



Child Safeguarding  
Practice Review Panel

Edward Timpson CBE, Chair  
Child Safeguarding  
Practice Review Panel  
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Dear colleague,

### **The Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel: Working Together 2018**

The Government has today issued Working Together (2018) and the accompanying transitional arrangements. This is important guidance as it sets out the new duties on local safeguarding partners on how they will work together and in collaboration with others to improve safeguarding practice locally.

Chapter 4 of the statutory guidance sets out the new arrangements, as introduced by the Children and Social Work Act 2017, for a learning system to replace the serious case review process.

When in Government I was very committed to these reforms and am delighted that I now have a role, as Chair of the independent national Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel, in working with local areas to make sure that we implement the most effective learning system possible.

The Panel became fully operational on 29 June. I am writing as the Panel Chair to set out how we will be working with you in this set up phase and as we transition to a new system. As stated in the guidance, safeguarding partners (including Local Safeguarding Children Boards until new partnerships are in place) should have regard to this guidance from the Panel and any future guidance we publish. Details of the new Panel members are set out in Annex A to this letter.

Working Together sets out the process for handling serious child safeguarding cases. However, we have agreed with Government that it is important not to be too prescriptive at the outset.

Therefore in the first six months our focus will be on working with you to make sure that we develop a system which is dynamic and effective as well as one which secures the timeliness we all appreciate is required.

As a result, Working Together 2018 does not set timescales for conducting rapid reviews or the Panel response – these will be set out in practice guidance the Panel

intends to issue once we have tested our approach and agreed how the system should best operate. We expect to be in a position to agree these revisions with Government following discussion with our key partners in six months' time.

However, we need to establish a timely process now for how we respond to serious child safeguarding incidents and so from 29 June we expect:

- Local Authorities to notify the Panel of any serious incident within **five working days**; and,
- Safeguarding Partners, or Local Safeguarding Children Boards where the new partnership arrangements are not yet in place, to undertake a rapid review into all serious child safeguarding cases promptly and complete this within **fifteen working days** of becoming aware of the incident.

Guidance on the rapid review is in Working Together 2018 (and, for Local Safeguarding Children Boards, in the transitional guidance). Working Together also sets out that the National Panel should reply promptly. The Panel will be meeting every two to three weeks from July to December and we will aim to respond promptly with a decision on the majority of cases within **fifteen working days** of a rapid review being received.

As a Panel we are looking forward to working with you and developing a new system for identifying, at both local and national level, how we identify improvements that should be made to safeguard and promote the welfare of children.

*Kindest regards,*



**EDWARD TIMPSON CBE**

## **Annex A – biography of Panel members**

- Edward Timpson CBE – Chair of the Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel. Previously MP for Crewe and Nantwich and Minister of State for Children and Families.
- Isabelle Trowler – Chief Social Worker for Children and Families. Previously Assistant Director of Children’s Social Care in Hackney and Director of Morning Lane Associates.
- Sarah Elliott - Non-Executive Director at Avon and Wiltshire Mental Health Partnership NHS Trust and the Chair of the Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) for Poole, Bournemouth and Dorset. Previously Regional Chief Nurse for NHS England South.
- Mark Gurrey - Chair of the South Gloucestershire Improvement Board and Chair of the LSCB for Devon & Wiltshire.
- Karen Manners - Deputy Chief Constable of Warwickshire Police, national lead for policing on the Vulnerability Action Plan.
- Professor Peter Sidebotham - Associate Professor in Child Health at Warwick Medical School, Consultant Paediatrician at South Warwickshire NHS Trust and a designated doctor for safeguarding children at Coventry and Warwickshire Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG).
- Dale Simon CBE - a qualified barrister and previously the Director of Public Accountability and Inclusion at the Crown Prosecution Service. She is currently the Non-Executive Director at the Parole Board.
- Dr Susan Tranter – Executive Headteacher of Edmonton County Schools and Chief Executive of Edmonton Academy Trust. She is a member of the Mayor’s Office for Policing And Crime (MOPAC) Strategy Group and is a member of the Audit and Risk Committee of the Office of the Children’s Commissioner.
- A representative from the Children’s Social Care What Works Centre (tbc)