



## LEARNING AND IMPROVEMENT BULLETIN – EFFECTIVE CORE GROUP WORKING

### **SUMMARY:**

The need for effective core group working has been highlighted in a number of national and local serious case reviews. 'Children are best protected when professionals are clear about what is required of them individually, and how they need to work together,' Working Together 2013.

### **WHAT IS A CORE GROUP?**

When a child protection conference decides that a child should be subject of a child protection plan, a social worker must be appointed as the lead professional for the inter-agency work with the child and the family. The core group is the forum to co-ordinate this work and will be comprised of the professionals most closely involved in implementing the child protection plan. The core group will meet on a regular basis: it is responsible for-

- developing the child protection plan into a detailed working tool; and
- monitoring the progress of the outcomes set out in the plan.

### **KEY PRINCIPLES OF CORE GROUP WORKING:**

1. There should be effective multi-agency communication.
2. The core group should work in partnership with parents.
3. All professionals should be accountable for their work.
4. There should be integrity, openness and honesty between agencies.
5. The core group should be child focused and give a voice to the child.
6. The core group should work towards evidenced, measurable change.
7. The detailed child protection plan should set out what needs to change, by how much and within what timescale in order for the child to be safe and have their needs met. It should take into account the wishes and feelings of the child and the views of the parents. All professionals must ensure they are able to deliver their commitments.
8. Any professional disagreements should be discussed and resolved at the core group meeting. If they cannot be resolved, the matter should be escalated via the NSCB escalation procedure.
9. All core group members should keep notes of the core group meetings and detailed child protection plans in accordance with their own agency recording procedures.

### **MORE INFORMATION:**

[http://nottinghamshirescb.proceduresonline.com/guides/p\\_good\\_pract\\_core\\_gps.html](http://nottinghamshirescb.proceduresonline.com/guides/p_good_pract_core_gps.html)