

Meeting:	Health and wellbeing board
Meeting date:	16 May 2017
Title of report:	Safeguarding and community safety
Report by:	Business manager, Herefordshire safeguarding boards and Community Safety Partnership

Classification

Open

Key decision

This is not an executive decision.

Wards affected

Countywide

Purpose

To respond to queries raised in relation to the Safeguarding Adult Board and Safeguarding Children Board annual reports.

To seek the board's views on the degree to which the proposed priorities for the community safety strategy 2017/20 pay regard to the priorities within the health and wellbeing strategy.

Recommendation(s)

THAT:

- a) the board determine whether the proposed priorities for the Herefordshire Community Safety strategy 2017 – 2020 (detailed in paragraph 13 of this report) pay sufficient regard to the priorities of the health and wellbeing strategy; and**
- b) the board determine any further recommendations it wishes to make to the Safeguarding Adult Board or Safeguarding Children Board in order to secure further improvement in health and wellbeing outcomes in the county.**

Alternative options

1. There are no alternative options; it is a function of the board to review whether the commissioning plans and arrangements for the NHS, public health and social care are in line with and have given due regard to the health and wellbeing strategy.

Reasons for recommendations

2. To seek the board's views on the proposed priorities for the community safety strategy.
3. To provide assurance that safeguarding boards activities align to the priorities of the health and wellbeing strategy.

Key considerations

4. ***Update on the proposed Herefordshire Community Safety Partnership priorities 2017 – 2020 and progress on developing the strategic plan.***
5. On 7 February 2017 Herefordshire health and wellbeing board requested that it receives the draft Herefordshire Community Safety Partnership (HCSP) strategic plan, with a particular focus on domestic abuse, harm from alcohol and drugs, and incidents of sexual harm against children.
6. Prior to the development of a new strategic plan a review of the HCSP priorities to which it had been working during 2014 – 2017 was required.
7. The HCSP met on the 20 March 2017 and received a presentation from the Strategic Intelligence Team on their report 'Domestic Violence and Abuse: Evaluation of Local Response in Herefordshire 2017', and a presentation on the recently completed assessments of child sexual exploitation and sexual offending against children in Herefordshire. A discussion then took place in relation to setting the strategic priorities for the HCSP for the next three years. The key elements considered within that discussion are set out below.
8. The Domestic Violence and Abuse evaluation. In summary the report outlined that whilst domestic violence and abuse is no more prevalent than elsewhere, there is an upward trend in numbers of police recorded domestic abuse related offences and incidents. Whilst this is concerning it may demonstrate increased confidence in reporting incidents. This increase in reporting has had an impact on services, for example the dedicated specialist support service, West Mercia Women's Aid (WMWA).
9. The emerging themes highlighted were that where agencies are aware of each other's risk management strategy and the agency role, victim support is more effective resulting in positive outcomes. However, there is a need to address perpetrator behaviour. Also whilst it is acknowledged that there is some good practice in Herefordshire and successful outcomes for victims and their families, there is a need to provide coherent preventative interventions and a requirement to drive a co-ordinated strategic response to domestic violence in the county.
10. Alcohol and drug misuse. Recent substance misuse interventions completed through the HCSP include implementation of the "Take Home Naloxone" through a task and finish group, completion of a draft procedure on drug related deaths notification, and an approach to identify opportunities and plans for short term, geographically localised initiatives. On 20 March 2017 it was recommended that there was no longer

a need for an ongoing substance misuse delivery group and any future CSP involvement in substance misuse interventions should follow a task and finish group approach. It is therefore proposed that the HCSP will retain a strategic overview of the harm caused by substance misuse and agencies' responses to that through an assurance reporting process. The HCSP delivery groups will also have specific regard to substance misuse where it has a direct link to matters captured within the refreshed priorities. It will however no longer feature as a stated priority of the HCSP.

