

Safeguarding children **scrutiny guide**



Centre for Public Scrutiny Guides

The Centre for Public Scrutiny (CfPS) promotes the value of scrutiny in modern and effective government, not only to hold executives to account but also to create a constructive dialogue between the public and its elected representatives to improve the quality of public services. CfPS has received funding from the Improvement and Development Agency (IDeA) to produce this guide offering practical advice for Local Authority Overview and Scrutiny Committees (OSCs) on the questions they may want to ask to effectively review approaches to safeguarding children.

This guide is one of a series designed to help OSCs carry out their work on various health, healthcare and social care issues. Other CfPS Guides in the series include:

- Child and adolescent mental health (2006)
- NHS service redesign or reconfiguration (2007)
- Assessing evidence (2007)
- The effectiveness of your local hospital (2007)
- Health services for people with learning disabilities (2008)
- Community Pharmacy (2008)
- Effective Local Involvement Networks (2009)
- Eye Health (2009)
- Transformation of Adult Social Care (2009)

Acknowledgements

CfPS are grateful to the following people for their help in developing this guide:

Phillip Noyes	NSPCC
Helen Goody	C4EO
Rebecca Clarke	Solihull MBC
Steve Clalender	Stockport MBC
Andy Hampson	Salford CC
Royal Mencap	Parents with Learning Disabilities Advocacy Service

This guide was commissioned by IDeA and CfPS, and written by Jane Held.

A draft copy of the guide was issued for consultation in October 2009, and a range of responses from councils and partner organisations were received. Our thanks to colleagues who took part in that consultation.

Purpose of the guide

Overview and Scrutiny Committees (OSCs) play a central role in strengthening the way in which the views and concerns of local communities are represented. This is one of a series of guides designed to help OSCs fulfil their key role. It is written for both officers and members involved in the Overview and Scrutiny process.

The guide considers how local arrangements work to safeguard children and how Overview and Scrutiny can contribute to better safeguarding in this most complex and sensitive area of public service. It is designed to assist officers and members in shaping and developing the best way to exercise their responsibilities locally. Overview and Scrutiny Committees can approach their task in a variety of ways, some of which are suggested below. This guide does not provide all the answers but it is intended to signpost the options available.

The guide also presents a series of questions members of Overview and Scrutiny Committees may want to consider when assuring themselves that local safeguarding arrangements are robust.

It includes a set of key references and advice on further reading and websites that members may find helpful when scrutinising safeguarding arrangements.

Why is this important?

Safeguarding children and promoting their welfare is one of the key statutory responsibilities vested in top tier local authorities. Safeguarding in this context is used to mean both child protection services and other activities designed to make children safer at home, at school, in their communities or using public services.

It is not possible to protect every child from harm or to be certain that things will never go wrong. However councils with their partners can do their utmost to ensure the way they work is designed to achieve the best possible outcomes for the children they serve. It is crucial councils focus on how best to improve those outcomes through excellent services, and effective frontline practice, well supported and confident capable staff, and through investment in early intervention and prevention.

Relentless vigilance, with a strong outcomes focus, are the keys to ensuring that local councils and their partners fulfil their responsibilities properly. That vigilance requires robust performance and quality assurance mechanisms, clear accountability arrangements and a system of checks and balances that provide effective challenge.

Local Overview and Scrutiny Committees are one of those critical checks and balances.



Context

The way in which local councils with their partners serve children, young people and their families has changed enormously in the last 5 years. Influenced by Lord Laming's report into the death of Victoria Climbié¹, the Children Act 2004 and the *Every Child Matters: Change for Children* agenda radically extended the duties placed on councils by the Children Act 1989. The Children's Plan strengthens this, putting children at the heart of the Government's public service reforms.

The key focus for local councils and their partners locally is on the importance of prevention and early intervention, by integrating services and building on universal services in order to improve outcomes for all children.

At the same time the statutory duties placed on councils and a range of other agencies to safeguard and promote the welfare of children have been strengthened.² They give a clearer emphasis to the duties and roles of partner agencies. Co-operation by and with health services, schools and police is now statutory.

