

Agenda item no. 5 - Questions from members of the public

Question Number	Questioner	Question	Question to
PQ 1	Ms Reid, Hereford	<p>I refer to Appendix 2 – Improvement Board Membership of the Children and Families Strategic Improvement Plan which was endorsed by the Cabinet at the 28 October 2021 meeting.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Please provide a complete (eg if employed by Herefordshire Council), accurate (eg if “Interim” or not) and up-to-date version detailing the current membership of the Improvement Board. • Please provide a complete, accurate and up-to-date version of the “Structure Chart” and “Senior Leadership Team Details” or confirm that the most-recent version on the council’s webpage: <p>https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/downloads/file/8213/senior-management-structure-and-contact-details-june-2022</p> <p>is complete, accurate and up-to-date including for the Children and Young People Directorate.</p> <p>If necessary, I suggest you update the council’s website with the up-to-date information as soon as possible.</p>	Cabinet member children and families

Response:

Please find attached (below) the membership details for the Improvement Board.

The website is in the process of being updated with an updated structure chart but will be available at [Senior management team – Herefordshire Council](#)

Role	Name	Designation	Comment
Chair	Gladys Rhodes White	Chair and DfE Improvement Advisor	
Note Taker:	Sarah Morris	Programme Coordinator, Corporate Services	Herefordshire Council Permanent
Board members:	Eleanor Brazil	Children's Commissioner, Children and Young People	
	Paul Walker	Chief Executive	Herefordshire Council Permanent
	Cllr Diana Toynbee	Cabinet Member, Children & Families	

	Cllr Philip Howells	Chairperson, Children and Young People's Scrutiny Committee	
	Cllr Jennie Hewitt	Vice-chairperson, Children and Young People's Scrutiny Committee	
	Cllr David Hitchiner	Leader to the Council	
	Darryl Freeman	Corporate Director, Children and Young People	Herefordshire Council Permanent
	John Bostock	Regional Advisor, Department for Education (DfE)	
	Alexandra Floyd	Head of Communications	Herefordshire Council Permanent
	Claire Porter	Director of Governance and Legal Services	Herefordshire Council Permanent
	Edd Williams	West Mercia Police	
	Kevin Crompton	Independent Scrutineer	
	Matt Pearce	Director of Public Health	Herefordshire Council Permanent
	Claire Burgess	Local Government Association	
Social Care	Gail Hancock	Service Director Improvement, Children and Young People	Herefordshire Council Interim
	Rachel Gillott	Service Director, Safeguarding and Family Support	Herefordshire Council Permanent
	Phil Bullingham	Service Director, Safeguarding, QA and Improvement	Herefordshire Council Permanent
	Kerry Oddy	Principal Social Worker	Herefordshire Council Permanent (starts 24/10/2022)
Staff reference group rep	Rob Kyle	Independent Reviewing Officer	Herefordshire Council Permanent
Schools rep	Nicki Gilbert	Special School Representation, Westfield School	
	Emma Shearer	Primary School Representation, Riverside Primary School	
	Sue Gaston	Secondary School Representative, Fairfield High School	
Health rep	Mari Gay	Chief Executive, NHS Herefordshire and Worcestershire Clinical Commissioning Group	
	Heather Manning	NHS Herefordshire and Worcestershire Clinical Commissioning Group	
	Maria Hardy	CCG Commissioning & Transformation Lead CYP & Maternity	
	Kathryn Cobain	Chief Nursing Officer, Herefordshire and Worcestershire Integrated Care Board	
Healthwatch rep	Jane Ellis	Lead for Children and Young People, Healthwatch Herefordshire	

Supplementary Question

Please **fully** answer my public question (eg updated structure chart).

I note that the Improvement Board has **29** members from various organisations and professions including **three** school representatives. However, it does **not** include any representative of families who have experience of receiving Children's Services support (eg whose child is a "child in need").

It is regarded as good practice to include those with "lived experience" of personally using services to be involved in improving them, eg the government-commissioned Independent Review of Children's Social Care.

As time is of the essence, there could be co-optees to the Improvement Board from:

- Representative of Families Co-optee, Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee
- Support group A Common Bond
- Parent Carer Voice (SEND)

Do you recommend that three co-optees are appointed to the Improvement Board as soon as possible to voice the perspective of families?

Response to supplementary question (cabinet member children and families)

The Director of Children's Services, the Children's Commissioner and the Department for Education advisor are reviewing the membership of the improvement board and the suggestions from the supplementary question would be passed on. It was pleasing that Gladys White and Eleanor Brazil were engaging with a wide range of people in Herefordshire. It was confirmed that the council must work meaningfully with families receiving children's services in order for those services to improve.