

<b>MEETING:</b>	<b>OVERVIEW &amp; SCRUTINY COMMITTEE</b>
<b>DATE:</b>	<b>19 MARCH 2012</b>
<b>TITLE OF REPORT:</b>	<b>TASK &amp; FINISH GROUP REPORT – ADULT SAFEGUARDING IN HEREFORDSHIRE</b>
<b>REPORT BY:</b>	<b>Task &amp; Finish Group</b>

**CLASSIFICATION:** Open

### **Wards Affected**

County-wide

### **Purpose**

To consider the findings arising from the Task & Finish Group – Adult Safeguarding in Herefordshire, and to recommend the report to the Executive for consideration.

### **Recommendation(s)**

**THAT:**

- (a) **the Committee considers the report of the Task & Finish Group – Adult Safeguarding in Herefordshire, in particular its recommendations, and determines whether it wishes to agree the findings for submission to the Executive;**
- (b) **Subject to the Review being approved, the Executive’s response to the Review including an action plan be reported to the first available meeting of the Committee after the Executive has approved its response;**

### **Key Points Summary**

- A scrutiny Task & Finish Review has been undertaken into Adult Safeguarding in Herefordshire.
- The findings and recommendations of the Group are contained in the attached report. The scope of the Review Group was limited to the consideration adult safeguarding within residential care homes. An additional Task and Finish Review that will consider adult safeguarding in the home is planned for inclusion in the Committee’s Work Programme. The principal conclusion from the Review is that there were no major concerns with Adult Safeguarding in Herefordshire. The Group did make a number of recommendations, which are contained in the report.

### **Alternative Options**

- 1 The Committee can agree, not agree or can vary the recommendations. If the Committee agree with the findings and recommendations from the Review, the attached report will be submitted to the Executive for consideration. It will be for the Executive to decide whether

some, all or none of the recommendations are approved.

## **Reasons for Recommendations**

- 2 This Committee commissioned a Task & Finish Group to look at Adult Safeguarding in Herefordshire. The Task & Finish Group has completed its task and its report is required to be submitted to this Committee for approval. The recommendations also set out how the report should be progressed in accordance with the Council's Constitution, if approved by the Committee.

## **Introduction and Background**

- 3 On the 27 July 2011 this Committee commissioned a Task & Finish Group to look at Adult Safeguarding in Herefordshire. The Review has been undertaken and the resultant findings and recommendations are to be reported back to Committee for its consideration prior to being referred to the Council's Executive for consideration and approval.

## **Key Considerations**

- 4 The Task & Finish Group considered the range of information put before it and its principal finding was that the Safeguarding regime and protocols were appropriate for the County. The Review Group also make a number of recommendations which are outlined in the report.

## **Community Impact**

- 5 The Review links to the priority in the Corporate Plan of improving health care and social care and the long term outcome of improved intervention and support for older people and keeping them safe.

## **Equality and Human Rights**

- 6 If the Committee agree with the findings of the Group the report will need to be considered by the Executive and, depending on their decision, any resultant revised policy and guidance will need to be assessed against the Equality Analysis and be reported to Cabinet.

## **Financial Implications**

- 10 There are no financial outcomes as a result of the report, but the cost of undertaking any outcomes from the Review will have to be considered by the Executive, and met from within existing resources.

## **Legal Implications**

11. The Council is required to take into account the changes to recent government guidance to which the review report refers. If the Committee and the Executive agree with the findings of the Group, legal input will be given to the resultant revised policy and guidance.

## **Risk Management**

12. There is reputational risk if the Council does not operate a sound policy. The recommendations in the Review report should help mitigate this risk.

## **Consultees**

- 13 As part of the Review interviews were held with DI Jon Roberts, West Mercia Police, Sarah Blake, CQC and Jackie Noble, Adult Safeguarding Service Manager.

## **Appendices**

- 14 Task & Finish Group Report – Adult Safeguarding in Herefordshire Review (Appendix 1).

## **Background Papers**

- 15 None.