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Term - ACPC - Area Child Protection Committee

Definition - An inter agency forum for agreeing how to co-operate locally to safeguard children.

Additional info: *Will evolve into Local Safeguarding Children Boards under the Children Act.*

See Also: [Local Safeguarding Children Board](#)

Term - ADSS- Association of Directors of Social Services

Definition - Association of Directors of Social Services represents the directors of social services in England, Wales and Northern Ireland.

Term - CAFCASS - Children and Families Court Advisory and Support Service

Definition - Children and Families Court Advisory and Support Service looks after the interests of children involved in family court proceedings. It works with children and their families, and then advises the courts on what it considers to be in the children's best interests.

Additional info: *An example would be when parents who are separating or divorcing can't agree on arrangements for their children*

Term - CHAI- The Commission for Healthcare Audit and Inspection

Definition - The Commission for Healthcare Audit and Inspection commonly known as the **Healthcare Commission** was launched in April 2004. The Healthcare Commission encompasses the work of The Commission for Health Improvement (CHI), the NHS value-for-money work of the Audit Commission and the independent healthcare work of the National Care Standards Commission (NCSC) in respect of private and voluntary healthcare. It provides an independent assessment of complaints relating to healthcare, assessing the arrangements in place to promote public health, acting as the leading inspectorate in relation to healthcare

Term - Change for Children

Definition - The Every Child Matters: Change for Children heading refers to the shared programme of change to improve outcomes for all children and young people. It takes forward the Government's vision of radical reform for children, young people and families.

Term - Children and Young People Plan

Definition - Section 17 of the Children Act 2004 provides for regulations to require Children's Services Authorities (CSAs) to prepare and publish a Children and Young People's Plan (CYPP), setting out their strategy for services for children and relevant young people. The primary duty

rests on CSAs, but the CYPP is intended to be a plan for all children's services and is therefore linked to the duty to co-operate under the Children Act 2004.

Additional info: *The CYPP will be the strategic plan for all services for children and young people in a local authority's area. It will cover local authority services; that is, children's education and social services functions and youth services, and the strategic plans of local partners. A strategic plan for all children's services helps to link policies, giving a place to all within the Outcomes Framework. Many authorities have a Local Preventative Strategy in place and work on this will be subsumed into the CYPP. The CYPP will be in place on or before April 2006 and the first plans are likely to run from 2006 to 2009, with an annual review.*

Term - Children's Commissioner for England

Definition - To be established under the Children Act 2004. Will represent the views and interests of children and report to Parliament on progress against the outcomes for children and young people.

Additional info: *Will have regard to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC)*

Term - Children's Trust

Definition - A children's trust is the practical manifestation of the new duty on all local authorities to make arrangements for local co-operation in pursuit of children's wellbeing, and the duty on others to co-operate with them.

It involves people working together to improve outcomes for all children – from the front line staff providing integrated services, through the processes they use to support them, to the plans which set their direction and the governance arrangements which sustain them.

Additional info: *Children's Trusts integrate local education, social care and some health services for children and young people. They incorporate an integrated commissioning strategy delivered through a wide range of providers that is designed to meet local evaluations of need and the promotion of good outcomes. They will bring together Education, Health and Social Care Services under the control of Local Authorities, which will either run them directly or contract them out to public interest companies.*

There are similar proposals for Care Trusts in adult services to provide integrated health and social services for older people and/or those with physical or learning disabilities or mental health problems.

Term - Choice Protects

Definition - Choice Protects is the Government's programme to improve placement services for looked after children. Launched in 2002, it aims to improve the choice of placements available to looked after children. There are two main strands; improving the way children's services are planned and commissioned and improving provision of foster care.

Term - Commissioning

Definition - The process designed to promote good outcomes by assessing need, specifying, securing and monitoring services to meet needs and managing the market in services. This applies to services, whether they are provided by the local authority or by the private or voluntary sectors.

Additional info: *The National Health Service commissions services at a high strategic level (for example hospitals or prescribing budgets).*

See Also: [joint commissioning](#), [multi agency commissioning](#), [macro-commissioning](#) and [micro-commissioning](#).

