

Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee Information Requests Tracking Report 2022-23

Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee 11th October 2022

Subject & Date	Information Request	Department Responsible	Response	status	Date updated
Inspection of Herefordshire Children's Services CYPSC 11th October 2022	(a) A copy of the Children and Young People directorate Risk Register.	Corporate Director for Children and Young People	<i>Response pending.</i>		2/11/22
Inspection of Herefordshire Children's Services CYPSC 11th October 2022	(b) Clarification from the Monitoring Officer regarding what access social workers have to expert legal advice to embed quality in social work practice.	Governance and Law, Corporate Services	<p>“Social workers at Herefordshire Council have access to expert legal advice at all times. The Children’s Legal team promote an “open door” policy and have fostered positive working relationships with the service so they are seen as a supportive and approachable legal service.</p> <p>During office hours, the Children’s legal team operates a duty system; this enables social workers to email their legal queries direct to a specific mailbox. This inbox is monitored by a senior member of the legal team and every day a different member of the legal team is “on duty”. If a query is more urgent and requires a phone call for immediate advice, there is a dedicated duty number for social workers to call. The legal team are also available to convene urgent legal planning meetings as appropriate.</p> <p>Presently there are two Heads of Law and three Senior solicitors in the Childcare legal team. This ensures that there is a senior and experienced lawyer available to social workers at all times,. Furthermore, if an issue is complex, and requires a piece of specialist legal advice, a senior member of the team would seek counsel’s opinion. This culture of seeking a second opinion is promoted within the legal team, and is supported by a protocol which requires a second legal opinion to be sought as and when required.</p>		2/11/22

			Furthermore, outside of normal office hours (during the evenings, at weekends and bank holidays), an out of hours legal service is provided by Weightmans solicitors, meaning social workers working outside of hours have the same opportunity to access expert legal advice when necessary”.		
Inspection of Herefordshire Children's Services CYPSC 11th October 2022	(c) A workforce profile for Herefordshire to benchmark against other local authorities the level of staff churn and the proportion of permanent and interim staff working in social care.	Corporate Director for Children and Young People	<i>Response pending.</i>		2/11/22

Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee 26 July 2022

Subject & Date	Information Request	Department Responsible	Response	<i>status</i>	<i>Date updated</i>
Children's Social Care and Early Help Improvement Plan 2022-2024 CYPSC 26 July 2022	Baseline key performance measures to enable the Committee to scrutinise delivery of the Improvement Plan be prepared by the Children's Services department for the next meeting.	Corporate Director for Children and Young People	<i>The baseline key performance measures to enable the scrutiny committee to scrutinise delivery of the Improvement Plan are anticipated to be included or derived from the Children's Services Improvement Plan report to be considered by the committee on 13th December 2022. Thereafter the Key Measures are proposed to be included on the revised committee work plan.</i>		2/11/22

Key

Items marked with a tick ✓ are marked “completed”. Once items have been agreed as completed by the committee they may be removed from future updated versions of the tracker table.