

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY FOR WALES

REPORT BY THE HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE on The Local Safeguarding Children's Boards (Wales) Regulations

The Committee considered the above Regulations at its meeting on 11 May 2006. They were considered in accordance with the protocol for dealing with secondary legislation agreed by the Committee on 11 June 2003, whereby Members notify in advance any queries or amendments they wish to make to the Order.

Members did not propose any amendments.

The Minister responded to three points of clarification that had been raised by Jenny Randerson AM

i. Paragraph 3 of Explanatory Memorandum – How is it intended to ensure that Local Safeguarding Children Boards (LSCBs) are always fully informed of cases where a child suffers harm which is not life threatening or does not permanently impair their health or development?

Response: Guidance and criteria for deciding when to refer cases would be made available to agencies working with children. Police investigations and prosecutions would take priority over the LSCB's review.

ii. Paragraphs 7 and 8 of Explanatory Memorandum set out the financial implications. Is the Minister confident that the wide-ranging responsibilities of LSCBs can be carried out within the resources outlined? How will the distribution of the funding referred to in Paragraph 8 take into account the differential workload of 22 LSCBs?

Response: Funding would be distributed through revenue support grant, informed by the standard spending assessment process. Some funding for children's services was currently through specific grant, but this would be absorbed into RSG.

iii. With reference to the Statutory Instrument itself, 4.4b refers to the production of a written report in each case. What obligations are there on the organisations concerned to implement the findings of such a report?

Response: one of the duties of the board will be to monitor implementation. Any failures would be picked up through internal performance management and Welsh Assembly Government officials will also monitor implementation.

In response to a further question from Helen Mary Jones, officials advised that regulation 5 would only permit delegation from the lead director/ officer to an officer who is directly accountable to the lead director./ officer.

Rhodri Glyn Thomas AM
Chair