

Working Together to Safeguard Children 2023

April 2024



Working Together 2023

- Focus on strengthening multi-agency working
- Brings together new and existing guidance
- Provides a framework for local safeguarding partners
- Provides a framework for child death reviews
- Focus on how agencies provide: Early Help, Safeguarding and Child Protection

Working Together 2023

Documents published alongside Working Together 2023:

- Updated Working Together to Safeguard Children statutory framework (detailing relevant legislation)
- Children's Social Care National Framework
- Guidance, "Improving Practice with Children, Young People and Families"

Working Together 2023: Key Provisions

- A shared responsibility/Strong multi-agency partnership working
- Working with parents and carers
- Multi-agency safeguarding arrangements
- Providing help, support and protection
- Organisational responsibilities (s11 Children Act 2004)
- Learning from serious child safeguarding incidents
- Child death reviews

A Shared Responsibility

- Introduction of multi-agency expectations for all practitioners involved in safeguarding and child protection
- Structured across three levels: strategic leaders, senior/middle managers and direct practice

Working with Parents and Carers (Four principles)

- Effective partnership/importance of building strong, positive, trusting and co-operative relationships
- Respectful communication, non-blaming, clear and inclusive verbal and non-verbal communication that is adapted to the needs of parents and carers
- Empowerment in decision making; actively empowering parents and carers by equipping them with information, keeping them updated and directing them to further resources
- Involving parents and carers in the design of processes and services that affect them

Multi-Agency Safeguarding Arrangements

- Introduces new roles and clarifies responsibilities for three primary safeguarding partners (local authority, police, and health service)
- Lead Safeguarding Partner
- Delegated Safeguarding Partner
- Partnership Chair
- Expectation that local education representatives and childcare providers will be involved strategic discussions
- Should consider including voluntary, charity, social enterprise organisations, childcare settings, and sports clubs in local arrangements

Providing Help, Support and Protection

- Early Help
- Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children
- Child Protection

Early Help

- Assessments
- Specific Needs
- Family Functioning
- Role of Education and Childcare settings

Safeguarding and Promoting the Welfare of Children

- Clarification – Lead Practitioner
- Children's Social Care Assessments
- Lead Practitioners
- Supporting Disabled Children and their Carers.
- Harm Outside the Home

Child Protection

New Children's Social Care National Framework introduces multi-agency child protection standards:

- Clarifies the multi-agency response to abuse and exploitation outside of the home
- Consideration of children at risk of extra-familial harm in all social care assessments
- Resources to support practitioners understanding of the response to online harm

Organisational Responsibilities

- Guidance emphasises the advantages of prison and probation services exchanging information with children's social care and other agencies
- Reference to s11 Children Act 2004

Learning from Serious Safeguarding Incidents

- Accountability for ensuring learning from serious incidents is implemented is the responsibility of LSPs. Yearly reports to be provided
- Clarifies expectation for keeping in touch with care leavers over 21 and non-mandatory reporting of care leavers deaths up to age 25 to improve learning and outcomes for this group of young people

Child Death Reviews

- Replaces “Child Death Overview Panel” framework with “Child Death Review Statutory and Operational Guidance 2018”
- Modifies language around the child death review process where the death of a child occurs in an area outside where the child usually resides
- Reflects new guidance - coroner’s duty

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