11. Sexual offending against children. Having considered the reports on child sexual exploitation and sexual offending against children in Herefordshire the HCSP reached the decision that the reduction of sexual offending against children should be a priority for 2017 – 2020. This decision was based on the evidence available which showed a high level of recording in relation to these types of offences within the county. It highlighted that Herefordshire was 18th out of the 315 CSP's in England and Wales, when ranked in order of highest prevalence of recording of sexual offences per 1000 children compared with England and Wales as a whole (9.7 per 1000 children, compared with 6.5 per 1000). Whilst acknowledging that the matters affecting recording levels are complex, this provides continuity to the decision taken by HCSP in 2015 to adopt a fifth priority at that time to address the harm caused by sexual violence and sexual exploitation on both children and adults. The Herefordshire Safeguarding Children Board are to be asked to consider expanding the terms of reference of their current Child Sexual Exploitation and Missing Children sub group to incorporate the co-ordination of the partnership response to sexual offending against children on behalf of the HCSP.
12. There is also a recognition that there are potentially a number of emerging threats that need to be addressed by the partnership, specifically people trafficking and modern slavery, FGM, forced marriage and 'honour based' violence.
13. Following a review of performance and underlying CSP themes the following priorities were agreed for 2017 - 2020:
 - To reduce the harm from domestic violence and abuse
 - To reduce sexual offending against children
 - To promote community cohesion, address hate crime and prevent radicalisation
 - To reduce exploitation of vulnerable people
14. These proposed priorities were agreed by the HSCP Board to reflect the importance of the work required in these areas, but also to reflect the need to add value to current interventions through cohesive partnership working. The report on domestic violence reinforced that ongoing co-ordinated activity is required to address domestic violence and abuse in Herefordshire. Further, there is still a need to address issues of hate crime and community cohesion and to deliver Prevent interventions, with the increase in the reporting of 'hate crime' linked with 'Brexit' having remained at that level.
15. It is recognised that the HCSP also has a statutory function to reduce reoffending in Herefordshire. It is proposed that like substance misuse, these matters will be followed by the HCSP through an assurance reporting process.

Having agreed the proposed priorities for 2017 – 2020 it is the intention of the HCSP to produce an annual review and a draft 3 year strategy for the HCSP Board to consider on 12 June 2017. These documents will be shared with the health and

wellbeing board when available. Following CSP approval of the draft 3 year strategy, it will then be reviewed by the general scrutiny committee before being presented to Cabinet to recommend to full council for adoption.

- 16. To provide updates on the questions raised to the chairs of the Safeguarding Adult Board and Safeguarding Children Board following consideration of the annual reports on 7 February 2017.**
17. As a result of the presentation of the Herefordshire Safeguarding Adult Board annual report 2015 – 2016 and the Herefordshire Safeguarding Children Board annual report 2015 – 2016 to the health and wellbeing board on 7 February 2017, a number of action points were raised to which responses have been set out below.
- 18. Action point 1 - Community Safety Partnership board to facilitate a multi-agency approach in order to gain a better understanding of patterns of incidence of sexual abuse of children coinciding with domestic abuse.**
19. A report into the prevalence of sexual offending against children in Herefordshire was commissioned from the Local Authority Intelligence Team, and delivered in October 2016. This provided detail on the nature of offences being committed, locations, age groups affected and emerging themes linked with those. It did not however raise any concern in relation to the sexual abuse of children coinciding with or being linked to domestic abuse.
- 20. Action point 2 - For the Adult Safeguarding Board to co-ordinate a domestic abuse summit for partners to consolidate intelligence and approach.**
21. Since August 2014 Herefordshire has experienced three separate incidents for which a Domestic Homicide Review has been required. These reviews have been overseen by the Herefordshire Community Safety Partnership, and all should be published shortly. There is significant learning from these reviews for various partner agencies, and this learning has been and will continue to be disseminated as it becomes available.
22. There are common themes emerging from these reviews however which would benefit from an input covering the three incidents and which emphasises those themes to practitioners in a multi-agency learning event.
23. It is planned that a presentation of these three Domestic Homicide Reviews and their findings will be delivered at a partnership conference to be held in November 2017, to coincide with the National Domestic Abuse White Ribbon Awareness day, held annually on the 25th November. This will also provide an opportunity to brief practitioners on other elements of our response to Domestic Abuse within Herefordshire, as required.
- 24. Action point 3 - Both safeguarding boards and the community safety partnership board to ensure they are sighted on modern slavery and trafficking and also on domestic abuse, with a clear lead board to be identified.**
25. On Thursday 27th April 2017 the Chairs and Statutory Officer's Group met to agree clear lines of ownership and accountability in relation to a number of aspects of vulnerability within Herefordshire, particularly modern slavery, human trafficking, female genital mutilation, forced marriage and honour based violence.
26. In view of the Community Safety Partnership's new priority for 2017-2020 of 'Reducing the exploitation of vulnerable people', the decision was made that the Community Safety Partnership would have responsibility for co-ordinating the delivery

