

Record of officer decision

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| Decision title: | New Safeguarding Partnership Arrangements in Herefordshire |
| Date of decision: | 14 June 2019 |
| Decision maker: | Chief Executive, Herefordshire Council |
| Authority for delegated decision: | The chief executive is able to take operational decision as set out within section 7 of the officer functions of the constitution; specifically paragraph 3.7.5 states that decisions can be taken as long as they are done so in accordance with any financial or contracting requirements. |
| Ward: | All wards |
| Consultation: | Consultation was undertaken in two stages; with members of the Herefordshire Safeguarding Children’s Board (HSCB), including the cabinet member for children and families to arrive at initial options and then a wider consultation on the preferred option with key partners of the HSCB. It has been discussed at the HSCB and executive, at two well attended multi agency workshops, and 1-1 interviews with wide range of individuals across partners, including schools, with the cabinet member and with the safeguarding board business unit. The feedback has informed the final model. |
| Decision made: | To approve the new safeguarding arrangements on behalf of the council to come into effect on 30 September 2019. |
| Reasons for decision: | <p>The Children and Social Work Act 2017 and subsequent 2018 Working Together made changes to agency partnership arrangements for safeguarding children. There is now a shared and equal duty upon three ‘safeguarding partners’ the local authority, Police and clinical commissioning group, who have to make arrangements to work together with relevant agencies to safeguard and promote the welfare of all children in a local area. Local Safeguarding Children’s Boards are no longer required in their current form, and are to be replaced by more flexible arrangements determined locally.</p> <p>New Safeguarding arrangements for each local area must be published by 29th June 2019, and also copied to the secretary of state. The new arrangements are to become operational by 30th September 2019.</p> <p>The proposed new arrangements for Herefordshire are set out in detail in the attached paper “New Safeguarding Partnership Arrangements in Herefordshire May 2019”, in the Executive Summary and pictorially in the diagram titled “New model”.</p> <p>The new arrangements will contribute to the council’s key priority of keeping children and young people safe and giving them a great start in life by providing arrangements that comply with statutory requirements to enable the three safeguarding partners to work together with relevant agencies to safeguard and promote the welfare of all children in Herefordshire.</p> |
| Highlight any associated risks/finance/legal/equality considerations: | There are no proposed changes at this time to the financial arrangements that currently underpin the Herefordshire Safeguarding Children’s Board and will be taken forward into the new arrangements. Any decisions to alter financial arrangements will be subject to a separate decision. |

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| | <p>There is a risk that the new arrangements do not deliver the intended benefits to improve the quality of safeguarding practice in Herefordshire. The new arrangements will be subject to review to ensure that they develop in the right way to enhance practice.</p> <p>There is a risk that one of the three safeguarding partners does not sign up to the new arrangements. This has been mitigated by involving the three partners from the start of the work to establish the new arrangements, by agreeing the methodology and consultant used collectively and by having regular project updates which has achieved a consensus.</p> <p>There is a risk that current well engaged partners feel marginalized by the new arrangements. This has been mitigated by having detailed development and consultation sessions and interviews. The implementation of new arrangements will play close attention to this aspect to ensure continuity of engagement.</p> |
| <p>Details of any alternative options considered and rejected:</p> | <p>There was an option to continue with the current HSCB arrangements “as is” but this was not supported through consultation or by the safeguarding partners who see the national requirements as a chance to build on the good work that has been taking place, whilst strengthening the approach in Herefordshire through new arrangements.</p> <p>Other options were considered as part of the development work including having a different arrangement of groups. These were rejected in favour of a more cohesive arrangement particularly with regards to development and practice. There was also the option not to have a safeguarding in Education group. However this was felt to be a missed opportunity which could lead to schools feeling disenfranchised from a countywide focus on children’s safeguarding.</p> |
| <p>Details of any declarations of interest made:</p> | <p>None declared</p> |

Signed...

Date: 14 June 2019