

NORTH EAST LINCOLNSHIRE SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN PARTNERSHIP

CHILD SAFEGUARDING PRACTICE REVIEW PUBLISHING & PUBLISHING POLICY

INTRODUCTION TO THE POLICY

North East Lincolnshire (NEL) Safeguarding Children Partnership (SCP) is committed to the principles of learning and improvement outlined in the Working Together to Safeguard Children Guide (2018).

To this end North East Lincolnshire aims to ensure that the Child Safeguarding Practice Review process enables professionals and organisations protecting children to reflect on the quality of services provided and learn from their own practice and the practice of others. The SCP also aims to be transparent in Practice Review processes through publishing reports on its website so that our community and partners across NEL have an understanding of both what works in practice and what can go wrong.

Our learning and improvement framework is geared towards ensuring both professionals and the public are aware of the various roles and responsibilities involved in children's safeguarding and support services, across the spectrum of universal provision through to statutory interventions.

Where cases have been subject to Practice Review, the SCP is committed to allowing all parties access to the full overview report in order to be aware of the learning regarding: 'what happened', any practice issues that were found to have contributed to the outcomes in the case and what actions have been or are being taken as a result. To ensure transparency, we are committed to publishing the full Practice Review reports and actions being taken to promote lasting improvement to practice and children's welfare.

PERIOD OF PUBLICATION

All reviews of cases meeting the Practice Review criteria will result in a report that is published and readily accessible on the Safer NEL website for a minimum of 12 months. Once a report has been published in NEL, it will remain on the website for no less than the minimum required period and in most cases it will remain on the website longer, until all actions arising from the Practice Reviews have been completed.

In some instances and where appropriate, reports may be left on the website for extended periods, for example where a further Practice Review has been conducted that reflects similar learning or where the Practice Review findings will link with or contribute to learning from subsequent reviews.

Following removal from the website and for the benefit of national and shared learning, the SCP will continue to make reports available on request. The SCP ensures from the start, that consideration is given to the fact that reports will be published, and written in such a way that publication will be unlikely to harm the welfare of any child or vulnerable adult in the case.

The SCP therefore quality assures final Practice Review reports to ensure that they:

- Provide a sound analysis of what happened in the case
- State what needs to happen in order to reduce the risk of recurrence;
- Are written in plain English and in a way that can be easily understood by professionals and the public alike;
- Are suitable for publication without needing to be amended or redacted

NORTH EAST LINCOLNSHIRE SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN PARTNERSHIP

- Include information about actions planned and already taken in response to the findings, showing the impact those actions have had on improving services and what more will be done.

PREPARING TO PUBLISH PRACTICE REVIEWS

When compiling and preparing to publish reports, we carefully consider how best to manage the impact of publication on children, family members and others affected by the case. The SCP complies with the **Data Protection Act 1998** and with any other restrictions on publication, such as court orders. The timing of publication therefore takes account of the impact on any ongoing legal or criminal proceedings, including inquests.

Once completed copies of all Practice Review Practice Review reports, including any action taken as a result of the findings of the Practice Review, are forwarded to Ofsted, DfE and the National Panel of Independent Experts at least 7 working days before publication.

DECISIONS NOT TO PUBLISH PRACTICE REVIEWS

On rare occasions, having conducted Practice Review, the SCP will consider that it is not appropriate to publish the full report. This may be for a range of reasons but will usually be because the SCB considers that publication is likely to have a negative and harmful impact on the child, his or her siblings or on another family member or relative; E.g. where the subject or a sibling will be identified and subject to media interest.

The national panel will be informed and they will advise the SCP on making a final decision. To assist with this process the SCP provides all relevant information to the panel. In cases where the board is challenged by the panel to change its original decision about publication, Ofsted, DfE and the National Panel are kept informed of the final decision.

REMOVAL OF CHILD SAFEGUARDING PRACTICE REVIEW REPORTS FROM THE WEBSITE

In most cases subject to Practice Reviews, the learning relates to the context of practice within the individual case and to the guidance and legislation current at the time of the review. Practice Review reports therefore also reflect the structures and frameworks in which agencies and services are operating.

For most agencies and services, guidelines and procedures are continually evolving to reflect changes to legislation and government guidance so that over time, legislative and practice frameworks applicable at the point of conducting a Practice Review may change. As learning becomes embedded therefore, the reports, findings and actions arising out of historical reviews may become less relevant to specific cases.

NEL SCP however is committed to consolidating and maintaining a record of all learning from Practice reviews and therefore produces an annual summary of findings and recommendations. This is delivered to partners via training and learning events and to the public via an annual report. Persons wishing to gain access to individual historical reports can make a request via the SCP for further information and/or links to Practice Review cases. For broader requests, individuals can contact the DfE for information held nationally on all Practice Reviews.