Councils are required (through the statutory roles of the Lead Member and Director of Children's Services) to specifically safeguard and protect children at risk of harm and also to improve the general well being of all children in their area. There is an emphasis on the need for strong strategic leadership, through the Children's Trust Board and the Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) to ensure that safeguarding is given sufficient priority to deliver improved outcomes.

All councillors carry a general responsibility for safeguarding children. In addition everyone with local leadership responsibilities for children's services including Directors of Children's Services (DCSs), Lead Members (LMs) for Children's Services and the members of Children's Trust Boards also carry specific and explicit responsibilities for safeguarding children and young people.

Research, inspection reports and Lord Laming's³ progress report following the death of Baby Peter have all criticised services for continued failure to safeguard and promote the welfare of children effectively. The joint Chief Inspectors' report on arrangements to safeguard children was published in July 2008⁴. Whilst the report highlights progress and provides evidence of improved safeguarding arrangements, it also notes that some children and young people are still not well enough served by public services. This is reinforced by the findings of the most recent overview of the findings of Serious Case Reviews by Brandon et al.⁵

In that context it is clearly very important if improvements are to be made, and, more importantly, sustained, that local arrangements for safeguarding should be subject to scrutiny and challenge by objective external individuals who focus on ensuring children are properly safeguarded and their life chances improved.

1 The Lord Laming (2003) *Victoria Climbié Inquiry Report* London HMSO
2 This document uses 'safeguard and promote' throughout as a short way to refer to the statutory responsibility of councils 'to safeguard and promote the welfare of children'

3 The Lord Laming (2009) *The Protection of Children in England: A progress report* London HMSO
4 Joint Chief Inspectors Report (2008) *Safeguarding the young and vulnerable: The Joint Chief Inspectors Report and the Government's response, one year on* Ofsted
5 Brandon, M., Bailey, S., Belderson, P., Gardner, R., Sidebotham, P., Dodsworth, J., Warren, C., and Black, J.,(2009) *Understanding Serious Case Reviews and their impact: A Biennial Analysis of Serious Case Reviews 2005 – 07* DSCF Research Report DCSF-RR129

So what do we mean by safeguarding and promoting welfare?

It's easy to think we all mean the same thing by the word safeguarding. However recent research into the effectiveness of new arrangements^{6,7} shows that one of the biggest challenges for everyone involved is developing a shared understanding of the meaning of the language we all use.

Most people think of safeguarding as being about child protection and the work done by social workers and the courts. It is however wider than this essential focus on those most at risk of being harmed.

Box 1 - The statutory definition of safeguarding and promoting welfare

- Protecting children from maltreatment
- Preventing impairment of children's health or development
- Ensuring that children are growing up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care
- Undertaking that role so as to enable those children to have optimum life chances and enter adulthood successfully⁸

It covers a wide range of activities and actions taken by a huge number of people, not least by parents. So by safeguarding we can mean three types of activity:

- specific action to identify and protect children at risk (suffering or likely to suffer harm)ie direct or serious physical, emotional and sexual abuse, neglect and exploitation
- activities directly designed to identify and support children who are for one reason or another are vulnerable to poor outcomes and life circumstances
- ways to improve the general health and well being of all children.

The safeguarding role of councils (with their partners) is discharged by councils:-

- ensuring that there are well trained specialist professional services designed to identify, intervene and protect children who are at risk of or are being harmed
- ensuring the co-ordination of effective domestic violence, substance abuse, mental health, learning disabilities and youth justice services for children, young people and their families
- co-ordinating the provision of targeted family support services to children, young people and their families whose parental circumstances (such as homelessness, poverty, unemployment, physical or mental ill health) have an impact on the social, emotional, physical development and health of their children
- ensuring there are strategies in place in schools and other universal services to address bullying, discrimination, and anti-social behaviour
- ensuring that the environment that children live and play in is safe through providing good housing, safe roads and well cared for public spaces
- caring for children and young people when they can no longer live safely with their families
- co-ordinating a range of community based services for specific communities or groups such as black and minority ethnic groups, children and young people with disabilities
- ensuring that safeguards are in place to protect children and families from inappropriate child protection interventions as well as making sure that interventions are not avoided for fear of being seen to be discriminatory – for example in relation to specific groups in the community (such as black and ethnic minority families) or potentially vulnerable parents and children (such as those with learning disabilities or mental health conditions)
- being satisfied that the universal services provided for all children (early years services, schools and healthcare, as well as play, sport, and leisure services) are improving outcomes for all children, regardless of their circumstances

