



Department  
for Education

Department for Education  
Sanctuary Buildings  
London  
SW1P 3BT

4 July 2018

Dear colleague,

**Working Together to Safeguard Children (2018) and Local Safeguarding – Transitional Arrangements Statutory Guidance**

Today I am publishing two pieces of statutory safeguarding guidance which set the framework within which all practitioners should operate in order to protect children from abuse and neglect and promote their best interests.

These are:

- revised *Working Together to Safeguard Children* statutory guidance; and
- *Local Safeguarding – Transitional Arrangements* statutory guidance.

The revisions have been necessary to reflect the legislative changes introduced through the Children and Social Work Act 2017, in particular, reforming the arrangements for multi-agency safeguarding, serious case reviews and Child Death Reviews. The reforms underpin a stronger but more flexible statutory framework - one that will support local partners to work together more effectively in protecting and safeguarding children. We are committed to improving the outcomes for all our children, supporting everyone working with children and families to provide the right help at the right time.

This is an important piece of guidance for agencies, organisations and practitioners to know what they must do individually and collectively to safeguard children. It sets out how they should work together in fulfilling this responsibility, including taking a child-centred and co-ordinated approach to safeguarding. At the same time, these documents support practitioners to exercise their expertise and judgment on how best to protect children and young people, and promote their welfare.

The opportunity has also been taken to make other minor changes to clarify processes or to reflect recent changes to policy, for example through the insertion of

guidance on contextual safeguarding which includes protecting children from threats such as criminal and sexual exploitation.

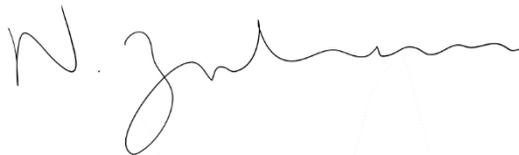
In parallel, I am also publishing updated practice guidance, *Information sharing advice for safeguarding practitioners*, which reflects these safeguarding reforms and changes made through the Data Protection Act 2018.

Edward Timpson CBE, Chair of the new independent Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel has today written to key stakeholders to set out how the Panel will work in this set up phase and during the transition to a new system. A copy of this letter is available at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/working-together-to-safeguard-children--2>.

I want to thank you for your engagement in the recent consultation and for your further involvement and collaboration over the past few months as we have revised Working Together. Protection from abuse and neglect is a fundamental right for all children. Nothing is more important than keeping children safe. These documents, available at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/working-together-to-safeguard-children--2> will help all those working with children to do just that. Please share them within your networks.

I hope that you will also continue your dialogue with us as the reforms are implemented.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'N. Zahawi', with a long, sweeping horizontal stroke at the end.

**Nadhim Zahawi MP**  
**Parliamentary Under Secretary of State**  
**for Children and Families**