



Milton Keynes Clinical Commissioning Group

WORKING TOGETHER 2013

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April 2013



Working Together to Safeguard Children 2013

- Came into force on 15th April 2013
- Department for Education has created a downloadable pdf.
- Replaces the 2010 version; Framework for the Assessment of Children in Need and their Families (2000); and Statutory guidance on making arrangements to safeguard and promote the welfare of children under s11 of the CA 2004.
- Slimmer than its predecessor and easier to use.

Working Together to Safeguard Children 2013

Covers:

- The legislative requirements and expectations on individual services to safeguard and promote the welfare of children; and
- A clear framework for Local Safeguarding Children Boards (LSCBs) to monitor the effectiveness of local services.

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- Guidance is for local authority Chief Executives, Directors of Children's Services, LSCB Chairs and senior managers within organisations who commission and provide services for children and families

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- The guidance is clear that 'safeguarding is everyone's responsibility'; and
- Everyone who comes into contact with children and families has a role to play.
- The definition of safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children has changed to:

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- Protecting children from maltreatment;
- Preventing impairment of children's health or development;
- Ensuring children grow up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care;
- **Taking action to enable all children to have the best outcomes.**

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5 chapters in the new 2013 guidance

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Chapter 1: Assessing need and providing help.

- Focus is on the importance of early help.
- LSCB has responsibility for assessing the effectiveness of early help, and must publish a threshold document.
- On going assessment of need.
- Some specific timescales

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Chapter 2: Organisational responsibilities

- Lays down the responsibilities of partners of the LSCB.
- Role of the LADO.
- Focus on the responsibilities for health.
- Involvement of children and young people in the work of the LSCB is promoted.

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Chapter 3: Local Safeguarding Children Boards

- The role as the key body for scrutinising local arrangement and holding partners to account is present throughout the guidance.
- Changes the governance arrangements for the independent chair.

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Chapter 4: Learning & improvement framework.

- Sets out a less prescriptive process for conducting SCRs and allows LSCBs the flexibility to select a learning approach which suits the circumstances of the case being reviewed.
- New panel of experts.
- Transparency of process.

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Chapter 5: Child Death Reviews.

- There are no major changes.
- Contains guidance on responsibilities of the LSCB, of the CDOP, definitions of preventable child deaths, action by professionals when a child dies unexpectedly and involvement of coroner and pathologist.