; monitoring and improving services; and training and skills for advocates and practitioners.

[Link to Advocacy Services for Health](#)