

Working Together 2018 (amended 9<sup>th</sup> December 2020)

While not a new edition of Working Together (it keeps the same date) there are some changes in the guidance

Here is a full list of the changes.

### Changes

- contextual safeguarding, as it was with Keeping Children Safe in Education 2020, has been renamed Assessment of risk outside the home. The section (p25) now includes teenage relationship abuse as a specific threat.
- there is a new section on notifications of serious incident, rapid review and local child safeguarding practice review on page 96
- the definition of safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children has been updated in line with KCSiE to specify "mental and physical" health (p7)
- references to domestic abuse have been strengthened throughout the document with explicit and repeated reference to controlling and coercive behaviour. The section on child centred approach to safeguarding now explicitly mentions domestic abuse and controlling and coercive behaviour (p9), it is cited as an example for Police (p65). The definition of abuse in the glossary has changed to now include: "Harm can include ill treatment that is not physical as well as the impact of witnessing ill treatment of others. This can be particularly relevant, for example, in relation to the impact on children of all forms of domestic abuse" (p106) and definitions of domestic abuse and coercive and controlling behaviour have been added to the glossary (p110-111)
- The section on identifying families in need of early help states multi-agency training is important in identifying need, but adds and to understand "the services available to support children and young people" p13. It then adds to the additional areas practitioners should develop their knowledge in around new and emerging threats. In addition to online abuse, grooming, CSE and radicalisation the updated guidance adds CCE, domestic abuse and controlling and coercive behaviour and its impact on children (p14)
- Being alert to need for early help now includes having a parent or child in custody (p14) and, in line with KCSiE, recognises mental health problems can be an indicator of abuse. Only appropriately trained professionals should diagnose, but Working Together specifies school staff as well placed to observe and identify risk. It highlights the importance that school staff are aware of impact of ACEs. (p15). There is a new paragraph saying where a young person is admitted to mental health facility there should be consideration of a social care referral (para 20, p18). Local protocols for assessment should pay additional care to children in mental health inpatient settings (p27)

- Slight change in emphasis around consent to early help: Was: “In cases where consent is not given for an early help assessment” Now: “in cases where agreement to an early help assessment cannot be obtained” (p15)
- Information sharing triggers increased from where children go missing to those at risk of going missing (p19)
- The much quoted section on “Fears about sharing information must not be allowed to stand in the way of the need to promote welfare” has had the underlining removed and a reference to GDPR inserted (p19). The bullet point on aiming to seek consent has been removed and replaced with a GDPR analysis around the appropriate legal base as a ‘legal obligation’ or ‘public task’ as the bar for consent under GDPR is higher than under the DPA 1998. The remainder of this section adapts around this (p20). The myth busting guide on p21 has been similarly adapted.
- P23 brings a new section on the homelessness duty under the Homelessness Reduction Act 2017. This places a duty on all social services functions (inc early help and leaving care) to refer to a housing authority service if service users are or may be homeless, or are threatened with homelessness, with the consent of the service user. (p23).
- The fourth bullet point in respect of allegations about people in positions in trust added in KCSiE has been added to working together (p60)
- There is a wider notification requirement for armed service children who are made subject to a child protection plan (p72)
- Violence reduction units have been added to the list of strategic partnerships that should be considered (p76) in forming safeguarding partnerships. The requirement to publish the organisations and agencies they consider relevant and involve has been downgraded to “should”.
- The link to the Child Safeguarding Online Notification form has changed to <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/report-a-serious-child-safeguarding-incident> (p86)
- The link to the FII guidance has been removed from the sources of further information and the following have been added:
  - Prevention of homelessness and provision of accommodation for 16 and 17 year old young people who may be homeless and/or require accommodation Department for Education and Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government (p112)
  - Child Exploitation Disruption Toolkit Home Office (p113)
  - Commissioning framework for CSA support Home Office (p113)
  - Draft Domestic Abuse Statutory Guidance Framework Home Office (p113)
  - Homelessness code of guidance for local authorities Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (p114)
  - Guide to General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) – Information Commissioner’s Office (ICO) (p115)