

# Safeguarding Children

## A joint Chief Inspectors' Report on Arrangements to Safeguard Children

To: The Rt. Hon. David Blunkett, MP, Home Secretary  
The Rt. Hon. Lord Goldsmith QC, Attorney General  
The Rt. Hon. The Lord Irvine of Lairg, Lord Chancellor  
The Rt. Hon. Alan Milburn, MP, Secretary of State for Health  
The Rt. Hon. Estelle Morris, MP, Secretary of State for Education and Skills

We are pleased to present our joint report – *Safeguarding Children*. This is the first report following a commitment by the Government that a review would be carried out every three years on how well children are being safeguarded. It draws on the findings of a wide range of inspection activity undertaken by individual inspectorates. In addition, a joint inspection was undertaken to assess inter-agency arrangements for safeguarding children.

The safety and welfare of children has been a major and increasing area of public interest and concern over the last 50 years. Recent inquiries into the circumstances around the tragic deaths of children at the hands of their parents or carers, and the mistreatment of others by professionals and organisations, have identified a number of failings to safeguard children. This report seeks to identify how well children are safeguarded from harm and how well agencies work together to safeguard children.

The report identifies examples of good practice. It also highlights that the safety of children is being compromised because of:

- insufficient priority being given to the safeguarding of children;
- a lack of commitment to and inadequate resources for Area Child Protection Committees;
- the severe difficulties in recruiting and retaining public sector professionals, particularly those working in the field of child protection and child welfare, which is directly impacting on the effectiveness of measures to safeguard children.

The report makes a number of recommendations to government departments, national and local agencies.

The report is presented by:

**SSI** Denise Platt, CBE  
Chief Inspector of  
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**Ofsted** David Bell  
Her Majesty's Chief  
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Sir Keith Povey, QPM, BA Law  
Her Majesty's Chief Inspector  
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**HM ip** Prof. Rod Morgan  
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Her Majesty's Chief  
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Her Majesty's Chief  
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