



# Herefordshire Safeguarding Children Board Business Plan 2017 – 2019

Updated July 2017

## **Our Vision**

Herefordshire Safeguarding Children Board's vision is to ensure that children and young people in Herefordshire grow up in an environment in which their well-being needs are met and they are safe from harm.

Beyond that however, the Board shares the ambition of the Herefordshire Children and Young People's Partnership in wanting all children and young people in Herefordshire to have the best start in life and grow up healthy, happy, and safe within supportive family environments.

As such, when fulfilling its functions, the Board will always strive to make sure that through strong and effective safeguarding processes children and young people enjoy the best possible health, education and opportunities to enable them to reach their full potential.

## **Our Mission**

To work together effectively, as organisations and with children and families, to ensure that local services and arrangements are effective in promoting the well-being of children and young people in Herefordshire and keeping them safe from harm.

## **Our Values**

- The impact on the well-being and safety of children and young people in Herefordshire will be at the centre of all HSCB activity.
- We will learn and be willing to develop, responding to evidence and best practice.
- We will work in an open and honest manner with children, young people, their families and with each other.
- We will address the well-being needs of children and young people at the earliest opportunity and prevent the need for later child protection intervention whenever possible.
- We will challenge each other and be ready to receive challenge as we work together in a spirit of mutual respect.

## **Our Priorities**

This document sets out the strategic priorities for Herefordshire Local Safeguarding Children Board for the next two years, the desired outcomes and the actions to be completed to deliver these outcomes. Subgroup work plans provide further detail of how the priorities will be achieved.

Our priorities for 2017 – 2019 are;

Priority 1: Neglect.

Priority 2: Child Sexual Abuse and Exploitation (including children who go missing).

Priority 3: Safeguarding Vulnerable Children.

Priority 4: Early Help.

Priority 5: Strong Leadership, strong partnership.

These priorities have been developed using a range of sources of information which have included inspections, self-assessments, learning from reviews and consultation with our partners in Herefordshire. We know from these sources and from other work carried out by the Board that areas remain where we can improve, and these priorities take account of those areas and reflect our commitment to achieve those improvements.

Specifically the Board recognises that we need to improve how childhood neglect is recognised and effective interventions are delivered at an early stage, particularly for children and young people with disabilities. The Board also recognises that there is a relatively high rate of recording of sexual crimes against children in Herefordshire, and we need to understand why that is and how such offending can be better prevented. The Board recognises that there are opportunities to improve the multi-agency response to children who abuse others, and we also recognise that we still have work to do before all practitioners understand our Levels of Need document, and use it in referring concerns. We need to be better at ensuring the voice of the child influences our work, and finally we recognise that as recent legislative changes create opportunities for a review of safeguarding structures, we need to continue to deliver strong leadership and retain strong partnership working to ensure the best possible safeguarding arrangements remain in place to protect children and young people.

It is the intention of the Board to concentrate on these areas and others in which we can make a real difference to the safety and development of children and young people in Herefordshire by promoting and ensuring efficient and effective practice.

The actions against each of the priorities have been identified following a recent review of our progress during the past twelve months, and are designed to deliver the improvements as set out above. Further, all contribute to achieving our vision, and fulfilling our statutory responsibilities of the board to coordinate and ensure the effectiveness of safeguarding arrangements in Herefordshire.

Strategic Priority	Outcome	We will do this by;
1. Neglect.	<p>Early identification and response to childhood neglect, and it is prevented whenever possible.</p> <p>Appropriate, consistent and timely responses across all agencies working together.</p> <p>A clear focus on the impact of neglect on the child or young person.</p>	<p>1.1. Implementing the childhood neglect strategy and action plan.</p> <p>1.2. Delivering a launch event for the HSCB childhood neglect strategy and associated changes to business practice.</p> <p>1.3. Delivering high quality multi-agency neglect training, to include use of common assessment tool and shared understanding of Levels of Need in relation to childhood neglect.</p> <p>1.4. Evaluating the effectiveness of that training.</p> <p>1.5. Assessing the effectiveness of the use of the assessment tool, and the extent of the understanding of neglect between partner agencies against JTAI standards.</p> <p>1.6. Ensuring the learning from previous SCR's and PLR's is properly embedded.</p>

