

New Safeguarding Partnership Arrangements in Herefordshire

Executive Summary

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 LA, Police and CCG**, 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.

This paper summarises the proposed changes for Herefordshire. The current HSCB and Sub Groups will be replaced and the working title for the new partnership arrangement is **Safeguarding Children and Young People in Herefordshire**. The new arrangements will comprise the following:

1. **The Safeguarding Partners Board** will be a small and strategic group. The Director of Children's Services (Council), The Head of Safeguarding & Designated Nurse for Safeguarding Adults and Children (CCG) and the Superintendent Policing Commander for Herefordshire Local Policing Area will make up the board and it will be independently chaired. This board will provide the overall strategic direction for the development of safeguarding services for children and young people
2. **The Quality and Effectiveness Group** will be a wider partnership group, responsible for monitoring outcomes for children and providing oversight of performance and quality assurance processes, and measuring effectiveness of the overall safeguarding system in Herefordshire.
3. **The Learning from Cases Group**, which will be responsible for considering any cases causing concern, commissioning and overseeing case reviews, dissemination of learning and action plan implementation.
4. **The Development and Practice Group** will be responsible for developing and overseeing the delivery of the partnership training programme and overseeing amendments to policies and procedures to ensure consistency of practice.
5. **An Education sub group**, which will consider safeguarding issues of concern to the education sector in Herefordshire, share good practice in keeping children safe and discuss new developments in safeguarding in education (e.g. new/updated statutory guidance, learning from reviews)

There will be a new Safeguarding Children's Summit which will enable the widest engagement of partners, practitioners and those who represent the voices of children, young people and their families. The summit will evolve in discussion and consultation with partners, practitioners and service user forums.

CDOP arrangements should also be noted. The CDR Partners for Herefordshire and Worcestershire will form a joint Child Death Overview Panel which will review all child deaths in those areas. There will also be West Mercia wide Themed Reviews based on emerging findings from the Herefordshire and Worcestershire Child Death Overview Panel; in conjunction with CDR Partners from Shropshire, Telford and Wrekin.

New Safeguarding arrangements for each local area must be published by 29th June 2019 and become operational by 30th September 2019.