

**Member of the Public Questions Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee 27 May 2025**

Questioner	Response	Agreed by director?	Supplementary question and response
<p><b>1. Ms Reid, Hereford</b> Professor Luke Clements argued inter alia on his website (www.lukeclements.co.uk):</p> <p>"... what is needed is an independent process that can call leaders to account for what has occurred – force disclosure of all relevant materials and compel witnesses to testify. At present the only show in town that does this is a statutory public inquiry ... the spectrum of Herefordshire's corporate failings and its hostility to criticism could act as a paradigm case study: an example of what has gone wrong and act as a case study as to what needs to be done [by other councils]."</p> <p>Would you support a statutory public inquiry into Herefordshire Children's Services? If, why not?</p>	<p><b>Accept</b></p> <p><b>Agreed by TR/IP ready to go</b></p> <p>Member / Director Cllr Ivan Powell/Tina Russell</p> <p>Thank you for your question. Our position on this issue remains as previously reported that we would not support a need for a public enquiry. Herefordshire children services improvement remains under the scrutiny of Ofsted through regular monitoring visits and the DfE through the Commissioner and the scrutiny of the multi-agency improvement board. Our priority is to ensure our financial and staffing resources are focused on continuing making the improvement required.</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p><b>Supplementary Question</b></p>
<p><b>2. Mr McGeown, Hereford</b> I understand that Childrens Services currently subscribe to "online comprehensive suite of services to support every aspect of social care procedures", provided by Herefordshire Councils partner: <a href="https://www.trixonline.co.uk/about-us">https://www.trixonline.co.uk/about-us</a></p>	<p><b>Accept</b></p> <p><b>Agreed by TR/IP ready to go</b></p> <p><b>Member / Director</b> Cllr Ivan Powell/Tina Russell</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p><b>Supplementary question:</b></p>

Questioner OFFICIAL	Response	Supplementary question and response	
<p>“we specialise in expertly creating, updating, and hosting procedures that not only enable you to meet statutory requirements and regulatory standards, but that also reflect best practice and empower your team to achieve the best possible outcomes for children, families, adults and carers. Our innovative platform also provides...”</p> <p>All sounds like a good thing but Childrens Services also have locally created and published procedures.</p> <p>So how would a Social Worker, newly arrived in Herefordshire, use and interoperate trixonline (<a href="https://westmids-herefordshire.trixonline.co.uk/">https://westmids-herefordshire.trixonline.co.uk/</a>) with locally created "Herefordshire Safeguarding Children Partnership Manual"? (<a href="https://www.herefordshiresafeguardingboards.org.uk/professional-resources/childrens-policies-guidance">https://www.herefordshiresafeguardingboards.org.uk/professional-resources/childrens-policies-guidance</a>)</p>	<p><b>Response:</b></p> <p>Herefordshire Children Services have a full supported induction program for all new staff. Within this they are made aware of the regional Safeguarding procedures that set out Working Together 23 into a set of workable partnership procedures.</p> <p>We also have Herefordshire Social Work Practice Standards that bring further detail for staff as an internal document that guide the practitioner as to application of the procedures and provides standards for quality and timeliness.</p> <p>'Herefordshire like many other local authorities do supplement regional procedures with those that meet local need so sitting between the two we have our own local procedures and we are reviewing these to see what added value they bring as much of this document will refer across to the regional procedures or local practice standards.</p>		