Term - Comprehensive Performance Assessment (CPA)

Definition - CPA measures the effectiveness of local authority performance on an annual basis, with the first results published in December 2002.

Additional Info : *The system is being re-designed by the Audit Commission for 2005. Services assessed are: Children's Services (through Ofsted and CSCI's annual performance assessment - APA), Adult's social care, housing, benefit services, environment, culture, use of resources and corporate council ability). Services are graded 1- 4 and combined to arrive at overall council ratings, with authorities categorised as excellent, good, fair, poor or weak.*

See also : For more information visit the [Audit commission website](#)

Term - Contestability

Definition - In economic theory, a market is considered contestable where, even if there is only one supplier, the possibility of one or more additional suppliers entering is a real one – that is, the barriers to entry and exit are not significant.

Additional info: *The Government's principal reason for advocating increased contestability in the provision of public services, where appropriate, is to provide incentives for securing high quality, well focused services in the most cost effective way. More specifically, its objectives include:*

- *Ensuring that prices charged, where a service is contracted out, are at competitive levels;*
- *Ensuring that costs, where a service is provided in-house, are kept under rigorous review;*
- *Stimulating service development and innovation;*
- *Ensuring a choice of provider for both the 'commissioner' (in the Department's case, Children's Trust, extended school etc) and the end user where this is appropriate.*

Term - Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership

Definition - These are partnerships between the police, local authorities, probation services, health authorities, the voluntary sector, local residents and businesses which work to reduce crime and disorder in their area.

See Also : <http://www.crimereduction.gov.uk/>

Term - CSCI – Commission for Social Care Inspection

Definition - Launched in April 2004, The Commission for Social Care Inspection is the single, independent inspectorate for social care in England.

CSCI incorporates the work formerly done by:

- The Social Services Inspectorate (SSI)
- SSI/Audit Commission Joint Review Team
- The National Care Standards Commission.

Bringing together the inspection, regulation and review of all social care services into one organisation will allow for a more rational and integrated system.

Term - CYPSP – Children and Young Peoples Strategic Partnership

Definition - A formal body in each local area which provides a framework for planning services for children, young people and their families, ensuring a co-ordinated strategic approach to children's

services planning across all key agencies.

Term - Director of Children's Services (DCS)

Definition - As defined by Section 18 of the Children Act 2004, the Director of Children's Services is the appointed senior Local Authority officer responsible for education and children's social services and accountable for the meeting of needs and the promotion of good outcomes for children and young people in area. They will have a key role to play in shifting the cultures and practices required to organise services around children and young people provided by all agencies in the locality, including Local Authority and Health services.

Additional info: *The draft statutory guidance on the role and responsibilities of the Director of Children's Services states that:*

The Director of Children's Services will have three key roles:

professional accountability for the effectiveness, availability and value for money of all local authority children's services;

a leadership role within and beyond the local authority to secure the necessary changes to culture and practice, so that services improve outcomes and are organised around children and young people's needs; and

building and leading effective partnerships with and between those local bodies who also provide children's services in order to focus resources jointly on improving outcomes for children and young people.

Term - DIS - Delivery and Improvement Statement

Definition - A systematic written self evaluation of a council's progress against performance indicators, inspection findings, and policy expectations for social care and its plans for the future. It incorporates plans for children's social services.

Additional info: *Monitoring improvement through the DIS is a key component of the Commission for Social Care Improvement performance process. The information gained is used to help track and review performance during the year, and to support the annual review that precedes performance-rating (star rating) decisions, including CPA.*

Term - EYDCPs – Early Years Development and Childcare Partnerships

Definition - Early Years Development and Childcare Partnerships aim to provide good quality, affordable childcare for children aged 0-14, and up to age 16 for children with special education needs. The partnerships are led by local education authorities and bring schools, other providers, parents, employers and colleges together to develop early education and childcare services in their

area.

