

Meeting:	Adults and wellbeing scrutiny committee
Meeting date:	Tuesday 29 January 2019
Title of report:	Herefordshire Safeguarding Adults Board Annual report 2017-2018
Report by:	Independent Chair

Classification

Open

Decision type

This is not an executive decision

Wards affected

(All Wards);

Purpose and summary

To review the annual report of the Herefordshire Safeguarding Adult Board (HSAB), which addresses the work of the multi-agency partners in Herefordshire in safeguarding and promoting the welfare of adults at risk within the county, including achievements and areas for improvement, and priorities identified for 2018/19 in order to assess how effectively the board is working and to consider recommending further actions to secure improvements.

During the course of 17/18 the Board has strengthened the multi-agency partnership despite the challenges on organisational resources and capacity. We continue to raise the profile of safeguarding in Herefordshire with both citizen and organisations, including delivering sessions to parish council and developing resources for their use and delivering a multi-agency conference. Challenge continues to be the embedding of making safeguarding personal and work will continue on this through 2018/19.

Recommendation(s)

That:

- (a)** The committee determine any recommendations it wishes to make to the Independent Chair of the Herefordshire, Safeguarding Adults Board, the executive, or the relevant health body, in order to secure further improvement.

Alternative options

1. There are no alternatives to the recommendation. It is a function of the scrutiny committee to make reports or recommendations to the executive with respect to the discharge of any functions which are the responsibility of the executive, and to review and scrutinise any matter relating to the planning, provision and operation of the health service in its area and make reports and recommendations to a responsible person.

Key considerations

2. The work of the HSAB is a critical element of the ongoing challenge to keep the most vulnerable members of our Herefordshire communities safe from harm. It is well known to the board and the various partner agencies involved in the safeguarding of adults at risk that a number do regrettably come to serious harm. As such, the importance of an effective board and the effective co-ordination of high quality services, as reflected in the annual report, should be recognised.

HSAB annual report 2017/18

3. The strategic priorities for the 2017/18 period remain unchanged from 2015/16. These priorities, together with examples of progress made against them and continuing areas for development are detailed below.
4. Priority 1 - Partnership working
 - a. Assessment – Continued progress in this area during 2017/18, with future focus being on developing the effectiveness of performance management, particularly in relation to the partnership beyond the council.
5. There is good multi-agency involvement in the board, case studies are presented at every meeting, leading to discussion and debate about agencies and their roles in safeguarding both individually and collectively. Professionals are encouraged to consider the work of other organisations and invitations are issued to additional agencies or individuals to aid this and to improve knowledge and understanding.
6. A key element to effective performance management is the board's ability to collect the right multi-agency data. The council and health partners provide timely and accurate information, however some agencies and, notably the police as one of the principle partners, are still unable to provide the right information to inform board discussion and decision making. This is a position which is reflected nationally. The Independent Chair is working with the national Police Lead on Adult Safeguarding to secure progress.
7. There is an increasing expectation for 'the community' to look out and care for its own and an increasing need for communities and families to be more involved in the support and delivery of care. The board fully recognises that within this there is potential for safeguarding risk. Added to this, one of the significant challenges is the need to balance the perception of risk with a need to respect and support individuals to live in circumstances, which may in themselves, appear to be risky. The board is working with partner agencies and particularly the voluntary sector to raise awareness and understanding of this balance.
8. Priority 2 - Prevention and protection

- b. Assessment – Steady progress, with an ongoing need to find an effective means to gather the views of those who have been through the safeguarding process, and maximise the opportunity to engage through current partnership activity with those adults who may be at risk, for example fire safety visits by the fire service.
9. The board has approved a prevention strategy, which supports the development of initiatives to improve prevention, identification and response to abuse and neglect. It draws together work from partner agencies and includes a range of activities aimed at promoting general wellbeing and maintaining independence as a means of reducing vulnerability to exploitation, abuse or neglect. Included in this, is a work plan which will be monitored throughout the year by the business unit.
10. During the year, the board has promoted the initiative that will mean that their Herefordshire Fire and Rescue technicians will ask questions about health and wellbeing as well as fire safety during their visits. This has led to individuals being signposted to additional support and services that will maintain their independence and help them to live more safely.
11. Priority 3 - Communications and engagement
- c. Assessment – Steady progress, however communication will always remain a challenge as requirements, messages and workforce are continually changing.
12. During 2017/18 the board has engaged with a number of forums and events in order to promote its work. During the year, representatives attended the Engaging Communities event in Hereford that was hosted by Rhodius and spoke to members of the public about safeguarding. The board also repeated the exercise with parish magazines and requested that they include safeguarding information within their publications.
13. Priority 4 - Operational effectiveness
- d. Assessment – Slow progress, to embed the ‘Making Safeguarding Personal’ approach across partner agencies in Herefordshire and to roll out the training validation process. Good progress has been made in the overall tracking and delivery of priorities.
14. Making Safeguarding Personal has been slow to embed across partner agencies, several means have been used to promote this including the sharing of the sector specific Association of Directors of Adult Social Services (ADASS) guidance. Further work needs to be undertaken on this subject
15. The training validation scheme requires organisations to show how their training is making a difference to the people who use their services and how the competency framework is used in the organisation to ensure a competent workforce. The take up of this has been slow throughout the year and is to be reconsidered.
16. In 2018/19, the HSAB will continue to prioritise the following areas:
- Develop relationships across agencies that deliver positive changes to safeguarding.
 - Ensure Herefordshire residents can recognise safeguarding concerns and know what to do.
 - Deliver the messages from the board and recognise the voice of those we safeguard.
 - Ensure safeguarding knowledge, processes, systems and structures are embedded across all agencies.

