

Principal Social Worker / Adult Social Care

- Annual Report 20/21

What is a PSW

The Care and Support Statutory guidance states a PSW should:

- Be visible across the organisation
- Support and develop effective conditions for practice
- Oversee quality and improvement of practice
- Have direct contact with the Director and front-line practice

The PSW for Adult Social Care, Sarah Cox, commenced in post in April 2020 and is the Principal Social Worker and Head of Quality and Safeguarding Services.

Meeting Standards

- Training on reflective supervision (aligned to the post qualifying standards for social work practice supervisors and the supervisor development programme)
- Raising awareness of the requirements of the new Social Work regulator
- Action plan to ensure Employers Standards for Social Workers are met following the 2019 Healthcheck

Practice Quality

- Serious incident procedure reviewed
- 346 Proud Conversations completed, with 10 rated as outstanding, a 7% improvement on last year
- Healthcheck finding – Strong clear social work framework – 84%
- Monthly progress reporting to SMT on Serious Incidents, LGO complaints, Action Plans and Inquests

Priorities for 2021/22

- Develop an implementation plan for Post Qualifying Standards for Practice Supervisors
- Develop a quality assurance framework to promote continuous improvement in strengths based practice
- Review the e-guide

Adult Safeguarding

- Review of the arrangements for adult safeguarding, including roles and responsibilities and development of Standard Operating Procedures
- Implementation of Signs of Safety for Adult Safeguarding
- Supporting the work of the Safeguarding Board through chairing the Case Review subgroup and leading on the development of pathways for adult exploitation and review of the self-neglect guidance
- Professor Keith Brown recruited as Chair of Worcestershire Safeguarding Adult Board
- 4 Safeguarding Adults Reviews published, including the Thematic Review regarding People Who Sleep Rough
- Independent Chair for Safeguarding Adult Review scoping meetings recruited to facilitate rapid reviews
- Research on the exploitation of adults commissioned from the University of Worcester
- Review of the arrangements for attendance at MAPPA
- Memorandums of Understanding in place with local prisons

MCA / DoLS

- Development of process and guidance for Community DoLS
- 20% reduction in the number of assessments waiting
- Planning underway for implementation of Liberty Protection Safeguards, including training additional BIAs

Workforce Development

- 455 social workers accessed Celebrating Social Work week content
- New learning and development resource, Research in Practice promoted to support professional curiosity and evidenced based decision making
- Welfare check and action plan – leading to corporate revision of wellbeing information
- Learning Needs Analysis complete, ensuring access to relevant training opportunities

Social Work Education

- Embedding and growing links with our local Universities and supporting the West Midlands
- West Midlands Teaching Partnership
- Practitioners supporting teaching at local Universities
- Registration of I Care Ambassadors to promote career opportunities within Adult Social Care
- Development of new training on trauma informed practice and boundaries within relationship-based practice

Practice Leadership

- Attendance at national and regional Adults Principal Social Worker networks
- Completed a regional PSW practice review at another local authority
- Connecting with Social Work for Better Mental Health
- Linking with ADASS
- Attending team meetings
- Involvement with national and regional research projects
- Assessment and governance process developed for the
- Care Act Easements