Term - Framework for Inspection of Children's Services

Definition - The framework sets out the principles which are to be applied by any of the inspectorates when carrying out a relevant inspection, review or investigation of children's services, including a Joint Area Review.

Additional info: *The inspectorates published a joint discussion document in May 2004 and held a series of events discussing preliminary proposals with local authorities and other key stakeholders, as part of a participative process to deliver a framework and arrangements for JARs.*

Inspectorates which have been included in the consultation process include amongst others, Ofsted, Healthcare Commission, CSCI.

Subject to the passage of Children Bill, integrated inspection will be introduced in September 2005. Ofsted, on behalf of all relevant inspectorates, will be consulting on a draft framework for in due course.

See Also: [Integrated inspection of Children's Services](#) and [joint area review](#)

Term - HM CPSI – HM Crown Prosecution Service Inspectorate

Definition - The independent inspectorate for the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS). HM CPSI's purpose is to promote improvement in the efficiency, effectiveness and fairness of the prosecution services within a joined-up criminal justice system through inspection, evaluation and identification of good practice.

Term - HMIC – HM Inspectors of Constabulary

Definition - Is responsible for examining and improving the efficiency of the Police Service in England and Wales. The statutory duties of HMIs are set out in the Police Act 1996.

Term - IDeA – Improvement and Development Agency

Definition - IDeA is one of the family of local government bodies which were established in 1999. It works with councils to improve performance, facilitate knowledge management and builds new platforms for joined-up, locally delivered services.

Term - Integrated inspection of Children's Services (IICS)

Definition - IICS involves: Targeted inspection activity explicitly around clear outcomes for children and focussed on the user, unconstrained by service boundaries; Guiding inspection and assessment of all universal, targeted and specialist services in so far as they relate to children; making arrangements for the effective co-ordination of inspection activity to prevent duplication and to reduce burdens and pressures on those inspected.

See Also: [Joint Area Review](#) and [Framework for Inspection of Children's Services](#)

Term - Joint Area Review (JAR)

Definition - An outcome driven model of assessing performance of children's services, with the outcome focused on the total experience of the child in the local authority area (including Education Authority and Social Care functions).

Additional info: *JARs will draw together evidence on the quality of services delivered for children and young people, and will make judgements about how well services taken together improve the well-being of children and young people. JARs will enable the Department for Education and Skills to analyse the effectiveness of local cooperation and integration.*

Term - Joint Commissioning

Definition - The process of *joint commissioning* involves partner agencies, as members of a children's trust commissioning 'board', responding to the strategy set out in the CYPP by considering together:

- how services can be specified to address the identified needs most effectively in an outcome-focused way;
- how best to allocate and utilise collective resources of all kinds in order to secure those services, from both statutory and non-statutory sources;
- what agreements, contracts and monitoring arrangements need to be put in place in order to ensure effective delivery and to influence future planning activity.

Additional info: *Local partners within their children's trust will need to put in place operational-level plans and associated commissioning cycles to underpin the strategic actions set out in the Children and Young People's Plan, and to turn them into a reality on the ground.*

Effective joint commissioning can lead to more sensitive, relevant and effective responses to children's needs. It should result in quicker and more integrated, tailored packages of services, where these are recommended by multi-disciplinary assessments of need, both at whole-population and individual levels.

See Also: [commissioning](#), [multi agency commissioning](#), [macro-commissioning](#) and [micro-commissioning](#).

Term - Lead Member for Children's Services

Definition - As defined by section 19 of the Children Act 2004, the Lead Member for Children's Services is the elected member of the local authority executive who is politically accountable for local authority children's services, who engages local partners to improve outcomes for children

and young people and who has a particular focus on ensuring that children are protected from harm.

Additional info: *The draft statutory guidance on the role and responsibilities of the Lead Member for Children's Services states that the Lead Member's role mirrors the DCS's role at the local political level. He/she will have:*

political accountability for the effectiveness, availability and value for money of all local authority children's services;

a leadership role to engage local communities in order to improve children's services and to ensure that services, both within the local authority and across partner organisations, improve outcomes and are organised around children and young people's needs;

a particular focus on child protection to ensure there is shared responsibility for protecting children across all agencies, and that the authority fulfils its responsibilities to children.

