



# **Title of report: Herefordshire Safeguarding Children Partnership - Yearly Review of Effectiveness Report 2024-25**

**Meeting: Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee**

**Meeting date: Tuesday 11 November 2025**

**Report by: Statutory Scrutiny Officer**

## **Classification**

Open

## **Decision type**

This is not an executive decision

## **Wards affected**

(All Wards);

## **Purpose**

To provide the committee with the safeguarding children partnership's yearly review of effectiveness for the period 2024-25

## **Recommendation(s)**

That the committee:

- a) Prepare any recommendations they may have for the partner members of the Herefordshire Safeguarding Children Partnership.

## **Alternative options**

1. As the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee have requested this report, no alternative options are presented.

## Key considerations

2. During its regular work programming, the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee has identified partnership working as a priority for its work programme. As part of this work, it requested the opportunity to scrutinise the work of Herefordshire Safeguarding Children Partnership. The committee agreed that a review of the partnership's annual review of effectiveness would provide an overview of the partnership's work, as well as identifying potential topics for further scrutiny.
3. [Working Together 2023](#) requires each local authority to establish local arrangements for safeguarding children and young people. In Herefordshire, this is called the Herefordshire Safeguarding Children Partnership. The purpose of these local arrangements is to safeguard and promote the welfare of children, and to work together to identify and respond to the needs of children in the area.
4. The statutory guidance states that the responsibility for these arrangements is between the safeguarding partners, who are Herefordshire Council, West Mercia Police and the NHS Integrated Care Board (Herefordshire and Worcestershire). Other 'relevant' agencies also have a duty to safeguard children and young people under Working Together 2023.
5. At least once in every 12-month period, the safeguarding partners must jointly report on the activity that they have undertaken. This yearly report must be published by September of the following year. The focus of the yearly report is on multi-agency priorities, learning, impact, evidence and improvement. The report must include:
  - a. What the partnership has done as a result of the multi-agency child safeguarding arrangements, including on child safeguarding practice reviews,
  - b. How effective these arrangements have been in practice.

Appendix 1 of the report covers activity of the Herefordshire Safeguarding Children Partnership between 1st April 2024 and 31st March 2025.

## Community impact

6. The council is responsible for the economic, social and environmental wellbeing of the county. The council is the 'corporate parent' to children and young people in its care. Many of the services we provide are statutory, meaning we must provide the service in line with the policies of central government. Some services are discretionary, meaning we have a degree of choice over the type and level of service to provide
7. The council provides leadership and ensures coordination across the range of council children's services, and through engagement with partners, with a particular focus on children and young people's health & wellbeing and safeguarding. A principal function of the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee is to scrutinise children's social care including safeguarding.

## Environmental Impact

8. This report contains no direct environmental impacts. However any recommendations made by the committee, if agreed by the appropriate decision-making body, may have direct impacts. Reports arising from or supporting this work will outline their potential environmental impact.

### **Equality duty**

9. 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. This report contains no direct equality impacts. However, any recommendations made by the committee, if agreed by the appropriate decision-making body, may have direct impacts. Reports arising from or supporting this work will outline the any associated equality impacts for committee consideration.

### **Resource implications**

10. This report constitutes part of the typical function of this committee. Similarly, a programme of work undertaken by committee is an integral part of the council's 'business as usual'. There is no resource implication in setting or agreeing a work programme. However any recommendations made by the committee, if agreed by the appropriate decision-making body, may have direct resource impacts. Reports arising from or supporting this work will outline the any associated resource implications for committee consideration.

### **Legal implications**

11. The remit of the scrutiny committee is set out in part 3 section 4 of the constitution and the role of the scrutiny committee is set out in part 2 article 6 of the constitution.
12. The Local Government Act 2000 requires the council to deliver the scrutiny function.

### **Risk management**

13. There are no direct risks identified in considering the content of this information report.

### **Consultees**

14. No consultation took part when producing this report.

### **Appendices**

Appendix 1: HSCP-Yearly Report 2024-25  
Appendix 2: HSCP Business Plan 2025-26  
Appendix 3: HSCP Overview 2024-25

### **Background papers**

None identified