

**DUDLEY HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD**

**Agenda Item no. 8 (a)**

<b>DATE</b>	14 <sup>th</sup> December 2023
<b>TITLE OF REPORT</b>	Dudley Safeguarding Adult Board Annual Report for 2022-23
<b>Organisation and Author</b>	<b>Dudley Safeguarding People Partnership</b>
<b>Purpose</b>	To present the DSAB Annual Report to Health and Wellbeing Board
<b>Background</b>	<p>The Dudley Safeguarding Adults Board is the group identified to focus on the statutory duties under the Care Act (2014).</p> <p>DSAB includes representatives from Dudley Council, West Midlands Police, the NHS, plus other agencies who provide services for adults in Dudley.</p> <p>The Board ensures that each agency works together to protect adults from abuse and the risk of abuse. Dudley Safeguarding Adults Board must publish an annual report that tells people what it has done to help keep adults with care and support needs safe. It gives reassurance that partnership working in Dudley is strong, committed and has a collaborative approach to preventing abuse and neglect.</p>
<b>Key Points</b>	<p>This report reflects work carried out by the multi-agency safeguarding arrangement between April 2022 and March 2023.</p> <p>The DSPP is the overarching strategic group which oversees the work of the Childrens Safeguarding Partnership Group and the Safeguarding Adults Board, enabling a life course safeguarding approach across the Partnership. Since our last report, we have maintained a life course approach but still recognise that some sub groups should remain focussed on the work of adults.</p> <p>The Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) screens and determine the appropriateness of referrals ensuring that safeguarding enquiries only progress where relevant. The higher referral rate reflects a greater awareness of safeguarding and of the MASH and the success of the multi-agency partnership working with the Safeguarding Board (DSPP) and the impact of the citizen and professional portals. The lower percentage rate to conversion to Section 42 Enquiries means that MASH is effective in ensuring that safeguarding enquiries only progress where</p>

	<p>relevant. However, a high proportion of concerns received into Adult MASH from professionals relate to care management concerns and are signposted to other areas of adult social care. To address this the Safeguarding Board has developed training to ensure that professionals better understand when to refer to Adult Social Care and offer support and guidance for making safeguarding adult referrals.</p> <p>In Dudley, Self-Neglect forms the highest proportion of all enquiries at 23.1% followed by Neglect &amp; Acts of Omission at 22.3%. There was a significant increase in referrals following a 2-week intensive safeguarding training period through the Safeguarding Board which focused on a local Safeguarding Adult Review (SAR) where self-neglect was a focus. Through the partnership, via the Neglect subgroup, work is underway to implement a Neglect strategy for adults with increased training and the development of a self-neglect webpage. Self-Neglect and Disorganised living affect both children's and adults in Dudley therefore a new Hoarding/Squalor toolkit is being developed, working across services for Children's and Adults to provide consistency in assessing risk to adults and children.</p>
<p><b>Emerging issues for discussion</b></p>	<p>There is a risk that DoLS referrals are increasing and the capacity to complete assessments has decreased which might lead to the increase in citizens being illegally detained; the Local Authority being at risk of legal challenge, non-compliance with a statutory function and reputational damage. This risk is mitigated by increasing capacity by maximising existing resources such as an internal DMBC rota system; developing a more proportionate assessment with regional and national colleagues and by re-purposing staffing time to ensure there is a proactive response to maximise the use of equivalent assessments.</p>
<p><b>Key asks of the Board/wider system</b></p>	<p>None</p>
<p><b>Contribution to H&amp;WBB key goals:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improving school readiness</li> <li>• Reducing circulatory disease deaths</li> <li>• More women screened for breast cancer</li> </ul>	<p>Our think family and self-neglect priorities ensure that professionals have a shared understanding of frontline practice and issues that may arise for adults with care and support needs. By making excellent multi-agency partnerships we are able to receive assurance around any increase in particular deaths like circulatory disease and what agencies are doing to reduce this.</p>

<p><b>Contribution to Dudley Vision 2030</b></p>	<p>The work of the DSPP supports the Borough Vision 2030: ensuring Dudley is a place of healthy, resilient, safe communities with high aspirations and the ability to shape their own future</p> <p>Our strategic plan and priorities support the One Council ethos in relation to supporting stronger and safer communities. We continue to build strong relationships with statutory and voluntary sector partners to ensure safe and high-quality care for children.</p> <p>We regularly seek assurance, ensuring Children's Social Care delivers high quality; value for money services; growing resilient families and communities, ensuring less children are in care.</p> <p>The priorities of the Partnership also support Growing Resilient Communities: empowering people to be self-reliant, independent, and well-co-ordinated to grow strong, connected, and resilient communities.</p>
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