



Prifysgol
Y Drindod
Univers
Trinity Saint

Learning from multi-agency reviews

Target Audience: Anyone who has involvement with domestic abuse & safeguarding children or adults in their role and with the ability to influence practice within their organisation.

Learning Outcomes:

- Opportunity to shape practice
- Reflect on cases
- Make a difference to how we work together
- Consider and identify risk
- Share good practice and learning
- Use a Think Family approach

Workshop Dates

(full day)

Monday 4th November

Walsford

Monday 11th November

Solihull

Thursday 14th November

Chislehurst

Tuesday 19th November

Horsham



Working with Families



Multi-agency Working

Nathan Leynes

Every Child Matters, 2004



ECAY4005 Multi-Agency Working: Policy in Practice Theme 4: Safeguarding & Data Protection (Part 1)

*Trawsnewid Addysg; Trawsnewid Bywydau
Transforming Education; Transforming Lives*



www.uwtsd.ac.uk

Learning Review

What did we look at in our previous Theme?



What is safeguarding?

Cautionary Note

In our lecture today we will be exploring safeguarding, which will involve looking at examples in practice of safeguarding concerns and cases of abuse.

What is safeguarding?

Have you heard the phrase before?

Is yes, in what context?

What do you understand the phrase to mean?

What is safeguarding?

- The concept of safeguarding usually differentiates between safeguarding children and safeguarding vulnerable adults
- *Why do you think this is?*
- For clarification on what safeguarding is we will use the UK Government Inspectorate Ofsted website
- *Why do you think we use this source?*



[Ofsted Safeguarding Policy](#)

What is safeguarding?

Safeguarding Children is defined in:

[Working Together to Safeguard Children](#)

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

(HM Government, 2023, np)

What is safeguarding?

Safeguarding Adults is defined in:

Care and Support Statutory Guidance

(issued under the Care Act 2014)

- *Protecting the rights of adults to live in safety, free from abuse and neglect*
- *People and organisations working together to prevent and stop both the risks and experience of abuse or neglect*
- *People and organisations making sure that the adult's wellbeing is promoted including, where appropriate, taking fully into account their views, wishes, feelings and beliefs in deciding on any action*
- *Recognising that adults sometimes have complex interpersonal relationships and may be ambivalent, unclear or unrealistic about their personal circumstances and therefore potential risks to their safety or well-being*

(Department of Health and Social Care, 2023, np)

What is safeguarding?

Forms of Abuse - Children

- *Physical Abuse*
- *Sexual Abuse*
- *Emotional Abuse*
- *Neglect*
- *Disguised Compliance*



[Safeguarding children | SCIE](#)

(SCIE, No Date)

What is safeguarding?

Forms of Abuse – Vulnerable Adults

- *Physical Abuse*
- *Sexual Abuse*
- *Domestic Violence*
- *Psychological/Emotional Abuse*
- *Financial/Material Abuse*
- *Modern Slavery*
- *Discriminatory Abuse*
- *Organisational/Institutional Abuse*
- *Neglect/Acts of Omission*
- *Self-Neglect*



[Safeguarding adults: Types and indicators of abuse \(scie.org.uk\)](https://scie.org.uk)

(SCIE, No Date)

The History of Child Protection (safeguarding) in the UK

- Legislation to prosecute people accused of child cruelty has been in force since the 1880s.
- Over time a range of factors, including some high-profile child abuse deaths and subsequent inquiries, have contributed to the development of the child protection system that we have today
- Now statutory child protection guidance across the UK is regularly reviewed and updates in consultation with stakeholders

(NSPCC, 2023)

The History of Child Protection (safeguarding) in the UK

1945: The First child abuse inquiry

The First formal child death inquiry took place in England in 1945 into the death of Dennis O'Neill, who was killed at the age of 12 by his foster father.

1946: Curtis committee and Clyde committee

The Care of Children Committee, led by Dame Myra Curtis, investigated and made recommendations about how care was provided for children who weren't able to live with their own parents or relatives in **England** and **Wales**.

James L. Clyde led the Committee on Homeless Children in **Scotland**, which had a similar remit.

The recommendations of both committees contributed to the development of the 1948 Children Act.

The History of Child Protection (safeguarding) in the UK

1948: Children Act

The Children Act 1948 (no longer available online) set out new support measures for children across the UK. Under the Act, local authorities had a duty to provide care for any child whose parents were unable to care for them, if this was in the child's best interests.



1973 Reforms made to the child protection system

At the age of 7, Maria Colwell was killed by her step-father after being returned home from foster care. The public inquiry that followed her death found that Maria had been failed by the child protection system.

The need to improve the system contributed to the development of stronger measures to enable professionals working with children to recognise and respond to child abuse and neglect, including the Children Act 1975.

The History of Child Protection (safeguarding) in the UK

1975: Children Act

The [Children Act 1975](#) built on the 1945 Act and highlighted the importance of children's welfare. It also established the role of an independent social worker who would ensure the best interests of the child during court proceedings.



1984: The transformation of child protective services

Further changes to child protection legislation were prompted partly by the inquiries into more child deaths, including 4-year-old Jasmine Beckford who was killed by her step-father after being returned home from care.

