

Revised Statutory Guidance on the Roles and Responsibilities of the Director of Children's Services and the Lead Member for Children's Services

Consultation Response Form

The closing date for this consultation is: 6 January
2012

Your comments must reach us by that date.

Department for
Education

THIS FORM IS NOT INTERACTIVE. If you wish to respond electronically please use the online response facility available on the Department for Education e-consultation website (<http://www.education.gov.uk/consultations>).

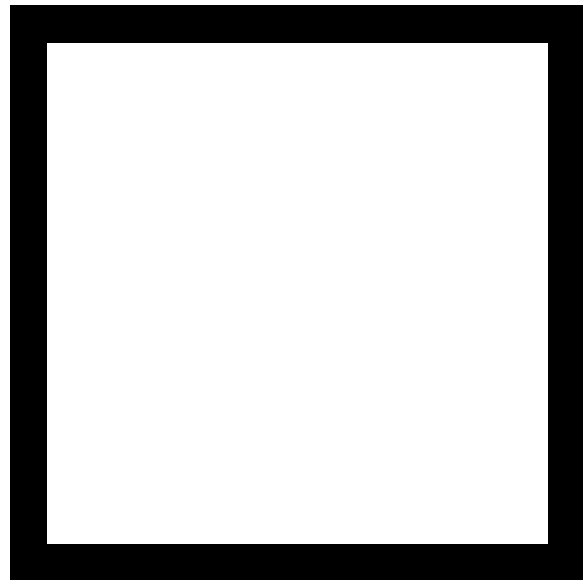
Information provided in response to this consultation, including personal information, may be subject to publication or disclosure in accordance with the access to information regimes, primarily the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and the Data Protection Act 1998.

If you want all, or any part, of your response to be treated as confidential, please explain why you consider it to be confidential.

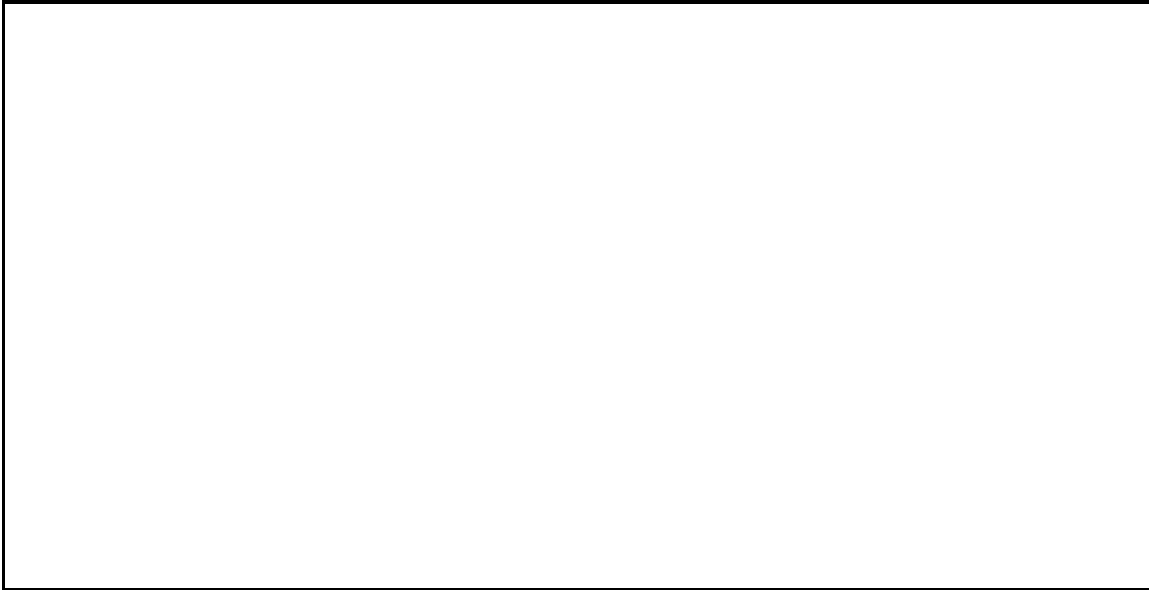
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The Department will process your personal data (name and address and any other identifying material) in accordance with the Data Protection Act 1998, and in the majority of circumstances, this will mean that your personal data will not be disclosed to third parties.

Please tick if you want us to keep your response confidential.



Reason for confidentiality:



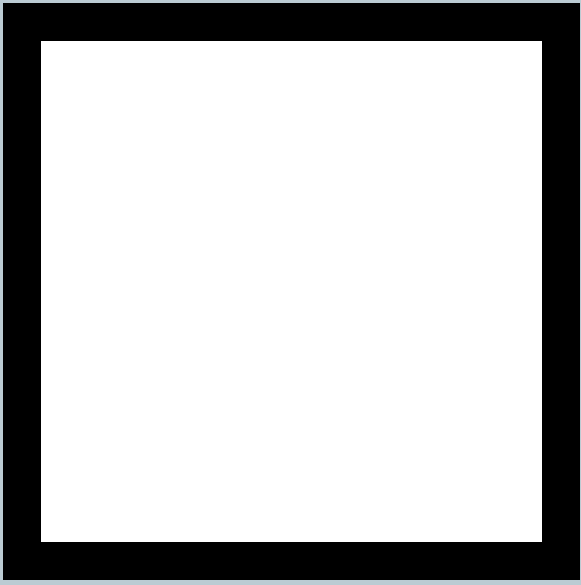
Name Joyce Thacker
Organisation (if applicable) Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council
Address: Riverside House,
Main Street,
Rotherham.
S60 1AE

If your enquiry is related to the policy content of the consultation, you can contact Alison Britton, Local Area Policy Unit by email: DCS-LMCS.CONULTATION@education.gsi.gov.uk or by telephone: 020 7340 8263.

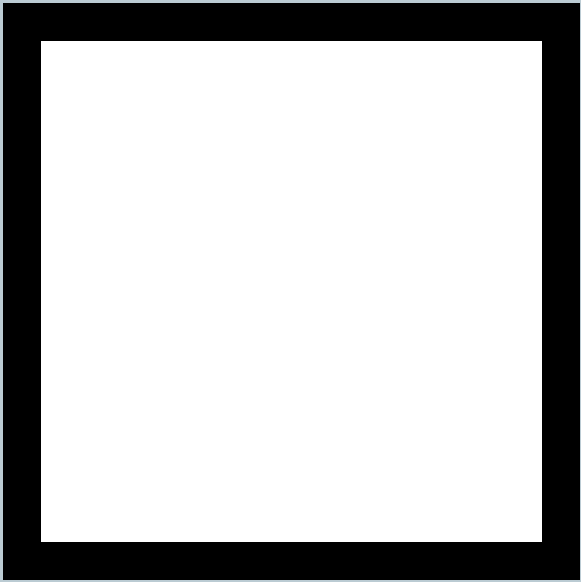
If you have a query relating to the consultation process you can contact the CYPFD Team by telephone: 0370 000 2288 or via the Department's ['Contact Us'](#) page.

Please tick the box that best describes you as a respondent:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Director of Children's Services
<input type="checkbox"/>	Local authority elected member (not LMCS)



Headteacher/Teacher



Other



Please Specify:

General questions about the guidance

1 Did you find the revised guidance clear and easy to understand? If not, how could it be improved?

✓ Yes		No		Not Sure
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Comments:

At 10 pages long as opposed to the current guidance at 32 pages, it is more succinct.

2 Do you think the revised guidance provides useful advice for local authorities in fulfilling their statutory duties to have a Director of Children's Services and Lead Member for Children's Services? If not, do you have any suggestions that might enhance its usefulness?

✓ Yes

No

Not
Sure

Comments:

The guidance appears to flesh out succinctly the statutory obligations of the DCS and LMCS.

3 Does the revised guidance give local authorities sufficient flexibility to determine how they discharge their functions for children and young people (within the existing legislation)? If not, how could the guidance be changed to achieve this?

	Yes		No	
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Comments:

The revised guidance is not prescriptive.

4 How might we ensure that this revised guidance reaches the widest possible audience and is appropriately considered / implemented?

Comments:

We suggest you use existing organisations and networks such as ADCS and its bulletin, Lead Member networks, Local Authority Chief Executive networks, Local Authority briefings, Ofsted newsletters, LGIU briefings etc.

