

Herefordshire Council
Statutory Officer Assurance Statement – 2017/18

Statutory officer designation:	Martin Samuels Director of Adults and Wellbeing
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1. Have any issues in relation to the effective fulfilment of your statutory duties arisen during the year which may need to be highlighted in the annual governance statement?

- Yes
 No

If you have answered Yes please use the box below to explain the issue and confirm whether the concerns have been notified to either the s151 Officer or the Monitoring Officer

2. Have any weaknesses or areas for improvement in relation to the effective fulfilment of your statutory duties been identified during the year?

- Yes
 No

If you have answered yes please use the box below to explain the issue(s) and the actions planned to address it:

Herefordshire DoLS team has been managing a high demand year on year for assessments under the DoLS Scheme. In March 2014 the Supreme Court ruled in the case of P v Cheshire West and Chester Council and P&Q v Surrey County Council and clarified what constituted a Deprivation of Liberty and in doing so the number of people requiring assessment under the scheme increased significantly across the country.

Within Herefordshire the increase in demand for assessment in the first year following the Cheshire West ruling was 1500% increase in demand. The high demand for DoLS assessments within Herefordshire and nationally has continued over subsequent years.

Herefordshire Council has invested significantly in expanding its DoLS Service however demand continues to outstrip resource. A decision has therefore been taken to prioritise cases according to an agreed criteria. The decision to prioritise DoLS assessments is one which has been taken by many local authorities throughout the county and many local authorities are holding significant backlogs of cases.

I confirm that during the financial year 2017/18 I have had sufficient resources, systems and processes in place to enable me to fulfil my statutory functions.

Signed



Name: Martin Samuels
Director of Adults and Wellbeing

Date: 29 March 2018