Term - Local Area Agreement

Definition - Local Area Agreements (LAAs) are voluntary, three year agreements between central government and local authorities and their partners. They will deliver national outcomes in a way that reflects local priorities - giving local authorities and their partners, through children's trust arrangements and Local Strategic Partnerships, the freedoms and flexibilities to find local solutions to local problems using a number or area based initiative funding streams that can be pooled.

Additional Info : *From April 2005, LAAs will be piloted in 21 local authorities covering the 9 Government Office regions.*

See also : The [LAA prospectus](#) on the ODPM website.

Term - Local Safeguarding Children Board

Definition - The Children Act 2004 requires each Local Authority to establish a statutory Local Safeguarding Children Board to co-ordinate the arrangements that are in place locally to safeguard children and to ensure that those arrangements are effective.

Additional info: *A Local Safeguarding Children Board is the statutory replacement for an Area Child Protection Committee.*

See Also: [Area Child Protection Committees](#) (ACPCs)

Term - LSP - Local Strategic Partnership

Definition - Cross-sector partnership made up of representatives from the public, private, voluntary and community sectors so that different initiatives and services support each other and work together. LSPs are intended to improve local public services by bringing those who deliver or commission different services together with those for whom the services are provided. They play an important part in co-ordinating Community Strategies that are aimed at improving the quality of life (social, material and environmental wellbeing). LSPs also act as a mechanism for channelling the Neighbourhood Renewal Fund delivering a local neighbourhood renewal strategy.

Additional info: *More specifically LSPs aim to:*

- *Prepare and implement a community strategy for the area;*
- *Bring together local plans, partnerships and initiatives to help ensure that public service providers work effectively together to meet local needs;*
- *Work with local authorities, developing local public service agreements to devise and meet suitable targets.*

Term - Macro (or strategic) commissioning

Definition - The process of meeting the needs of whole groups of service-users and/or whole populations, including mapping need; mapping existing services and their capacity; identifying what is needed; deciding what services to continue/close/develop; procuring the services; monitoring quality of the services; and reviewing the overall commissioning strategy.

Additional info: *This is really an extension of the usage of Commissioning to the largest scale manageable.*

Example: *In adult social care an authority may decide that all its domiciliary help services can be dealt with as a single commission.*

See Also: [commissioning](#), [multi agency commissioning](#), [Joint commissioning](#) and [micro-commissioning](#)

Term - MCSI – HM Magistrates’ Court Service Inspectorate

Definition - Inspects and reports on the organisation and administration of magistrates' courts in England and Wales and on the performance of the Children and Family Courts Advisory and Support Service (CAFCASS). It provides information about the performance of Magistrates' Courts Committees (MCCs) areas and of CAFCASS and supports them by endorsing good practice and making recommendations about possible improvements.

See Also: [CAFCASS](#)

Term - Micro commissioning

Definition - The process of meeting an individual's needs, from identifying needs and priorities for the individual through to the design of a service package (which may involve one or more service agencies) and continued monitoring and review of the service package.

See Also: [commissioning](#), [multi agency commissioning](#), [Joint commissioning](#) and [macro commissioning](#)

Term - Multi-agency (or Collaborative) commissioning

Definition - When two or more agencies coordinate their strategies for using their resources.

Additional info: *Agencies may choose not to pool funds but rather retain their separate budgets and spend on particular resources as agreed with their partner agencies.*

Example: *Education may agree to pay for the teaching whilst social services agree to pay for the care and accommodation.*

See Also: [commissioning](#), [micro commissioning](#), [Joint commissioning](#) and [macro commissioning](#).

Term - NatPaCT – National Primary and Care Trust Development Programme

Definition - A programme of work designed to aid PCTs to develop into organisations with strong patient and community focus, committed to clinical leadership, engagement and development, and deliver by creating systems which help PCTs to learn from one another, fostering the spread of innovation through supported networks and the use of technology.

