

# **Memorandum of Understanding between the Local Family Justice Board and the Local Safeguarding Children Board**

## **1. AIM**

1.1 The aim of this MOU is to define how the Local Family Justice Board and the Herefordshire Safeguarding Children Board will work together in the pursuit of safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people.

## **2. PURPOSE OF THE BOARDS**

### **2.1 Herefordshire Safeguarding Children Board (HSCB)**

The primary function of HSCB is to ensure that relevant organisations in Herefordshire work together to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and young people in the county. Its role is to scrutinise and challenge the work of agencies both individually and collectively.

The key objectives of HSCB, as set out in 'Working Together to Safeguard Children, are:

- to co-ordinate local work to safeguard and promote the well-being of children; and
- to ensure the effectiveness of that work

HSCB is required to publish an Annual Report which sets out its analysis of the effectiveness of local safeguarding children arrangements.

### **2.2 Local Family Justice Board (LFJB)**

The aim of the Family Justice Board (FJB) is to drive significant improvements in the family justice system where performance is defined in terms of how effective (and efficient) the system is in supporting the delivery of the best possible outcomes for children who come into contact with it.

In order to achieve its specific objectives the Local Family Justice Board (LFJB) will:

- further develop inter-disciplinary working across the family justice system by bringing together the key local agencies including decision makers to analyse and identify causes of delay within local agencies to implement local solutions to local problems;
- feed back to and seek guidance from the FJB Performance Improvement Sub-Group on continuous performance improvement activities;
- disseminate guidance and best practice locally;
- collate and agree responses and questionnaires referred to them by the Family Justice Board or the FJB Performance Improvement Sub-Group

## **3. CO-ORDINATION BETWEEN THE BOARDS**

The Boards will work together by:

- The LFJB will provide an annual performance report to the HSCB (or one of its sub groups) to include data on the numbers of care proceedings, the time scales for completing proceedings and any issues which lead to delays.
- The Chair of the HSCB will provide the Chair of the LFJB with a copy of the HSCB Annual Report
- The HSCB chair/board manager will liaise with the LFJB Chair about any concerns which relate to the protection of children and young people who require the services of family justice courts.

- The LFJB chair will liaise with the HSCB chair/board manager about any concerns which relate to delay or which directly affect the safeguarding of children in pre-proceedings or proceedings
- HSCB and LFJB will identify a named individual/post to act as contact points to ensure co-ordination of relevant activities

#### **4. OPERATIONAL ARRANGEMENTS**

HSCB and LFJB are equal partners working together to safeguard children and young people at risk, with neither being accountable to the other.

#### **5. RESOLUTION PROCESS**

Where there is concern that this MOU is not succeeding in ensuring strong governance and effective partnership working to safeguard children and young people resolution should be sought through discussions between the Chairs of the respective Boards, Lead Members and the Director of Children's Services as appropriate.

#### **6. REVIEW**

This MOU will be reviewed annually.

#### **7. SIGNATURES:**

Independent Chair, Herefordshire Safeguarding Children Board

Chair, Herefordshire and Herefordshire Family Justice Board