

# **CHILDREN AND FAMILIES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL**

**7 JULY 2023**

## **WORCESTERSHIRE CHILDREN FIRST AND THE INDEPENDENT CARE REVIEW**

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### **Summary**

1. The Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Children and Families and the Director of Children's Services have been invited to the meeting to update the Panel on developments relating to the Independent Care Review and how this is being approached within Worcestershire Children First (WCF).
2. Presentation slides are attached as Appendix 1.

### **Background**

3. Children's Social Care reform: Stable homes, built on love was published in February 2023 having been commissioned by the Government to take a fundamental look at Children's social care and understand how to transform it to better support the most vulnerable children and families.
4. The Review sets out the reforms under the 6 key pillars and identifies a range of further consultations and a phased approach to implementation. The presentation will set out how this is being approached within WCF business planning. A copy of the WCF Business Plan for 2023-24 is attached as Appendix 2.
5. This presentation seeks to provide assurance to the Panel that WCF are engaged in the national review of Children Services and are responding to both consultations and what is presented as best practice approach to children's Social Care and Safeguarding.

### **Purpose of the Meeting**

6. The Panel is asked to:
  - Consider and comment on the WCF approach to the Care Review
  - Agree any comments to highlight to the Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Children and Families,
  - Determine whether any further information or scrutiny on a particular topic is required.

## **Supporting Information**

Appendix 1 – Presentation slides

Appendix 2 - WCF Business Plan 2023-24 available via this link [Worcestershire Children First Business Plan 2023 - 2024](#)

## **Contact Points**

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Specific Contact Points for this report

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## **Background Papers**

In the opinion of the proper officer (in this case the Assistant Director for Legal and Governance) the following are the background papers relating to the subject matter of this report:

[Agenda for Cabinet on Thursday, 30th March, 2023](#)

[All agendas and minutes are available on the Council's website here.](#)