Additional info: *Currently going through a transitional phase – nationally based under the arm of the NHS Modernisation Agency at present but will be locally based (under Strategic Health Authorities) following the cessation of NHS Modernisation Agency in April 2005.*

Term - NHS Modernisation Agency

Definition - Set up to ensure the commitments from the NHS Plan (2000) are translated into reality. The agency's aim is to improve NHS services throughout the UK by opening up communication channels and spreading best practice. It will modernise the NHS by moving from improving services in isolation to an integrated approach to widespread improvement.

See Also: [NHS Plan](#)

Term - NHS Plan

Definition - A 10-year plan (published in 2000) for investment and reform in the NHS with sustained increases in funding. Extra investment is accompanied by reform, including more autonomy, the introduction of national standards supported by an independent inspectorate, the Commission for Health Improvement which has been superseded by Commission for Health Audit and Inspection (CHAI).

See Also: [NHS Modernisation Agency](#) and CHAI

Term - NSF - National Service Framework for children, young people and maternity services

Definition - Sets national standards for children across health and social services, driving up the quality of service delivery and promoting general health improvement. Its broad aim is to put children, young people and pregnant women at the centre of their care, building services around their needs. It includes shared standards with wider children's services.

Additional info: *The first five Core Standards of the framework apply to services for all children; standards 6 to 10 apply to particular groups of children and young people (children who are ill, children in hospital, disabled children and children with complex needs, children who have mental health problems and medicines for children); standard 11 covers maternity services. The Children's NSF is directed at everyone involved in the delivery of services to children, young people or pregnant women.*

Term - Ofsted

Definition - Ofsted is a non-ministerial government department established under the Education (Schools) Act 1992 to take responsibility for the inspection of all schools in England. Its role also includes the inspection of local education authorities, teacher training institutions and youth work, including childminders.

Additional info: *During 2001, Ofsted became responsible for inspecting all 16-19 education and for the regulation of early years childcare. Under the Children Act 2004, Ofsted is to take the lead in developing a framework for integrated inspections of children's services, working alongside the Commission for Social Care Inspection, the Healthcare Commission, the Audit Commission and other inspectorates, to determine arrangements for bringing together joint inspection teams.*

Term - Pooled Budget

Definition - A mechanism by which local partners bring money together to form a discrete 'fund'. The purpose and scope of the fund is agreed at the outset and then used to pay for the service and activities for the relevant client group. The aims and outcomes for the pooled budget should

be set out in an agreement and the level of contribution made by each partner agreed before the budget is approved.

Additional info: *A pooled budget formalises integrated working arrangements*

See Also: section 10 (6) of the Children Act and section 31 of the Health Act 1999.

See also : [Children's Trust, commissioning](#), and [joint commissioning](#)

Term - Pool Manager

Definition - For each pooled budget there must be a pool manager, who will be nominated from existing staff or appointed by the partners of the pooled budget and be sited in the host agency for the pooled fund. The pool manager is accountable for managing the budget, and forecasting and reporting to the contribution partners on the outputs and outcomes and how far targets are being met.

Term - Primary Care

Definition - Community based services by GPs, nurses, therapists and others. Usually the first place people contact for health advice and treatment.

See also : [Secondary Care](#)

Term - Primary Care Trusts (PCT)

Definition - PCTs are NHS bodies that provide primary and community services and commission secondary (hospital) care on behalf of their local population. PCTs have taken on many of the roles formerly carried out by health authorities and currently commission around 75% of the NHS budget. It also means that decisions about local services are made at a local level by those best placed to make them

Additional info: *PCTs are situated within the National Health Service and accountable to the Strategic Health Authority.*

PCTs must make sure there are enough GPs to provide for their population and that they are accessible to patients.

PCTs must also ensure the provision of other health services including hospitals, dentists, mental health care, Walk-In Centres, NHS Direct, patient transport (including accident and emergency), population screening, pharmacies and opticians.