The History of Child Protection (safeguarding) in the UK

1988: Working together guidance first published

The first edition of Working Together consolidated guidance and recommendations on procedures for the care and protection of abused children and children at risk in **England** and **Wales**. Working together: a guide to arrangements for inter-agency co-operation for the protection of children from abuse (DHSS and Welsh Office, 1988) also introduced serious case reviews (SCRs), referred to at the time as case reviews, for the first time.



1989: Children Act for England and Wales

The [Children Act 1989](#) established the legislative framework for the current child protection system in **England** and **Wales**. It sets out the paramountcy principle – that the welfare of the child should be the court's main consideration.

The History of Child Protection (safeguarding) in the UK

1990: United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child

The UK signed the [United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child](#) (UNCRC), which sets out the rights of every child in the world to survive, grow, participate and fulfil their potential.



1991: Working together guidance updated in response to the Children Act

In 1991, Working together under the Children Act 1989: a guide to arrangements for inter-agency co-operation for the protection of children from abuse was published (Home Office and Department of Health, 1991). It included the requirements of the Children Act 1989 as well as compiling previous guidance on child protection and best practice.

The History of Child Protection (safeguarding) in the UK

1995: Children Order and Act for Northern Ireland and Scotland

The [Children \(Northern Ireland\) Order 1995](#) and the [Children \(Scotland\) Act 1995](#) established the legislative framework for the current child protection systems in **Northern Ireland** and **Scotland**.



1997: Criminal Records checks

[Part V](#) of the Police Act 1997 established a centralised system of criminal records checks across the UK.

The History of Child Protection (safeguarding) in the UK

**1999: Devolution
and major revision
of Working
together guidance**

Since 1999 the process of devolution has seen power and responsibility transferred from the Houses of Parliament in Westminster to national governments in **Northern Ireland, Scotland** and **Wales**.

1999 also saw the publication of a revised version of the 1989 Working together guidance for **England** (Department of Health, 1999). [Working together to safeguard children: a guide to inter-agency working to safeguard and promote the welfare of children \(PDF\)](#) included guidance on working together to support children and families, lessons from research and experience, and definitions of abuse.

The History of Child Protection (safeguarding) in the UK

2000: Major changes in child protection policies

The death of 8-year-old Victoria Climbié, following abuse and neglect by her great-aunt and great-aunt's boyfriend, led to Lord Laming's report (Laming, 2003). This report contributed to sweeping changes to the way children's services were structured in **England** and **Wales**.

Three-year-old Kennedy McFarlane was killed by her mother's boyfriend when he hit her, leading her to crash into the leg of a bed. Her death led to the Scottish education minister, Jack McConnell, announcing a review of child protection in **Scotland** (Scottish Executive, 2002).

The History of Child Protection (safeguarding) in the UK

2001: First Children's Commissioner

The [Children's Commissioner for Wales Act 2001](#) created the first children's commissioner post in the UK.

Holly Wells and Jessica Chapman, both aged 10, were killed by Ian Huntley, their school caretaker. He had previously been investigated by police for crimes including burglary, indecent assault and rape.

2002: Reforms to child protection legislation

Following his conviction, an inquiry led by Michael Bichard recommended the development of a system where people are appropriately vetted before working with children. This led to the strengthening of legislation across the UK to protect children from adults who pose a risk to them, including the [Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006](#) in **England, Northern Ireland** and **Wales**, and the [Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups \(Northern Ireland\) Order](#) and [Protection of Vulnerable Groups \(Scotland\) Act](#).

The History of Child Protection (safeguarding) in the UK

**2003: National
guidance and Children's
commissioner in NI,
Children and Young
People's Commissioner
for Scotland**

The statutory guidance Cooperating to safeguard children and young people was published in **Northern Ireland**, to set out requirements for safeguarding children in the statutory, private, independent, community, voluntary and faith sectors (Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety, 2002).

Northern Ireland created the post of Commissioner for Children and Young People (NICCY).

The [Commissioner for Children and Young People \(Scotland\) Act 2003](#) established the role of Children and Young People's Commissioner in **Scotland**.

The History of Child Protection (safeguarding) in the UK

2004: Children Act, UNCRC

The [Children Act 2004](#), informed by Lord Laming's report, established a Children's Commissioner in **England** (the last of the UK nations to appoint one); created Local Safeguarding Children's Boards (LSCBs) in **England** and **Wales**; and placed a duty on local authorities in **England** to appoint a director of children's services and an elected lead member for children's services, who is ultimately accountable for the delivery of services.

The Welsh Government formally adopted the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) (Welsh Government, 2019).

The History of Child Protection (safeguarding) in the UK

2006: Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act GIRFEC

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The History of Child Protection (safeguarding) in the UK

2007: Protection of Vulnerable Groups in Northern Ireland and Scotland

The [Protection of Vulnerable Groups \(Scotland\) Act 2007](#) and [Protection of Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups \(Northern Ireland\) Order 2007](#) were passed.



