

Safeguarding Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Dorset County Council



Date of Meeting	11 October 2018
Officer	Mary Taylor, Senior Manager, Safeguarding and Standards.
Subject of Report	Working Together 2018
Executive Summary	Working Together 2018 provides statutory guidance on inter-agency working to safeguard and promote the welfare of children in England. This Department for Education (DfE) statutory guidance sets out what organisations and agencies who have functions relating to children must and should do to safeguard and promote the welfare of all children and young people under the age of 18 in England.
Impact Assessment: <i>Please refer to the protocol for writing reports.</i>	Equalities Impact Assessment: (Note: If this report contains a new strategy/policy/function has an EQIA screening form been completed?)
	Use of Evidence: (Note: Evidence within the body text to support the recommendations and, where relevant, include a description of how the outcomes of public consultations have influenced the recommendations.)
	Budget: (Note: Have any VAT implications been identified?)
	Risk Assessment: Having considered the risks associated with this decision using the County Council's approved risk management methodology, the level of risk has been identified as: Current Risk: HIGH/MEDIUM/LOW (Delete as appropriate) Residual Risk HIGH/MEDIUM/LOW (Delete as appropriate) <i>(i.e. reflecting the recommendations in this report and mitigating actions proposed)</i>

	<p>(Note: Where HIGH risks have been identified, these should be briefly summarised here, identifying the appropriate risk category, i.e. financial / strategic priorities / health and safety / reputation / criticality of service.)</p> <p>Outcomes:</p> <p>(Note: Explain how the content of the report and any decision incorporates Outcomes Based Accountability.)</p> <p>Other Implications:</p> <p>(Note: Please consider if any of the following issues apply: Sustainability; Property and Assets; Voluntary Organisations; Community Safety; Corporate Parenting; physical activity; or Safeguarding Children and Adults.)</p>
Recommendation	This guidance replaces Working Together 2015. It followed a government consultation, launched in October 2017 which sets out the changes needed to support the new system of multi-agency safeguarding arrangements established by the Children and Social Work Act 2017
Reason for Recommendation	The relevant leaders from each agency, together with the Chief Executives from the Pan Dorset Councils are currently considering the options for the implementation of the new arrangements.
Appendices	1
Background Papers	Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018
Officer Contact	Name: Mary Taylor Tel: 01305 228384 Email: Mary.Taylor@dorsetcc.gov.uk

1. The status of the document

1.1 Working Together 2018 provides statutory guidance on inter-agency working to safeguard and promote the welfare of children in England. This Department for Education (DfE) statutory guidance sets out what organisations and agencies who have functions relating to children must and should do to safeguard and promote the welfare of all children and young people under the age of 18 in England.

1.2 This guidance replaces Working Together 2015. It followed a government consultation, launched in October 2017 which set out the changes needed to support the new system of multi-agency safeguarding arrangements established by the Children and Social Work Act 2017.

2. Key changes

2.1 The guidance highlights specifically that practitioners should be alert to the potential need for early help for particular groups of children, this includes children who

- are frequently missing/goes missing from care or from home
- are at risk of modern slavery, trafficking or exploitation
- are at risk of being radicalised or exploited
- are showing signs of being drawn into anti-social or criminal behaviour, including gang involvement and association with organised crime groups

2.2 The guidance includes a new section on “people in positions of trust” highlighting that “organisations and agencies working with children and families should have clear policies for dealing with allegations against people who work with children”.

2.3 Local Safeguarding Children Boards (LSCBs) will be replaced by “safeguarding partners” Under the new legislation, three safeguarding partners (local authorities, chief officers of police, and clinical commissioning groups) must make arrangements to work together with relevant agencies (as they consider appropriate) to safeguard and protect the welfare of children in the area.

The geographical footprint for the new arrangements is based on local authority areas. Every local authority, clinical commissioning group and police force must be covered by a local safeguarding arrangement.

2.4 The 3 safeguarding partners should agree on ways to co-ordinate their safeguarding services; act as a strategic leadership group in supporting and engaging others; and implement local and national learning including from serious child safeguarding incidents. To fulfil this role, the three safeguarding partners must set out how they will work together and with any relevant agencies. All 3 safeguarding partners have equal and joint responsibility for local safeguarding arrangements.

2.5 Relevant agencies are those organisations and agencies whose involvement the safeguarding partners consider is required to safeguard and promote the welfare of local children. For local arrangements to be effective, they should engage organisations and agencies that can work in a collaborative way to provide targeted support to children and families as appropriate. The safeguarding partners must set out in their published arrangements which organisations and agencies they will be working with to safeguard and promote the welfare of children.

2.6 The guidance sets out the process for new national and local reviews. The responsibility for how the system learns the lessons from serious child safeguarding incidents lies at a national level with the Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel (the Panel) and at local level with the safeguarding partners. The Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel will consider all notifications of serious incidents.

2.7 Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel is responsible for identifying and overseeing the review of serious child safeguarding cases which, in its view, raise issues that are complex or of national importance. The Panel must decide whether it is appropriate to commission a national review of a case or cases. The Panel must set up a pool of potential reviewers who can undertake national reviews, a list of whom must be publicly available.

2.8 Local safeguarding partners must make arrangements to identify and review serious child safeguarding cases which, in their view, raise issues of importance in relation to their area. A copy of the rapid review should be sent to the Panel who decide on whether it is appropriate to commission a national review of a case or cases. The safeguarding partners are responsible for commissioning and supervising reviewers for local reviews.

2.9 In terms of child death reviews, the guidance replaces the requirement for LSCBs to ensure that child death reviews are undertaken by a child death overview panel (CDOP) with the requirement for “child death review partners” (consisting of local authorities and any clinical commissioning groups for the local area) to make arrangements to review child deaths. The guidance specifies that reviews have “the intention of learning what happened and why and preventing future child deaths” and that “the information gathered ... may help child death review partners to identify modifiable factors that could be altered to prevent future deaths.” (replacing the previous wording that set out that CDOPs should look to determine “whether the death was deemed preventable”)

Nick Jarman
Director of Children’s Services
October 2018