

| | | | | |
|-----------------------------|---|---------------|--|--|
| Recommendation No. 1 | There should be regular scrutiny of the activities of the Children’s Safeguarding Board by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee | | | |
| Executive’s Response | This is agreed and the Herefordshire Safeguarding Children Board will be required to provide its annual report and Business Plan as well as thematic reports to Overview and Scrutiny Committee. The Task and Finish Group for children’s safeguarding will develop the knowledge and understanding of the scrutiny committee | | | |
| Action | Owner | By When | Target/Success criteria | Progress |
| Annual Report | Chair, Herefordshire Safeguarding Children Board | February 2013 | Good Ofsted inspection | Whilst annual reports and plans will be produced within timescales shown. The minimum likely period for the Council to be subject to an improvement plan is 18 months. This would lead to an expectation that a ‘good’ inspection outcome would not be achieved until at least June, 2014. |
| Business Plan 2013/2014 | Chair, Herefordshire Safeguarding Children Board | May 2013 | Good Ofsted inspection | As above |
| Thematic Reports | Chair, Herefordshire Safeguarding Children Board | 3 monthly | Good Ofsted inspection | As above |
| Recommendation No. 2 | Co-location of Children Service’s teams, health services and the police should be encouraged. Co-location of the Public Protection Team and the Child Abuse Team in order to prevent cases from being missed should also be put in place as soon as possible. | | | |
| Executive’s Response | This recommendation is agreed. A Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) is in development and a progress reports will be reported to Overview and Scrutiny Committee as part of the progress and impact of the improvement plan. | | | |
| Action | Owner | By When | Target/Success criteria | Progress |
| Progress Report | Head of Casework | April 2013 | MASH established and functioning operationally | |

| | | | | |
|---|--|--|---|--|
| Recommendation No. 3 | There should be greater use of tele-conferencing systems in order to facilitate Strategy Meetings of the partner agencies | | | |
| Executive's Response | It is agreed that practice, processes and mechanisms for strategy meetings require improvement which include more use of teleconferencing. . | | | |
| Action | Owner | By When | Target/Success criteria | Progress |
| Multi-Agency practice seminars | Head of Casework | Nov 2012 – Feb 2013 | Agreed and robust practice is in place for strategy meetings. | Practice seminars have taken place and new tools to assist processes in development. |
| Recommendation No. 4 | That a realistic establishment of the costs of the Looked After Children Service should be set, to allow for staff recruitment and retention. | | | |
| Executive's Response | This is agreed and since the undertaking of this report, additional posts have been added to the establishment. As part of the Child's Journey work, all the social work teams will be reassessed and costed to ensure that realistic staffing budgets are set. This will be reported through the improvement plan monitoring. | | | |
| Action | Owner | By When | Target/Success criteria | Progress |
| Additional 2 posts are added to the establishment | Head of Looked After Children Services | Request made 13 th Dec 2012 | Stable staff groups | |
| Recommendation No. 5 | All attempts should be made to simplify, rationalise and reduce the amount of recording in Frameworki | | | |
| Executive's Response | This is agreed and resources have been made available to speed up the progress of development and implementation of Frameworki | | | |
| Action | Owner | By When | Target/Success criteria | Progress |
| Project Manager appointed | Head of Improvement | Nov 2012 | Prioritised Project Plan in place | |
| Additional temporary Business Analyst appointed | Head of Improvement | Dec 2012 | Frameworki Development Plan implemented | |
| Report on Progress to Committee | Head of Improvement | May 2013 | As Above | |

