

MEETING:	CABINET
MEETING DATE:	19 SEPTEMBER 2013
TITLE OF REPORT:	HEREFORDSHIRE SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN BOARD (HSCB) BUSINESS PLAN AND ANNUAL REPORT
REPORT BY:	HSAB/HSCB JOINT INDEPENDENT CHAIR
CABINET PORTFOLIO:	CHILDREN'S WELLBEING

1. Classification

Open

2. Key Decision

This is not a key decision

3. Wards Affected

County-wide

4. Purpose

- 4.1 To inform Cabinet of Herefordshire Safeguarding Children Board's assessment of safeguarding in Herefordshire and of its own effectiveness to enable it to undertake its governance role with regard to the Board.

5. Recommendation(s)

THAT:

- (a) **the views on the effectiveness of safeguarding arrangements in Herefordshire as assessed by HSCB, be noted;**
- (b) **the priorities of HSCB in relation to specific safeguarding issues in Herefordshire be acknowledged;**
- (c) **Consideration be given to how Herefordshire Council is contributing to service improvement through commissioning within Herefordshire with regard to these safeguarding issues; and**
- (d) **Comments be made as appropriate to HSCB about its future work programme.**

6. Alternative Options

- 6.1 It is a statutory requirement for a local authority area to establish a local safeguarding children board. It is open to Cabinet to suggest to the Board areas where it may wish to focus greater or lesser attention.

7. Reasons for Recommendations

- 7.1 Cabinet members should assure themselves that Herefordshire Safeguarding Children's Board is meeting its statutory functions to ensure the safeguarding needs of children and young people in Herefordshire.
- 7.2 Cabinet must be sighted on the effectiveness of safeguarding in Herefordshire to adequately fulfil its governance role. Ofsted are currently changing their arrangements for the inspection of safeguarding and protection services for children which will in future have additional focus on Local Safeguarding Children Boards and multi-agency partnership working.

8. Key Considerations

- 8.1 The Business Plan of the Board sets out the agreed priorities for the year and provides measurable actions to enable the Board to hold each partner agency to account in delivering them.
- 8.2 They are supported by the context of safeguarding in Herefordshire laid out in the HSCB Annual Report which includes assessment and analysis of the effectiveness of our local arrangements for safeguarding children. The annual report compares how we are performing all our functions required by the statutory guidance, Working Together. Working Together sets out how organisations and individuals should work together to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and young people in accordance with the Children Act 1989 and the Children Act 2004.
- 8.3 Herefordshire Safeguarding Children Board's Annual Report notes the close working relationships it has with Herefordshire Safeguarding Adults Board and Herefordshire Supporting and Protecting Children Improvement Board. One element of the work of the Improvement Board, set up following the Ofsted Inspection, is to ensure the quality and effectiveness of the Safeguarding Board is improved, along with safeguarding practice across the organisations. While focussed improvement work has followed the Ofsted Inspection, it is important to note that partners of the Board were developing their work to improve local safeguarding arrangements throughout 2012-13.
- 8.4 The annual report of the Safeguarding Board enables Cabinet to understand assess, and challenge Herefordshire's multi-agency safeguarding arrangements.
- 8.5 Herefordshire Safeguarding Children Board has set four strategic priorities for the next three years with specific actions for 2013-14 within those as follows:
- A. Improving the experience of children, young people and families when they are supported in safeguarding systems (i.e. CAF, Social Care)
 - Every HSCB member organisation to ensure the voice of children, young people and their families is captured and used to improve services.
 - Improve the quality of reflective supervision and the involvement of management in case decision making.
 - Implement changes in safeguarding practices and HSCB functioning to meet the statutory changes within Working Together.
 - B. Improving multi-agency case work.
 - Improving multi-agency case decision making.
 - Improving multi-agency case assessments within children's social care.
 - C. Tackling evidenced safeguarding issues in Herefordshire.
 - Domestic Abuse.
 - Sexual Exploitation and Trafficking.
 - Children Missing from Care.
 - Children Placed in Herefordshire by Other Local Authorities.

- D. Improving the functioning of Herefordshire's Safeguarding Boards.
- Develop the culture of constructive challenge within the Board.
 - Develop an evidence base of safeguarding casework across all agencies to demonstrate and learn from our good practice and show how we are meeting and exceeding our statutory responsibilities.
 - Agree a model of SCRs and significant case reviews within Herefordshire.
 - Develop and review our knowledge of the children's workforce and its development needs

8.6 Herefordshire Safeguarding Children Board structures its work to ensure that it meets its statutory responsibilities, therefore ensuring that the effectiveness of safeguarding arrangements across its partners continues to increase. It is currently reviewing its membership and functioning.

9. Community Impact

9.1 The work of the Board contributes to achievement of the following Corporate Plan 2013/15 priorities:

- People stay safe
- Outcomes for children and young people improve

The Annual Report and Business Plan are available from the HSCB website at <http://hscb.herefordshire.gov.uk/44.htm>.

10. Equality and Human Rights

10.1 Protecting children enables the Council to meet some of the requirements of the public sector equality duty.

11. Financial Implications

11.1 HSCB are funded through the contributions member agencies. Details of these contributions and a summary of how the Board uses its budget are included within the appendices of the Annual Report.

12. Legal Implications

12.1 Local authority areas are required by law to have a Local Safeguarding Children Board, funded by a range of statutory agencies.

13. Risk Management

13.1 The Safeguarding Board and Cabinet, in its role to exercise effective governance, must understand the causes of safeguarding issues for in Herefordshire and ensure appropriate systems are in place to reduce the effect of these issues and meet the needs of those subject to them. Failure to ensure appropriate action will place people at risk.

14. Consultees

14.1 Members of the strategic board Herefordshire Safeguarding Children Board are consulted on the Annual Report and Business Plan before publication.

15. Appendices

- 15.1 HSCB Annual Report 2012-13
- 15.2 HSCB Business Plan 2013-14

16. Background Papers

- 16.1 None identified.