

INQUIRY ACTION PLAN
NOTIFICATION OF COMPLETED ACTION

Strategic Officer	Lead	Stuart C. Easingwood – Director Social Work & Practice
Recommendation		<p>2. The Council reviews and seeks to improve the Scottish Borders Child Protection Procedures.</p> <p>In particular, consideration should be given to better emphasis being given to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • clarifying the broader relevance of child protection measures beyond the identification and management of future risk for identified children, and • reinforcement of the core principles of individual responsibility and need to report in all situations, including where concerns of harm arise in respect of Council staff or in a workplace setting.
Outcome number and summary		<p>5. Ensuring the safety and welfare of Children in the Scottish Borders:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Our Child Protection procedures expressly emphasise, or make clear, the wider significance of child protection beyond the risk of immediate harm. • Our Child Protection procedures emphasise the core principles of individual responsibility. • Our Child Protection procedures emphasise the individual responsibility to report. • Our Child Protection procedures are clear on the appropriateness of reporting in situations of any concern. • Our Child Protection procedures make clear that harm can arise in any setting, including in the workplace. • Our Child Protection procedures and guidance are accessible, reviewed regularly and communicated effectively
Action		<p>5. a) Incorporate the key outcomes in this recommendation into the ongoing joint review into our Child Protection guidance and procedures, which commenced in January 2022. This will also reflect the recent changes to National guidance. (Note – joint review with other Councils; East Lothian, Midlothian, West Lothian and City of Edinburgh) Establish regular updates on the progress of this work CSOG.</p>

1. MEASURES TAKEN

Detail here the specific actions taken to meet the identified outcome.

(1.1) The key outcomes of this recommendation have been made known to the person who has jointly been commissioned by Scottish Borders Council, Midlothian Council, East Lothian Council, West Lothian Council and City of Edinburgh Council. This will ensure where possible the recommendations will be evidenced within the update of the National Guidance which is being put into a new procedure for across Edinburgh, The Lothian's and Scottish Borders.

(1.2) It should be noted that the necessary work to ensure that the recommendations from the Inquiry are embedded within the local updated procedures will take place in the event that partner Local Authorities do not want their procedures to reflect this. This will then ensure that at a local level, all recommendations from the Inquiry are explicit within the local procedures.

1B. ASSOCIATED DOCUMENTS

Note here any documents attached as being relevant to this action

(i) N/A

2. BENCHMARKING

Explain what steps have been taken to measure the actions taken against best practice.

(2.1) Arrangements made to have monthly updates with the Care Inspectorate and ongoing liaison meetings between the Local Authorities commissioning the update to procedures are in place.

3. EXTERNAL AGENCY INVOLVEMENT

Where the Action Plan identifies a third party dependency, explain here the involvement and approval of any such party.

(3.1) Care Inspectorate

(3.2) Midlothian Council, East Lothian Council, West Lothian Council and City of Edinburgh Council

(3.3) Independently Commissioned individual carrying out the work to translate the National Guidance to local procedures

4. ONGOING MONITORING ARRANGEMENTS

Where relevant, what steps have been put in place to ensure ongoing review of this action?

(4.1) Regular overview meetings across the different commissioning Local Authorities from a strategic and Operational level.

5. HOW DOES THE ACTION MEET THE OUTCOME?

Explain briefly how the steps taken will achieve the desired objective?

(5.1) The updated National Guidance requires to be put into a useable procedural format. Taking a multi-authority approach ensures that we not only change the local procedures to reflect new National Guidance, but that we incorporate the learning and recommendations from the Independent Inquiry.

Approval by Review Group:

Date:	01 June 2022
Comments/amendments:	The group have reached a consensus that this action has been completed.
Signature of Chair:	

Approval by Council:

Date:	
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Comments/amendments:	
Signature of Chair:	