6 Lord, P., Kinder, K., Wilkin, A., Atkinson, M and Harland, J. Evaluating the early impact of integrated children's services: Round 1 Final Report .Slough: NFER

7 NtG, LGA, IDEA (2008) Narrowing the Gap: Final Guidance Year 1 LGA

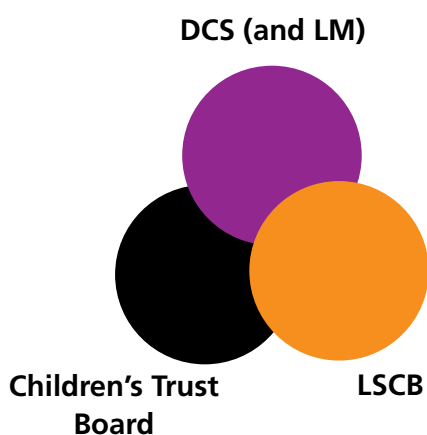
8 DfES (2006) Working Together to Safeguard Children London HMSO

- Ensuring that local services implement safe recruitment practices and follow good practice in ensuring the good conduct of those working with children, young people and their families.



The framework for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children

The framework for safeguarding children is a threefold one. The roles and responsibilities of the Lead Member, the DCS, the members of the local Children's Trust Strategic Partnership Arrangements and the members of the LSCB all have differing, but complementary roles.



The DCS and LM have the lead responsibility for ensuring all children are safeguarded, their welfare promoted and their wellbeing enhanced. The LSCB has the lead responsibility for ensuring that the welfare of all children is safeguarded, and more specifically for ensuring children are actively protected from harm. The Children's Trust Board has the primary responsibility for promoting children's welfare and for generally ensuring vulnerable children, and children in need are receiving support to improve their outcomes and live safe, fulfilled lives. These responsibilities are complex but necessarily overlap and there is the potential for confusion. Because of this it is important that the different kinds of accountability set out below are agreed and properly understood locally.

The LSCB through its chair is accountable to the DCS. The LSCB however holds the Children's Trust Board accountable for its work on safeguarding children. The DCS is held to account by the Chief Executive of the Local Authority and the Lead Member by the Leader of the Council. The Children's Trust Board is held to account by all the partners together for achieving improvements in overall outcomes for children and young people. In turn Overview and Scrutiny committees hold officers and executive members to account.

Whilst the parts of the system are not always directly accountable to each other, they are responsible for holding each other to account within the system. Strong leadership from the DCS, the Lead Member and the LSCB Chair, working closely together, is required to ensure these responsibilities are discharged effectively.

Box 2 - The LSCB is required to

'co-ordinate what is done by each person or body represented on the Board for the purposes of safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children in the area of the authority, and to ensure the effectiveness of what is done by each such person or body for that purpose' (Section 14(1) Children Act 2004)

LSCBs were established in April 2006 to replace the child protection arrangements previously undertaken by the Area Child Protection Committee (ACPC). The Board has more authority and a wider remit. They are statutory bodies. The chair of the LSCB is currently either an independent person or a senior officer with a safeguarding background from one of the partner organisations.

The functions for the LSCB are defined in The Local Safeguarding Children Boards Regulations (2006) and *Working together to Safeguard Children (2006)* (soon to be updated).

The LSCB is expected to take an objective independent perspective in relation to the work of the partner agencies both individually and collectively. It is important for the effectiveness of the LSCB that this independence is maintained despite members having roles and responsibilities within their own organisations and partnership bodies which may come under scrutiny. What is always necessary is a combination of independence and co-operative collaborative work between partners.

The role of overview and scrutiny committees

Established by the Local Government Act 2000, OSCs provide a view from the local community including a lay perspective of services and experiences. OSCs by scrutinising what is actually happening (in terms of outcomes, daily practice, performance and effectiveness) in a particular field, service or department, focus on creating improvement across public services. They also have a role in identifying important local issues by reaching out to the public and communities in different ways.

