

Working Together Safeguarding Children Reforms Newsletter

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Monthly Newsletter



This is the third monthly newsletter designed to update safeguarding professionals in the NHS on the progress of the Working Together safeguarding children reforms and to share best practice.

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Health Facilitator Update

It has been a very busy month, since the last newsletter. Providing support to health leaders and organisations in the lead up to the publication of partnership arrangements and child death review arrangements. I have been able to visit areas around the country and have seen amazing examples of partnership working and where health leaders have been driving the reforms. If you would like to showcase the work being undertaken in your area, or would like to access support with any aspect of the implementation of the reforms, please contact me to schedule a discussion or a visit:

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100% of Partnership Arrangements Published!

Congratulations to all local safeguarding partnerships who have worked so hard to develop their multi-agency safeguarding arrangements and published their partnership plans by the 29 June deadline. Well done to all health, local authority and police partners. All plans have also been submitted to the Department for Education. The plans are currently being quality assured by the multi-agency implementation team and measured against the requirements of the Children and Social Work Act, 2017 and Working Together, 2018. Plans should all now be available on local partnership websites. Support will be offered by the implementation team to any area where the plans might require further development. Partnership arrangements need to be implemented by 29 September, although some partnerships have already begun to operate under their new arrangements. Early review dates have been included in most published plans and some of the early adopter sites have already amended their plans. Support can be accessed by health organisations throughout the implementation phase from Liz Balfe.

NCB National Early Adopter Learning Event

The National Children's Bureau (NCB) held a very well attended national learning event on 27 June in central London to help organisations prepare for the implementation of the new multi-agency safeguarding arrangements, with learning from the early adopter programme. I was delighted to be asked to present an update on the reforms from a health perspective. To mark the end of the early adopter programme, sites from around the country shared their experiences of the reforms and how this has changed practice in their areas. The NCB also shared the findings which will inform their final report. Details of the event and the presentation slides can be found [here](#).

NCB 15 PRINCIPLES OF EFFECTIVE IMPLEMENTATION:

Leadership, Engagement and relationships

1. Establish genuine shared leadership, responsibility and teamwork across safeguarding partners
2. Keep all partners and relevant agencies engaged throughout the process
3. Inform, engage and empower practitioners
4. Ground wider communication and engagement in the reality of day to day safeguarding activity

Vision and design

5. Developing an ambitious vision that is not tied to current structures and statutory timescales
6. Reflect on cases and issues that have been handled well in practice, as well as what has gone not so well
7. Learn from your neighbours and partners within your MASA area or Region
8. Enhance and integrate with other multi-agency work and structures

Planning, individual accountability and ongoing management

9. Work towards transformation on a phased basis, with the mechanics of initial transition constituting just part of this
10. Identify clear priorities for the use of specialist, expert and leaders' time
11. Identify and address a realistic number of initial barriers to address, with clear project management
12. Adapt implementation plans, in light of learning and emerging evidence

Learning, review and assurance

13. Ensure clear service user voice in assurance and priority setting
14. Embed a learning approach into the operation of the arrangements and everyday practice
15. Build in periodic review

Child Death Review Arrangements

All child death review arrangements should now have been submitted to NHS England/Improvement. Many areas have developed larger footprints, to ensure that they cover a child population such that they typically review at least 60 child deaths per year, to meet the requirements of Working Together 2018. From 1 April 2019, CDOPs must submit information from local reviews to the National Child Mortality Database and they will need to fully implement their new arrangements by 29 September 2019. Transitional guidance can be found [here](#).

Partnership Working Between Police & Health

Helen Christmas from Public Health England (PHE) describes the work between PHE and the College of Policing: Over 80% of calls to the police are not directly about crime. Much of the demand on policing is driven by complex social needs and vulnerability. In 2018 a national [consensus](#) agreement between policing and health was developed and launched. It focusses on how partners can work better together to respond to vulnerability and complex social need and rebalance our approach towards more prevention and early intervention to reduce the need for crisis response. The work was supported by a practical resource on police and health [information sharing](#) and a [landscape review](#) of collaboration between police and health partners. Police forces are being encouraged to develop their own local consensus agreements or equivalent approaches with partners and there is a wide range of resources on the [Emergency Services Hub](#). The consensus commitments to partnership, early help and improving lives for families and communities are echoed throughout the Working Together safeguarding children's reforms, and there are many areas of common interest such as trauma-informed practice and multi-agency approaches. For further information please contact helen.christmas@phe.gov.uk or justin.srivastava@lancashire.pnn.police.uk

Learning Example: Bath & North East Somerset

Lisa Harvey, Director of Nursing and Quality at NHS B&NES CCG describes their broad partnership approach to the Working Together arrangements: In Bath and & North East Somerset we have been creative in response to the Working Together to Safeguard Children reforms and constructed an exciting new Community Safety and Safeguarding Partnership. We have integrated our Safeguarding Children Board, Safeguarding Adult Board and our Community Safety Partnership (known as the Responsible Authorities Group in B&NES). We are committed to maximising the integration of safeguarding and our approach to Think Family and Community. The new arrangements will enable us to work more effectively and with joint purpose to protect and support children, adults, families and communities who most need our help. We aim to improve strategic decision making and leadership by having one cohesive conversation with shared focus and strategic objectives; this will help us achieve the greatest impact and improve outcomes. It will also help us reduce duplication and therefore enable us to use our resources more effectively. Please read more about our new arrangements [here](#).