of the partnership response to these areas of vulnerability. Specifically, the Domestic Violence and Abuse Delivery Group will expand its terms of reference to include female genital mutilation, forced marriage and honour based violence. Further, a task and finish group led by Police and accountable to the HCSP will review and develop our partnership response to modern slavery and human trafficking.

27. Action point 4 - In developing a bid focused on bespoke services to support the issue of domestic abuse by people with dementia, West Mercia Police to involve partners in recognition that disclosures were not being made exclusively to the police.

28. The West Mercia Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner has developed and submitted a bid for funding to the Home Office from the Violence against Women and Girls service transformation fund. This bid is aimed at improving the response to tackling violence in a relationship where dementia is also a factor. This clearly has relevance to Herefordshire in view of recent events covered in Domestic Homicide Reviews.

29. The bid proposed a number of possible interventions, however it is recognised that the effectiveness of such interventions, and the need for them, may differ from area to area so necessitating a more 'bespoke' response in each community safety partnership area rather than a single 'West Mercia' wide solution. As such, the Herefordshire Dementia Implementation Group has agreed to support the development of Herefordshire's involvement in this bid and how best the funds can be used within the county should the bid be successful, so ensuring a broad and fully informed proposal. Having now entered a period of 'purdah' however, a decision from the Home Office in relation to allocation of funds is not expected in the near future.

Community impact

30. The Herefordshire Community Safety Partnership has certain statutory responsibilities under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, updated by the Police and Justice Act 2006 which are intended to deliver a positive impact on the safety of our communities. These are set out in detail in paragraphs 34 to 36 below. In addition, the priorities that have been set for Herefordshire are based on evidenced assessment of matters which are currently having greatest impact on community safety within Herefordshire.

Equality duty

31. The Community Safety Partnership 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 in the work of the Community Safety Partnership for example through the focus on addressing 'hate crime' and other matters that impact more heavily on members of minority groups, such as 'honour based' violence, female genital mutilation, and human trafficking.

Financial implications

32. None arising from the recommendations. The Herefordshire Community Safety Partnership and the safeguarding boards receive contributions from partner agencies to fund their organisation and work. A budget is set out and reviewed throughout the year and any risks identified.

Legal implications

33. The Crime and Disorder Act 1998 gave local authorities and police services duties to work together to develop crime and disorder audits and implement reduction strategies and to work in partnership with other agencies, Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs), to tackle the identified problems.
34. The Police and Justice Act 2006 made certain amendments to the legislation which resulted in an approach to CSP's that is more flexible and allows for more local discretion, but which retains key statutory responsibilities which must be met.
35. These key statutory responsibilities include the development of a strategic plan for the reduction of crime and disorder in the local area, to reduce reoffending and the harm caused by substance misuse and to coordinate Domestic Homicide reviews.

Risk management

36. There are a number of identifiable risks associated with any reduction in the effectiveness of the Community Safety Partnership. There is a legal risk that it does not meet its statutory responsibilities as set out above. Secondly, an ineffective response to the priorities of the Community Safety Partnership through a lack of coordination of partnership working may lead directly to an increased risk to some of the most vulnerable members of our community.
37. The Community Safety Partnership works closely with the other safeguarding boards, children and young person's partnership and health and wellbeing board through the Chairs and Statutory Officers group to ensure that there is a coordinated approach to managing these risks. The CSP also manages the response to the identified priorities through a well established delivery group and assurance reporting structure. In addition the two safeguarding boards and the Community Safety Partnership run a joint risk register in order to monitor and manage these risks where appropriate, and this is subject to regular review.

Consultees

None

Appendices

None

Background papers

None identified.