



Association of
Independent
L S C B C h a i r s

The Government Review of LSCBs

Purpose & Content

Purpose

This presentation has been prepared by AILC to assist LSCB Chairs in their considerations with Boards regarding the Government Review of LSCBs

Content

- The Context, and Key Aspects of the Government's Review
- The Children & Social Work Bill's Timeline
- LSCB Aspects of the Bill
- AILC's Vision and Priorities
- References



The Context

The Prime Minister announced in December 2015 that Alan Wood had been asked to undertake a fundamental review of the role and functions of LSCBs. After a short survey, Woods report was published in May by DfE, who at the same time published their response, which agreed with Wood's report.

The Children & Social Work Bill (C&SW Bill) had its first reading in the House of Lords (HOL) in May 2016.



Government's Response to Alan Wood, May 16

"We will introduce a stronger but more flexible statutory framework that will support local partners to work together more effectively, embedding improved multi-agency behaviours and practices. This framework will set out clear requirements for the key local partners, while allowing them freedom to determine how they organise themselves to meet those requirements."

Current arrangements are inflexible and too often ineffective. Meetings take place involving large numbers of people, but decision-making leading to effective action on the ground can be all too often lacking."

DfE



Association of
Independent
L S C B C h a i r s

www.lscbchairs.org.uk

Children & Social Work Bill

Main Aspects

The Bill, according to DfE, has three main areas/purposes:

- Improving decision making & support for LAC & adoption
- Enabling better learning about effective approaches
- Establishment of a new regulatory regime for social work

The “abolition of LSCBs” is referred to within the Bill - a small part, not much publicised or debated.



Association of
Independent
L S C B C h a i r s

www.lscbchairs.org.uk

Children & Social Work Bill

Main Aspects contd...

Clause 29 - Provisions of the Bill

- Currently much of what LAs in England are required to do is prescribed by legislation
- Where LAs believe alternative approaches could support children more effectively or efficiently, the Bill makes provision for them to request from Government, exemptions or modifications from such requirements for a testing period (up to six years)
- LAs must consult their LSCB prior to seeking these fundamental changes



Children & Social Work Bill

LSCB Aspects & Timetable

Clause 28 - Abolition of Local Safeguarding Children Boards

“Omit sections 13 to 16 of the Children Act 2004 (Local Safeguarding Children Boards).”

- The Bill is half way through the Parliamentary process - there are seven further stages in HOL & HOC
- Royal Assent to Bill likely Summer/Autumn 2017
- Formal Consultation on Regulations & Guidance – end of 2017
- Implementation – 2018 to 2019



Children & Social Work Bill

LSCB Aspects

Clause 16E - Local Arrangements for Safeguarding Children

“The safeguarding partners for a local authority area must make arrangements for the safeguarding partners, and any relevant agencies they consider appropriate, to work together in exercising their functions for the purpose of safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children.”

“Safeguarding Partner” means for an area any part of which falls within the local authority area;

- (a) the LA
- (b) CCG
- (c) the Chief Officer of Police



Children & Social Work Bill

LSCB Aspects - SCRs/Practice Review Panel

Clause 12 – The Secretary of State must establish a Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel, Chair and members appointed by the Secretary of State

Functions:

- Identify serious child safeguarding cases which raise issues that are complex or of national importance, and
- Arrange for those cases to be reviewed under their supervision

Purpose:

- To ascertain what if any lessons can be learned about the way LA/others should work to safeguard
- Panel must publish a report, unless they consider it inappropriate to do so, in which case they must publish any information relating to lessons to be learned



Children & Social Work Bill

LSCB Aspects – Child Deaths

Clause 26 – Combining Child Death Review Partner areas

“The child death review partners, for two or more local authority areas, may agree that their areas are to be treated as a single area.

Where a clinical commissioning group is a child death review partner for the same LA area as another CCG, the groups may arrange for one of them to carry out functions on behalf of the other.”



AILC's Vision & Priorities

- Improve safeguarding outcomes, through supporting and strengthening Independent Chairs and LSCB Partnerships
- Developing and providing practical support, advice and information to Chairs and Local Partnerships, to sustain effectiveness and manage any transition
- Communicating our policy positions to have influence

Safeguarding arrangements and practice must:

- Champion the interests and rights of children
- Provide independent challenge and leadership amidst competing priorities
- Involve all partners with sanctions and clear duty to co-operate
- Scrutinise and improve practice – learning from what works



AILC's Vision & Priorities

To achieve the above propositions the Association has suggested:

- Independent Chairs should take the lead to initiate the refocusing of local effort on scrutiny, challenge and QA
- Consider retaining tried and tested frameworks - only replace existing partnerships with something better
- Regional/sub-regional groups develop change proposals
- Develop a competency framework and development programme for independent safeguarding leaders
- Ensure new arrangements for safeguarding practice reviews are focused on timely learning for improvement in practice
- Highlight and mitigate risks to expertise, resource, capacity, relationships & skills that may be lost through transition



Government Review of LSCBs- References

Wood Report - Review of the role and functions of LSCBS

- <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/wood-review-of-local-safeguarding-children-boards>

Government Response to Wood Report;

- <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/wood-review-of-lscbs-government-response>

The Children and Social Work Bill

- <http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2016-17/childrenandsocialwork.html>
- <http://www.parliament.uk/documents/commons-public-bill-office/2016-17/compared-bills/Children-and-Social-Work-AAGC-tracked-changes-version.pdf>

Summary of CSWB by HOL; Explanatory Notes

- <http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2016-17/childrenandsocialwork/documents.html>

Various documents on AILC website including the 'LSCB Government Review' area;

- http://www.lscbchairs.org.uk/Private_Members_Area

For further information contact Sarah Webb – policy@lscbchairs.org.uk or 07880 209788



Association of
Independent
L S C B C h a i r s

www.lscbchairs.org.uk