

**Appendix 2**

**Summary of The Munro Review of Child Protection: Final Report  
*A child-centred system- published May 2011***

**Chapter 2 - Principles of an effective child protection system**

- i. Should be child-centred
- ii. Family is usually the best place to bring up children
- iii. Helping children and families involves working with them
- iv. Early help is better for children
- v. System needs to offer variety to cover children's needs and circumstances
- vi. Good professional practice informed by knowledge of theory and research
- vii. Uncertainty and risk are features of cp work
- viii. Measure of success of cp systems is whether children are receiving effective help.

**Chapter 3 - A system that values professional expertise**

- i. Recommends revising statutory guidance. The Framework for Assessment of Children in Need and their Families (2000) to be revised and re-issued to give professionals the responsibility for deciding how the 10 underpinning principles currently in the assessment about being child centred etc, should be implemented in practice.
- ii. Recommends changes to timescales and assessments, no longer Initial and Core, but a proportionate assessment.
- iii. Working together to be revised to distinguish between rules and professional guidance - in future this is to be principles that professionals apply.
- iv. Risk - need to be 'risk sensible' rather than 'risk averse'. Sets out the ACPO 10 'Risk Principles' (P. 43, 44) \*
- v. Recommends reforming inspection and providing a new Inspection Framework that examines the effectiveness of all local services in providing help to the child from needing to receiving help, as well as all inspections to be unannounced.
- vi. Performance Information - LAs and partners should use nationally collected and locally published performance data to benchmark performance and measure improvement.

**Chapter 4 - Accountability - LSCBs - SCRs**

- i. Anticipates that health and wellbeing boards may play a similar role to Children's Trust Boards (Coalition govt plans to remove stat req for LAs to have CT Boards)
- ii. LSCBs should be independently chaired, but "the review does not wish to prescribe this model of operation beyond endorsing the principle that having an independent chair is generally preferable".
- iii. Chair of LSCB to work closely with Police and Crime Commissioner
- iv. Describes current accountability structure, says this may change in the future but doesn't describe changes
- v. LSCBs to monitor effectiveness of local provision of effective early help services (new)
- vi. LSCBs to continue to monitor/encourage, provide and evaluate multi-agency safeguarding training
- vii. Recommends LSCBs undertake case reviews using the systems approach as a useful multi-agency learning tool
- viii. Recommends a systems approach is used in SCRs i.e. move away from the specifics of the case to identify the underlying issues that are influencing practice generally
- ix. Recommends revising statutory guidance on SCRs to remove the requirement for IMRs and to replace the overview author with a lead reviewer, trained in systems methodology who will work with local professionals to collect and analyse data.
- x. The final SCR report will focus on professional practice with minimal details of the child and family concerned.
- xi. Acknowledges concerns around criminal proceedings but believes that systems approach doesn't change current SCR situation in relation to courts;
- xii. A national training and accreditation programme for lead reviewers of SCRs to be developed;
- xiii. LSCB to retain responsibility for initiating and signing off the SCR report;

**Chapter 5 - Early help**

- i. Govt should place a duty on LAs and stat partners to secure sufficient provision of local early help services specifying what is available set against assessment of need (JSNA), how they will identify children suffering or likely to suffer harm, local resourcing of early help and the identification of the early help needed by a particular family.
- ii. Planned health and wellbeing boards could be potential source of support for this.
- iii. Identifying children at risk - talks about role of schools and police and the development of multi-agency teams

**Chapter 6 - Developing Social Work expertise**

- i. Education, training, research to inform practice, ongoing training, multi-disciplinary teams

**Chapter 7 - Supporting effective Social Work practice**

- i. LAs should start an ongoing process to review and redesign the ways in which child and family SW is delivered, drawing on evidence of effectiveness of helping methods and supporting evidence based practice.
- ii. CPD

**Summary of the Government's Response – published July 2011**

The government agrees with Professor Munro that the system has become too focused on compliance with rules and procedures and has lost its focus on the needs and experiences of children and young people.

It is also agreed that her recommendations need to be considered in the round and in partnership with other services.

**Theme 1 - Valuing professional expertise**

Government agrees that professional practice has been driven too much by compliance with regulation and rules. They will oversee a reduction in the amount of regulation, and revise the statutory framework to place greater emphasis on the value of direct work with children and their families, and for more evidence based practice.

**Theme 2 - Sharing responsibility for the provision of early help**

Government will work with partners to create change in how local agencies coordinate their work in order to maximize existing resources and increase the number of preventive services offered.

The report notes that early intervention for teenagers will be given the same importance as for young children, and a non ring-fenced early intervention grant has been made available.

**Theme 3 - Developing social work expertise and supporting effective social work practice**

Government agrees social workers should be more concerned with the effectiveness of help provided rather than compliance with procedures. The need to improve the knowledge, skills and expertise of social workers throughout their career, from training to continuing professional development (CPD)

Government will work with the Social Work Reform Board (SWRB) to incorporate the development of specific capabilities necessary for child and family social work into the professional capabilities framework (Social Work Task Force, [2010]).

From 2012 these capabilities will explicitly inform social work training, professional development and performance appraisal. The need for a career path allowing for ongoing work with children and families and a stronger voice for practitioners in management and government is acknowledged.

**Children's Social Work – Case Management**

**Theme 4 - Strengthening accountabilities and creating a learning system**

Government agrees that multi-agency working is critical for accurate needs assessment and provision of the right help, and that clear lines of accountability are vital.

The child protection system will need to become better at monitoring, learning and adapting, and to this end government as also recently issues new guidance statutory guidance on the role of the Director of Children's Services and the Lead Member for children's services and to consider the methodology used by local safeguarding children's boards (LSCBs) when serious case reviews are undertaken.

