

SECTION 11 SELF ASSESSMENT

Improving the way key people and bodies safeguard and promote the welfare of children is crucial to improving outcomes for children and young people. Section 11 (s11) of the Children Act 2004 places a statutory duty on key organisations to make arrangements to ensure that in discharging their functions they have regard to the need to safeguard and promote the welfare of children.

Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018 requires the three safeguarding partners to monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of what is done, via the local Safeguarding Children Partnerships, to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and advise organisations on ways to improve.

Partners presented at a round table event their response to the following standards with a focus on Neglect:

- *Standard 1 – Senior management have commitment to the importance of safeguarding and promoting children’s welfare.*
- *Standard 2 – There is a clear statement of the agency’s responsibility towards children, and this is available to all staff.*
- *Standard 3 – There is a clear line of accountability within the organisation for work on safeguarding and promoting welfare.*
- *Standard 4 – Service development takes into account the need to safeguard and promote welfare and is informed, where appropriate, by the views of children and families*
- *Standard 5 – There is effective training on safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children for all staff working with or, depending on the agency’s primary functions, in contact with children and families.*
- *Standard 6 – Safer recruitment procedures including vetting procedures and those for managing allegations are in place.*
- *Standard 7 – There is effective inter-agency working to safeguard and promote the welfare of children.*
- *Standard 8 – There is effective information sharing.*

From the presentations in January 2024 here are some examples of areas that are working well.

Bedfordshire Police has a Force Lead and lots of governance in place re how they deal with neglect and how they ensure they are training and educating Officers in respect of neglect. Have own policies, procedures, and guides. An increase in understanding neglect has led to an increase in neglect Investigations and levels of PPO powers taken out.

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Luton Borough Council: Luton Council completed a full Section 11 self-assessment across all its directorates. Below is a summary of some of the highlights.

- Across **Luton CSC**, all Family Partnership and Children’s Social Care, case holding workers receive case supervision at Luton Tri.x procedure prescribed intervals of four weekly.
- This provides a forum for reviewing the progress of the child’s respective plan and impact upon the difference the support plan is making.
- Supervision includes case reflection and hypothesising; review of the impact of partnership working upon progress, with consideration for partner escalation as needed, to facilitate positive progression and change for the child or young person. It reviews the outcome of GCP2 assessments, which inform the plan and trajectory of support.
- The Family Safeguarding Service (FSS) and the Family Assessment and Support Service are primarily responsible for supporting families and their children experiencing neglect, under Child in Need and Child Protection Plans.
- When a neglect case is stuck, and there has been no consistent improvement in the child’s lived experience and the care given to the child or young person, the Heads of Service offer case consultation, having an ‘open door’ approach, so that managers and social workers can discuss how the efficacy and impact of support might be enhanced to promote improvement in the children’s lived experience.
- For children supported under Child in Need Plans, this case consultation would include consideration of the appropriate level of support, and consideration when risks increase, to progression of support under a Child Protection Plan.
- There would then be further consultations with the IRO service taking account the level of need and risk. It helps them consider the impact of past support, and which has been, and which has not been effective to inform most effective response. It supports social workers and their managers to consider the child’s chronology, and the impact both immediate, and longer term, of the type of neglect which has been identified for the child.
- Thresholds of support where neglect concerns persist, would lead to consideration of presentation of the case to Legal Gateway for review of need for instigation of the Public Law Outline. This sets out the duties Local Authorities have when thinking about taking a case to court to ask for a Care Order to take a child into care, or for a Supervision Order to be made (initiating public law care proceedings).
- Child in Need Panels are due to be implemented by January 2024. These will be convened on a weekly basis to track progress and prevent drift and delay. The purpose of the Child in Need Panels will be to consider the impact of the support provided for the families; to review thresholds of support; consider either step down to Family Partnership Services, or potential step up to support under Child Protection Plans to avoid any drift and delay.
- **Adult Social Care** do not routinely work singularly with Children & Young People. However, a whole family approach is promoted and workers are clear that, should concerns about Children and Young People emerge during the course of their

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involvement with adults that they must escalate/share their concerns with Children's Services.

- **Housing:** This is escalated to the director's level and/or higher where needed, such as the safeguarding children's board.
- **Safeguarding in Education:** Escalation is clearly shared within the S175 and updates we share with schools more widely. The LSCP receives an annual update on the S175 self-assessment which is stress tested by the Safeguarding in Education team.
- **Youth Partnership Service:** There is increased prevention and specialist input and YPS have a Clinical Psychologist for two years to see what impact this has over the service. Reflection of Practice Process has been put in place. Mini learning reviews of cases with case manager to review how case is going. Neglect is on the agenda on a daily basis.
- Have daily meeting where they go through children and young people who are victims of offences in the last 24hrs which forms the Business Meeting and will do intelligence gathering on this which drives multi-agency intelligence forms. Also have joint meeting every morning with the MASH allowing them to be proactive which focuses on the safety and wellbeing of Luton children.
- The Luton Youth Council is amazing they now have different cohorts of children. Working on a Youth Leadership Programme. It's about the voice of that child and co-production.
- Previously some Case Managers struggled to engage well with young people. After completing reflection and training re staff, risk, neglect and safety and wellbeing of children it was clear change was needed. Case Management Team and staff are motivated, younger, have empathy towards children and most live in Luton. Training, induction and supervision is important for Case Managers to enable them to deliver.

Bedfordshire, Luton, and Milton Keynes Integrated Care Board highlighted the challenges for health and how it fits into multi-agency audits. Uptake of safeguarding training from GPs good. Evidence that providers are escalating neglect issues which are resolved. Through contract meetings ensuring that providers returns/policies reflect neglect and frontline practitioners are recognising Neglect and are working to improve situations for families. Supporting GPs to recognise Think Family Approach.

Bedfordshire Hospital NHS Trust has a dedicated Safeguarding Team which has great oversight. Staff are asked to refer any incidents/concerns to the Safeguarding Team which are marked and filed. If further incidents received (child looking unkept etc) they have all on file and have that flag. All information goes to the Specialist Safeguarding Team and would look at this in the entirety. Increased focus on neglect and training offer. Internal Day re neglect planned for Hospital staff. Peer Reviews include neglect cases. Encourage staff to complete complex chronologies to look at what the Trust can do. Support the GCP2 and are looking to use the Screening Tool.

Cambridgeshire Community Services ensures there is the correct attendance at external meetings. Robust Supervision Model (standalone and overarching policy) and access to

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robust, dynamic supervision (looking at human interactions) which have annual survey and action plans come out of this. Embedding Think Family- on Strategic agenda to embed across the Partnership. Aligning job descriptions and regular communication (7-minute briefings). Putting in place Patient Safety Framework. Collaborative working- 0-19 and 5-19 have joint Away Days building relationships and staff knowing each other.

East London Foundation Trust provide joint supervision which has helped with Think Family and escalation. Neglect is part of Level 3 training and provide additional training to staff. Complete Audits across cases. Updated policies and training course. Review of incidents help identify early on and referral in a timely manner.