

Project Overview

Introducing the project team: the Vulnerability Knowledge and Practice Programme (VKPP), The Safer Young Lives Research Centre (SYLRC) at the University of Bedfordshire and The Association of Safeguarding Partners (TASP).



105 Local Safeguarding Children Partnerships (LSCPs) contributed. Data is self-reported & has not been triangulated or accompanied by a literature review.

KEY QUESTIONS

- **WHO** is undertaking scrutiny?
- **HOW** is scrutiny being undertaken?
- **WHAT** is being scrutinised?

Working Together 2018 & Independent Scrutiny

Independent Scrutiny should provide assurance in judging the effectiveness of multi-agency arrangements to safeguard and promote the welfare of all children in a local area, including arrangements to identify and review serious child safeguarding cases.

Scrutiny should consider how effectively the arrangements are working for children and families as well as for practitioners, and how well the safeguarding partners are providing strong leadership and agree with the safeguarding partners how this will be reported.



How scrutiny is being undertaken?

The most common methods LSCPs reported using were interviews, analysing data, running focus groups & observations. 22 of 76 areas reported using "in partnership" peer reviews, 16 used "between partnership" peer reviews

66 of 88 LSCPs have used the "Six Steps for Independent Scrutiny" framework.



Who is undertaking scrutiny?

28 of 95 LSCPs involve Children & Young People in a scrutiny role, including in subgroups, through developing films, infographics, & reports to ensure young people's views are incorporated into LSCP activity.



67 of 100 LSCPs reported employing Independent Scrutineers, 51 of those employ 1 Scrutineer, 16 employ 2 or more. The remainder use Independent Chairs and Scrutiny Committees/Panels to deliver scrutiny.

60 of 101 LSCPs employ an Independent Chair, 90% of these also have scrutiny responsibilities.

What is being scrutinised?

- Leadership
- The role of Relevant Agencies
- Information sharing and its effectiveness
- Quality Assurance & learning from reviews
- Embedding learning
- Impact of arrangements



Outputs from this work

Reports sharing the first England-wide picture of how Independent Scrutiny is being approached.

A "Checklist for Independent Scrutiny" against which partners can assess their approach to Independent Scrutiny.

Click below to access links to our outputs



Moving Forward

- Publication of case study examples to be hosted on VKPP and TASP websites.
- LSCPs use the project reports & "Checklist for Independent Scrutiny" to assess their approach to Independent Scrutiny, including how to demonstrate their objectivity.
- Future work must be coordinated between national stakeholders including the DfE, HO, DHSC, the Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel and Local Safeguarding Children Partners.
- Future national commissions of inquiry into Independent Scrutiny would benefit from investment enabling triangulation and evaluation.
- Consider development of national outcomes for safeguarding children with all LSCPs, with What Works Centres representing policing, health partners, education as well as children's social care.
- The Department for Education should consider this work when consulting on the revision of WT2018.

