

# Policy Briefing

## WAKEFIELD & DISTRICT safeguarding children board

### Serious Case Reviews

## Changes to Local Authority and LSCB Notifications

Until now, Safeguarding Advisors in Government Office for Yorkshire and the Humber have had a significant role in the monitoring of Serious Case Reviews and serious childcare incidents. This role has included:

- Approving extensions to the six month timescale for Serious Case Review completion
- Collecting information from LSCBs and Local Authorities in relation to cases likely to lead to media attention
- Providing support to LSCBs on the process of Serious Case Review
- Collecting evidence and providing challenge on completion of Serious Case Review Action Plans
- Briefing Ministers on all of the above

On 22<sup>nd</sup> September Tim Loughton wrote to LSCB Chairs and Directors of Children's Services advising them that from the end of September, the Safeguarding Advisor role, together with the more senior Strategic Advisor role, would cease and that arrangements would be put in place for a central DfE team to fulfil some of this function in relation to Serious Case Reviews.

Jeanette Pugh (Director of Safeguarding Group in the DfE) has now written to LSCB Chairs and Directors of Children's Services advising them of what the new arrangements will look like. In brief, LSCBs and Local Authorities will in future (exact date to be confirmed) be expected to notify the DfE Safeguarding Group of:

- All decisions to undertake Serious Case Reviews
- Dates of completion of Serious Case Reviews and publication of Executive Summaries etc.
- All serious childcare incidents that *could* lead to a Serious Case Review or media attention
- Dates of criminal proceedings relating to child protection cases

The letters from Tim Loughton and Jeanette Pugh can be obtained from the DfE website: [www.education.gov.uk](http://www.education.gov.uk) and following the link for Safeguarding and Social Work Reform.