2008: The Case of Peter Connelly (Baby P)

The death of one-year-old Peter Connelly (Baby P) following abuse and neglect by his mother, her boyfriend and her boyfriend's brother, led to further reviews of social service care in **England** by Lord Laming, with the House of Commons debating the case.

Lord Laming's The protection of children in England: a progress report made 58 recommendations for child protection reforms (Laming, 2009).

The History of Child Protection (safeguarding) in the UK

2010: Publishing Serious Case Reviews (SCR)

Minister for Children and Families, Tim Loughton, announced that Local Safeguarding Boards in **England** should publish the overview report and executive summary of all case reviews initiated on or after 10 June 2010.

The Secretary of State for Education, Michael Gove, also commissioned Professor Eileen Munro to conduct an independent review of child protection in **England**.

The History of Child Protection (safeguarding) in the UK

2011: Munro review in
England, Safeguarding
Boards and UNOCINI in
Northern Ireland, and
Children's rights in
Wales

Professor Munro's report [A child-centred system \(PDF\)](#) sets out recommendations to "help to reform the child protection system from being over-bureaucratised and concerned with compliance to one that keeps a focus on children, checking whether they are being effectively helped, and adapting when problems are identified" (Munro, and DfE, 2011).¹¹ This led to a review of the statutory child protection guidance in **England**.

The [Safeguarding Board Act \(Northern Ireland\) 2011](#) set out the law for the creation of a new regional Safeguarding Board for **Northern Ireland** and the establishment of five Safeguarding Panels.

The [Understanding the needs of children in Northern Ireland \(UNOCINI\) \(PDF\)](#) guidance was published to enable practitioners working with children to better meet the needs of children and their families (Department of Health, 2011).

To ensure children's rights are included in all policy making in **Wales**, the Welsh Government made the [United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child](#) part of its domestic law through the [Rights of Children and Young Persons \(Wales\) Measure](#).

The History of Child Protection (safeguarding) in the UK

2012: Operation Yewtree, Protection of Freedoms Act and Historical Institutional Abuse (HIA) Inquiry

Operation Yewtree was set up by the Metropolitan Police Service to investigate sexual abuse allegations against Jimmy Savile and others.

The [Protection of Freedoms Act 2012](#) in **England** and **Wales** set out the requirements for vetting and barring checks for adults who are working or volunteering with children, whilst being supervised by someone else.



2013: Review of Sexual exploitation in Rochdale and updates to Working together guidance in England

The independent review into child sexual exploitation (CSE) in Rochdale examined the council's response to issues around child sexual exploitation (CSE), after 47 girls were identified as victims of CSE (Klonowski, 2013).

A new version of [Working together to safeguard children \(PDF\)](#) was published in **England**, informed by the Munro review (DfE, 2013).

The History of Child Protection (safeguarding) in the UK

2014: National legislation and guidance in Scotland and Wales and Jay report

The [Social Services and Well-being \(Wales\) Act 2014](#) provided **Wales** with its own legislative framework for social services for children and adults.

Section 130 of the Act requires “relevant partners” of a local authority to inform the local authority if they have reasonable cause to suspect a child is at risk of experiencing abuse, neglect or other types of harm.

Under Section 145 it gives powers to Welsh Ministers to issue codes of practice providing guidance, objectives and requirements on local authorities’ provision of social services.

The [Children and Young People \(Scotland\) Act 2014](#) aimed to strengthen the rights of children and young people in **Scotland**. It provided extra support for children in care and care leavers, and created systems to identify and respond to child welfare concerns at an early stage.

The [National guidance for child protection in Scotland](#) was published to provide a statutory framework for agencies and practitioners working together to safeguard children (Scottish Government, 2014).

Professor Alexis Jay led an independent inquiry into child sexual abuse in Rotherham. The report estimated that 1,400 children in Rotherham had been sexually abused between 1997 and 2013. Most of the victims were White British children, and most of the perpetrators were from minority ethnic communities.

The History of Child Protection (safeguarding) in the UK

2015: Abuse inquiries in
England, Wales and
Scotland, legislation in
Northern Ireland and
FGM reporting in
England and Wales

The [Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse in England and Wales \(IICSA\)](#) officially launched to consider the growing evidence of institutional failures to protect children from child sexual abuse (IICSA, 2018).

The [Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry](#) began investigating the abuse of children in care in **Scotland**.

The [Children's Services Co-operation Act \(Northern Ireland\) 2015](#) required public authorities to contribute to the wellbeing of children and young people in regards to physical and mental health, learning and achievement and living conditions.

[Section 74](#) of the Serious Crime Act 2015 placed a mandatory reporting duty on regulated health and social care professionals and teachers in **England** and **Wales** to make a report to the police if:

- they are informed by a child that they have undergone female genital mutilation (FGM)
- they observe physical signs that an act of FGM may have been carried out on a child.

The History of Child Protection (safeguarding) in the UK

2017: UK wide protection from online pornography, social care act in England and guidance and an inquiry report in Northern Ireland

The [Digital Economy Act 2017](#) extended protection from online pornography by allowing sites which display pornography to children to be blocked in the UK.

