

MEETING / DECISION MAKER:	HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
DATE:	2 MAY 2013
TITLE OF REPORT:	FEEDBACK FROM MEMBERS SAFEGUARDING SEMINAR
REPORT BY:	DIRECTOR FOR PEOPLE'S SERVICES

1. Classification

Open

2. Key Decision

This is not a key decision

3. Wards Affected

County-wide

4. Purpose

The purpose of this report is to note the content and feedback from the Safeguarding Seminar held on 27th February, 2013.

5. Recommendation(s)

That the report is noted.

6. Key Points Summary

- On 27th February, 2013 a safeguarding seminar was held for all members in the Council Chamber. This was both in response to the Scrutiny Task and Finish group recommendations on Safeguarding and in an approach to strengthening leadership and governance arrangements in the Council following the Ofsted inspection of arrangements in Herefordshire to safeguard children.
- Herefordshire Council has been made subject to an Improvement Notice in Children's Services and a series of seminars have been programmed to assist members in understanding their role in scrutinizing practice and ensuring appropriate improvements are made to services.

- The seminar held in February was designed to enable members to understand in more detail the nature of Child Protection investigations, how these are regulated by policy, legislation and guidance, and how Herefordshire is performing against these standards.
- 30 members attended the seminar which was held for a three hour period. There was a drop out in attendance towards the end of the afternoon with 20 members remaining until the end of the session.
- Thirteen Members complete an evaluation questionnaire, the feedback from which was very positive with the majority commenting that the content was excellent. Messages about what members learnt included, that the seminar improved understanding, raised awareness, enabled the corporate parenting role and provided better understanding of legislation as well as the complexities of the issues associated with child protection investigations.
- Suggested improvements were that handouts would have been helpful, the quiz would have been better as a finishing exercise and the session could have been divided into two sessions.
- Other comments were that the presentations were excellent, the case studies were very interesting, the real case problems made for very interesting discussions and that it was helpful to have social workers involved in the discussions. Also the information was professionally presented but quite dense in content at some stages.
- Members were asked to contribute ideas for future seminars and this will be taken into account in developing the next seminars.

7. Alternative Options

7.1 Not applicable

8. Reasons for Recommendations

8.1 The report is for noting only, however further comments and contributions would be welcomed with regard to the content of future seminars. Additionally, further reports will be provided to report on the further scheduled seminars.

9. Introduction and Background

9.1 Herefordshire Council has been made subject to an Improvement Notice in Children's Services and a series of seminars are being programmed to assist members in understanding their role in scrutinizing practice and ensuring appropriate improvements are made to services.

10. Key Considerations

10.1 The next seminars are scheduled for 10th May and 4th June, with an additional Saturday event involving children and young people, to be held during the summer months.

11. Community Impact

11.1 The improvements being made through improved scrutiny of safeguarding services will lead to a positive impact on vulnerable children and families in Herefordshire.

12. Equality and Human Rights

12.1 By the nature of its work child protection services, in the exercise of their functions, have due

regard to the need to -

- eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct prohibited by or under this Act;
- advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it;
- foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it."

13. Financial Implications

13.1 None

14. Legal Implications

14.1 Not applicable.

15. Risk Management

15.1 Not applicable.

16. Consultees

16.1 Directorate leadership team.

17. Appendices

17.1 None.