

Report summary

Good practice by Local Safeguarding Children Boards

Local Safeguarding Children Boards are the key statutory mechanism for agreeing how the relevant organisations in each local area cooperate to safeguard and promote the welfare of children, with the purpose of holding each other to account and ensuring that safeguarding children remains high on the agenda across the partnership area.

In May 2011, the final report from the Munro Review of Child Protection, *A child-centred system*, was published. Within this report, Professor Munro set out the important role that Local Safeguarding Children Boards have in monitoring the effectiveness of partner agencies and recognised that they are key to improving multi-agency working, to support and enable partner organisations to adapt their practice and become more effective in safeguarding children.

Munro states that Local Safeguarding Children Boards are:

‘...well placed to identify emerging problems through learning from practice and to oversee efforts to improve services in response.’

She strongly advocates a move away from a compliance culture to a learning culture and sees the Local Safeguarding Children Board as key to the development of a ‘learning system’.

This report highlights elements of good practice in the operation of Local Safeguarding Children Boards. It aims to support the development of ‘learning systems’, by encouraging all Local Safeguarding Children Boards to reflect on their practice and plan for improvement.

This report shows that there is a lot of evidence of good practice in Local Safeguarding Children Boards. Many can demonstrate that they are learning from previous reviews and are paying particular attention to improving their practice in those areas which reviews found to be generally weaker across boards.

In the best examples, Local Safeguarding Children Boards have focused on a programme of initiatives, as part of a limited number of priorities, in order to respond to local development needs. These priorities are regularly reviewed and take account of learning from other boards and national research. They focus on strategic decisions and operational improvements, identifying areas for improvement using a combination of local knowledge, audit activity, national research and relevant data.

There remain issues with which even the best Local Safeguarding Children Boards are struggling. Many boards are beginning to make arrangements to demonstrate that their work impacts on outcomes for children and families, yet this is proving to be a difficult area for boards to evidence.

Board members and their Chairs spoken to as part of this survey, stressed the importance of becoming a 'learning board' to facilitate development and progress. Local Safeguarding Children Boards are encouraged to use the examples from this report and the questions which are set out at the end of each section as the basis for reviewing their progress and learning from the developments of other boards.

Main report published 15 September 2011
www.ofsted.gov.uk/resources/110079

The Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services and Skills (Ofsted) regulates and inspects to achieve excellence in the care of children and young people, and in education and skills for learners of all ages. It regulates and inspects childcare and children's social care, and inspects the Children and Family Court Advisory Support Service (Cafcass), schools, colleges, initial teacher training, work-based learning and skills training, adult and community learning, and education and training in prisons and other secure establishments. It assesses council children's services, and inspects services for looked after children, safeguarding and child protection.

If you would like a copy of this document in a different format, such as large print or Braille, please telephone 0300 123 1231, or email enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk.

You may reuse this information (not including logos) free of charge in any format or medium, under the terms of the Open Government Licence. To view this licence, visit www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence/, write to the Information Policy Team, The National Archives, Kew, London TW9 4DU, or email: psi@nationalarchives.gsi.gov.uk.

This publication is available at www.ofsted.gov.uk/resources/110079.

You may copy all or parts of this document for non-commercial educational purposes, as long as you give details of the source and date of publication and do not alter the information in any way.

To receive regular email alerts about new publications, including survey reports and school inspection reports, please visit our website and go to 'Subscribe'.

Piccadilly Gate
Store Street
Manchester
M1 2WD

T: 0300 123 1231
Textphone: 0161 618 8524
E: enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk
W: www.ofsted.gov.uk

No. 110079