The [Children and Social Work Act 2017](#) made several reforms to the child protection system in **England**. It established the Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel to review and report on serious child protection cases and replaced the model of local safeguarding children's boards (LSCBs) with local safeguarding partners.

The Department of Health in **Northern Ireland** published an update to the statutory guidance [Cooperating to safeguard children and young people](#) (Department of Health, 2017).

The Historical Institutional Abuse Inquiry (HIA) in **Northern Ireland** published its final report (HIA, 2017).²⁰ Recommendations included a public apology, a redress board, a compensation scheme and a statutory commissioner for survivors of institutional childhood abuse (COSICA).

The History of Child Protection (safeguarding) in the UK

2018: Updated guidance in England and Domestic Abuse Act in Scotland

An updated version of [Working together to safeguard children](#) (DfE, 2018) was published for **England**, replacing Local safeguarding children boards (LSCBs) with safeguarding partner arrangements.

The [Domestic Abuse \(Scotland\) Act 2018](#) made it a statutory aggravation for domestic abuse to involve or affect a child (this includes a child hearing, seeing or being present during an abusive incident).

2019: New guidance in Wales and UN rights in Scotland

The [Wales Safeguarding Procedures](#) were published to provide guidance on safeguarding children and adults who are at risk of abuse and neglect (Wales Safeguarding Procedures Project Board, 2019).

The Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) recognised breast flattening (the practice of using hard or heated objects to suppress or reverse the growth of breasts) as a form of child abuse in **England** and **Wales** (CPS, 2019).

The **Scottish Government** announced its intention to [incorporate the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child \(UNCRC\) into Scottish law](#) (Scottish Government, 2019).

The History of Child Protection (safeguarding) in the UK

2020: Safeguarding during coronavirus and corporal punishment made illegal in Jersey, Scotland and Wales

The conditions created by the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic meant that everyone working with children and families had to adapt the way they keep children safe. Governments in all four UK nations published a range of safeguarding and child protection guidance during the pandemic.

In the **States of Jersey**, the [Children and Education \(Amendment\) \(Jersey\) Law 2020](#) came into force in April 2020. This abolishes the defence of reasonable corporal punishment of a child.

The **Scottish Government** abolished the defence of reasonable chastisement from November 2020 under the [Children \(Equal Protection from Assault\) \(Scotland\) Act 2019](#).

The **Welsh Government** introduced the [Children \(Abolition of Defence of Reasonable Punishment\) \(Wales\) Act](#), which will abolish the defence of reasonable punishment from 2022.

The [Disclosure Scotland Act 2020](#) received royal assent in July 2020. This aimed to improve the system for checking the criminal history of people who work with children in **Scotland**.

The History of Child Protection (safeguarding) in the UK

2021: New school guidance in Scotland, sexual abuse in schools in England and Wales

The **Scottish Government** published revised and updated non-statutory [National guidance for child protection in Scotland](#), which replaced the 2014 version and has a strengthened focus on Getting it right for every child (GIRFEC) and children's rights (Scottish Government, 2021).

Ofsted published a rapid [review of sexual abuse in schools and colleges in England](#) (Ofsted, 2021).

The review was requested by the government after children and young people shared anonymous accounts of their experiences of sexual assault and harassment at school and university on a website called 'Everyone's Invited'. The report focussed on incidents of peer-on-peer sexual harassment, sexual violence, and online sexual abuse. It summarised findings and recommendations for school and college leaders, multi-agency partners, and the government.

In December Estyn published its [report looking at the incidence of peer-on-peer sexual harassment in secondary school pupils in Wales](#) (Estyn, 2021)²⁷. The report set out nine recommendations to the Welsh Government, local authorities and secondary schools.

The History of Child Protection (safeguarding) in the UK

2022: Independent review of children's social care in England, Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse (IICSA) recommendations for England and Wales and the national review into the murders of Arthur Labinjo-Hughes and Star Hobson

The independent review of children's social care published its final [report on the children's social care system in England](#) (MacAlister, 2022). The UK Government set out the initial measures it would take to improve children's social care following the publication of the report, which included setting up a [National Implementation Board to advise on reforms](#) (DfE, 2022).

The Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel (the Panel) published [a safeguarding practice review](#) into the murders of Arthur Labinjo-Hughes and Star Hobson (Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel, 2022b). The review examines the circumstances leading up to their deaths and sets out recommendations and findings for national government and local safeguarding partners for improving practice.

The Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse (IICSA) published its final [report into child sexual abuse and exploitation in institutions in England and Wales](#) (IICSA, 2022). The report sets out findings and common themes arising from the work of the Inquiry and made 20 recommendations for reform for the UK and Welsh governments and other institutions

The History of Child Protection (safeguarding) in the UK

**2023: Government
sets pit plans to
reform Children's
social care in
England**

In February 2023, the DfE launched a consultation on its long-term plan for the reform of children's social care in England - [Stable homes, built on love \(PDF\)](#).



**2023: The Welsh
Government
responds to IICSA's
recommendations**

In 2023, the Welsh Government and the Home Office set out how they would be responding to IICSA's recommendations.

