

MEETING:	HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
MEETING DATE:	11 OCTOBER 2013

TITLE OF REPORT:	TASK & FINISH GROUP: CHILDREN'S SAFEGUARDING IN HEREFORDSHIRE
REPORT BY:	Task & Finish Review Group

1. Classification

Open

2. Key Decision

This is not an executive decision

3. Wards Affected

County-wide

4. Purpose

- 4.1 To consider the findings arising from the Task & Finish Group – Children's Safeguarding in Herefordshire

5. Recommendations

THAT:

- (a) **The Committee considers the report of the Task & Finish Group – Children's Safeguarding in Herefordshire, in particular its recommendations, and determines whether it wishes to agree the findings for submission to the Executive;**
- (b) **Subject to the Review being approved, the Executive's response to the Review including an action plan be reported to the first available meeting of the Committee after the Executive has approved its response.**

6. Alternative Options

The Committee can agree, not agree or can vary the recommendations. If the Committee agree with the findings and recommendations from the review, the attached report will be submitted to the Executive for consideration. It will be for the Executive to decide whether some, all or none of the recommendations are approved.

7. Reasons for Recommendations

- 7.1 This Committee commissioned a Task & Finish Group on Children's Safeguarding in Herefordshire. The Task & Finish Group has completed its task and its report is required to be submitted to this committee for approval. The recommendations also set out how the report should be progressed in accordance with the Council's Constitution, if approved by the Committee.

8. Key Considerations

A scrutiny Task & Finish Review has been undertaken into the Council's Safeguarding Arrangement for Children.

The findings and recommendations of the Review Group are contained in the attached report.

9. Community Impact

- 9.1 If the Committee agree with the findings of the Task and Finish Group, the report will need to be considered by the Executive and, depending on their decision, community impact will need to be assessed.

10. Equality and Human Rights

- 10.1 If the Committee agree with the findings of the Task and Finish Group, the report will need to be considered by the Executive and, depending on their decision, equality and human rights issues will need to be assessed.

11. Financial Implications

- 11.1 If the Committee agree with the findings of the Task and Finish Group, the report will need to be considered by the Executive and, depending on their decision, the financial implications of any of the recommendations will need to be assessed.

12. Legal Implications

If the Committee agree with the findings of the Task and Finish Group, the report will need to be considered by the Executive and, depending on their decision, the legal implications of implementing any of the recommendations will need to be assessed.

13. Risk Management

- 13.1 If the Committee agree with the findings of the Task and Finish Group, the report will need to be considered by the Executive and, depending on their decision, the risk management implications of implementing any of the recommendations will need to be assessed.

14. Consultees

- 14.1 As part of the review, interviews were held with following Councillors (titles are correct at the time of interview): Councillor PM Morgan (then Cabinet Member for Health and Wellbeing) Councillor JW Millar (Cabinet Member - Children's Services). The Task and Finish Group also heard from officers and children in care.

15. Appendices

- 15.1 Appendix 1 - Task and Finish Review Group Report – Children's Safeguarding in Herefordshire

16. Background Papers

- 16.1 None identified.