

**Working together To safeguard
Children 2023**

**SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN AND
YOUNG PEOPLE IN EDUCATION
Update December 2023**

WORKING TOGETHER TO SAFEGUARD CHILDREN 2023

You can find this document on www.gov.uk.

Sections 1, 2 and 3 (from page 44) of Working Together 2023 contains useful information in terms of the procedures required for assessments made for early help, section 17 (child in need) and section 47 (child protection concerns).

Appendix B is also very informative with links to further information and resources.



HM Government

Working Together to Safeguard Children 2023

A guide to multi-agency working
to help, protect and promote the welfare
of children

December 2023

WHY THE UPDATE?

The 2023 revision of Working Together to Safeguard Children has been updated in line with the strategy set out in **‘Stable homes, built on love’ (2023)**, which outlines the Government’s commitment to support every child to grow up in a safe, stable and loving home.

It also incorporates new legislation, such as the **Domestic Abuse Act 2021**.

KEY CHANGES FOR 2023

The revised Working Together document aims to strengthen services to ensure the most babies, vulnerable children and young people are supported to achieve their full potential and are protected from harm.

The changes focus on:

- ▶ **Strengthening multi-agency working**
- ▶ **Working with parents and families**
- ▶ **Setting out key roles for individuals, organisations and agencies, including local safeguarding partners**
- ▶ **How organisations and agencies provide early help, safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children, and child protection**

NEW CHAPTER - STRENGTHENING MULTI-AGENCY WORKING

The expectations in this chapter aim to ensure that **senior/middle** leaders, such as **DSLs, Headteachers**, etc:

- ▶ **Collaborate** - share the same goals
- ▶ **Learn with and from each other** – e.g. group supervision, peer learning
- ▶ **Resources** - have what they need to help families
- ▶ **Include** - acknowledge and appreciate difference
- ▶ **Respectful challenge** of each other at agency level if need be



NEW CHAPTER - STRENGTHENING MULTI-AGENCY WORKING

It also includes the expectations of the practice of those who work **directly** with children, such as **teachers, pastoral staff**, etc:

- ▶ **Collaborate – child voice is heard**
- ▶ **Learn from each other – individual expertise and perspective**
- ▶ **Resources – build strong relationships**
- ▶ **Include – recognise the challenges children face in their daily lives**
- ▶ **Mutual challenge and respectful resolution – professional curiosity**

WORKING WITH PARENTS, CARERS AND FAMILIES

The updated guidance sets out four principles that professionals should follow when working with parents, carers and families:

- ▶ **effective partnership** through positive and trusting relationships
- ▶ **respectful, non-judgemental and clear communication** tailored to the needs of parents, carers and families
- ▶ **empowering parents, carers and families to participate in decision making** by giving them updated information and signposting them to further resources
- ▶ **involving parents, carers and families** in the design of processes and services that affect them

EARLY HELP

Professionals should work together to share information, identify and understand risks of harm, and ensure children and families receive timely support. Includes:

- ▶ how the **needs of different family members impact each other**
- ▶ **specific needs considered** such as disabilities, those whose first language isn't English, fathers or male carers, and parents who identify as LGBTQ.
- ▶ how early help services can focus on **improving and developing the family's capacity** to establish positive routines and solve problems.
- ▶ where family networks are supporting the child and parents, **family group conferences** can be used

FURTHER UPDATES

Lead professionals

A wider range of professionals can lead section 17 assessments, but a social worker must always lead section 47 (child protection) enquiries.

Supporting disabled children and their parents/carers

Each LA should have a Designated Social Care Officer (DCSO) to improve links between the social care services and the SEND system, to support the best outcome for the child and family.

Supporting young carers

Information about young carers to be collected on school census.

Harm outside the home

Practitioners should consider the needs, experiences and vulnerabilities of children and families who are experiencing, or are at risk of experiencing, harm outside the home – including from criminal or sexual exploitation and serious violence.

WORKING TOGETHER 2023

APPENDIX B

New links to information and resource packs on a wide variety of specific issues, including:

- ▶ female genital mutilation
- ▶ forced marriage
- ▶ sexual abuse
- ▶ online safety
- ▶ modern slavery and trafficking
- ▶ radicalisation and Prevent