[Summary of the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse's \(IICSA's\) final report and government responses \(nspcc.org.uk\)](#)

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- 2. Home Office and Department of Health (DH) (1991) Working together under the Children Act 1989: a guide to arrangements for inter-agency co-operation for the protection of children from abuse. London: Her Majesty's Stationery Office (HMSO).
- 3. Department of Health and Home Office (1999) [Working together to safeguard children \(PDF\)](#). London: The Stationery Office (TSO)
- 4. Laming, L (2003) [The Victoria Climbié inquiry: report of an inquiry by Lord Laming \(PDF\)](#). Norwich: The Stationery Office (TSO).
- 5. Scottish Executive (2002) [t's everyone's job to make sure I'm alright: report of the Child Protection Audit and Review](#). Edinburgh: Scottish Government.
- 6. Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety (2002) [Co-operating to safeguard children \(PDF\)](#). Belfast: Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety.
- 7. Welsh Government (2019) [Children's rights in Wales](#). [Accessed: 05/07/2021].
- 8. Creegan, C., Henderson, G., and King, C. (2006) [Getting it right for every child: children and young people's experiences of advocacy support and participation in children's hearings system \(PDF\)](#). Edinburgh: Scottish Government.
- 9. Department for Education (DfE) (2010) [Working together to safeguard children: a guide to inter-agency working to safeguard and promote the welfare of children \(PDF\)](#) [London]: Department for Education (DfE).
- 10. Laming, L (2009) [The protection of children in England: a progress report \(PDF\)](#). London: The Stationery Office (TSO).
- 11. Munro, E (2011) [A child-centred system \(PDF\)](#). [London]: Department for Education (DfE).
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- 18. Scottish Football Association (2018) [The interim report of the Independent Review of Sexual Abuse in Scottish football \(PDF\)](#). London: Scottish Football Association.
- 19. Department of Health (2017) [Co-operating to safeguard children and young people in Northern Ireland](#). [Belfast]: Northern Ireland Executive government.
- 20. Historical Institutional Abuse Inquiry (HIA) (2017) [Historical Institutional Abuse Inquiry – report chapters](#). [Accessed 23/08/2019].
- 21. Department for Education (DfE) (2018) [Working together to safeguard children: a guide to inter-agency working to safeguard and promote the welfare of children \(PDF\)](#). [London]: Department for Education (DfE).
- 22. Wales Safeguarding Procedures Project Board (2020) [Wales Safeguarding Procedures](#). [Accessed 01/06/2021].
- 23. Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) (2019) [So-called honour based abuse and forced marriage](#). [Accessed 13/08/2019].
- 24. Scottish Government (2019) [Strengthening children's rights](#). [Accessed 26/11/2019].
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- 33. Welsh Government (2023) [Welsh Government response to the independent inquiry into child sexual abuse](#). [Accessed 23/05/2023].
- 34. Home Office (2023) [Response to the final report of the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse](#). [Accessed 23/05/2023].

What is safeguarding?

Safeguarding Boards

The National Independent Safeguarding Board was set up under the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014. Specifically, the National Board has three primary duties. These are:

1. To provide support and advice to Safeguarding Boards with a view to ensuring that they are effective
2. To report on the adequacy and effectiveness of arrangements to safeguard children and adults in Wales
3. To make recommendations to the Welsh Ministers as to how those arrangements could be improved (S.132 (2)).



[Home - Safeguarding Board Wales](#)

What is safeguarding?

'A Wicked Issue'

'Child protection raises complex moral and political issues which have no one right technical solution. Practitioners are asked to solve problems every day that philosophers have argued about for the last two thousand years . . . Moral evaluations can and must be made if children's lives and well-being are to be secured. What matters is that we should not disguise this and pretend it is all a matter of finding better checklists or new models of psychopathology – technical fixes when the proper decision is a decision about what constitutes a good society'.

Discuss this as a group

(White *et al.* 2015, p.244)

This leads to Problems

1990s onwards: some services (e.g. children in care) seen to be **failing**. Cases such as:

- Victoria Climbié(2000)
- 'Baby P' (2009)
- More recently Daniel Pelka (2012)

Highlighted **continued failure** of agencies to **communicate**:

- Need for greater **information sharing**
- Practical issues for service users still existed:
- Conflicting advice
- Attending multiple meetings
- Needs still not met
- Lack of power over decision making
- Feeling of 'missing out' on services