An OSC may look at issues ranging from the delivery of services to their development or by scrutinising how trends influence service improvement. The role is, therefore, essential in holding services to account in the public interest. There is also a leadership role for OSCs in encouraging services to learn the lessons from the past. It is important that OSCs are not seen as professional auditors or performance managers but are involved in providing a 'reality check' on services.

They have a potentially crucial role in influencing the ways in which safeguarding arrangements are framed and developed and making sure that barriers to effective safeguarding arrangements are identified, tackled and removed.

OSCs can choose a variety of ways by which they can discharge their responsibilities. They can undertake single one off scrutiny events or exercises, they can build specific areas of work into their regular work programme by integrating them into every activity they undertake, they can involve a wide range of individuals both co-opted onto the panel or in giving evidence and providing information. They can consult, or go out to meet and see practice in action, or they can do a combination of all of these things. They can and should also use regular performance reports, inspection reports, and other data such as complaints information as a way to maintain an effective scrutiny and overview of a specific service area.

An OSC may choose to undertake a major scrutiny exercise looking at safeguarding arrangements. Nonetheless it still needs to ensure that every scrutiny activity relating to children's services includes a focus on safeguarding. It is important that safeguarding is seen in the context of children's services responsibilities of councils as a whole.

Some methods of scrutinising safeguarding arrangements

Buckinghamshire County Council is currently scrutinising its transport services for children and are including an examination of the safeguarding arrangements made by those transport services in that exercise

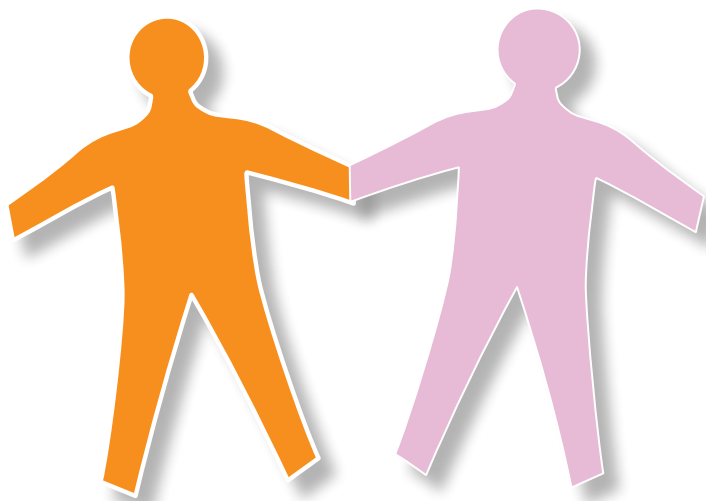
Coventry City Council Scrutiny Committee goes out to meet frontline services involved in safeguarding children and promoting their welfare regularly and builds this into the committee's regular work programme

Birmingham City Council has conducted a scrutiny exercise into children's social care, and published its report online: *The Who Cares? Protecting Children and Improving Their Care Scrutiny Review report* www.birmingham.gov.uk



What do we know so far?

- There is little statutory or practice guidance on the role of elected members in safeguarding children. *Working Together to Safeguard Children 2006* sets out that their role, through their membership of governance bodies such as the cabinet of the local authority or a scrutiny committee or a governance board, is to hold their organisation and its officers to account for their contribution to the effective functioning of the LSCB.
- There appears to be uneven progress in developing the role of OSCs with regard to safeguarding with most scrutiny of 'children's safeguarding' arrangements limited to receiving the annual report from the LSCB and questioning the relevant officers on these reports.
- Within the scrutiny arena, there are few examples of how OSCs have engaged with children's safeguarding policy and practice. There appears to be a degree of uncertainty in many areas about how elected members can best contribute to the process.
- No information is available about the application of a systematic approach to involving children, young people, families and carers in feeding back on their experience of safeguarding arrangements.
- The profile given to safeguarding arrangements within councils appears to vary which will (and does) impact on the priority given to this work by OSCs.



Opportunities and risks

Involving OSCs in scrutinising safeguarding and the work of the LSCB brings a number of real opportunities such as:

- it promotes public involvement through giving local people a say and holding councils accountable for their performance
- it provides an opportunity to build relationships between the OSC, the Children's Trust or Strategic Partnership and the LSCB based on trust and mutual respect
- it raises the profile of safeguarding children and reinforces that arrangements are there to protect children and young people from harm
- it stimulates a culture of continuous improvement in the current climate of change
- it demonstrates that needs have been properly identified and that services delivered by partner agencies do indeed promote the safeguarding of children and young people they are designed to protect.

