

7 (C). UPDATE ON A SERIOUS CASE REVIEW ACTION PLAN (SOCIAL SERVICES)**Report By: Henry Lewis, Head of Social Care (Children)****Wards Affected**

County-wide

Purpose

1. To update the Committee on the Social Services aspects of a Serious Case Review (Part 8) action plan.

Financial Implications

2. None identified.

Background

3. A Serious Case Review under Part 8 of the Department of Health's Guidelines "Working Together" is undertaken when there is a serious injury or concerns about the approaches of the agencies to working with a child.
4. The Head of Social Care (Children) in his role as Chair of the Herefordshire Area Child Protection Committee (ACPC) presented the independently chaired Serious Case Review Report to the Committee on 25th October 2003. Any new members of the Committee can be briefed by the Head of Social Care (Children) on a confidential basis.
5. An update to the Action Plan approved by Herefordshire's ACPC in October 2002 was presented to this Committee on 31st January 2003.
6. Three resolutions were made:
 1. That the Committee was regularly updated. This Report and Appendix form a response to this.
 2. A request for a Report and local implications on the Inquiry into the death of Victoria Climbié (Laming Report). A Report was made to Committee on 13th March 2003.
 3. Concern regarding future reports being public documents. This update is in the public papers.

Serious Case Review - Progress report

7. The full progress report is reflected as Appendix 1. Positive progress has been made and requires to be seen alongside the significant self-audit evaluation undertaken by

Further information on the subject of this report is available from Henry Lewis, Head of Social Care (Children) on (01432) 261603

Herefordshire as part of the requirement by the Department of Health as a consequence of the Lord Laming's Inquiry into the death of Victoria Climbié. This was returned on 30th April 2003, having being signed off" by the Leader of the Council and the Chief Executive.

8. A written report by the Social Services Inspectorate on our submission is due in June 2003. This will be reported to a future Committee.
9. The progress report (Appendix 1) is accurate to the end of May 2003. Tasks completed are noted and any rescheduling of timescales.
10. A full revision of the child protection procedures is now complete and will be disseminated to staff in July 2003. This delay has allowed key recommendations from The Victoria Climbié Enquiry to be incorporated into the new procedures.
11. Audit findings under recommendation 24 are largely unremarkable. Case specific deficits have been identified and addressed. A report will be made to ACPC in July 2003

RECOMMENDATION

THAT (a) the contents of the progress of the Social Services part of the Serious Case Review Action Plan be noted;

and

(b) the Director of Social Care and Strategic Housing report to a future Committee the assessment of the Council's self-audit of the Laming Report.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

- None