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26 January 2016

**Dear Colleagues**

## **REVIEW OF LOCAL SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN BOARDS' ROLE AND FUNCTIONS**

Questions at <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/alanwoodLSCBreview>

I have been asked by the Secretary of State, Nicky Morgan MP and the Minister, Edward Timpson MP to lead a fundamental review of the role and functions of Local Safeguarding Children Boards (LSCBs). This will include the child death review process and consideration of how the intended centralisation of serious case reviews (SCRs) will work effectively at local level. A copy of the Terms of Reference is attached for information.

In carrying out this fundamental review I will need to consider not just possible procedural changes but whether the current arrangements should be replaced or significantly altered. This may lead to proposals for legislative change.

There is much to be proud of in the current arrangements but there are significant shortcomings as evidenced by the reviews of LSCBs, carried out as part of the Single Inspection Framework; research into the impact of SCRs; and a wide range of comment and opinion on the effectiveness or otherwise of the current arrangements. I am also looking at existing research on the work of Child Death Overview Panels (CDOPs).

I have been asked to ensure that the recommendations and options I propose in my report lead to a robust accountability system which adds real value, allows delivery problems to be identified early and put right, and safeguards children more effectively.

As part of my review I will meet with a range of groups and representatives and seek advice and guidance from individuals, and I welcome invitations to attend events that may be being planned to discuss the review.

I am also undertaking a short survey, inviting views and comments on a range of specific questions. A copy of the survey is attached; it is also available electronically at <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/alanwoodLSCBreview>.

I would welcome responses either to [LSCBreview.mailbox@education.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:LSCBreview.mailbox@education.gsi.gov.uk) or through the electronic version by 22 February. Please excuse me if I do not encourage detailed contributions on the pros and cons of the status quo; I believe the evidence we have available currently provides us with a broad range of opinion on that.

I am very keen to hear thoughts and views on a wide range of relevant issues. Already my attention has been drawn to thinking such as:

- accountability and governance in a rapidly changing system for commissioning services, seeking to balance a local system with increasing autonomy and self-

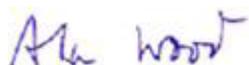
management in delivery models;

- the impact on cross agency collaboration to protect children in the context of new bodies e.g. Health and Wellbeing Boards, Local Family Justice Boards, Community Safety Panels, Safeguarding Adult Boards;
- the focus of multi agency collaboration – the balance between protecting children and the wider safeguarding issues;
- what will need to be put in place for the centralisation of SCRs to be effective in ensuring learning is more effectively embedded across the local and national systems;
- synergies between the work of CDOP, SCRs and Domestic Homicide reviews should inform a new model of local learning;
- scale as a key factor in co-terminosity across public agencies and their areas, and how moves toward major devolution of services to a regional basis provide an opportunity to develop new models of multi agency work to protect children;
- how to assess the quality and effectiveness of the contribution individual public agencies make to local services to protect children.

There are of course many other issues not covered in this list.

I am required to make a full report by the end of March 2016. Necessarily therefore, I would welcome any invitations as mentioned above at the earliest opportunity. Please contact me via [LSCBreview.mailbox@education.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:LSCBreview.mailbox@education.gsi.gov.uk).

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Alan Wood".

Alan Wood CBE