| | | | | |
|---|---|------------|---|----------|
| Recommendation No. 6 | That Frameworki should be reviewed, with regular reports to the Overview & Scrutiny Committee | | | |
| Executive's Response | The Frameworki project has recently been reviewed, with additional support in place and a new project plan and operational group is being established in February, 2013 to ensure that developments take place rapidly over the coming year. Regular update reports on the progress of Frameworki will be provided to Overview and Scrutiny Committee | | | |
| Action | Owner | By When | Target/Success criteria | Progress |
| Report on Progress to Committee | Head of Improvement | May 2013 | As Above | |
| Recommendation No. 7 | A review of Children and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMH'S) by the 2gether NHS Trust and the commissioning team should be undertaken to investigate how the needs of looked after children are being met by the service | | | |
| Executive's Response | This is agreed and discussions are taking place through s.75 arrangements.. A review will be scheduled and undertaken during 2013 and a report will be provided by January, 2014. | | | |
| Action | Owner | By When | Target/Success criteria | Progress |
| Confirm contractual (section 75) arrangements between Council and PCT/ CCG and 2G | Head of Childrens Commissioning | Feb 2013 | Clarity over contractual responsibilities and current service specification | |
| Schedule review formally with 2G (potentially to dovetail with 2G break in contract?) | Lead Commissioner - CAMHS | March 2013 | Review scope and timetable agreed | |

| | | | | |
|--|--|--------------------|---|---|
| <p>Recommendation No. 8</p> | <p>That following a number of incidents in the County involving children who had been placed with private contractors in the County from other local authorities without the knowledge of the Council or the Safeguarding Team, that the Council be strongly urged to lobby the Government in order to make it compulsory that all local authorities placing children outside their counties, should inform the local authority into whose area the child is placed</p> | | | |
| <p>Executive's Response</p> | <p>We acknowledge the Government's proposals which we support which will negate the need for any lobbying at this stage. The HSCB has established revised arrangements as detailed below, with Care Home Providers to encourage them to notify us of placements.</p> | | | |
| <p>Action</p> | <p>Owner</p> | <p>By When</p> | <p>Target/Success criteria</p> | <p>Progress</p> |
| <p>Improved System of Notification of Placements</p> | <p>Head of Safeguarding</p> | <p>March 2013.</p> | <p>The Council is routinely notified of all placements of Children & Young People within Herefordshire.</p> | <p>HSCB via a Contract of Expectation with accommodation providers based in Herefordshire is asking providers to notify the council when all placements are made with them and come to an end. This will be more reliable than obtaining information from placing authorities. This actually pre-empts pending Government action which will require accommodation providers to notify authorities in a similar way.</p> |

| | | | | |
|---|---|----------------------|--|----------|
| Recommendation No. 9 | There should be regular briefings to all Members on safeguarding and child protection and that these briefings should be made mandatory for all Members. These briefings should be led by the safeguarding board and the directorate | | | |
| Executive's Response | A programme of Safeguarding Seminars has been developed. Given the importance of corporate parenting and safeguarding responsibilities, a number of training sessions should be held every year covering key aspects of safeguarding and corporate parenting for members. A report could be provided to Overview and Scrutiny Committee detailing attendanch and feedback in order to assure Overview and Scrutiny Committee of the quality, appropriateness and attendance at training sessions. | | | |
| Action | Owner | By When | Target/Success criteria | Progress |
| Programme of Safeguarding Seminars | Director, People's Services | January 2013 onwards | Members are fully informed of safeguarding and child protection matters. | |
| Recommendation No. 10 | There should be absolute commitment to information sharing between all Local Authority multi-agency partners operating within the County with regard to children in care in Herefordshire, and that this commitment is implemented and effective | | | |
| Executive's Response | This is agreed and is captured within current statutory 'working together' guidance.. An information sharing agreement is in development for the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub. The Improvement Plan Practice workstream is also tackling issues of information with particular agencies such as Probation through use of the Herefordshire Safeguarding Children Board challenge mechanisms. | | | |
| Action | Owner | By When | Target/Success criteria | Progress |
| Ongoing training and monitoring programme of the Herefordshire Safeguarding Children Board. | Chair, Herefordshire Safeguarding Children Board | Ongoing | Information is shared appropriately relating to looked after children across agencies. | |