

<b>TITLE OF REVIEW:</b>	<b>Improving Scrutiny of Children’s Safeguarding Services</b>
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## SCOPING

### Reason for Enquiry

Following a recent Ofsted inspection, Herefordshire is currently subject to a Government Improvement Notice in relation to its arrangements for the protection of children and young people. As Leadership and Governance is a key theme in the notice for improvement, a scrutiny task and finish group will be established with the objective of improving scrutiny function in relation to the arrangements for safeguarding children in Herefordshire.

### Summary of Review and Terms of Reference

#### Summary

This review will consider how the scrutiny function can be improved so that the improvement plans for children’s child protection and safeguarding services can be supported and challenged, which in term will lead to demonstrable improvements for the people of Herefordshire.

#### Vision

A scrutiny function which promotes improvement in children’s safeguarding

#### Terms of Reference

- **Objectives** – To improve scrutiny function in relation to the arrangements for the protection of children and young people in Herefordshire.
- **Actions** – To examine how improvements are developing in the context of the improvement plan and to offer challenge to this where relevant.
- To examine the range of performance and quality assurance information that scrutiny committee should require in order to monitor and challenge improvements.
- To evidence for the Improvement Board how the scrutiny function has improved and can provide assurance of its fitness for purpose as a fundamental part of the governance arrangements of the Council
- To examine the link between workforce quality and stability; and the quality and effectiveness of frontline practice. To feed the outcome of this work into future scrutiny plans and the development of the scrutiny function for the Council.
- To utilise peer support and challenge
- To reference scrutiny guides on safeguarding and corporate parenting
- **Membership** – Cllrs SJ Robertson, MD Lloyd-Hayes and WLS Bowen
- **Timescale** – 9 months
- **Regularity of meetings** - monthly

#### What will NOT be included

- **Arrangements for children’s child protection and safeguarding services**

#### Potential outcomes

- **An effective and robust approach to scrutiny of children’s child protection and safeguarding arrangements.**
- **Learning for the development of effective and robust scrutiny for the Council**
- **Improved services for the children and young people in Herefordshire**

## Key questions

- How do we currently scrutinise children's safeguarding at Herefordshire Council?
- What information is available for the scrutiny committee now?
- What does the Improvement Plan require?
- What does a good performing Local Authorities' scrutiny function look like?
- What is in development locally and nationally?

## Cabinet Member (s)

Councillor P M Morgan (Health and Wellbeing)

## Key Stakeholders/Consultees

1. Improvement Board and constituent partners including voluntary sector
2. Other Members
3. Public representatives

## Key Elements to Scrutinising Children's Services

- Data
- Audit
- Inspection /OFSTED reviews
- Workforce
- Service user feedback

## Potential Witnesses

- Director and Assistant Directors, relevant Heads of Service and the Improvement Service
- Social care workforce via visits to frontline teams
- Service Users
- Leads from other agencies, schools, health, education and Police
- Chair of the Herefordshire Safeguarding Children's Board
- Chair of Herefordshire Safeguarding and Protecting Children Improvement Board
- Officers and Members from good performing Local Authorities
- Citizen Engagement Team

## Research Required

Good performing Local Authorities  
Surveys  
Face to face interviews  
Legislation and Policy  
Previous scrutiny reports  
Council scrutiny guides  
External advice and guidance  
Peer support  
Centre for Public Scrutiny advice and guidance

## Potential Visits

- Staff visits
- End users
- Other Local authorities who are successful/moving to a successful position

## Publicity Requirements

Launch of Review

During Review Bi-monthly

Publication of the Review and its recommendations November 2013

Herefordshire Matters within one month of the review

## Outline Timetable (following decision by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee to commission the Review)

<i>Activity</i>	<i>Timescale</i>
Collect current available information for circulation to Group prior to first meeting of the Group.	14 March 2013
Confirm approach, programme of consultation/research/provisional witnesses/meeting dates	14 March 2013
Create baseline survey questionnaires	April 2013
Collect outstanding information	
Analysis of information	
Final confirmation of interviews of witnesses	May 2013
Carry out programme of interviews	June 2013
Agree programme of site visits as appropriate	July 2013
Undertake site visits as appropriate	August 2013
Final analysis of data and witness evidence	September 2013
Prepare options/recommendations	September 2013
Present Final report to Overview and Scrutiny Committee	October 2013
Present options/recommendations to Cabinet (or Cabinet Member (s))	14 October 2013
Cabinet/Cabinet Member (s) response (Within 2 months of receipt of Group's report)	13 December 2013
Consideration of Executive's response by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.	14 February 2014
Monitoring of Implementation of agreed recommendations (within six months of Executive's response)	May 2014
<b>Members</b>	<b>Support Officers</b>
<b>Councillors:</b> <b>Cllr S Robertson (Chairman of Review Group);</b> <b>Cllr M D Lloyd-Hayes,</b> <b>Cllr WLS Bowen</b>	<b>Lead Support Officer</b> (Independent of the Service) J Rzezniczek <b>Scrutiny Officer</b> Gemma Dean <b>Democratic Services Representative</b> David Penrose