Term - Quality Protects

Definition - The Quality Protects Programme was a key part of the Government's wider strategy for tackling social exclusion. It focuses on working with some of the most disadvantaged and

vulnerable children in our society. Those children looked after by councils; in the child protection system; and other children in need.

Term - Secondary Care

Definition - Specialist care for identified health needs, typically provided in a hospital setting or following referral from a primary or community health professional.

See also : [Primary Care](#)

Term - Section 31, Health Act 1999

Definition - The Section 31 partnership arrangements in the Health Act 1999 were developed to give NHS bodies and local authorities the flexibility to be able to respond effectively to improve services, either by joining up existing services, or developing new, co-ordinated services, and to work with other organisations to fulfil this. The partnership arrangements are pooled funds and the delegation of functions – integrated commissioning and provision. The Regulations governing the use of Section 31 require a written agreement to be drawn up.

See also : [Pooled Budgets](#)

Term - SSC - Sector Skills Councils

Definition - Sector Skills Councils are independent, UK wide organisations developed by groups of employers in industry or business sectors of economic or strategic significance. SSCs are licensed by the Secretary of State for Education and Skills and the Lifelong Learning Ministers in the devolved administrations. SSCs give significant responsibility to employers to provide leadership for strategic targeted action to meet their sector's skills, workforce development and business needs.

See also : [Sector Skills Development Agency](#)

Term - SSDA - Sector Skills Development Agency

Definition -

The Sector Skills Development Agency funds, supports and champions the UK-wide network of employer-led Sector Skills Councils.

See also : [Sector Skills Councils](#)

Term - Strategic Health Authority (SHA)

Definition - Strategic Health Authorities were created in 2002 to manage the local NHS on behalf of the Secretary of State. They are responsible for:

- developing plans for improving health services in their local area;
 - making sure local health services are of a high quality and are performing well;
-

- increasing the capacity of local health services;
- making sure national priorities are integrated into local health service plans.

Additional info: There are 28 Strategic Health Authorities in the UK. Within each SHA, the NHS is split into various types of Trusts that are responsible for running the different NHS services within a local area, i.e.

Acute Trusts

Ambulance Trusts

Care Trusts

Mental Health Trusts

Primary Care Trust

Term - Sure Start local programmes

Definition - 524 Sure Start local programmes offer a range of early learning, health and family services to 400,000 children living in disadvantaged areas - including a third of under 4s living in poverty. Programmes are led by local partnerships of parents, community groups, local authorities, health agencies, voluntary groups and others.

Term - Sure Start Plus

Definition - Funded by the Teenage Pregnancy Unit, Sure Start Plus pilots operate in 20 areas, covering 35 local authorities. They provide specialist pre - and post-natal support to pregnant teenagers/teenage parents. Sure Start Plus Advisers broker access to education and training opportunities, childcare support, provide help with the benefit and housing issues and give support on positive parenting, benefits of breastfeeding, smoking cessation, emotional well-being etc. Aims to reduce the risk of long term social exclusion resulting from teenage pregnancy.

Additional Info : *Sure Start Plus aims to be achieved through improving health and education outcomes for teenage parents and their children, strengthening families and communities and improving social and emotional well-being.*

The programme has strong links with Government initiatives working to reduce poverty and social exclusion among children and young people. There are strong links, in particular, with the Teenage Pregnancy Strategy, the Connexions Service, HAZs, EYDCP and Supported Housing.

Term - Voluntary and Community Sectors

Definition - Voluntary or community organisations run on a not-for-profit basis, usually governed by a voluntary management committee.

Additional info: *Organisations may be nationally, regionally or locally based.*

Term - YJB - Youth Justice Board (England and Wales)

Definition - The Youth Justice Board for England and Wales is a non-departmental public body responsible for overseeing youth justice services. Its aim is to prevent offending by children and young people by preventing crime and the fear of crime; identifying and dealing with young offenders and reducing re-offending.

Term - YJS - Youth Justice System

Definition - The Youth Justice System comprises Youth Offending Teams, the police, youth courts and the institutions in which young people are held in custody.

See also : [Youth Justice Board \(YJB\)](#)
