

7 Further Information

Further guidance and useful documents to be considered alongside the Working Together statutory guidance: [Working Together to Safeguard Children \(2023\)](#) include :

Alongside the guidance, Government have also published the [statutory framework](#).

The updated guidance reflects some of the key findings from the [Government's recent review of Children's Social Care](#).

The NSPCC has produced a [summary](#) of the changes made in the 2023 version of Working Together to Safeguard Children

1 Introduction

The Government have published the [Working Together to Safeguard Children Guidance \(2023\)](#), which replaces the 2018 version. All professionals who have contact with children, young people and families in their roles should review the latest version of the guidance.

This new edition of Working together is central to delivering on the strategy set out in [Stable Homes, Built on Love \(2023\)](#), which outlines the Government's commitment to support every child to grow up in a safe, stable and loving home.

2 Key Additions

A new chapter in the guidance 'Shared Responsibility' highlights how positive outcomes for children depend on strong multi-agency working. It introduces a set of multi-agency expectations for all practitioners involved in safeguarding and child protection. These expectations aim to ensure that practitioners:

- A) Share the same goals,
- B) Learn with and from each other
- C) Have what they need to help families;
- D) Acknowledge and appreciate difference,
- E) Challenge each other

3 Working with Parents & Carers

The updated guidance sets out four principles that professionals should follow when working with parents and carers:

- Effective partnership and the importance of building strong, positive, trusting and co-operative relationships.
- Respectful, non-blaming, clear and inclusive verbal and non-verbal communication that is adapted to the needs of parents and Carers.
- Empowering parents and carers to participate in decision making by equipping them with information, keeping them updated and directing them to further Resources.
- Involving parents and carers in the design of processes and services that affect them.

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4 Multi-Agency Safeguarding Arrangements

The updated guidance outlines new roles and responsibilities relating to the three safeguarding partners (the local authority, the police and the health service). The head of each statutory safeguarding partner will be referred to as the 'lead safeguarding partner' (LSP), who will in turn appoint a 'delegated safeguarding partner' (DSP).

The LSP is responsible for holding their own organisation or agency to account, speaking and making decisions on behalf of their agency, and meeting the statutory and legislative duties of their agency.

LSPs from different agencies are jointly responsible for the involvement of all relevant agencies, and should work as a team, as opposed to as a voice for their own organisation

Schools, colleges and education providers

- It is recommended that LSPs have a representative from the education sector present at strategic discussions.
- It is expected that all local education and childcare providers working with children up to the age of 18 will be included in local arrangements.
- LSPs should consider including voluntary, charity, social enterprise (VCSE) organisations, childcare settings, and sports clubs in their arrangements.

5 Providing help, support and protection

This section is split into three sections: Early help, Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children, and Child protection.

Section 1: Early help

- Considering family needs in the context of early help
- The role of education and childcare settings

Section 2: Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children

- Children's social care assessments
- Lead practitioners
- Supporting disabled children and their carers
- Harm outside the home

Section 3: Child protection

National multi-agency practice standards - The updated guidance introduces new multi-agency practice standards for all practitioners working in services and settings that come into contact with children who may be suffering or have suffered significant harm within or outside the home.

6 Other

Chapter 4 – Organisational Responsibilities

- Changes to the Prison and Probation sections highlights the mutual benefits of exchanging information with children's social care which strengthen and clarify processes and responsibilities for child safeguarding.

Chapter 5 – Learning from Serious Child Safeguarding Incidents

- Clarifies the expectation for keeping in touch with care leavers over the age of 21, and the **non-mandatory** reporting of care leaver deaths up to age 25 to improve learning and outcomes for this group of young people.

Chapter 6 – Child Death Reviews

Factual changes only.