

From the Chief Social Services Officer
Mr Paul Martin



Department of
**Health, Social Services
and Public Safety**

An Roinn

**Sláinte, Seirbhísí Sóisialta
agus Sábháilteachta Poiblí**

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Your Ref:
Our Ref:

Date: 22 July 2008

cc: See Annex 1 for further distribution details

Dear Colleague

REVIEW OF CHILD PROTECTION INSPECTION STANDARDS

Further to the publication of 'Our Children and Young People – Our Shared Responsibility' (DHSSPS, 2006), the overview report of regional Inspection of child protection services, I now enclose copies of the final child protection standards. The standards can also be accessed on the Department's website through:

http://www.dhsspsni.gov.uk/index/ssi/office_of_social_services_-_standards.htm



The standards, which have been developed by a Standards Reference Group in collaboration with all relevant agencies who are responsible for or who have a significant role in the safeguarding of children and young people, take account of:

- the draft standards drawn up to inform the inspection of child protection services;
- the findings and recommendations of the overview inspection report;
- the responses to a Departmental questionnaire issued in 2007 to HSS Boards, Trusts and other agencies;
- work progressed by a the Reference Group at a workshop held in September 2007; and
- subsequent extensive consultation during October 2007 and November 2007, on the proposed revisions.

The child protection standards are applicable to all public bodies, organisations, professionals and persons who provide statutory services to children. They also establish a framework of best practice in child protection for voluntary, community and independent sector organisations and practitioners (including counsellors and therapists working in a private capacity) who work with or have significant contact with children and young people. They should also help families and members of the public understand how services work to protect children and the important contribution they themselves can make to the safeguarding of children and young people.

It is anticipated that the implementation of the standards will assist with the planning, delivery, audit, review and inspection of child protection services and related governance arrangements, across the region and provide the foundation for informing practice and improving services to children, young people and their families.

I would now ask you to ensure as a matter of priority that the standards are disseminated to all front line and senior management staff and that appropriate arrangements for uni-disciplinary, multi-disciplinary and interagency training are established with a view to improving practice within your own organisation and enhancing child protection services across the region.

Yours sincerely

PAUL MARTIN
Chief Social Services Officer

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CO3 – Chief Officers
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