Inevitably it will bring with it some potential threats, which, once identified can be mitigated against. Risks may be seen as:

- members of OSCs not being given appropriate training to support them in tackling the complexity of 'safeguarding children and young people'
- insufficient resources made available to support OSCs in providing external (i.e. independent, objective and evidence based) scrutiny
- duplicating or confusing the roles of the LSCB and the OSC in quality assurance and performance management of safeguarding practice and the safeguarding system
- weak OSC links to the wider 'children's safeguarding' system
- the attitude of partner agencies involved in scrutiny process
- cultural resistance to changing professional behaviours



Breaking new ground – deciding to scrutinise safeguarding arrangements

Confidence in safeguarding practice, particularly public confidence, is currently low. Effective scrutiny of safeguarding practice, performance, policy and outcomes can help build a clearer picture of what is really happening for children, young people, parents and carers. This will influence the work of the local authority, the Children's Trust and the LSCB. Including scrutiny of safeguarding arrangements as an explicit part of the OSC role; whether as a discrete review or as part of their regular programme will increase public confidence.

A vital element of successful scrutiny is for OSCs to give time to explore the context of children's safeguarding arrangements in their local area and to decide how best to proceed.

Whether OSCs intend to undertake a major exercise or integrate scrutiny of safeguarding practice into rolling work programmes, the development of a brief agreement between OSCs and the LSCB will clarify their respective roles. Each has responsibilities to review, scrutinise, challenge and to hold to account. The agreement will avoid confusion, duplication and audit fatigue. It should cover how the scrutiny reports produced are to be considered by the LSCB and Children's Trust.

The quality of the pre-planning and preparation will determine the quality of the review and production of sound recommendations. It is important to agree what OSCs are trying to achieve whether it is a high level strategic review or one with a focus on a particular issue or aspect of service delivery. The principles of effective scrutiny, defined by CfPS, should be used in early planning and preparation with OSCs:

Box 3 - CfPS' four principles of good scrutiny:

- provides 'critical friend' challenge to executive policy-makers and decision makers
- enables the voice and concerns of the public and communities
- is carried out by 'independent minded governors' who lead and own the scrutiny process
- drives improvement in public services.

Doing the job well

At the outset, OSC's may want to take expert advice, independent of the DCS, Lead member, LSCB or Children's Trust, to assist in identifying best practice and benchmarks or standards relevant to safeguarding. They may also want to have access to a significant degree of background research and reading. This is a significant demand on members but is essential if their work is to be effective; it is essential the material is made accessible by officers or an expert adviser

There is a wide range of sources of background information, research evidence and best practice material available to support this activity. Key sources of basic information are found on the DCSF website, www.dcsf.gov.uk, and the Every Child Matters Website, www.everychildmatters.gov.uk. Other helpful material is found on the Social Care Institute for Excellence site, www.scie.org.uk, and the Research in Practice site, which includes a very helpful briefing paper, www.rip.org.uk. Material is also available from the IDeA site, www.idea.gov.uk, and the Centre for Excellence in Outcomes (C4EO) site, www.C4EO.org.uk. The DCSF Safeguarding Children Research Initiative provides access to the most recent research⁹.

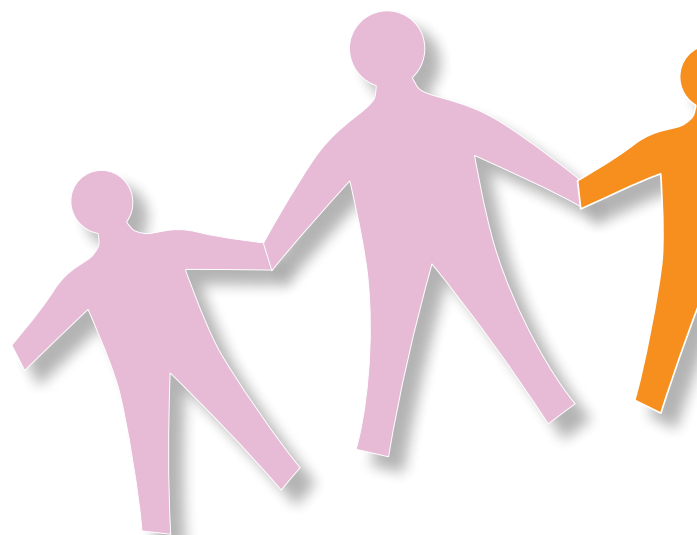
As well as the basic information about how the system should work there is a lot of material available from Inspection Reports, including the bi-annual reports prepared jointly by Inspectorates into safeguarding practice. Academic analysis of the outcomes from Serious Case Reviews is also available as is the most recent report by Ofsted of the outcomes of its inspections of safeguarding. All this material is referenced in the useful information section below.

