

Title of report: Annual Report of the Herefordshire Safeguarding Adults Board (HSAB) 2022 to 2023

Meeting: Health and Wellbeing Board

Meeting date: Monday 11 March 2024

Report by: Chair of the HSAB

Classification

Open

Decision type

This is not an executive decision

Wards affected

(All Wards);

Purpose

For the Health and Wellbeing Board (HWB) to receive the Annual Report of the HSAB.

It is a requirement of the Care Act 2014 that the HSAB annual report is sent to:

- the chief executive and leader of the local authority which established the HSAB
- any local policing body that is required to sit on the HSAB
- the local Healthwatch organisation
- the chair of the local health and wellbeing board.

Recommendation

That:

- a) The Health and Wellbeing Board considers the HSAB Annual Report 2022/23 and discuss the effectiveness of the arrangements for safeguarding adults in Herefordshire.

Alternative options

The Chair of HWB could choose not to bring the report to the HWBB and circulate it for information.

Key considerations

1. Under the Care Act 2014 each local authority must set up a Safeguarding Adults Board (SAB). The main objective of a SAB is to assure itself that local safeguarding arrangements and partners act to help and protect adults in its area who meet the criteria for safeguarding.
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2. A Safeguarding Adults Board has three core duties:

- It must publish a strategic plan for each financial year that sets how it will meet its main objective and what the members will do to achieve this. The plan must be developed with local community involvement, and the SAB must consult the local Healthwatch organisation. The plan should be evidence-based and make use of all available evidence and intelligence from partners to form and develop its plan.
 - It must publish an annual report detailing what the SAB has done during the year to achieve its main objective and implement its strategic plan, and what each member has done to implement the strategy as well as detailing the findings of any safeguarding adults reviews and subsequent action
 - It must conduct any safeguarding adults review in accordance with Section 44 of the Act.
3. The HSAB Annual plan 2022/23 covers the period 1 April 2022 to 31 March 2023. It outlines the progress of the partnership in delivering the three priorities of the Strategic Plan 2019-2022.
4. The three priorities were Prevention; Communications and Engagement; and, Operational effectiveness. The report contains a summary of progress against each of these priorities.
5. There were no Safeguarding Adults Reviews in the year but following the introduction of a rapid review approach 7 out of 8 referrals progressed to a rapid review. This enabled the partnership to identify key learning from case reviews which did not meet the criteria for a full review.
6. Key performance data is provided from the national survey but the report notes that compliance was voluntary during the pandemic meaning that the last comparable data is from 2019/20. This shows that in the County 73.6% of service users 'felt safe' and 90.2% felt that the services provided made them feel safe.
7. Whilst the number of reported safeguarding concerns fell, 47% of reported cases took place in the individuals own home and in 41% the abuser was known to the victim.
8. One area outlined for development work is the transition of children who are exploited to adulthood. This work became a legacy project for the partnership to take forward in 2023/24.
9. Two further projects were planned to be undertaken in 2023/24.
- A census of women's experiences of homelessness in the county and this will feed into a national pilot (more information available upon request).
 - A review of the national Ending Rough Sleeping Data Framework and seeking to apply this in Herefordshire to improve our offer of support and ensure that services are appropriately working towards sustainable recovery.
10. The sub groups identified the delivery of regular performance data: the absence of partnership data; and engagement with individuals as specific challenges for the partnership.
11. Overall the report concludes that in 2022/23 partners worked well to re-establish their work in the post pandemic era and concluded the year by setting new priorities for 2023/24 and the immediate future: These are:

Self-neglect

- To improve our response to understanding and managing self-neglect needs, making sure all agencies understand and respond to self-neglect

Exploitation

- To address the safeguarding issues and challenges arising from criminal exploitation including cuckooing, sexual exploitation, modern slavery, county lines, human trafficking and financial exploitation.

Prevention

- To support and promote initiatives and activities which prevent or reduce abuse and neglect and keep people safe

Neglect and omission

- To understand the profile of neglect and omission occurrences within the County and develop resources to mitigate.

Board Effectiveness

- To ensure that the Board fulfils its statutory functions and is effective in its role of assurance of the safeguarding system

Community impact

12. The report includes information on the effectiveness of the Talk Community programme in reaching out to communities and individuals.

Environmental Impact

13. There are no general implications for the environment arising from this report.

Equality duty

14. The role of the safeguarding board is to be assured that partners are working together to ensure vulnerable people are kept safe. Many vulnerable people will have protected characteristics and the Board expect service delivery to take these into account.

Resource implications

- a. There are no resource implications associated with this report. The resource implications of any recommendations made by the HWB will need to be considered by the responsible body or the executive in response to those recommendations or subsequent decisions.

Legal implications

- b. By receiving the report the HWBB assists the HSAB to meet its statutory requirements.

Risk management

c. There are no risk implications identified emerging from the recommendation in this report.

Consultees

None

Appendices

Appendix 1 – HSAB Annual Report 2022/23

Background papers

None identified.