

SUMMARY:

A third NSCB multi-agency thematic audit was undertaken in November 2015 regarding Initial Child Protection Conferences (ICPC) and thresholds for child protection plans.

The purpose of the audit was to review compliance with the national and local expectations for convening ICPC's and the effectiveness and outcomes of these meetings, giving a comparison to the findings of the previous audits completed in 2013 and 2014.

KEY LEARNING:

1. The multi-agency responsibility to promote the participation of children and young people in their ICPC needs to be strengthened. Agencies may consider the use of the NSCB report template which reminds report authors of required content.
2. Children's social care need to re-affirm good practice standards in ensuring that the wishes, feeling and views of children are appropriately and adequately presented at ICPCs.
3. The chair of the ICPC must ensure they elicit and summarise the views, wishes and feelings of children from all attendees at a conference, including family members.
4. All agencies need to consider how technological solutions can assist them in participation at ICPCs. While written reports with an analysis of impact on the child are very helpful, telephone conferencing, for example, can enable full engagement in the meeting for a small outlay of time.

IMPROVING PRACTICE

Here are some suggestions for improving practice:-

- Share this bulletin in team meetings and during supervision.
- Familiarise yourself with the NSCB [Resolving Professional Differences \(Escalation Procedure\)](#) and be clear about when and how you would use it.
- The [Child Protection Conferences](#) chapter of the inter agency procedures provides detailed guidance on ICPCs. The agency report template can be accessed from this chapter.
- The NSCB provides a range of training opportunities which are relevant to findings from this audit which can be booked via the [NSCB website](#)

The online [NSCB inter agency safeguarding procedures](#) provide detailed guidance across the range of safeguarding issues.