The existing inspection and assessment regimes provide extremely helpful information about how the OSC's local area is doing. The annual performance datasets and the ratings given annually by inspectors through the CAA process will help the OSC to decide on the priority or degree of prominence they need to give to safeguarding. Using this material should also minimise demands on officer time by avoiding duplication of effort in collecting and collating data.

OSCs should, as a minimum, expect to review the annual report of the LSCB, and the performance data collected by Children's Services and by the LSCB. In addition, given the increasingly sharp focus by Ofsted on safeguarding practice, OSCs may wish to review Ofsted Reports received in the area in particular the reports of the inspections of duty and assessment services and the full inspections of safeguarding and services for looked after children.

Where OSCs decide to build in a rolling programme of work on safeguarding, there also needs to be some preparation and training of OSC members. They also need to know how the agencies work and have access to the local LSCB Multi-Agency procedures. A routine approach to safeguarding across the work programme can gradually develop member expertise, whilst a one off exercise will require more intensive initial input for members.

OSCs have powers to call NHS bodies to give evidence (for example providing information, attending meetings to answer questions) but other partner agencies are not subject to the same duties (unless the issues are covered by local improvement targets in LAAs). An agreement between the LSCB and OSC will be helpful in bring partners together to support and facilitate scrutiny, recognising that safeguarding is a multi-agency responsibility and activity.



9 DCSF 2009 Safeguarding Children Research Initiatives Papers London HMSO

It may also be helpful to draw up guidelines for OSC members, or to appoint a specific adviser, to enable them to make the most of opportunities to meet and listen to children and their parents.

Where the decision is taken to undertake a major scrutiny review the preparation should follow the same stages as any other scrutiny exercise. Prior to the start of the review, scrutiny officers and elected members should prepare a scoping and implementation plan.

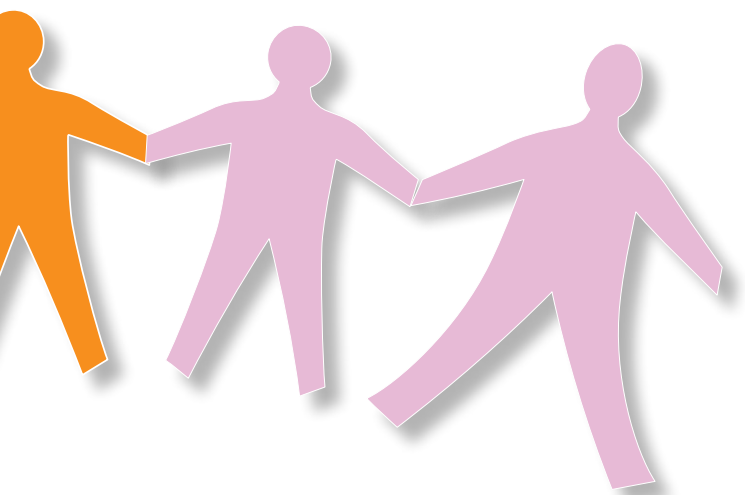
The participation of children, young people, families and carers in describing their experience of safeguarding arrangements will assist in determining appropriate lines of enquiry and will provide OSCs with evidence about how arrangements work in practice. However the involvement of children, young people and their parents is complex and takes time. Thought should be given to how best to facilitate participation that will enhance the process of the review.

OSCs will also want to consider how best to seek the views of frontline professionals (for example social workers, teachers, police) as well as those who have strategic responsibility for safeguarding as a whole.

