



The role of local boards and partnerships

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and
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About the London Board



- Brokers engagement of all strategic safeguarding partners across London including senior representatives from children's social care, police, health, probation and London's voluntary and community agencies
- Provides strategic support and advice to London's 32 Local Safeguarding Children Boards (LSCBs) – is not responsible for frontline child protection
- Set up in response to the first Laming review following the death of Victoria Climbié, and housed at London Councils
- Has rolled out agreed good practice guidance and protocols across London

Post Baby Peter



- Increased concern at a senior level – particularly amongst London local authority Leaders
- Led to an enhanced profile for safeguarding across the partnership, the London Board and greater political involvement
- Opportunity to ensure high level buy in to partnership working, reflecting local good practice regionally
- Increased demand, pressure on resources, change in political leadership

Power in partnerships



- The role of the Leader and Chief Executive – often neglected, but key decision makers
- Dangers of over specialisation
- New guidance produced on triggers for Leaders
 - holding the Lead Member to account
 - holding the Chief Executive to account
- Training programme for elected members, including Leaders and Lead Members for Children's Services
- Training being planned for other key stakeholders, e.g. NHS Exec Leads

London safeguarding children pledge



- Formalised the commitment from agencies to continue to work closely to share experience and best practice
- Included a pledge to continue to prioritise investment in safeguarding
- Signed by the chair of the London Safeguarding Children Board, London Councils, Association of London Directors of Children's Services, NHS London, the Metropolitan Police Service, the Government Office for London and voluntary sector partners

Benefits of regional strength



- Using this high level support, we have established a much larger and fully integrated work programme with all our key partners.
- Comprehensive programme of work using funding from:
 - Police (e.g. multi-agency MACIE training)
 - GOL (e.g. peer led case file audit programme)
 - NHS London (e.g. funding for regional safeguarding health lead)
 - Capital Ambition (e.g. safeguarding training for local social care legal advisers)

Supporting local practice



- Appointed three London Regional Safeguarding Advisers
- The advisers will work across agencies to ensure fully integrated approach to safeguarding in London – agency and thematic leads for each
- Supporting learning from serious case reviews and inspection, sharing good practice across London and building capacity locally
- Also available for short term support to provide additional capacity to boroughs and partners on specific safeguarding issues

Priorities for the London Board this year



- Revising the London Procedures in light of Working Together 2010
- Multi-agency practice development in priority areas, e.g.
 - Sexual exploitation
 - Sexual abuse
 - Lessons from SCRs
 - Safeguarding across culture and faith
- Supporting effective LSCBs

Examples of local initiatives



- Multi-agency first response teams: co-located staff sharing information and providing a triage response to contacts and referrals - signposting and support the use of CAF in appropriate cases
- Multi-agency public protection desks to risk assess police concerns about children and prioritise
- Think child, think parent, 'Think Family' – developing multi-agency approaches to improve outcomes for parents with mental health problems and their children
- Multi-agency consultation on complex or 'stuck' child protection cases

Translating regional work to local good practice



Core objectives of the LSCB (*Working Together* 2010):

- 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.

Safeguarding children will remain challenging



- No simple solutions
- Focus on good practice, sharing emerging practice, outcomes and value for money
- Supporting staff to do their best
- Involvement of Elected Members and multi-agency approach can help keep London learning and developing in order to face the challenges ahead
- Partnerships will remain at the heart of everything we do

Further information



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