

## 01 What is Working Together 2023 (WT)?

Statutory multi-agency guidance which outlines expectations and responsibilities linked to Children Act 1989 and Children Act 2004 for safeguarding systems to help protect and promote the welfare of children. It applies to all organisations, agencies and individuals with functions relating to children.

## 07 Organisational responsibilities

- Sets out the statutory responsibilities of a range of (unchanged) agencies and organisations, including allegations made to the LADO.
- Emphasis on the Prison and Probation services highlighting the importance of exchanging information with children's social care.

### Learning from Reviews

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 the age of 25.

## 06 Statutory safeguarding

- Local protocols:
  - for assessment and support should be published, including who can be the lead practitioner under S17 (Child in Need), who is not always a social worker where instead, oversight comes from a social work qualified practice supervisor.
  - should reflect the specific need of groups including young carers, unborn children, and children with special educational needs and/or disabilities.
- WT23 introduces new [national multi-agency child protection standards](#) and clarifies the multi-agency response to harm from outside the home.
- Processes for contacts, referrals, and action to take when there are concerns about a child remain unchanged.

## 05 Early Help

- Ambition to ensure families receive the right support at the right time.
- Early Help should be informed by the Early Help system guide with joined up early help services made available through Family Hubs.
- Partnership must publish a threshold documents.
- Activity to be coordinated by a lead practitioner drawn from across the partnership and might include social workers.
- The delivery of services should be as local and accessible as possible.
- Role and importance of education in Early Help is emphasised.

## 02 Key changes from Working Together 2018

- 6 Chapters, rather than 5, emphasise strengths-based collaborative approaches as highlighted by the new first chapter 'A Shared Responsibility'.
- Multi-agency safeguarding arrangements are strengthened e.g. by clarifying roles and responsibilities and emphasising the role of education.
- How organisations provide support and protection is now under 3 sections: 'Early help', 'Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children', and 'Child protection'.
- Focussing on Prison and Probation services there is a revised approach to the mutual benefits of information sharing.
- The Learning Reviews chapter emphasises support for care leavers to improve outcomes for this group.

## 03 A Shared Responsibility

Introduces four principles for working with parents and carers:

1. Build positive, trusting, and cooperative relationships.
2. All communications should be respectful, non-blaming, clear, inclusive, adapted to needs, and jargon free.
3. Empower parents and carers to participate in decision-making.
4. Involve parents, carers, families, and local communities in designing process that affect them.

Expectations for multi-agency working.

- Organisations collaborate effectively.
- Staff learn together.
- Safeguarding practice is resourced.
- Everyone is accountable for practice quality.
- Constructive challenge is encouraged.

## 04 Multi-agency Safeguarding Arrangements

- Led by three statutory partners: the Local Authority, Health, and Police with added emphasis on the pivotal role of education in local arrangements.
- Separation of the strategic lead safeguarding partners (LSP) from the delegate partners (DSP) who deliver the arrangements with a named partnership chair to be appointed from the DSP's.
- Clarity for information-sharing, independent scrutiny, funding, and reporting.
- Agencies are encouraged to consider the importance of voluntary, charity and social enterprise (VCSE) organisations within arrangements to improve oversight, engagement, and consistency.

