

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

Present	
Tim Loughton MP	Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Children and Families - Chair
Anne Marie Carrie	Chief Executive, Barnardo's
Corinne May Chahal	Co-Chair, National College of Social Work
Matt Dunkley	President, Association of Directors of Children's Services and, Director of Children's Services, East Sussex County Council
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)
Jo Webber	Deputy Policy director and Interim Director Ambulance Service Network, NHS Confederation
Heather Gwynn	Director, Children, Families and Maternity, Department of Health, representing Anne Milton MP
David Curtis	Private Secretary to Tim Loughton, DfE
Roger Parr	Head of Secretariat, Safeguarding Practice, Improvement and Learning Division, DfE
Jeanette Pugh	Director, Safeguarding Group, DfE
Jacky Tiotto	Head, Safeguarding Practice Improvement and Learning Division, DfE
Apologies	
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
Kevin Jones	Assistant Director, Children's Social Care (Cumbria County Council)
Graham Wright	Cabinet Member for Children and Family services (Knowsley Metropolitan Borough Council)

Item 1 – Welcome and introductions

1.1 The Minister welcomed everyone to the second meeting of the Implementation Working Group. Particular mention was given to Roger Morgan, Brian Moore and Mark Rogers who had joined the Group since the last meeting.

1.2 The Group offered their congratulations to Reena Keeble on her elevation to Dame, having been honoured in the Queen’s Birthday Honours List.

1.3 The Minister informed the Group that the notes from the first meeting had been published on the DfE website.

Item 2 – Ministerial update

2.1 The Minister highlighted two particular developments in the last week – the parliamentary debate on Munro on 9 June and the outcome of the pause to the Health and Social Care Bill.

Item 3 – Discussion: response to Munro Review

3.1 The Minister opened the discussion by reminding the group that the Government had committed to issuing a response by the summer recess. This would set out the Government’s position overall, and respond to recommendations including an indication of those it was possible to accept immediately and those that needed further consideration.

3.2 Jacky Tiotto outlined the recommendations under each of the four themes along with a provisional indication of whether the Government was likely to accept, accept in principle or consider further. The Group then discussed the first two groups of recommendations and the following key points were made.

Recommendation 1

- There was a need to avoid substituting inspection for statutory guidance
- The relaxation of assessment timescales needs to be managed carefully to avoid a ‘postcode lottery’ on child protection.
- Experiences from setting up the four trial authorities would be a good model for moving forward.
- Local authorities could be asked to prepare a statement of readiness and a transition plan and submit these to the LSCB to gain approval
- The onus should be on local authorities to show they are making improvements as a result of the relaxation of prescription.
- Inspection and peer review should go hand in hand.
- There should be a cycle of self assessment which builds on the transition plan.
- This was not just about systems and process, but also about supporting and equipping staff as part of a change programme.
- There was a role for the National College of Social Work in supporting culture change.
- Accepting this recommendation would send a positive message to social workers that change was happening

Recommendations 2 & 3

- Further work was needed with the four inspectorates to examine the extent to which joint inspections could be realised
- A focus on the voice of the child was important but challenging
- It would be important to be clear about the focus of inspection. Is it child protection work or wider safeguarding?
- The sector led improvement programme needs to match Ofsted's reforms. Any discussions between the four inspectorates should include the Children's Improvement Board.
- Health expertise needs to be a vital component of inspection.
- The role of health is recognised but there is a question of capacity.
- The role of inspection is a strong feature of the review and inspectors need to have the skills to support direct engagement with children and young people.
- A key issue for multidisciplinary teams is developing and maintaining expertise.

Recommendation 4

- The draft data set in the Munro report is short on workforce and outcome data
- It needs to reflect multi-agency data, and that includes the voluntary sector.
- A distinction needs to be made between data that is needed as opposed to data that is required.
- The Children's Improvement Board would be a valuable resource to work alongside Government on the issue of data.
- It would be important not to lose the original messages on reducing data burdens.
- The question 'will this increase or streamline the data burden?' should be asked
- We will always need and want to collect data, but the burden does not need to be on frontline staff.
- Local; authorities should be having early conversations with their IT suppliers.

Recommendation 8

- It would be important to work with the sector upfront.
- Engagement needs to be right across health professions.
- Developments following the pause in the Health and Social care Bill needed to be reflected.

Recommendation 13

- Redesign of services is a matter for local managers.
- The views of service users needed to be considered.
- A number of localities have already undertaken service redesign which could be used as illustrative models, but there was a need to be careful about how these are presented. Different authorities will have different starting points.
- Government shouldn't be seen to endorse specific locations' redesigns as each area will need to look at what will work best for them.

Recommendation 10

- It is not clear that a duty is the most appropriate lever in this case.
- There was a need to consider what sanction would sit alongside such a duty.
- Effective commissioning of local services is the key rather than a duty.

- There was clear value in having a statement of expectations.
- There was a concern that non-statutory services are the first to be cut
- Government should consider the possibility of amending existing duties.
- There was a possible role here for health and wellbeing boards and sufficiency of provision locally.

3.3 The Minister thanked members for a useful discussion. Their comments would be extremely helpful in preparing the Government's response. As time limitations prevented coverage of all the recommendations, the remainder would be the focus of the next meeting.

3.4 Roger Morgan proposed that a children and young people's version of the Government response should be produced. This received unanimous support. Roger offered his assistance in preparing such a version.

Date of next meeting

The next meeting is due to take place on Thursday 23 June. 16:00 – 17:30

DfE

22 June 2011