

Report to West Mercia Governance Board

Title of paper:	West Mercia/Partnership Response to IITCSE Actions
Meeting Date:	September 2022
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Executive Summary

This report provides an outline of the current and planned arrangements for the response of West Mercia Police and partner agencies to the recommendations of the IITCSE Report. It provides a summary of the effective governance and oversight arrangements for the response, which is being led by Vulnerability and Safeguarding. West Mercia Police is cooperating proactively within the wider Partnership to ensure that multi-agency improvement is delivered in a timely way. It is proposed that external scrutiny is sought of progress made towards implementing the recommendations that are specific to the force.

Recommendations and Requested Outputs from WMGB

- 1) Governance Board examines the oversight arrangements for the IITCSE report response and comments.

Benefits

- Increased satisfaction, trust and confidence
- Improved safeguarding
- Improved victim focus

Vision, Values, Service and Leadership Ethos, and policing priorities

Vision

- Provide a quality policing service
- Protect people from harm
- Visible and open to all

Priorities

- Keeping Communities Safe
- Delivering Excellent service

Values

- Public First
- Compassionate
- Ownership
- Inclusive

Police and Crime Plan

- Putting victims and survivors first
- Building a more secure West Mercia
- Reforming West Mercia
- Reassuring West Mercia's Communities

Report Contents

1. Purpose / key drivers of report

To provide Chief Officers with an overview of the planned approach to implementation of the recommendations following the publication of the IITCSE report.

2. Main Content

2.1 Submission

The LPA Superintendent and T/D/Superintendent for Vulnerability and Safeguarding have met with representatives from Telford Local Authority and Shropshire Health Services to discuss the structure and oversight required by each agency and the wider partnership in order to effectively respond to the IITCSE recommendations. There are a total of 47 recommendations, either for a single agency or a combination of partners. The breakdown of these recommendations is set out below.

West Mercia Police (WMP)	6
Local Authority	23
Health	5
Education	5
OPCC	1
All safeguarding agencies	2
WMP and the Local Authority	4
WMP, Local Authority & Health	1
Local Authority & Education	4

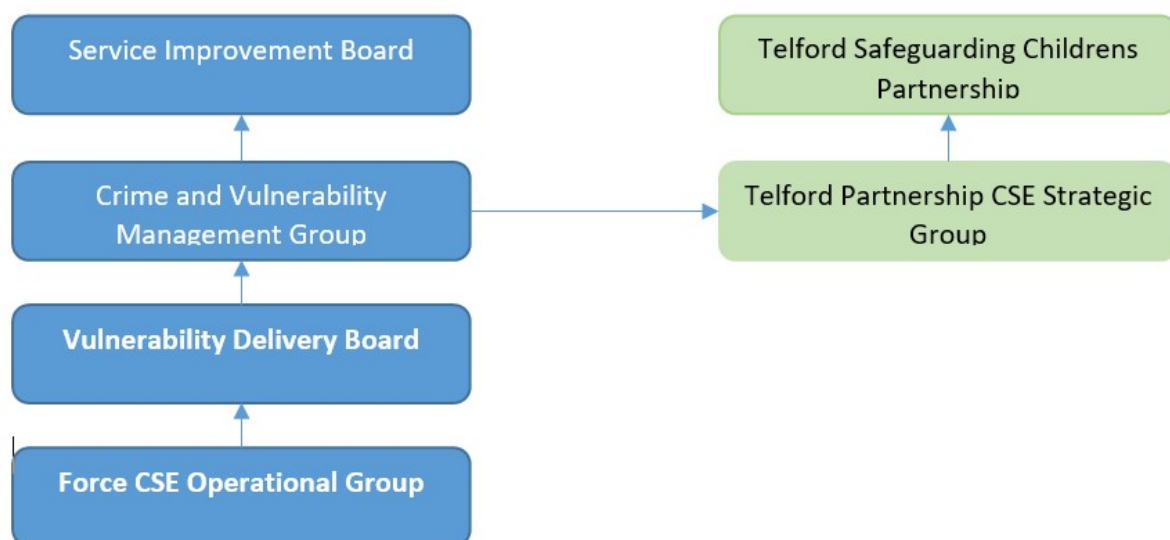
West Mercia Police's approach to delivery of the recommendations will be aligned with the recommendations of the CSE Peer Review that has previously been undertaken. The police-specific recommendations are being translated into a delivery plan that will utilise the 'steps

to green' methodology that is consistently employed for service improvement across the force. An initial assessment has been made within Vulnerability and Safeguarding of the recommendations for West Mercia Police, immediate activities undertaken to address them, and the likely longer term impact of their implementation (Appendix A).

The primary forum for tactical delivery and consideration of forcewide impact will be the CSE Operational Group. This is led by a Detective Chief Inspector from Vulnerability and Safeguarding, and attended by the Detective Inspector Leads for Child Sexual Exploitation from each LPA. The first meeting is scheduled for September 2022. The day-to-day response to the recommendations is being coordinated by the Detective Sergeant who is the Vulnerability and Safeguarding Child Exploitation lead.

The CSE Operational Group will report on progress and escalate challenges to the Vulnerability Delivery Board chaired by the Det. Superintendent for Vulnerability and Safeguarding. This is an established group and has appropriate attendance, including from LPA Detective Chief Inspectors.

Progress towards implementation of the recommendations will be subject to ACC-level scrutiny through a bi-monthly highlight report to the Crime and Vulnerability Management Board. West Mercia's Service Improvement Board will also provide oversight, and in the immediate term the Operation Harmonica CIMM will continue to exist whilst these governance arrangements are embedded.



A Partnership Child Sexual Exploitation Strategic Group has been formed, specifically in response to the IITCSE report. Terms of reference are being produced for this group but have not yet been finalised. It will be supported from West Mercia Police by both the Det. Supt (Vulnerability and Safeguarding) and the DCI from the LPA. Relevant partner agencies will be represented at this group and will include Health, the Local Authority, Education, and Probation. Despite not featuring extensively within the IITCSE report, the Crown Prosecution

Service have also offered to attend at a suitably senior level. This multi-agency group reports to the existing Strategic Partnership, which is attended by the LPA Superintendent and the Det. Superintendent for Vulnerability and Safeguarding.

The Partnership is united in its desire to tackle the recommendations effectively and promptly so that the necessary work is completed ahead of the two-year timescale for review that has been set by the report author.

In respect of police-only recommendations, there may be benefit in external scrutiny of the activity that West Mercia plans to undertake to ensure that our action is in line with victims' and survivors' needs and expectations. The recommendation of the Vulnerability and Safeguarding Detective Superintendent is that this should be delivered wholly separately from West Mercia Police, and that those involved are from across the Force area rather than solely Telford. This would provide a more balanced view on activity that ultimately will affect all our communities. It may be that existing service providers within West Mercia (Purple Leaf at present) could provide this, as they are already experienced in dealing with West Mercia victims and survivors. However there is likely to be a cost for this which will need to be considered. An alternative would be to explore how the RASSO Independent Advisory Group may be able to assist in examining and monitoring our response. The Det. Superintendent for Vulnerability and Safeguarding will examine options for how this additional scrutiny might best be achieved.

Strategic Planning & Insight will complete a Problem Profile and repeat this every six months (Recommendation 3), which should provide us with additional commentary on how our response is developing and impacting on performance.

3. Decision Notice

Background Papers

IITCSE Report – not supplied
IITCSE and peer review Delivery Plan - attached

Disclosure and Sensitivity

Comments of relevant proper officer(s) or person(s) with statutory responsibilities

Decision Notice



West Mercia
POLICE

Signature:

Date:

Supporting Papers: