

HWLG(3)-SCB019-Association of Chief Police Officers in Wales  
Health, Wellbeing and Local Government Committee  
Inquiry into Local Safeguarding Children Boards in Wales -  
Evidence from the Association of Chief Police Officers in Wales

Mick Giannasi  
Prif Gwnstabl/Chief Constable  
Chair ACPO Cymru



Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru  
Welsh Assembly Government

Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru  
Ystafell 3-081  
Parc Cathays  
CAERDYDD  
CF10 3NQ

Uwch Arolygydd **Anthony Matthias** Superintendent  
Swyddog Cyswllt yr Heddlu - Police Liaison Officer

Welsh Assembly Government  
Room 3-081  
Cathays Park  
CARDIFF  
CF10 3NQ

***“To be the Professional Voice of Police Leadership across Wales”***

9<sup>th</sup> April 2010

Mr Marc Wyn Jones,  
Clerk to the Health, Wellbeing and Local Government Committee,  
National Assembly for Wales,  
Cardiff Bay,  
CF99 1NA.  
[health.wellbeing.localgovt.comm@wales.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:health.wellbeing.localgovt.comm@wales.gsi.gov.uk)

Dear Marc,

**Committee Inquiry: Local Safeguarding Children Boards**

I write on behalf of the Association of Chief Police Officers in Wales (ACPO Cymru), in my role as the ACPO Cymru interim Chair of the Young Persons Joint Advisory Group, in response to the above Consultation. The response has been prepared in consultation with all four police forces in Wales and therefore can be regarded as a joint response.

When considering the Terms of Reference for the Inquiry the following points of note have been commented upon by the Welsh Police Forces.

- One common concern is that there is little direction regarding funding contributions for LSCB's. A funding formula/guidance is required to assist agencies. There are significant differences in contributions made by both Police Forces and other agency contributions. The debate regarding LSCB contributions has been ongoing for some time and, within the current economic climate, direction is needed as LSCB contribution are always accommodated for within budgets. This lack of clarity clearly impacts upon the long term planning/extent of the work undertaken by LSCB's.

- There is also lack of clarity for LSCB's as to where they actually sit within the CSP and LSB arena. Who are LSCB'S accountable to? How can duplication of effort etc be avoided? Clear guidance regarding this is essential otherwise key areas of work involving high risk issues could be missed at a local level.
- Although already identified within the recent CSSIW review there is little consistency in the way in which Serious Case Reviews are requested by LSCB'S. This often results in a risk adverse approach being taken, as panel members are not always trained in understanding the purpose of a Serious Case Review. When considering the resource implications involved in undertaking a Serious Case Review, this risk averse approach almost "waters down" the purpose and impact that a SCR should have. Clear direction for LSCB's regarding SCRs is required including identifying clear timescales that need to be met in order for agencies to learn at the earliest opportunity from any mistakes and/ or improvements that need to be implemented.
- Also when considering SCRs it is of a concern that so many are taking place and yet there appears to be little reflection/analysis by WAG as to the bigger picture issues. For example what are the common areas for improvement across Wales, how are they being shared and who is monitoring progress?
- When considering the changes in legislation concerning the statutory obligations of LSCBs, it is considered that within some local authority areas there has actually been little change/progress in the way in which LSCBs function since ACPCs were dissolved.
- The LSCB self assessment tool was a welcomed process that has assisted some BCUs in focussing LSCBs on their roles and responsibilities. This process ensured that LSCBs and representatives were fully aware of their role and function. However there is little scrutiny from WAG in relation to the work plans/areas for improvement that should have followed this self assessment process.

Thank you for the opportunity to participate in this consultation process. I will be happy to assist further in needed. If you require any additional information please, in the first instance, contact the Police Liaison Officer, Superintendent Anthony Matthias.

Yours sincerely,  
 Jeff Farrar  
 Assistant Chief Constable  
 Gwent Police