

Healthwatch Worcestershire response to Worcestershire Children's Safeguarding Partnership Consultation

Dear Sue

I am emailing you in response to the consultation on the proposals for the new Worcestershire Safeguarding Partnership arrangements which were considered by Healthwatch Worcestershire at its public Board meeting on 13 February 2019. Please can I bring to your attention the following comments:

1. Healthwatch Worcestershire welcomes the potential for a closer working relationship between the Childrens Safeguarding and Adult Safeguarding which should occur as a consequence of the proposed management arrangements. However, we understand that the existing arrangements to support Adult Safeguarding are under considerable pressure to deal with the current workload and therefore we assume that the merger of the support arrangement will be adequately resourced to support the work of both Partnerships. We would welcome confirmation that this will be the case.
2. Whilst we appreciate that the new legislation no longer requires the appointment of lay persons as members of the Childrens Safeguarding Partnership Healthwatch has always welcomed the transparency and independent assurance their role has brought to the business of the Partnership, and therefore we would urge you to continue with the involvement of lay persons in the new arrangements for the partnership and its Boards.
3. Worcestershire's Health and Well Being Board has committed its members to co-production and therefore we assume that the new arrangements will set out how service users, their carers and the public will be engaged in the development and work of the Partnership. Please can you provide us with information as to how that will take place.
4. One of the statutory functions of local Healthwatch and hence a contracted responsibility of Healthwatch Worcestershire is to enable local people to monitor the quality of publicly funded health and care services. One of the ways in which we have been able to do this in relation to those services for children and the Childrens Safeguarding service is by attending the existing Childrens Safeguarding Board as a non-voting attendee. Therefore, we would expect to continue our engagement, and within the proposed arrangements attend meetings of the Worcestershire Childrens Safeguarding Partnership and the Quality Assurance Practice and Procedures.