However if OSCs decide to scrutinise safeguarding arrangements the preparation and process will need to deal with the following matters:

- establishing a clear focus for the specific activity or review
- identifying key lines of enquiry
- using the information available from Ofsted inspections
- considering the legislative framework and guidance
- the priorities identified in the Local Safeguarding Children Board annual business plan and the Children's Trust's children's plan
- the action plans of the LSCB and partners arising from serious case and child death reviews
- audit reports and plans, reports from the child death overview panel and any other service reviews
- the identification of relevant council officers, staff from partner agencies and service user and community representatives to participate in the OSC scrutiny process
- the learning and preparation requirements of members prior to the start of any scrutiny activity
- confidentiality and consent in hearing evidence and publishing reports
- support for OSC members in considering sensitive, and sometimes distressing information
- the timescale for the review
- sharing learning and experiences from other councils
- dealing with press and media interest in the review.

In holding the council and its partners to account it is not the function of the scrutiny review to try to allocate blame or determine individual failure in particular services or cases where there are failings. Rather it is to establish facts, identify benchmarks and performance comparisons and make recommendations for performance improvement.



The top 10 questions to ask:

These questions address the core issues that can be looked at in scrutinising safeguarding arrangements. Not all questions will be relevant and OSCs will want to adapt them to suit their own local area as well as the nature of the scrutiny exercise. In addition OSC members will want to listen to front line staff and to reflect on what they hear directly from those practitioners. However, the intention of the proposed questions is to assist the OSC to explore key lines of enquiry and consider what more can be done to safeguard children and young people.

Partnership

1. Is the LSCB effective in holding individual agencies to account and ensuring effective multi-agency working through the safeguarding children procedures and operational performance oversight?
2. Does your LSCB have the resources, both financial and human, to undertake its role effectively and deliver the LSCB business plan?
3. Is the relationship between the LSCB and the Children's Trust clear and working effectively to improve outcomes for children?

Quality and performance

4. How does your LSCB perform its quality assurance role? Is there evidence it leads to service improvement at system and frontline practitioner level?
5. Is the LSCB gathering and using the experience of children, young people and families to inform improvements to safeguarding arrangements?
6. Is there a robust needs assessment process in place and are the trends in demand and outcomes well understood?

Practice

7. Are universal services supporting vulnerable children well and are there adequate and effective early intervention or prevention services in place for children and families? What safeguards are there to protect children and families from inappropriate child protection interventions?
8. Are services reaching the most vulnerable groups e.g. children with disabilities, children in families affected by substance misuse, domestic violence or parental mental illness and children from refugee and asylum seeking communities?
9. Do all Child Protection Plans contain specific, achievable, child focussed outcomes intended to safeguard and promote the welfare of the child. Are these measurable and are those protection plans independently reviewed?
10. What is the quality and frequency of supervision and training given to frontline staff? Does supervision routinely address safeguarding practice and performance?

Conclusion

This guide offers a framework for OSCs should they decide to review the children's safeguarding system. It highlights the need for support for OSC members to explore their role in the complex accountability arrangements for safeguarding and to place any review within the broad spectrum of issues that impact upon safeguarding children and young people.

The independence of OSCs, while collaborating with the LSCB and Children's Trust, will contribute to building public confidence in the safeguarding services in their community.

Useful information

Government Publications

Legislation

- The Children Act 1989
- The Adoption and Children Act 2002
- The Children Act 2004

Statutory guidance under S7 of the Local Authority Social Services Act 1970

- Children Act (1989) Regulations and Guidance Volume 1 Court Orders (*updated 2008*)
- Statutory Guidance on making arrangements to safeguard and promote the welfare of children under section 11 of the Children Act 2004 (2007)
- Working Together to Safeguard Children 2006
- Safeguarding children and safer recruitment in Education 2006
- Safeguarding Children in whom illness is fabricated or induced 2008
- Children's Trusts: statutory guidance on inter-agency co-operation to improve well-being of children, young people and their families 2008
- Safeguarding children and young people from sexual exploitation 2009
- The Roles and Responsibilities of the Lead Member for Children's Services and the Director of Children's Services 2009

