

Herefordshire Supporting and Protecting Children Improvement Board

TERMS OF REFERENCE

Overall purpose of the Board

The Board is responsible for ensuring improvements in the arrangements for the protection of children in Herefordshire by enhancing:

- The quality of practice
- The effectiveness of help and protection provided to children, young people, families and carers
- Leadership and governance
- Multi agency working and integration
- Good Outcomes for children, young people and their families.

The Board is responsible for ensuring that local safeguarding systems, policies and procedures, staff, structures and processes deliver sustainable improvements in all aspects of safeguarding in the county.

Overall Objectives

The Herefordshire Supporting and Protecting Children Improvement Board will drive and oversee progress through monitoring, challenging and supporting the actions within the Improvement Plan, tackling the areas of greatest risk first and laying the foundations for more effective practice. This will include monitoring targets set out in the plan and checking that improvements are embedded through quality assurance and scrutiny.

The Board will have an unwavering focus on securing the necessary rapid improvements needed to safeguarding services for children and young people.

How will the Board know that differences have been made and are sustainable?

- Monitoring the progress of targets set out in the plan
- Assessing Improvements in performance data
- Evidencing improvement in quality of practice
- Evaluating the impact of improvements through engagement and feedback from children, young people and families
- The Board will also explore evaluation by a Higher Education institution

Approach to Improvement

The Board will ensure that individual agencies commit to and take action to improve practice and performance within their own organisations and will be holding the local Safeguarding Children Board to account for securing the necessary improvements in multi-agency safeguarding arrangements.

The Board will want to ensure that frontline staff, children and families are engaged in the improvement plan.

Governance Mechanisms

The Board will have an independent Chair.

The Chair will report to the Department for Education on progress with the improvement agenda. The Board's work will also be reported quarterly to the Council's Cabinet. Reports will also routinely be presented to the task group of the Health and Social Care scrutiny committee as well as to the Herefordshire Safeguarding Children Board.

The Board will additionally report regularly to the Boards of every partner agency, including, Wye Valley Trust, West Mercia Primary Care Trust, the Clinical Commissioning Group, 2gether, the West Mercia Probation Trust, the West Mercia Police Authority, the Police and Crime Commissioner and the Chief Constable.

This Board does not replace the work of other strategic Boards for example, the Community Safety Partnership, the Herefordshire Safeguarding Children Board, the Health and Well Being Board and the Children and Young People Partnership Forum; rather, it supports and holds those Boards to account for driving forward and galvanising rapid improvement in prioritised areas of work.

The Board will also ensure that staff and managers are aware of the overall governance, lines of accountability and specific roles of each in driving forward improvement.

Membership

Board members will have clearly defined roles and responsibilities clearly aligned to the objectives and approach of the Board.

Members will make every effort to attend all meetings. In the event of absence, members will send an appropriate deputy who is able to act on their behalf.

The members of the Herefordshire Supporting and Protecting Children Improvement Board will consist of the following:

Independent Chair

Paul Curran

Council

Councillor Patricia Morgan (PM), Cabinet Member for Health & Well Being
Dean Taylor (DT), Interim Chief Executive
Erica Hermon (EH), Corporate Statutory Services Manager

Health

Michelle Clarke (MC), Director of Nursing and Transformation - Wye Valley NHS Trust
Cathy Gritzner (KG), Chief Operating Officer - Clinical Commissioning Group
Trish Jay (TJ), Director of Quality and Performance – 2Gether
Helen Hipkiss (HH), Programme Consultant Children and Safeguarding – NHS West Midlands
Sue Doheny, Interim LAT Director of Nursing

Schools

Sian Bailey (SB), Blackmarston School
Oremi Evans (OE), Brookfield School
Claire McKeown (CM), Whitchurch Primary School
Denise Strutt (DS), Whitecross High School and Specialist Sports College

Early Years

Klaus Wedell (KW)

Third Sector

TBA

Safeguarding Board

Dave McCallum (DMc), Independent Chair – HSCB/HSAB

West Mercia Police

Superintendent Damian Barratt (DB)

West Mercia Probation

David Chantler (DC)

Department for Education

Angela Windle (AW)

Regional Children's Improvement Board

Claire Burgess (CBu)

External

TBA

Advisors

Jo Davidson (JD), Director - People's Services
Chris Baird (CB), Assistant Director - People's Services Commissioning
Kathy O'Mahony (KOM), Assistant Director - Children & Young People's Provider Services
Ruth Taylor (RT), Head of Finance – People's Services
Julie Rzezniczek (JRz), Interim Head of Improvement
Katie Simpson (KS), Project Manager
TJ Postles (TJP), Head of Workforce and Organisational Development

Occasional Advisors

Paul Meredith (PMe), Head of Safeguarding and Review (HC)
John Roughton (JR), Principal Social Worker and Head of Casework(HC)
Carla Preston (CP), Press and Publicity Officer (HPS)

Workstreams

Task Groups will be constituted to drive forward, as appropriate, the workstreams in the Improvement Plan. These groups will be focussed on taking stock of progress to date and on stepping up the pace of improvements.

The workstreams are as follows:

- Workforce
- Practice
- MASH
- Quality Assurance
- Herefordshire Safeguarding Children Board
- Looked After Children
- Commissioning and Contracting

The scope of these workstreams will be agreed by the Board. Task group members will also have defined roles and responsibilities. Each group will be assigned a Chair who will be responsible for reporting progress to the Board.

Stakeholders

Communication and consultation with Stakeholders will form a key aspect of the journey to improvement and the Board will agree and determine the scope of this work.

Frequency of Meetings

The Board will meet fortnightly initially and then monthly for the first 12 months. The frequency of meetings will be reviewed after one year.

Governance of Improvement Board

