

Health & Wellbeing Board Briefing Note.

Safeguarding Adults Peer Challenge

Herefordshire Council is having a Safeguarding Adults peer challenge on the 1-3 September 2015. The peer challenge will utilize the West Midlands ADASS process and be led by Ian James Director of Social Services at Solihull and his cabinet lead. A previous peer challenge undertaken in 2014 focused on adult social care and its transformation programme. This peer challenge identified that the area of safeguarding adults appeared to be an area that required improvement and the council committed to undertaking a further peer challenge in this area in the next calendar year.

Herefordshire Council has used the Local Government Association self-assessment template to reflect on its position, and also developed four key areas which it has asked the peer challenge review team to consider.

The peer challenge is primarily focused on the council performance on safeguarding adults, though it will touch on the broader multi agency partnership and board work at a strategic level.

These four questions are

1. During the past 12 months we have reviewed our Safeguarding Adults Board membership and governance arrangements, put in place additional resources to support the Boards work and now have an improvement plan in place. Has this work delivered change, and are our action plans sufficient in focus and pace to give confidence to the wider system, service users and carers that we have an effective board in place.
2. We have recently implemented MSP, through talking to our workforce, service users and carers we would like to understand how much positive impact this is having on both practise and the confidence of our workforce in safeguarding vulnerable people
3. We have started to put in place benchmarking and performance management arrangements, could you advise on how effective these are and how we could improve service user and carer feedback into the process
4. Developing the partnership and engaging all of our partners in the safeguarding adult's agenda has been a priority as part of our preparations for the Care Act implementation, could you consider and advise on how we could further strengthen multi partnership engagement and involvement.
5. Appendix 1 provides the Board with the self-assessment document completed by the council and submitted to the peer challenge team.