



Working Together to Safeguard Children (2013)

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Introduction

- **Core legal requirements on individuals and organisations to keep children safe**
- **1999 – 2013**
- **390 pages to 97**
- **Baby Peter Connelly**
- **Prf. E Munro**
- **Emphasis away from process to focus on needs of the child – child first**
- **Be aware**
- **Share information**
- **Professional judgement**

Local Context

- **2000 referrals for help and intervention per year**
- **375 cared for children**
- **175 child protection plans**
- **1500 children in need,**
- **500 CAFs**
- **3000 Initial & Core statutory assessments**

- **New single statutory assessment by 45 days, shift practice from process to quality of planning and review, greater flexibility.**

Key issues

- **Organisational responsibilities**
 - S.11 (Children Act 2004) - across Local Authority services
 - Response to allegations and safe practice
- **Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB)**
 - Chair a Chief Exec appointment in partnership
 - Chair to be held to account for effectiveness inc Lead Member
 - Annual report
- **Learning and Improvement**
 - Transparency of reviews and range
 - New methodology
 - Assumption of publication

Key Issues

- No blame culture**
- New panel of experts to advise LSCB's**

- All Child Deaths**
 - Comprehensive response – medical/forensic**
 - Collation and analysis of information – contributory factors**
 - Improve safety and welfare of children**
 - Patterns of deaths – public health – prevent – inform JSNA**

Cheshire East Position



- Transformation of social work practice & standards
- External review of Governance arrangements
- External Chair
- Quarterly report from Chair to Chief Exec, Director, Lead Member
- Improve intelligence across agencies to assure re effectiveness
- Piloted new methodology for case reviews, already have a range of review options
- PAN Cheshire Child Death Review Panel

What difference will it make?



- **Move away from target driven practice to child centred assessment based on outcomes**
- **Under-pin assessment as a continuous process**
- **Emphasis on provision of early help to have greatest impact**
- **Reaffirms all agencies provide early help**
- **S.11 arrangements work across organisations**
- **Multi-agency working – strong challenge role of the Chair – effectiveness**
- **Children will still be harmed and die due to abuse or neglect**

Consideration by Corporate Scrutiny



- **Chairs report on effectiveness**
- **Quarterly update in progress against assessment completion, quality impact**
- **Support for own sense of understanding**