

Yorkshire and Humber Safeguarding project

Purpose of report

For discussion.

Summary

Councillor Paul Lakin and Professor David Thorpe will give a presentation about the Yorkshire and Humber region's safeguarding project.

Recommendation

Members are asked to consider the presentation and discuss the findings.

Action

LGA Officers to proceed as directed.

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Background

1. The aim of the project was to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of children's social care services by exploring the potential regionally for improving services. It arose out of the Child Protection Review conducted by Lord Laming in 2009 which was the Government's response to the death of Peter Connolly. The project was widely supported throughout the region with 14 of the 15 local authorities in the Yorkshire and Humber Region becoming involved.
2. There were two phases to the project:
 - 2.1. Phase 1 identified patterns of inefficiency and potential error in referral-taking. By making comparisons across all 14 local authorities it became possible to identify strengths and weaknesses. Data for the research was collected by professionals in each local authority and the research team.
 - 2.2. Phase 2 created a programme of practice development for social workers and their managers aimed at improving referral-taking practices, supervision and regular management reviews of service performance which included partner agencies. The collaboration aimed to enable local authorities to learn from each other and develop new, local performance measures.
3. Councils are now building on the original work by focussing on two sub regional projects. These will look at common assessment frameworks and intensive family support activity as part of the region's sector-led improvement plan.