

Supplement – schedule of questions received for meeting of Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee – 11 January 2022

Agenda item no. 4 - Questions from members of the public

Question Number	Questioner	Question	
PQ 1	Name and address provided	<p>It is no longer in dispute that Herefordshire Council failed to learn lessons about how to handle cases of peer-on-peer sexual assault after the publication in 2017 of an external report (CSO), which investigated safeguarding failure in 2016.</p> <p>It is no longer in dispute that the failure to learn lessons led to similar mistakes being repeated and children suffering avoidable harm. It is not in dispute that the recommendations from the CSO report were withheld from CYP-Scrutiny until 2020.</p> <p>What is still not clear is who chose to withhold the recommendations from Scrutiny and why they did this.</p> <p>To answer these questions an independent investigation was commissioned in November 2020.</p> <p>Are members of CYP-Scrutiny satisfied that the independent investigation being conducted by VWV is sufficiently at arm’s length from all those departments potentially implicated in avoidable safeguarding failure?</p>	
<p>Response from Chairperson Of Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee</p> <p>Thank you for your question. The external investigation commissioned by the Council will be considering why and how the CSO report was not more widely shared in the Council. This has been commissioned by the Acting Deputy Chief Executive. The answer to the question is still outstanding, but it is fair to say that the Chair and Vice Chair have raised some outstanding questions and concerns. However, the full committee has yet to be briefed on how the investigation was commissioned and how it is being conducted. The Committee will review the briefing before formally commenting on whether they are completely satisfied that the way in which the investigation is being conducted is ‘safe’ in their view.</p> <p>As to your statements about what is no longer in dispute we are not in a position to comment on these at this time until all investigations are completed.</p>			