

Chapter 7: Investigation and case planning

There have been few changes in the law in respect of Investigation and Case Planning in the last few years. The chapter is therefore largely unchanged in that respect. We have interweaved the statutory duties with the usual process in local authorities about how cases are managed. In many authorities the case planning process is driven by or at least substantially influenced by the electronic record system which can dictate the process. When that happens, social workers can find themselves working to those dictates rather than thinking about what should happen next. In that respect, one could argue the Munro recommendations, which are mentioned in some depth in Ch 5, have failed to influence the practice sufficiently. You should review the evidence for yourselves and perhaps invite your social work students to debate these issues.

What has changed or is changing are the arrangements for safeguarding children in each locality. LSCBs have been replaced by Safeguarding Children Partnerships. The details of the scope of the changes are discussed in this chapter but again you should explore how those changes are being experienced in your own localities.

The slides which accompany this chapter, set out how the process for investigation and case planning should happen according to *Working Together to Safeguard Children* 2018. You may want to embellish these with local processes if these differ or explore in more detail what social workers should be doing at each point in the process.