THE WOOD REPORT - REFLECTIONS

Sir Alan Wood

Safeguarding Children Conference

Open Forum Events

24 May 2018

FINDINGS

- Three areas-MAA, SCR and CDOP

Despite some excellent work overall

- Prescriptive and bureaucratic systems
- Un-integrated systems-particularly data and operations
- Poor inter agency communication
- Lack of effective cross agency decision making, inc funding
- Impact of geography and service configuration
- Lots of MAA training but little evidence of impact
- No clear focus on learning, and poor timeliness
- External evaluation worrying- e.g. LSCB reviews and Ofsted
- Lack of sufficient cross agency leadership
- LSCBs too much process too little learning

TWO SOLUTIONS

- Introduce a more effective statutory framework to focus the arrangements on child protection and to ensure key agencies collaborate to deliver more effective services; and
- Move away from an over prescriptive system to one that encourages and authorises local areas to determine how they organise themselves to improve outcomes for children and meet the requirements of the new framework.

If we can do this we will be supporting practice leaders to be more innovative in organising services to protect children and driver closer, more effective collaboration between health, the police and local authorities.

THE NEW ARRANGEMENTS

- A National Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel (CSPRP) to oversee a new framework of local and national learning from serious events. Chaired by Edward Timpson CBE
- New leadership for CDOP via the NHS
- The abolition of LSCBs and their replacement by new arrangements designed by health, the police and local authorities –the Statutory Partners
- DfE have invited bids from statutory partners to develop early adopter proposals across CDOP, learning reviews and MAA- there has been a good response

TIME TABLE FOR IMPLEMENTATION

The safeguarding reforms are expected to come into force on 29 June. From this date, safeguarding partners will have up to a year to publish new safeguarding arrangements, and three months to implement them. All new safeguarding arrangements should be in place by September 2019.

- The arrangements for new child death review partners will run on the same timetable. All new child death review arrangements should be in place by September 2019
- An updated version of statutory guidance 'Working Together to safeguard children' will also be published in June, along with new complementary statutory child death review guidance, published by the Department for Health and social care (DHSC)
- The new Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel will start on 29 June. From this date the Panel will start consideration of all notifications of serious child safeguarding cases, and could commission a national review as a result of any of the notifications.
- Applications for the joint DfE/DHSC/Home Office 'early adopters of the safeguarding reforms' programme closed on 20 May. Submissions are currently being evaluated and the successful bids will be announced in due course.

WILL ANYTHING CHANGE?

- The ground has been prepared for the statutory partners to resolve problems which have dogged multi agency arrangements.
- The opportunity to prioritise practice, promote innovation and support learning has to be grasped.
- Structural barriers-professional boundaries, geography, and resource challenges have to be overcome.
- Cross agency strategic leaders must create the conditions which allow operational practice leaders to operate effectively across boundaries and take decision which commit their agency to ensure multi agency cooperation to protect children is prioritised.
- All of us have complained for too long about the problems- here's a chance for us all to step up and show there is a reality to multi agency working. After all, if we cant get agreement on limited funding for these arrangements it does not bode well for sorting out complex child protection issues!