

Supplement to the agenda for

Scrutiny Management Board

Tuesday 17 January 2023

2.00 pm

**Herefordshire Council Offices, Plough Lane, Hereford, HR4
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5. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC	3 - 4

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

Question Number	Questioner	Question	Question to
PQ 1	Ms Reid, Hereford	<p>The below are from the PowerPoint presentation:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. "Reduction in <u>numbers of children coming into our care</u>; increased recruitment of foster carers; review of sufficiency; tight management control of high-cost placements" 2. "referral level will be in line with statistical neighbours" <p>I note no mention of reducing the <u>number of Looked-After Children</u> (LAC) which would reduce costs and mitigate Placement Sufficiency.</p> <p>Would the SMB recommend that a strategy to reduce the high rate of LAC (eg by reunification and increased investment in support for families) is implemented asap?</p>	Chairperson, Scrutiny Management Board
<p>Response:</p> <p>Thank you for your question. Tuesday's meeting will be focussing principally on scrutinising the budget. The committee will be following lines of enquiry and any subsequent actions or recommendations that seek assurances from the Cabinet that the budget is both balanced and legally compliant. The committee will be considering the budget implications for children's services as part of the deliberations. I have also made the director of children's services aware of your recommendation and will ask that he responds directly to you with a written response.</p>			

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