

<b>Meeting:</b>	<b>Children and young people scrutiny committee</b>
<b>Meeting date:</b>	<b>Monday 11 March 2019</b>
<b>Title of report:</b>	<b>PRU Referrals Task and Finish Group - recommendations and outcomes</b>
<b>Report by:</b>	<b>Chairperson of the task and finish group</b>

## **Classification**

Open

## **Decision type**

This is not an executive decision

## **Wards affected**

(All Wards);

## **Purpose and summary**

To report the outcomes and recommendations of the Pupil Referral Unit (PRU) referrals task and finish group to the children and young people scrutiny committee. The committee will consider and approve the outcomes from the task and finish group and decide if the recommendations should be reported to the cabinet

## **Recommendation(s)**

That:

- (a) **The committee considers the report and recommendations of the task and finish group: PRU referrals (at appendix 1 of this report) and determines whether to agree the findings for submission to the executive.**

## **Alternative options**

1. The recommendations proposed in this report represent the outcomes of the PRU referrals task and finish group. If there are any additional recommendations which the committee feels should be included these can be proposed and voted upon at the meeting.

## **Key considerations**

2. The establishment of a task and finish group to focus on referrals to the pupil referral unit (PRU) in Herefordshire was agreed by the children and young people scrutiny committee on 16 July 2018. The task and finish group was established to assess the level of referrals to the PRU in Herefordshire and the reasons for the current trends.
3. The group was formed of three members of the Council and undertook two meetings between November 2018 – January 2019. At the initial meeting the group learned about: legislation, alternative provision and statistics and trends. The latter meeting of the group was a witness session where the group engaged a range of individuals including a the head teacher of the PRU, former pupils of the PRU and a head teacher of a mainstream secondary school.
4. At its final meeting the group resolved a number of recommendations, as outlined in the appendix, concerning PRU referrals together with additional proposals for the executive to consider. The recommendations are proposed to the children and young people committee to consider approving for submission to the cabinet. Any response to the recommendations from cabinet will be provided to the committee in the new Council term following the elections on 2 May 2019.

## **Community impact**

5. In accordance with the adopted code of corporate governance, Herefordshire Council is committed to promoting a positive working culture that accepts, and encourages constructive challenge, and recognises that a culture and structure for scrutiny are key elements for accountable decision making, policy development, and review.
6. The recommendations made by the task and finish group contributes to priorities in the corporate plan to: keep children and young people safe and give them a great start in life; and secure better services, quality of life and value for money.

## **Equality duty**

7. Under section 149 of the Equality Act 2010, the 'general duty' on public authorities is set out as follows:

A public authority must, in the exercise of its functions, have due regard to the need to -

- (a) eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under this Act;
- (b) advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it;
- (c) foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.

8. If the committee agrees with the findings of the task and finish group, the report will need to be considered by the executive and, depending on their decision, due regard will need to be given to public sector equality duty.

## **Resource implications**

9. This report proposes recommendations to the executive concerning the PRU and alternative provision in Herefordshire. The final recommendations agreed by the children and young people scrutiny committee will be sent the executive. In considering their response to the approved recommendations a full assessment of resource implications will be undertaken.

## **Legal implications**

10. The functions of the children and young people scrutiny committee include the powers to:
  - make reports or recommendations to the executive with respect to the discharge of any functions which are the responsibility of the executive; and
  - to make reports or recommendations to council or the cabinet on matters which affect the authority's area or the inhabitants of that area.

## **Risk management**

11. There are no risks associated with the recommendation and in considering its response the executive will need to assess the risks arising from the scrutiny committee's recommendations

## **Consultees**

12. None

## **Appendices**

Appendix 1 – PRU referrals task and finish group report

## **Background papers**

None identified