

Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee – Peer on Peer Abuse in Schools Spotlight Review - 16 December 2019, 10.00 a.m. – 4.00 p.m. The Shirehall, St Peter’s Square, Hereford HR1 2HX

Objectives:

- To receive data on the incidence of peer on peer abuse in Herefordshire schools;
- To learn of statutory guidance relating to peer on peer abuse and child protection policies in schools;
- To consider policies in place at schools to address peer on peer abuse and assess their effectiveness;
- To look at the role of the Council, the Police and voluntary/charitable organisations to assist schools, pupils and their parents
- To consider potential future initiatives and projects; and
- To inform a report to the children’s scrutiny committee with potential recommendations relating to peer on peer abuse in schools.

Invitees:

The following organisations are invited to present evidence and act as witnesses with respect to peer on peer abuse in schools:

Organisation	Invitee
Children and Families, Safeguarding and Education, Herefordshire Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Chris Baird, Director Children and Families – Liz Elgar, Assistant Director Safeguarding and Family Support Children and Families – Cath Thomas, Head of Service Safeguarding and Review – Alison Naylor, Head of Learning and Achievement
Public Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Karen Wright, Director of Public Health – Lindsay MacHardy, Public Health Specialist
West Mercia Police	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – DCI Jon Roberts, Herefordshire Local Policing Area
Secondary and Primary Schools	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Sian Alderton, Aylestone School – Julie Rees, Ledbury Primary School – Diana Pearce, St Francis Xavier RC Primary School – Trixie Clarke/Serena Croad, John Kyrle High School – Martin Henton/Pete Gibbins, Bishop of Hereford Bluecoat School
West Mercia Rape and Sexual Abuse Support Centre	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Jocelyn Anderson, CEO, WMRSASC – Anna Coombs
The Children’s Society	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Lucy Belcher, Service Manager – North, Prevention Programme, The Children’s Society
Herefordshire Clinical Commissioning Group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Rebecca Haywood-Tibbetts, Named Professional for Safeguarding

Order of business:

1) Welcome and introductions

To note the scoping document for the spotlight review.

2) Presentation from Herefordshire Council)

Presentation slides attached

To include:

- To consider the success/effectiveness of policies to address peer on peer abuse in relation to a previous case; the application of policy is outlined in the attached commissioned report
- Definition of peer on peer abuse
- How peer on peer abuse is dealt with in schools
- Latest statics of incidence of peer on peer abuse in Herefordshire schools
- How the council works with schools (maintained and non-maintained) in producing and monitoring child protection policies and training
- How current safeguarding initiatives address peer on peer abuse in schools
- Joint working with partner agencies, schools and charitable/voluntary organisations
- Reflecting on and improving processes
- Separating victims and offenders – policies and procedures
- **Public Health** presentation to include: harmful sexual behaviours task and finish group

Questions

3) Presentation from Schools

To include:

- Step-by-step process; how schools deal with peer on peer abuse allegations and cases
- Experience of peer on peer abuse and an assessment of the challenge posed by peer on peer abuse to local schools.
- How child protection policies take account of statutory guidance and contain procedures to ensure that the child's wishes and feelings are taken into account.
- How child protection policies make provision for how allegations of peer on peer abuse will be investigated and dealt with.
- How schools work with the Police to escalate cases of peer on peer abuse.
- Preventative and pupil initiatives to address peer on peer abuse in schools.

Questions

4) Presentation from West Mercia Rape and Sexual Abuse Support Centre (WMRSASC)

Presentation slides attached

To include:

- Anonymised data and statistics (including contacts/referrals) held on peer on peer abuse in Herefordshire schools and regional/national comparisons.
- Projects in progress to prevent peer on peer abuse in schools and support victims and families.
- To present the Voice of the Child or anonymised testimony of young peoples' experience of: peer on peer abuse in schools; child protection policies and procedures; and contact with local agencies and support services.
- Work undertaken with local agencies (including Police and council) and schools.

Questions

5) General Discussion and Recommendations

To include:

- Identification of gaps and opportunities for joint working
- Strength of statutory guidance and advice
- Performance of existing initiatives and projects
- Future projects and key performance measures
- Separating victims and offenders – policies and procedures
- An understanding of the current statistics and data in respect of peer on peer abuse
- Assurance that the advice schools are receiving is compliant with statutory guidance
- Assurance that the Council is working with schools and local agencies to support the introduction of effective policies to address peer on peer abuse.

To propose recommendations to the children and young people scrutiny committee.

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Attached

Scoping document

Presentation slides – Herefordshire Council, Public Health and WMRSASC