		<p>1.7. Ensuring a particular focus on the effectiveness of services to prevent the neglect of children with disabilities.</p>
<p>2. Child Sexual Abuse/ Exploitation &amp; children who go missing.</p>	<p>Children who are vulnerable to sexual abuse and/or exploitation are effectively identified, safeguarded and supported.</p>	<p>2.1. Ensuring the delivery of the CSE and Missing strategy and action plan.</p> <p>2.2. Assessing the effectiveness of support services for victims of CSE in Herefordshire, and influencing commissioning of those services.</p> <p>2.3. Ensuring a co-ordinated response with Community Safety Partnership to reducing sexual abuse of children.</p> <p>2.4. Gaining assurance of the effectiveness of risk management planning in relation to individual children and young people at risk of CSE within risk management meetings.</p> <p>2.5. Gaining assurance on the arrangements for and frequency of missing children interviews.</p> <p>2.6. Supporting ongoing local and national CSE awareness campaigns and improving knowledge and understanding of CSE toolkit within agencies in Herefordshire.</p> <p>2.7. Reviewing the 'Children who abuse others' procedure and ensuring appropriate guidance is available to practitioners within Herefordshire.</p> <p>2.8. Checking the effectiveness of the response to previous CSE audit findings, the quality and availability of post abuse support to victims of CSE and the quality of intelligence relating to CSE, and the effectiveness of its sharing and use.</p>
<p>3. Safeguarding vulnerable children.</p>	<p>Vulnerable children are identified and safeguarded, and their wellbeing promoted.</p>	<p>3.1. Maintaining up to date LSCB procedures that align with regional arrangements and statutory guidance to inform the journey of the child through the child protection process.</p> <p>3.2. Developing the focus on 'hidden harm' and the increased risk to children with disabilities within multi agency training.</p> <p>3.3. Using multi-agency performance data to ensure the effectiveness of local safeguarding practice, specifically the application of LSCB thresholds, and the quality of child protection plans.</p>

		<p>3.4. Ensuring learning from SCR's and PLR's is appropriately used to improve the journey of the child through the child protection process.</p> <p>3.5. Securing feedback from children and young people who are subject to a child protection plan or who are looked after, to understand the effectiveness of the local safeguarding system.</p>
4. Early Help	Children and their families receive effective help at the right time which promotes their wellbeing.	<p>4.1. Ensuring LSCB procedures address the impact 'hidden harm' has on children and young people, for example children living with substance misuse and domestic abuse within the family.</p> <p>4.2. Assessing the impact of threshold decisions on those children who are not stepped up to higher levels of intervention.</p> <p>4.3. Ensuring that the HSCB procedures support the early help strategy.</p> <p>4.4. Evaluating the availability and effectiveness of early help support, particularly in relation to children living with neglect and domestic abuse, and children with disabilities.</p> <p>4.5. Working with the Children and Young Person's Partnership to ensure LSCB training products promote understanding of the early help offer with practitioners, to include overhaul of working together training sessions, and use of evaluation process to monitor effectiveness.</p> <p>4.6. Assessing the quality, effectiveness and availability of early help support and interventions in relation to those families where childhood neglect is a risk or present.</p> <p>4.7. Securing feedback from children, young people and their parents/carers about their experience of accessing and receiving early help (including Families First).</p>
5. Strong leadership, strong partnership.	HSCB leads the safeguarding agenda, challenges the safeguarding work of partner organisations, and commits to an approach that learns lessons and embeds good practice. The partnership has effective plans in	<p>5.1. working with partners to deliver successfully against the Business Plan and associated work plans set for HSCB and its subgroups / working groups</p> <p>5.2. continuing to strengthen the governance interface between HSCB and other key strategic forums</p> <p>5.3. communicating and raising awareness about safeguarding to individuals, organisations and communities</p> <p>5.4. maintaining HSCB's Learning &amp; Improvement Framework, facilitating, promoting and embedding learning from evidenced based practice, including</p>

	<p>place for maintaining the effectiveness of safeguarding in the future.</p>	<p>SCRs and local learning reviews, and assessing impact of learning activity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>5.5. scrutinising and challenging the individual and collective performance of partner organisations in safeguarding and improving outcomes for children, particularly those who are most vulnerable</li><li>5.6. engaging with children, young people and families to capture their views and experiences, influence the partnership's work and evaluate the impact of partner activity on their outcomes</li><li>5.7. engaging with practitioners to ensure they are supported to work effectively with children and their families.</li></ul>
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