

Title of report: Herefordshire and Worcestershire Child Death Overview Panel Annual Report 2021-22

Meeting: Health and Wellbeing Board

Meeting date: 13 March 2023

Report by: Director of Public Health

Classification

Open

Decision type

This is not an executive decision

Wards affected

(All Wards);

Purpose:

- For the Board to receive and comment on the Herefordshire and Worcestershire Child Death Overview Panel Annual Report 2021-22

Recommendation(s)

- That the Board consider and note the report.

Alternative options

- 1: The Board could choose not to consider this report. This is not recommended as the HWBB will provide its opinion, as appropriate, to Herefordshire Council, the Integrated Care Board or NHS England, as to whether they are discharging their duty to have regard to any assessment of relevant needs prepared by the Council, the ICB or NHS England in the exercise of their functions.

Key considerations

- The death of a child is always tragic. It is essential that in seeking to identify factors that, if modified, might have prevented a child's death or might prevent future deaths, sight is never lost of that or the life-changing impact of losing a child on parents, siblings, extended families and friends.

- The number of deaths reviewed was relatively low, modifiable factors were identified in 57% of deaths reviewed. That is significant for two reasons:
 - The identification of those factors underlines the importance of CDOP's work.
 - Thorough analysis of 43% of the deaths reviewed led to a conclusion that nothing whatsoever could have been done to prevent the deaths of those children. In looking for lessons, themes and trends, there is a need to recognise that the deaths of some children are utterly unpreventable but no less tragic for that.

- Appendix 1 contains the Herefordshire and Worcestershire Child Death Overview Panel Annual Report 2021-22

Community Impact

In accordance with the adopted code of corporate governance, Herefordshire Council achieves its intended outcomes by providing a mixture of legal, regulatory and practical interventions. Determining the right mix of these is an important strategic choice to make sure outcomes are achieved. The council needs robust decision-making mechanisms to ensure its outcomes can be achieved in a way that provides the best use of resources whilst still enabling efficient and effective operations and recognises that a culture and structure for scrutiny are key elements for accountable decision making, policy development and review

Environmental Impact

There are no general implications for the environment arising from this report.

Equality duty

- 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) Facilitate good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.
- The public sector equality duty (specific duty) requires us to consider how we can positively contribute to the advancement of equality and good relations, and demonstrate that we are paying 'due regard' in our decision making in the design of policies and in the delivery of services.

Resource implications

- There are no resource implications associated with this report. However, the resource implications of any recommendations made by the HWB will need to be considered by the responsible party in response to those recommendations or subsequent decisions

Legal implications

- Health and wellbeing boards are responsible for encouraging integrated working between health and social care commissioners, including partnership arrangements such as pooled budgets, lead commissioning and integrated provision.
- Their purpose is to establish collaborative decision making, planning and commissioning across councils and the NHS, informed by the views of patients, people who use services and other partners.
- The functions of the Health and Wellbeing Board are set out in paragraph 3.5.24 of the constitution.

Risk management

There are no risk implications identified emerging from the recommendations in this report

Consultees

Matt Pearce (Director of Public Health), Hilary Hall (Corporate Director Community Wellbeing), Elizabeth Altay (Interim Director of Public Health, Worcestershire).

Appendices

Appendix 1 – Herefordshire and Worcestershire Child Death Overview Panel Annual Report 2021-22

Background papers

None identified