General Guidance

- DCSF (2009) *Guidance on the employment of children* HMSO
- DCSF (2009) *Safeguarding disabled children: Practice Guidance* HMSO
- DCSF (2008) *Leading and Managing Children's Services in England* HMSO
- DCSF (2007) *Safeguarding children who may have been trafficked* HMSO

- DCSF and DH (2007) *Statement on the duties of Doctors and other professionals in investigations of child abuse* HMSO
- DCSF (2007) *Safeguarding children from abuse linked to a belief in spirit possession* HMSO
- HM Government (2006) *What to do if you are worried a child is being abused*: DCSF

Policy

- DfES 2003 *Every Child Matters Green Paper* HMSO
- DCSF (2007) *The Children's Plan – Building brighter futures* DCSF HMSO
- DCSF (2008) *Staying Safe Action Plan* HMSO

Reviews and Audits

- HM Government (2009) *The protection of children in England: Action Plan* HMSO
- The Lord Laming (2009) *The Protection of Children in England: A progress report* HMSO
- Joint Chief Inspectors Report (2008) *Safeguarding the young and vulnerable: The Joint Chief Inspectors Report and the Government's response, one year on* Ofsted
- Brandon, M., Bailey, S., Belderson, P., Gardner, R., Sidebotham, P., Dodsworth, J., Warren, C., and Black, J. (2009) *Understanding Serious Case Reviews and their impact: A Biennial Analysis of Serious Case Reviews 2005 – 07* DSCF Research Report DCSF-RR129
- Brandon Marian et al (2009) *Understanding Serious Case Reviews and their impact: a biennial analysis of serious case reviews 2005-2007* London DCSF
- HM Government (2008) *Making Safeguarding everyone's business: The Government's response to the second joint Chief Inspectors' report on arrangements to safeguard children* HMSO
- CSCI et al (2005) *Safeguarding Children: The second joint Chief Inspectors Report on Arrangements to Safeguard Children* HMSO

- The Healthcare Commission (2007) *Safeguarding Children and Young People a shared responsibility*, HMSO
- Ofsted (2007) *Narrowing the Gap - Inspection of Children's Services* HMSO
- Ofsted (2009) *Learning Lessons, Taking Action; Ofsted's evaluations of serious case reviews: 1st April 2007 – 31st March 2008* Ofsted HMSO

Evidence Based Practice and Research

- Lord, P., Kinder, K., Wilkin, A., Atkinson, M and Harland, J. *Evaluating the early impact of integrated children's services: Round 1 Final Report*. Slough: NFER
- NtG, LGA, IDEA (2008) *Narrowing the Gap: Final Guidance Year 1* LGA
- Cleaver, H. and Nicholson, D. (2008) *Parental Learning Disability and Children's Needs* London Jessica Kingsley Publishers
- Cleaver, H. and Nicholson, D., Tarr, S., and Cleaver, D. (2008) *Child protection, domestic violence and parental substance misuse* HMSO
- Cleaver, H, Unell I and Aldgate J (forthcoming) 2009 *Children's Needs – Parenting Capacity: The impact of parental mental health, substance misuse, domestic violence, and learning disability on children's development 2nd Edition* London: The Stationery Office

Other resources

- Research in Practice Publications Research Briefings for Councillors (2009) '*Champions for children*' - Policy and practice messages
- Signposts: Safeguarding children IDeA/NSPCC (2006)
- DCSF/DH Safeguarding Children Research Initiative (2009)

Websites

- Every Child Matters: www.dcsf.gov.uk/everychildmatters
- Social Care Institute for Excellence: www.scie.org.uk
- Centre for Excellence in Outcomes: www.c4eo.org.uk
- LGA: www.lga.gov.uk
- IDeA: www.idea.gov.uk
- NSPCC: www.nspcc.org.uk

For further information about the guide or IDeA's safeguarding children programme, contact Jess O'Brien at jessica.obrien@idea.gov.uk. For information about CfPS' work and scrutiny guide series, contact Tim Gilling at tim.gilling@cfps.org.uk

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L09-871 Produced by Liberata Design and Print Studio



Local Government Association

The Local Government Association is the national voice for more than 400 local authorities in England and Wales. The LGA group comprises the LGA and five partner organisations which work together to support, promote and improve local government.