

SAFEGUARDING ACTION PLAN

Report By: Director of Children's Services

Wards Affected

County-wide

Purpose

1. To note the actions taken by the Director of Children's Services and the Herefordshire Children's Safeguarding Board (HSCB) in regard to improving the effectiveness of safeguarding arrangements in the county.

Financial Implications

2. None

Background

3. Following the APA inspection in October 2008 and the subsequent Baby P case, a review was commissioned by the DCS to examine the directorate's safeguarding arrangements and the interdependencies with the HSCB. This was carried out by an independent consultant to ensure robust objectivity.
4. The consultant found that there were some specific areas that required improvement. These issues are within the CYP Directorate at levels of casework, management, ICT and performance management and in the role of the Children's Trust and safeguarding board.
5. All of the recommendations made by the consultant have been gathered into a full and detailed action plan, which is attached at Appendix 1. This plan has been approved by the HSCB and will now continue to be closely monitored with the HSCB and within the directorate leadership team.
6. In addition a further audit has been carried out of all cases at a point in time where children have a child protection plan. There is now a quarterly framework in place to repeat this exercise within CYPD to ensure ongoing robust quality assurance and performance monitoring.
7. A further piece of work has been commissioned to examine the whole system of safeguarding to ensure that appropriate interagency links are working well and that systems supporting children transferring to adults are effective.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Scrutiny Committee receive the action plan and note its content.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

- None