

Child Protection Panel

Terms of Reference

The purpose of this Panel is to provide assurance at elected member level that the County Council is discharging its duties in relation to child protection, having particular regard to the following:-

- (i) That the response is proportionate;
- (ii) That the emergency response is appropriate and effective;
- (iii) The long term maintenance of child safety;
- (iv) That lessons are learnt from local and national sources.

This will be done as follows:-

- (i) To consider reports from regulatory bodies, specifically Ofsted, on services for child protection.
- (ii) To monitor the performance of the Department in relation to child protection.
- (iii) To receive advice at an early stage on cases of a sensitive or high profile nature which are likely to be the subject of serious case reviews or attract adverse criticism.
- (iv) To receive briefings on recommendations made by national and local serious case reviews and monitor the response of the Local Authority to those recommendations.
- (v) To receive briefings on national issues relating to safeguarding and ensure that the Local Authority has responded appropriately.
- (vi) To act as a point of reference or sounding board for the Director of Children and Family Services in considering the quality of child protection services.
- (vii) To visit operational children's service teams and advise the Director of Children and Family Services of issues affecting those teams where appropriate.

Matters of concern or matters which raise policy issues will be referred to the Director of Children and Family Services or the Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee for consideration.

Membership

Membership has not yet determined. However, it is proposed that the Panel consists of five members with the following political balance:-

3 Con: 1 Lab: 1 Lib

At least two of the member should also serve on the Children's Social Care Panel.