

Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel: national review into safeguarding children with disabilities and complex health needs in residential settings

Purpose and focus of the national review

This review will examine the experiences of children placed in Fullerton House, Wilsic Hall and Wheatley House specialist, independent residential settings, and how all agencies acted to ensure the rights, voices, and needs of children placed there were respected and addressed.

The key lines of enquiry below have been developed from the initial evidence; they will be further developed with the appointed reviewer(s) and as the review begins to consider cases involving individual children.

Key lines of enquiry

1. How were children placed at Fullerton House, Wilsic Hall and Wheatley House and what procedures and practices were in place to ensure that they were safe and well?
2. How was the quality of care for each child kept under review?
3. How did concerns arise and what was the quality of the response?
4. Is what happened to these children reflective of practice more generally and how could the safeguarding system be improved?

Methodology

The Panel will commission a suitably experienced reviewer who, in phase 2 in particular, will ensure there is engagement with relevant statutory and voluntary sector agencies.

A two-stage review:

Phase 1: largely desk based. The focus will be on examining documentation relating to the key lines of enquiry and establishing:

- What is the evidence telling us?
- What are the key issues/concerns?
- What (if any) conclusions/recommendations can we establish at this stage? Is there learning we can share immediately with the sector?
- Whether the review needs to pursue some lines of enquiry in more depth in relation to Fullerton House, Wilsic Hall and Wheatley House (i.e., through interviews with relevant stakeholders or further fieldwork)?

Phase 2: The focus will be deeper and wider, including fieldwork (potentially), looking at a sample of cases notified to Panel, call for evidence, roundtable discussions.

- Any fieldwork recommended in Phase 1
- To what extent are the issues identified experienced elsewhere?
- Is there evidence of good practice?