

SOCIAL CARE AND HEALTH SCRUTINY AND OVERVIEW COMMITTEE

Thursday 14th November 2019 at 6.00 p.m.

Conference Room 2, Council House, Walsall

Committee Members Present

Councillor K. Hussain (Chair)
Councillor B. Allen
Councillor G. Ali
Councillor D. Coughlan
Councillor S. Neville
Councillor W. Rasab
Councillor I. Robertson
Councillor H. Sarohi
Councillor K. Sears
Councillor V. Waters

Portfolio Holders Present

Councillor M. Longhi
Councillor R. Martin – Adult Social Care

Other Members Present

Councillor I. Shires

Officers Present

Andrea Cooke – Children’s Commissioning Manager
Carl Griffiths – Head of Community Care
Adrian Roche – Head of Social Care
Hamira Sultan – Consultant in Public Health
Emma Thomas – Public Health Intelligence Manager
Nikki Gough – Democratic Services Officer

Black Country Women’s Aid

Sara Ward – Chief Executive Officer
Raj Logan – Service Manager (Domestic Abuse)

28/19 Apologies

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillor G. Clarke.

29/19 Substitutions

Councillor K. Sears substituted for Councillor G. Clarke for the duration of the meeting.

30/19 Declarations of Interest

Councillor B. Allen declared an interest as an employee of Walsall Healthcare Trust.

31/19 Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985 (as amended)

There were no items to be considered in private session.

32/19 Minutes of previous meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 24th October 2019 were considered by the Committee.

Resolved

The minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 24th October 2019 were agreed as a true and accurate record.

33/19 Safeguarding Adults Annual report 2018/19

The Chair of the Walsall Safeguarding Adults Board stated that the report provided an overview of the partnership performance in relation to safeguarding adults with care and support needs and of the partner's delivery of the statutory safeguarding adult board arrangements. The Chair stated that the Board had been on a journey of improvement, which now had regular audits with a longer line of sight of quality of practice. The Safeguarding Adults Board was moving towards greater parity with the Safeguarding Children's Board. Members were informed that there had been an increase in referrals, which indicated an increased awareness of safeguarding adults.

The governance of domestic abuse services had been raised as an issue by the Safeguarding Board and this had now been clarified as sitting under the Safer Walsall Partnership. Following a discussion around safe and well checks carried out by the fire service it was confirmed that they recently attended the Board and promoted their offer.

A Member raised the impact of poor mental health on individuals and the importance of reducing waiting lists for mental health services. The Chair of the Board stated that the suicide prevention group reported into the Health and Well Being Board.

The Chair of the Board stated that changes in legislation would mean that the safeguarding arrangements in Walsall would be reviewed. This would lead to the establishment of safeguarding leadership team.

A Member challenged if information sharing was a problem due to General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR). The Chair of the Board stated that there was clear guidance and information could be shared without consent, it was clear when this could happen.

Resolved

That the Safeguarding Adults Annual report 2018/19 be noted.

34/19 Domestic Abuse – a new approach

The Head of Social Care introduced the report (tabled) and spoke to the presentation. The previous approach to domestic abuse had been reviewed by the Council and consideration had been given to how better outcomes could be achieved. The Committee were informed that the governance of domestic abuse in Walsall had been transferred from the Local Children's Safeguarding Board to the Safer Walsall Partnership in 2018. The domestic abuse delivery plan would be monitored through the Safer Walsall Partnership 'violence priority group'.

The Chief Executive of Black Country Women's Aid described specialist Domestic Abuse Services, including those, which helped children and young people exposed to domestic abuse. The women's refuge was described and schemes to make housing safe for victims to remain at home. A Black Country Women's Aid worker had been contracted to support young people who had been exposed to domestic abuse.

The Service Manager (Black Country Women's Aid) stated that the organisation worked with those at high and medium risk to offer one to one support. Members questioned how GP's were trained in domestic violence, and in response to this the IRIS training (Identification and Referral to Improve Safety) project was described for which assisted them to assess and identify risk of domestic abuse.

The Committee heard a case study, which related to domestic abuse and how receiving the help and support she needed improved her situation. Officers confirmed that referrals into the MASH were received mainly from the Police; this was consistent across Local Authorities. Peak times for self-referral were consistent with stressful times at home and indicated a pattern of decision making which were also consistent across Authorities.

A Member asked if there was a different approach across cultures, The Service Manager stated that staff addressed the individual needs of each victim, and would ensure that victims understand advice, however the risk and one to one support didn't vary. A Member questioned if the domestic violence perpetrator programme was effective. The Chief Executive (Black Country Women's Aid) stated that there was a difficulty engaging perpetrators into the programme and that a report from the Police and Crime Commissioner was due in January 2020.

A Member suggested that there needed to be more support for men experiencing domestic abuse. Officers confirmed that the services were available for women and men who were aged 16 years plus. There was also funding for 10 specialist beds, which would also be available to men. Members suggested that services for men needed to be promoted to ensure those victims were aware of them.

Members queried if services received adequate funding to meet the current level of demand. It was acknowledged that many public services dealing with vulnerable groups would benefit from additional funding.

Resolved

That the Committee noted the 'Domestic Abuse a New Approach' report.

35/19 Public Health Outcomes Framework (PHOF) – outcomes focus

Public Health Officers introduced the Public Health Outcomes Frameworks report (annexed). The Committee were advised that a performance matrix had been developed to offer direction and steer for the outcomes.

The Committee were informed that the outcomes framework attempted to make the information understandable, the grid allowed statistical neighbours to be compared and highlighted that Walsall was in a good position in benchmarking data. This was the first phase and it would be further improved. A discussion was held on those conditions, which were prevalent in Walsall due to the built environment.

Resolved

That the Public Health Outcomes Framework (PHOF) – outcomes focus was noted.

Date of next meeting

The date of the next meeting was the Thursday 16th January 2020.

There being no further business the meeting terminated at 7.50 pm.

Signed:

Date: