

CHILDREN AND FAMILIES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL 18 NOVEMBER 2015

WORCESTERSHIRE CHILDREN'S SAFEGUARDING PEER REVIEW

Summary

1. The Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Panel is asked to consider the draft report on its scrutiny of the Directorate of Children's Services' response to the findings of the Children's Safeguarding Peer Review (attached as Appendix 1).

Background

2. In November 2014, Worcestershire County Council – as part of its desire to be a learning organisation – invited the Local Government Association (LGA) to help facilitate a Peer Review on its approach to safeguarding children. The Peer Review took place in April 2015. The County Council had previously invited the LGA to conduct a safeguarding peer review in October 2011.

3. The Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Panel considered the outcomes of the Peer Review at its meeting on 25 June 2015 and was informed that the LGA team had identified the following four priorities:

- A 'back to basics' Safeguarding Improvement Plan
- Resolving the future direction for the 'Front Door'
- Implementing a detailed financial recovery plan
- Review and defining the role of Early Help

4. Panel Members agreed that they would wish to undertake further scrutiny work to consider the Directorate's response to these priorities.

Purpose of the Scrutiny

5. The Scrutiny Panel agreed to meet in small groups to further consider the detail of the four priorities identified by the Peer Review. These meetings took place between July and September 2015. It was further agreed that Members' comments would then be fed back to the Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Children and Families in order to inform future work.

Conclusion and Recommendations

6. The Panel's conclusion and recommendations are set out in paragraphs 5 to 9 in the attached report (Appendix 1).

Purpose of the Meeting

7. The Panel is asked to consider, comment on and agree the draft report.

Next Steps

8. Once agreed, the report will be considered by the Overview and Scrutiny Performance Board at its meeting on 2 December, after which it will be sent to the Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Children and Families in order to inform future work.

Supporting Information

- Appendix 1: Comments from the Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Panel – Worcestershire Children's Safeguarding Peer Review

Contact Points

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Background Papers

In the opinion of the proper officer (in this case the Director of Children's Services) the following are the background papers relating to the subject matter of this report:

- Agenda and minutes of the Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Panel meeting held on 25 June 2015
- [All agendas and minutes are available on the Council's website here.](#)