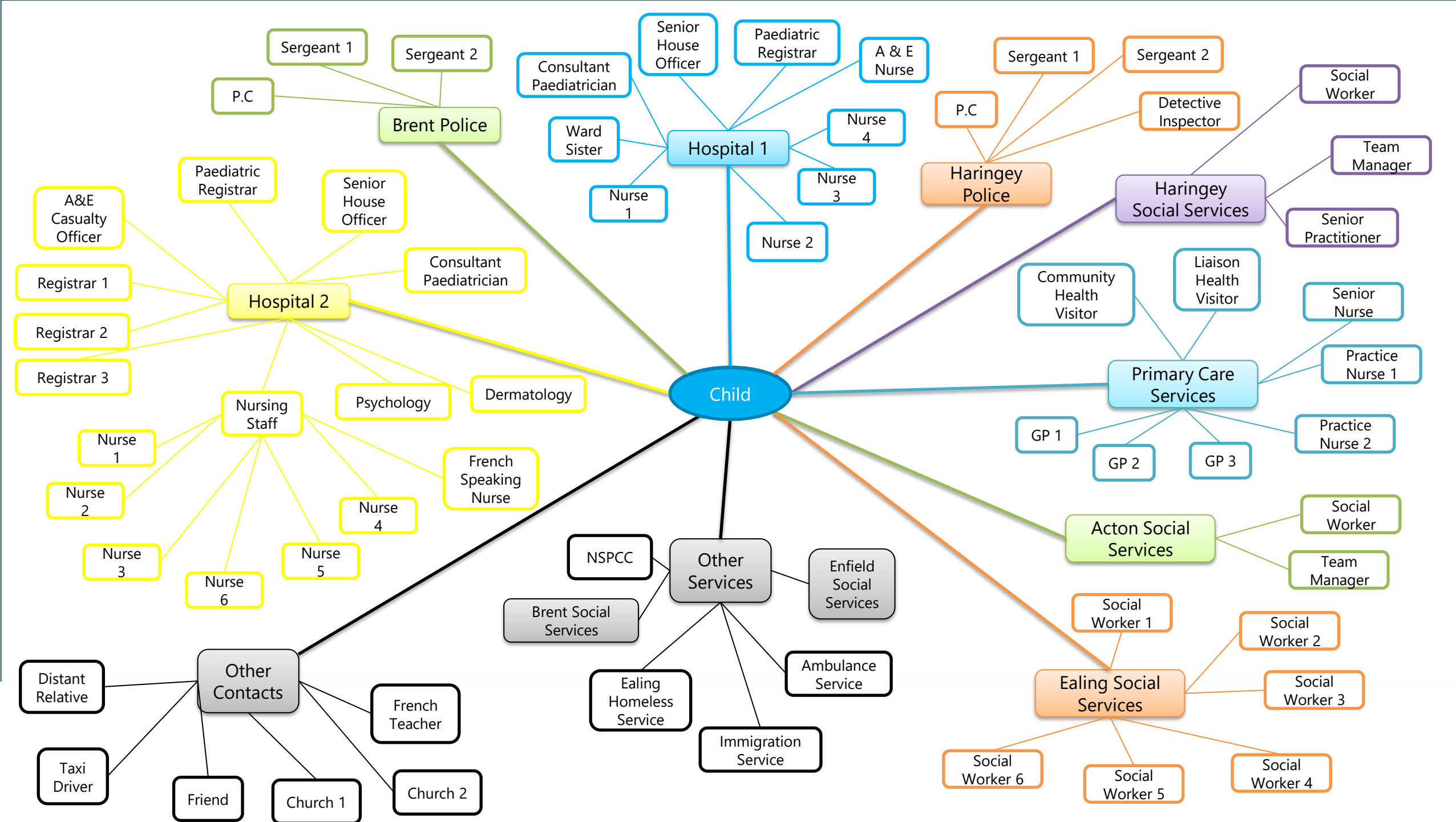
... and more problems

- Lack of **information sharing** across agencies and services
- **Duplicated assessments** to identify needs and provision
- **Poorly co-ordinated** activities across agencies
- Too much '**buck-passing**' and referring on of clients between agencies
- A **lack of continuity** and **inconsistent** levels of service provision
- Unclear **accountability**
- **Every Child Matters (DfES, 2003)** - legislation in response to the Laming inquiry into the death of Victoria Climbié
- **Children Act 2004** strengthened the requirements for agencies to work together more closely in multidisciplinary teams

Serious Case Reviews and Systemic Failure

Victoria Climbié

- Victoria Climbié died as a result of abuse and neglect by her great-aunt and great-aunt's boyfriend.
- For this session we will look at her story.



The Laming Inquiry

Read through Victoria's Story in the Laming
Enquiry Report

Can you identify where there were errors in
procedure and communication?

THE
VICTORIA CLIMBIÉ
INQUIRY

Chairman: Lord Laming

Trawsnewid Addysg; Trawsnewid Bywydau
Transforming Education; Transforming Lives

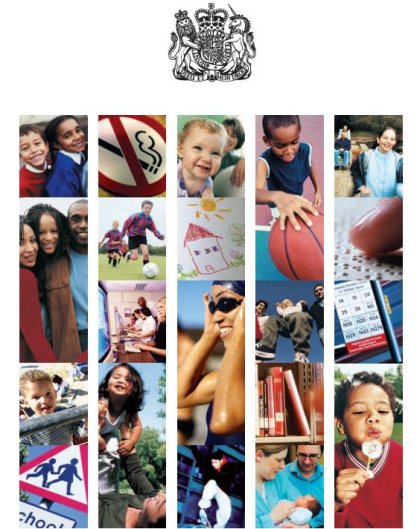
The Laming Inquiry

- Lord Laming's report concluded that Victoria's death had been entirely preventable
- In total there were 108 recommendations (in over 60 pages) which highlighted a shift in thinking from 'reaction' to being 'proactive'
- Early intervention strategies were not deployed, and recommendations suggest could have contributed to the failings called '**Systemic Failure**'
- Following the report, there was a shift from **child protection** to **safeguarding** all children and young people. The report was designed to save the lives of children who were at risk of abuse and/or neglect.

