There is a Government consultation running until 31 December 2017 on the proposed changes to Working Together. This is seeking views on the changes relating to:

* The replacements of LSCBs with local safeguarding partners
* The establishment of a new national Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel
* The transfer of responsibility for child death reviews from LSCBs to new Child Death Review Partners

The consultation can be found [here](https://consult.education.gov.uk/child-protection-safeguarding-and-family-law/working-together-to-safeguard-children-revisions-t/) and this page also contains links to the following relevant document: draft Working Together 2018; Local safeguarding Transitional Arrangements; Child Death Review Guidance; and The Children and Social Work Act 2017

(https://consult.education.gov.uk/child-protection-safeguarding-and-family-law/working-together-to-safeguard-children-revisions-t/)

Working Together 2018 covers the legislative requirements and expectations on individual services to safeguard and promote the welfare of children; and a clear framework for the 3 local safeguarding partners to make arrangements to work together to identify and respond to the needs of local children

Chapter 1:

* Guidance on identifying and assessing the needs of children. It covers the needs of 3 particular groups of vulnerable children:
	+ Disabled children;
	+ Young carers
	+ Young people in secure establishments
* It describes the provision of help to children and families based on the assessment of their needs; with a particular emphasis of effective assessment and provision of early help
* Sets out the principles of effective information sharing.
* Indicates when to make a referral to children's social care and the timescales for responding to these
* Provides descriptors and flow charts that set out the steps that should be taken to assess and provide services for children who may be in need (including those suffering harm)

Chapter 2:

* Sets out the specific statutory duties in relation to safeguarding that apply to a range of organisations

Chapter 3:

* Sets out the new multi-agency safeguarding arrangements. The **Children & Social Work Act 2017** replaces Local Safeguarding Children Boards with flexible local arrangements led by 3 safeguarding partners -
	+ Local Authority;
	+ Police; and
	+ Clinical Commission Group

The partners have equal and joint responsibility for local safeguarding arrangements. These arrangements can cover more than 1 local authority/CCG/police force area, but if they do then they agree to delegate their safeguarding partner duties to one representing organisation

* The 3 partners have equal responsibility for publishing Local Safeguarding Arrangements which must include:
	+ How they will commission and publish local safeguarding practice reviews
	+ Which other relevant agencies they will work with, why they are relevant and how they will work together to improve outcomes for children
	+ How schools (any youth custody and residential homes) will be included in these arrangements
	+ How they will use data to assess the effectiveness of safeguarding and early help
	+ How they will ensure there is independent scrutiny of the effectiveness of the arrangements
* Relevant agencies **must** cooperate with the safeguarding arrangements
* Safeguarding partners should make arrangements for all schools and other educational partners to be fully engaged and involved, making sure communication is effective. Once designated as a relevant agency schools and colleges (in the same way as other relevant agencies) are under a statutory duty to work in line with the published local safeguarding arrangements
* Safeguarding partners must publish a report (at least once a year) which is independently scrutinised. The report must set out:
	+ what they have done as a result of the arrangements;
	+ how effective the arrangements have been in practice;
	+ evidence of the impact of the work on outcomes for children & families
	+ actions taken in response to recommendations in any reviews
	+ ways in which they have sought and used feedback from children & families
* Safeguarding partners may require any person or body to supply them with specified information deemed necessary to fulfil their duties of safeguarding or promote welfare of children in their areas. Safeguarding partners can enforce this information request by court order if necessary

Chapter 4:

* Covers the duty on local authorities to notify incidents to the National Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel that will oversee the review of child safeguarding cases (previously referred to as Serious Case Reviews) that in its view raise complex issues or are of national importance
* Provides guidance for safeguarding partners on arrangements for local child safeguarding practice reviews. These relate to either:
	+ Serious child safeguarding cases that raise issues of importance to the local area;
	+ 'Near misses'; or
	+ Cases where there has been good practice

Chapter 5:

* The revised arrangements for child death reviews. It stipulates that panels considering these reviews should cover an area where there are between 80-120 child deaths per year