

Summary of recommendations to the executive and executive responses [Court Judgements]

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| <p>In February 2019 a task and finish group concerning an examination of the court judgements relating to children and families was conducted.</p> <p>The following was recommended to the executive:</p> | | | | | |
| Recommendation No. 1 | <p>The T+F group welcomes the practice measures being considered by the Doncaster Children's Trust in connection to Herefordshire's IRO services. The T+F group recommends that when the Doncaster report is complete a mandatory member briefing session is provided to explain the reports finding and actions.</p> | | | | |
| Executive Response | <p>Accepted – however advised that a briefing cannot be made mandatory</p> | | | | |
| Action | Owner | By When | Target/Success Criteria | Progress | |
| Children and Families Directorate will cover the findings of the work with Doncaster and the action taken in a briefing session for all councillors and also in the performance challenge session that is open to all group leaders | Assistant director safeguarding and family support | End of November 2019 | Councillors are informed of the findings of the Doncaster review, how these have been addressed | This briefing will be arranged by the end of November 2019, and all councillors will be encouraged to attend | |

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| Recommendation No. 2 | <p>The T+F group wish to ensure that all councillors understand their responsibilities toward ensuring that all children in our care are given the best possible outcomes. The T+F group recommends that the induction and mandatory training for new and returning councillors places strong emphasis on children's safeguarding and their roles as corporate parents.</p> | | | | |
| Executive Response | <p>Accepted</p> | | | | |
| Action | Owner | By When | Target/Success Criteria | Progress | |

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| Mandatory training regarding corporate parenting and safeguarding be provided to all councillors in order that all members understand and are aware of their responsibilities | Director of children and families | June 2019 | Training put on at different time to ensure all councillors have every opportunity to take up the training to ensure that all members feel confident and understand their responsibilities | Organised as part of new councillor induction programme May/June 2019 and all councillors have undertaken the training following the elections in May 2019 and the outcome of the effectiveness of the training has been surveyed by democratic services and we await the outcome of this survey |
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| Recommendation No. 3 | The T+F group recommends that more case progression officers are recruited to children's services to ensure that case- loads are dealt with in a systematic way. | | | |
| Executive Response | Accepted | | | |
| Action | Owner | By When | Target/Success Criteria | Progress |
| The appointment of a case progression officer has benefitted planning for children, concentrating on early planning to avoid drift and delay, and consider permanence plans at the earliest opportunity. Another case progression officer would enable further embedding of this approach; however, it is dependent on additional funding. | Director of children and families | Decision as to whether additional funding is available | All children have clear plans of intervention. Court proceedings timescales are met. Drift and delay in planning for children is avoided. | Business case put forward for consideration as part of the budget setting process in the Autumn 2019 |