(Cronin & Smith, 2010, p.107)

Every Child Matters

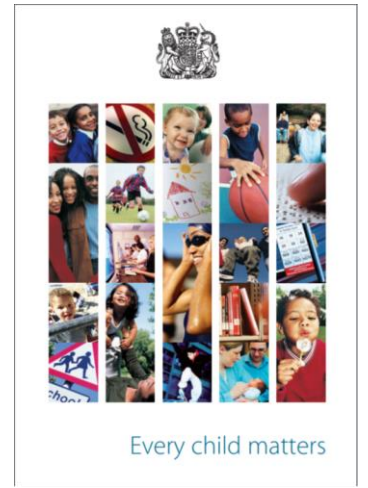
- Launched in 2003 Following the recommendations of Lord Laming.
- It sets out a framework for services that cover children and young people from birth to 19 living in **England**.
- The framework states that every child should be:
 - *Healthy*
 - *Stay Safe*
 - *Enjoy and Achieve*
 - *Make a Positive contribution*
 - *Achieve Economic Wellbeing*
- This led to the Childrens Act (2004)



Every child matters

Every Child Matters

- To improve information sharing
- Establishing a Common Assessment Framework
- Introducing a 'lead professional' system
- Establishing multi-disciplinary teams administering care 'around the child'
- Co-location of services



(UK Government, 2003)

The Children Act 1989

- Made reference to agencies – local education authority, local housing authority, health authority – which could support the safeguarding role
- However, it was not a duty and it allowed agencies to prioritise the delivery of their own services

(Cronin & Smith 2010: 101)

Children Act 2004



Children Act 2004

CHAPTER 31

- Children Act 2004 focused on five areas set out in the 'Every Child Matters' framework:
 - Be healthy
 - Stay safe
 - Enjoy and achieve
 - Make a positive contribution
 - Achieve economic well-being
- Emphasised:
 - Greater recognition of children's rights
 - Greater consultation
 - Agencies working more closely together

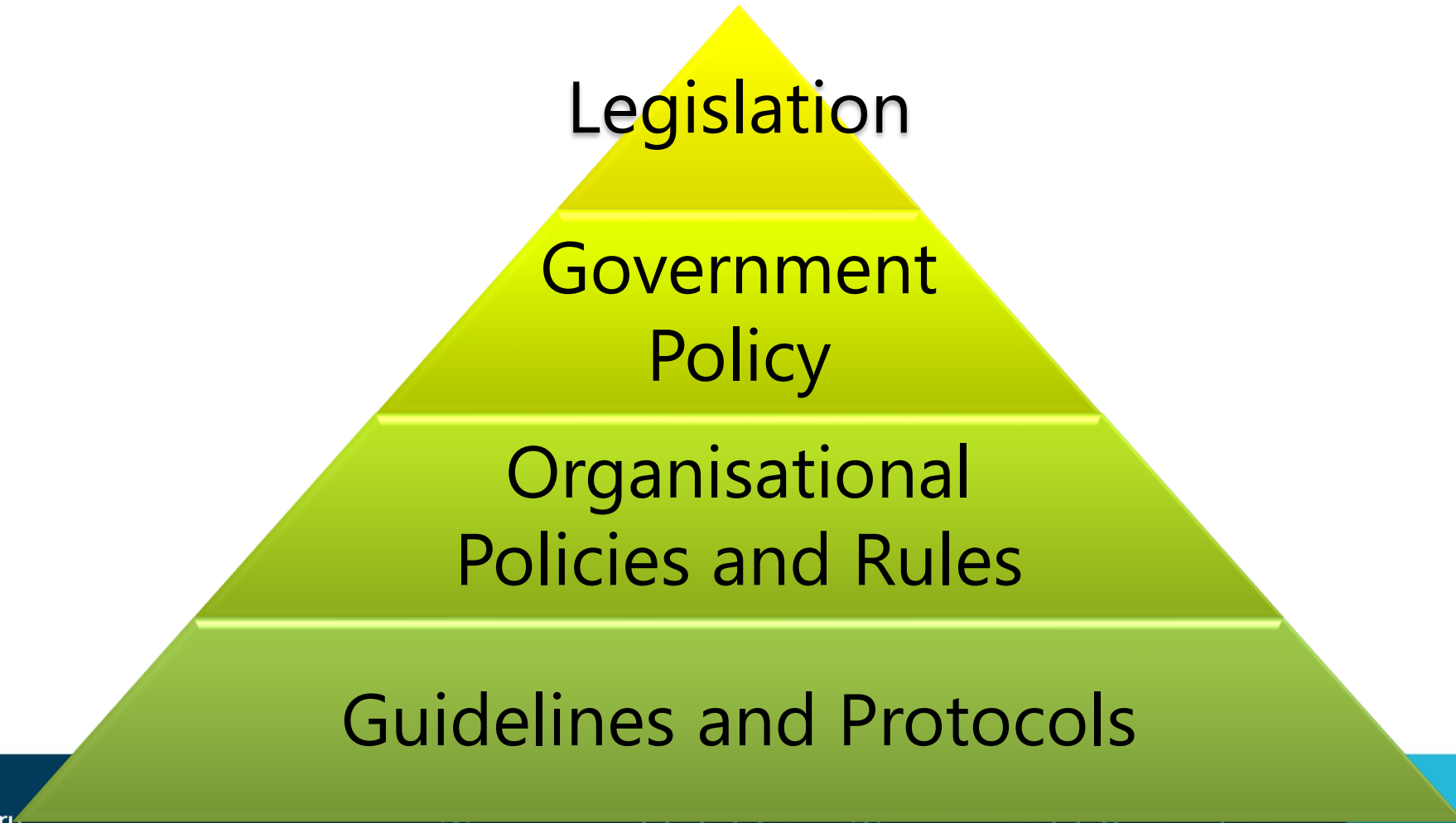
(Gasper, 2010:13)