Director of Children's Services (paras 5-6, 9, 17-28)

5 Does the guidance give the right advice about the roles, responsibilities and accountabilities of the Director of Children's Services? If not, how could it be improved?

✓ Yes		No		Not Sure
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Comments:

We particularly welcome (paragraph 6) that children and young people should be involved in the appointment of the DCS. This is acknowledgement of good practice.

Lead Member for Children's Services (paras 7-9, 17-28)

6 Does the guidance give the right advice about the roles, responsibilities and accountabilities of the Lead Member for Children's Services? If not, how could it be improved?

✓ Yes		No		Not Sure
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Comments:

In paragraph 8 we particularly welcome that the LMCS should have regard to the General Principles of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child and that children and young people are involved in the development and delivery of local services.

We welcome as set out in paragraphs 25 and 26 the focus on vulnerable children and young people through prevention and early intervention, paragraph 27 on fair access and paragraph 28 on educational excellence.

Chief Executive and the Leader or Mayor (paras 6, 7 and 9)

7 Does the guidance address appropriately the corporate roles, responsibilities and accountabilities of the Chief Executive and the Leader or Mayor in relation to improving outcomes for children? If not, what do you think the guidance should say?

✓ Yes		No		Not Sure
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Comments:

The guidance makes it clear that Chief Executive and the Leader have the ultimate responsibility for the political and corporate leadership of the Council and accountability for ensuring that the importance of improving outcomes for all children and young people is reflected across the full range of the Council's business.

Local assurance (paras 13-16)

8 Do you agree that local authorities should carry out assurance checks of their structures and organisational arrangements? If yes, do you have any suggestions about how local authorities should carry out their assurance checks? If no, do you think there should be any alternative arrangements and, if so, what?

✓ Yes		No		Not Sure
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Comments:

By carrying out assurance checks the LA is self assessing itself. This **should** be open to external challenge through Ofsted (through its revised inspection framework) and/or the sector led Peer Challenge arrangements. The draft guidance says (paragraph 15) Ofsted ... 'may decided to look at the quality and effectiveness of the authority's assurance process'.

9 Does the revised guidance give local authorities the right advice about the elements of their assurance checks? If not, how could it be improved?

✓ Yes		No		Not Sure
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Comments:

The LA should use its own decision making and scrutiny functions to assure itself it is meeting the statutory requirements of the DCS and LMCS positions.

Any other comments

10 Please let us have any other comments on the revised guidance, including any further suggestions for how it could be improved.

Comments:

Thank you for taking the time to let us have your views. We do not intend to acknowledge individual responses unless you place an 'X' in the box below.

Please acknowledge this reply ✓

Here at the Department for Education we carry out our research on many different topics and consultations. As your views are valuable to us, would it be alright if we were to contact you again from time to time either for research or to send through consultation documents?

✓ Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No
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All DfE public consultations are required to conform to the following criteria within the Government Code of Practice on Consultation:

Criterion 1: Formal consultation should take place at a stage when there is scope to influence the policy outcome.

Criterion 2: Consultations should normally last for at least 12 weeks with consideration given to longer timescales where feasible and sensible.

Criterion 3: Consultation documents should be clear about the consultation process, what is being proposed, the scope to influence and the expected costs and benefits of the proposals.

Criterion 4: Consultation exercises should be designed to be accessible to, and clearly targeted at, those people the exercise is intended to reach.

Criterion 5: Keeping the burden of consultation to a minimum is essential if consultations are to be effective and if consultees' buy-in to the process is to be obtained.

Criterion 6: Consultation responses should be analysed carefully and clear feedback should be provided to participants following the consultation.

Criterion 7: Officials running consultations should seek guidance in how to run an effective consultation exercise and share what they have learned from the experience.

If you have any comments on how DfE consultations are conducted, please contact Carole Edge, DfE Consultation Co-ordinator, tel: 01928 738060 / email: carole.edge@education.gsi.gov.uk

Thank you for taking time to respond to this consultation.

Completed questionnaires and other responses should be sent to the address shown below by 6 January 2012

Send by post to: Alison Britton, Local Area Policy Unit, Department for Education, Sanctuary Buildings, Great Smith Street, Westminster SW1P 3BT

Send by e-mail to: DCS-LMCS.CONSULTATION@education.gsi.gov.uk