

THE LORD LAMING REVIEW

The Protection of Children in England: A Progress Report

Children's Services Review Committee
9 April 2009

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Sunderland
City Council

LORD LAMING REVIEW

- Published 12 March 2009
- Report commissioned by the Rt Hon Ed Balls MP, Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families following the death of Baby P in Haringey
- Lord Laming sets out progress made since the Victoria Climbié inquiry (which he led) in 2003
- 58 recommendations to improve the protection of children in England

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Recommendations ordered under 8 headings

- Progress
- Leadership and Accountability
- Support for Children
- Inter-agency Working
- Children's Workforce
- Improvement and Challenge
- Organisation and Finance
- Legal

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- Wide ranging and comprehensive
- Builds on Victoria Climbié Inquiry
- 44 recommendations directed to Government and Government Departments
- 14 recommendations to local bodies

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- Speaking at the launch of the report, Lord Laming said, “Keeping children safe and promoting their welfare is a ***responsibility of us all***, but more needs to be done to inject ***energy and drive*** into safeguarding and child protection across all frontline services.”
- “Throughout this task it has been clear that the ***vast majority of people*** working in this area ***aspire to improve*** the lives of the most vulnerable children and young people.”
- “I am convinced that with vision and ambition ***more can be done***. That is why the recommendations I am making today herald the need for ***step change*** in expertise and leadership for frontline workers, backed up with commitments from Government and other national bodies to drive this change forward.”

LORD LAMING REVIEW – KEY RECOMMENDATIONS

- Establish National Safeguarding Delivery Unit (NSDU)
- Social Work Taskforce
- Children's Trusts additional responsibilities to ensure safeguarding remit working effectively
- Review points of referral

LORD LAMING REVIEW – KEY RECOMMENDATIONS

- Ofsted Inspections
- Children's Trusts and LSCB
- Integrated Children's System (ICS)
- Additional training for DCS role – safeguarding and child protection
- Government should ring fence resources for safeguarding work

LORD LAMING REVIEW – KEY MESSAGES

- Recruitment and retention
- Responsibility for child protection and safeguarding
- Resources and impact must be made at both protection and early intervention/prevention work

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PROGRESS (Chapter 1)

- Every Child Matters (ECM)
- Training and Workforce
- Senior management
- Inspection Process
- New National Safeguarding Delivery Unit be established

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PROGRESS: SUNDERLAND POSITION

- ECM agenda embedded in Sunderland
- Sunderland Safeguarding Children Board has comprehensive workforce development programme.

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LEADERSHIP AND ACCOUNTABILITY (Chapter 2)

- Government should introduce new statutory targets
- Chief officers of safeguarding agencies
- All Directors of Children's Services
- Every Children's Trust should ensure that Children and Young People's Plan (CYPP) has a robust Needs Assessment for all children

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LEADERSHIP AND ACCOUNTABILITY – SUNDERLAND POSITION

- Quarterly senior management visits made to IRT
- DCS has regular contact with IRT
- Children's Services senior management
- Sunderland CYPP

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SUPPORT FOR CHILDREN (Chapter 3)

- Department of Health (DoH) and Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF)
- Intake/duty teams
- Children's Trust must ensure that all assessments must take account of case histories and significant events, and must include DIRECT CONTACT with the child
- Integrated Children's System (ICS)
- Ofsted and schools

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SUPPORT FOR CHILDREN – SUNDERLAND POSITION

- Initial response team currently handles all contacts and section 47 enquiries
- Initial and Core Assessments collect and consider all relevant information
- Child(ren) seen and spoken to if old enough
- ICS

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INTER-AGENCY WORKING (Chapter 4)

- Formal procedures are in place to manage a conflict of opinions between professionals
- Statutory representation on LSCBs
- Automatic referral
- Information Sharing Guidance

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INTER-AGENCY WORKING – SUNDERLAND POSITION

- SSCB guidelines
- IRT notified of all occasions of domestic violence when children are present
- Schools and Adult Safeguarding membership
- Sunderland Children's Trust

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CHILDREN'S WORKFORCE (Chapter 5)

- Social Workers
- Health Visitors
- Police
- Co-location

Training and Development

- Social Work
- Children's Trusts

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CHILDREN'S WORKFORCE – SUNDERLAND POSITION

- Sunderland social workers
- Council already developed new progression routes for social workers
- Target caseloads
- Sunderland Safeguarding Children Board has comprehensive safeguarding training programme
- Health Visitors

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IMPROVEMENT AND CHALLENGE (Chapter 6)

- Serious Case Reviews

IMPROVEMENT AND CHALLENGE – SUNDERLAND POSITION

- SSCB
- Appointment of Independent Chairperson

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ORGANISATION AND FINANCE (Chapter 7)

- Children's Trust and LSCB
- LSCBs should report to Children's Trust Board and publish annual report on effectiveness of safeguarding in local area
- LSCBs should provide robust challenge to Children's Trusts

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ORGANISATION AND FINANCE – SUNDERLAND POSITION

- Children's Trust and SSCB not chaired by same person

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LEGAL (Chapter 8)

- Reduce damaging delays in care proceedings system
- Review court fees

LEGAL – SUNDERLAND POSITION

- Await response from Government

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SUNDERLAND ACTIONS TO DATE

- Portfolio Holder written to all Children's Trust partners inviting them to assess report and report on necessary actions to their executive groups
- Portfolio Holder will recommend to Sunderland Children's Trust that a high level Laming Review group is established
- Head of Safeguarding chairing Children's Services Laming analysis group
- DCS undertaking several Laming Briefings
- DCS written to all Headteachers and Children's Services staff asking them to read the report and consider appropriate actions

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SUMMARY

- Very broad review
- Significant impact for Government
- Recommendations for all delivery safeguarding agents
- Aims to raise status of safeguarding and improve outcomes
- Sense of frustration about progress – “NOW JUST DO IT”
- Emphasis on early intervention as well as protection
- Children’s Trust needs to agree multi-agency process to respond to Laming Report