

**Munro Review Implementation Working Group  
23 June 2011 – Meeting Notes**

<b>Present</b>	
Tim Loughton MP	Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Children and Families - Chair
Anne Milton MP	Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Public Health
Yasmin Bevan	Executive Principal and Headteacher of Denbigh High School and Challney High School for Boys
Anne Marie Carrie	Chief Executive, Barnardo's
Corinne May Chahal	Co-Chair, National College of Social Work
John Goldup	Social Care Director, Ofsted
Reena Keeble	Headteacher, Cannon Lane First School
Andrew Martin	Emergency Duty Social Work Team Manager (London Borough of Haringey)
Brian Moore	Chief Constable Wiltshire and ACPO lead Violence, Public Protection and Risk
Roger Morgan	Children's Rights Director for England
Mark Rogers	Deputy Chair, Social Work Reform Board and, Chief Executive Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council
Amanda Thomas	Child Protection Officer, Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health
Isabelle Trowler	Assistant Director, Children's Social Care (London Borough of Hackney)
Heather Gwynn	Director, Children, Families and Maternity, Department of Health, representing Anne Milton MP
Charlie Lang	Deputy Director, Safeguarding Practice, Improvement and Learning Division, DfE
Roger Parr	Head of Secretariat, Safeguarding Practice, Improvement and Learning Division, DfE
Jeanette Pugh	Director, Safeguarding Group, DfE
<b>Observers</b>	
Priya Brahmbatt	Children and Families Press Officer, DfE
Pamela Dow	Deputy Principal Private Secretary, DfE
<b>Apologies</b>	
Matt Dunkley	President, Association of Directors of Children's Services and, Director of Children's Services, East Sussex County Council
Kevin Jones	Assistant Director, Children's Social Care (Cumbria County Council)
Jo Webber	Deputy Policy director and Interim Director Ambulance Service Network, NHS Confederation
Graham Wright	Cabinet Member for Children and Family services (Knowsley Metropolitan Borough Council)
Jacky Tiotto	Head, Safeguarding Practice Improvement and Learning Division, DfE

## **Item 1 – Welcome and introductions**

1.1 Tim Loughton welcomed everyone to the third meeting of the Implementation Working Group (the Group). A particular welcome was given to Anne Milton who had been prevented from attending the first two meetings due to Parliamentary business.

1.2 Anne Milton apologised for not being able to make the previous meetings, but was very pleased to be able to make this one given the important stage the Group were at in relation to the Government's response to such an important issue.

1.3 Copies of the notes of the second meeting were tabled and the Group was informed these would be available on the DfE website shortly.

## **Item 2 – Discussion: response to Munro Review**

2.1 Tim Loughton updated the Group on developments since the previous meeting. Officials had prepared a first draft of the response in light of the Group's comments on the 15<sup>th</sup> and bilateral discussions with officials in other key government departments. This would form the basis of today's discussion.

2.2 Tim Loughton suggested the focus of the discussion should be on the latter eight recommendations given that the Group had discussed the first seven at the last meeting. He invited Jeanette Pugh to outline the proposed structure of the response. He stressed that the Government response would be informed, rather than endorsed, the Group or the organisations that individual members worked for.

2.3 Jeanette Pugh described the proposed structure of the response, which would include an overarching narrative together with specific responses to the 15 recommendations. She then invited the Group to raise any further points they wished to make on the seven recommendations discussed previously. The following comments were made:

### Recommendation 1

- The response should recognise work already underway locally.
- Clarity on timescales was requested.

### Recommendations 2 & 3

- It would be important to distinguish clearly between Ofsted's planned consultation on the inspection framework for children's services and the schools inspection framework which has been the subject of a recent consultation.

### Recommendation 8

- Adult health and social care services (such as substance misuse or mental ill health) should also be included

### Recommendation 13

- This is about continuous improvement and whole system change – reviewing, redesigning and then adjusting services to deliver effective help to children, young people and families.
- Children and families should help inform the improvement process.

### Recommendation 10

- Training for professionals needs to be accessible as well as available.
- There are professionals who are 'hard to reach' and do not think they need training. They need to be factored into local considerations.
- There needs to be a clear link to sector improvement work

2.4 The discussion then moved to the recommendations that had not been discussed at the previous meeting. Jeanette Pugh suggested that recommendations 11, 12 and 14 were considered collectively.

### Recommendation 11, 12 and 14

- The relationship of the Principal Child and Family Social Worker with other professionals was a key point and it would be important to be clear about the expected role. There could be a useful role for sector-led work here.
- Although recommendation 14 related to local authority child and family social workers, the role could be equally applicable in the voluntary or private sectors.
- These recommendations had a close link with recommendation 13 on the redesign of services
- Change should be effected sooner rather than later but there was a recognition that some local authorities would need a longer lead in time
- The College of Social Work would be looking to support these areas of reform
- There were lessons to be learned from the health service and the introduction of named and designated leads.
- Accreditation was one possible method for increasing professionalism of the workforce although there are examples in other workforces where accreditation can have unintended consequences.
- Reform and improvement of the social work profession needs to be led from within the profession.

### Recommendation 15

- The recommendation that there should be a Chief Social Worker was supported, but it was recognised that further detailed work needed to be done, for example, in relation to any possible related legislative provision.

### Recommendation 5

- This was not just about producing a document (the LSCB report), but about producing something that would provoke discussion with and between local leaders.

#### Recommendation 6

- LSCBs should be mindful not just of local need but also of locality specific issues.
- The response needs to recognise the changes resulting from the health reforms

#### Recommendation 7

- There are links between this recommendation and the designation of local Principal Child and Family Social Workers, but the different local roles were distinct..
- It would be important to 'future-proof' the response as far as possible.
- The important point of this recommendation was the need to have a clear line of sight in terms of responsibility

#### Recommendation 9

- There are arguments for and against ending early the current SCR evaluation process.
- Government needs to be clear there wouldn't be any unintended consequences from such a move and it would be important to have a managed transition to any new arrangements.
- There was agreement with the need to introduce alternative models of learning but they will need to be considered and developed carefully to ensure they support learning and minimise burden.

### **3. Next Steps**

3.1 Tim Loughton thanked members for a useful and constructive discussion. Their comments would be considered for the next draft which would be circulated at the end of the week with a further opportunity to comment. Shortly after that there would be a process of securing cross-Government clearance ahead of publication which it was hoped would be before recess.

3.2 The Minister went on to thank the Group for their work over the last four weeks, and noted their collective and individual contributions had been enormously helpful. Going forward he suggested that he would like to reconvene subsets of the Group to help work on specific issues, and that the whole Group might meet again in four to six months time.

**DfE**  
**29 June 2011**