17. The HSAB annual report sets out work plans to deliver on the priority areas.

Community impact

18. In accordance with the adopted code of corporate governance, Herefordshire Council must ensure that it has an effective performance management system that facilitates effective and efficient delivery of planned services. Effective financial management, risk management and internal control are important components of this performance management system. The council is committed to promoting a positive working culture that accepts, and encourages constructive challenge, and recognises that a culture and structure for scrutiny are key elements for accountable decision making, policy development, and review.
19. The partners represented on the board have statutory responsibilities for services in Herefordshire that safeguard and promote the wellbeing of adults at risk. The board has a statutory duty to scrutinise, challenge and support this work. The HSAB is a key part of the mechanism for challenge, supporting and promoting improvement of these services. The annual report and priorities going forward not only identify areas of safeguarding that require sustained focus and improvement, but also complement and support the work of the other partnerships in Herefordshire, such as the Children and Young People's Partnership's focus on early help, neglect and safeguarding, and the Community Safety Partnership's focus on domestic abuse.

Equality duty

20. Under section 149 of the Equality Act 2010, the 'general duty' on public authorities is set out as follows:

A public authority must, in the exercise of its functions, have due regard to the need to -

- (a) eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under this Act;
 - (b) advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it;
 - (c) foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.
21. The public sector equality duty (specific duty) requires us to consider how we can positively contribute to the advancement of equality and good relations, and demonstrate that we are paying 'due regard' in our decision making in the design of policies and in the delivery of services. As this paper is factually reporting on progress we do not believe that it will have an impact on our equality duty.
 22. The Equality Act 2010 established a positive obligation on local authorities to promote equality and to reduce discrimination in relation to any of the nine 'protected characteristics' (age; disability; gender reassignment; pregnancy and maternity; marriage and civil partnership; race; religion or belief; sex; and sexual orientation). In particular, the council must have 'due regard' to the public sector equality duty when taking any decisions on service changes.
 23. The HSAB pays due regard to The Equality Duty on public bodies and others carrying out public functions, specifically that public bodies consider the needs of all individuals in their

day to day work. This is particularly evident for example through the work of HSAB in embedding the 'Making Safeguarding Personal' approach within Herefordshire, so tailoring the service delivered to the individual's particular wants and needs, and ensuring that the voice of the adult informs decisions. The public sector equality duty (specific duty) requires us to consider how we can positively contribute to the advancement of equality and good relations, and demonstrate that we are paying 'due regard' in our decision making in the design of policies and in the delivery of services. Our providers will be made aware of their contractual requirements in regards to equality legislation.

Resource implications

24. None associated with this report. Any resource implications arising from recommendations made by the committee will inform the relevant decision-makers' response to the recommendation.
25. The HSAB receives contributions from all partner agencies to fund the organisation and the work of the board. The available budget is identified and reviewed throughout the year and any risks identified; these risks are included within the annual report

Legal implications

26. The Care Act 2014 provides that each council must establish a Safeguarding Adults Board. The board has three core duties:
 - a) To develop and publish a strategic plan
 - b) To provide an annual report of how effective the local services have been
 - c) Commission safeguarding adult reviews (SARS)
27. Under statutory guidance the board has a duty to produce an annual report on the effectiveness of safeguarding adults in the area. The report should provide a rigorous and transparent assessment of the performance and effectiveness of local services. It should also identify weaknesses, causes of these and action to be taken to address them
28. Part 3 Section 4 of the constitution sets out the remit of the scrutiny committee.

Risk management

29. None associated with this report. Any implications arising from recommendations made by the committee will inform the relevant partners action planning and be monitored by the board
30. The current identifiable risks to the effectiveness of the board continue to be financial, as the need for contributing partners to identify savings continues.
31. The HSAB runs a joint risk register with the Herefordshire Safeguarding Childrens Board and the Community Safety Partnership in order to monitor and manage these risks where appropriate, and this is subject to regular review.

Consultees

32. None

Appendices

HSAB Annual Report 2017-18

Background papers

None