Herefordshire Council

Supplement to the agenda for

Children and young people scrutiny committee

Monday 1 October 2018

2.00 pm

The Council Chamber - The Shire Hall, St. Peter's Square, Hereford, HR1 2HX

Supplement – schedule of questions received for meeting of children and young people scrutiny committee – 1 October 2018

Agenda item no. 5 - Question from members of the public

Question Number	Questioner	Question	Question to
PQ 1	Ms Shore, Hereford	Children are not routinely spoken to alone by social workers as part of their own assessments, and so subsequent plans are not informed by a child's view of their lived experience." Para 9, p4, the Ofsted Report. This must mean that assessments do not routinely include the child's voice. When this is the case, there is a risk that assessments will result in actions and plans which do not meet the child's needs. This seems to be a serious failure to ensure that the best interests of the child are central to assessments. As part of its scrutiny of the action plan, developed in response to the Ofsted inspection, will the committee scrutinise what steps are in place to rectify this situation and to ensure that children are spoken to alone as a matter of course in every assessment?	Chairman of Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee
Response: The children and families directorate acknowledge Ofsted's findings as correct, and are determined to ensure children's voices are heard in every assessment where this is practically possible. Since July 2018, a comprehensive development plan has been established in the assessment service to drive up the quality of assessment work, and crucial to this is the auditing of work to establish children have been seen and seen alone. This work will continue until at least the end of October, with a real focus on improving quality of practice. Scrutiny Committee have sight of the action plan that has been submitted to Ofsted and will be reviewing progress against this on a regular basis.			