Policy and Legislative Influences

- Policy Drivers

- Policy can influence and drive change. There are many examples, such as the Laming report that have made recommendations that have resulted in legislative changes.
- Although sadly, many of these reports have the same recommendations, as a result of the system failing the child.

How do legislation and policy affect Multi-agency working?



What is a policy?

- Policy is a plan or course of action, as of a government, political party or business intended to influence and determine decisions, actions and other matters.

What is legislation?

- 'Laws, considered collectively'.
- 'The process of making or enacting laws'. (OED, no date)

Definition of a child in need

A child shall be taken to be in need if—

- (a) he is unlikely to achieve or maintain, or to have the opportunity of achieving or maintaining, a reasonable standard of health or development without the provision for him of services by a local authority under this Part;
- (b) his health or development is likely to be significantly impaired, or further impaired, without the provision for him of such services; or
- (c) he is disabled, and “family”, in relation to such a child, includes any person who has parental responsibility for the child and any other person with whom he has been living.

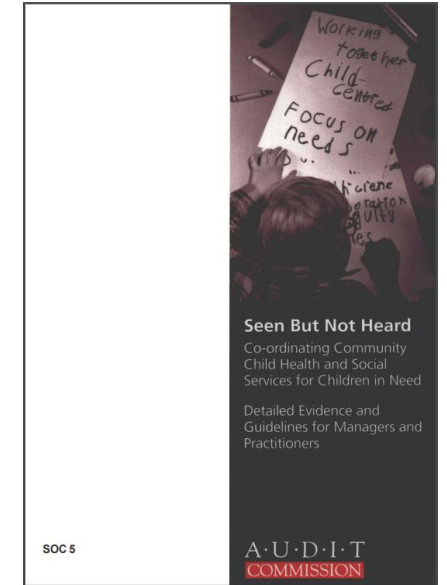
Children Act 1989 Section 17, 10 a-c



Seen But Not Heard

- The Audit Commission report *Seen But Not Heard* (1994) reviewed service delivery under the 1989 Act:
- Shift in balance from child protection to family support to promote children's welfare more effectively
- Recommended Children's Service Plans produced jointly by social services, health and education

(Cronin & Smith 2010: 102-103)



Research Skills Note:
What was the Audit Commission?



Welsh Context

NAFWC12/07 - Safeguarding Children: Working Together Under the Children Act 2004

- Working together to safeguard and promote the well-being of children

Children and Families (Wales) Measure 2010



- Sets out duties for Local Authorities in relation to their Child Poverty Duty
- Child poverty, play and participation
- Child minding and day care
- Integrated family support teams

Working Together Under the Children Act 2004

The Welsh Assembly Government has adopted Seven Core Aims through which it will work to ensure that all children and young people:

- have a flying start in life;
- have a comprehensive range of education and learning opportunities;
- enjoy the best possible health and are free from abuse, victimisation and exploitation;
- have access to play, leisure, sporting and cultural activities;
- are listened to, treated with respect, and have their race and cultural identity recognised;
- have a safe home and a community which supports physical and emotional wellbeing; and
- are not disadvantaged by poverty



Welsh Context

Shared Purpose – Shared Delivery

- Guidance published following the Children & Families (Wales) Measure
- Sets out how major agencies will work together
- Established a Single Integrated Plan which replaces:
 - The Community Strategy,
 - The Children and Young People's Plan,
 - The Health, Social Care and Well-being Strategy, and
 - The Community Safety Partnership Plan



N.B. This also contains a summary of the relevant legislation in the area

Welsh Context contd.

Welsh Context

- 2011 – Wales becomes the first country in the UK to make the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) part of its domestic law. (UNCRC first signed 1989)
- The basis for the strategy developed by the Welsh Assembly Government is inline with the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child
- 2012 – Consultation closes on the WG's Social Services (Wales) Bill
- 2012 – The Protection of Freedoms Act 2012 becomes law in the UK.

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