



city & hackney
safeguarding
children board

Section 11/157/175 Audits Peer Review

April 2015 (Updated April 2016)

1. Purpose of the Peer Review

- 1 Section 11 of the Children Act 2004 places a statutory duty on key persons and bodies to make arrangements to ensure that in discharging its functions, they have regard to the need to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and that the services they contract out to others also have regard to that need. Sections 157 and 175 of the Education Act 2002 places the same duty on independent and maintained schools.
- 1.2 Improving the way key people and bodies safeguard and promote the welfare of children is crucial to improving their outcomes.
- 1.3 As part of its statutory objective of ensuring the effectiveness of safeguarding arrangements, the City & Hackney Safeguarding Children Board (CHSCB) facilitates an audit process that requires organisations / schools to self-assess their performance.
- 1.4 These audits are subject to scrutiny and oversight by the CHSCB. To further strengthen this oversight and provide additional support to partner agencies, the CHSCB has introduced a Peer Review process for audit returns. This Peer Review process will help partner agencies reflect on and improve safeguarding services for children and young people.

2. Format

- Sessions will be conducted in the manner of a critical friend to challenge partners on their own self-assessment of strengths and areas for improvement (as detailed in audit submissions).
- The sessions will be conducted in an interactive manner and will be flexible enough to allow a traditional 'interview' with identified staff members and also document review.
- Reviews will take place on-site and last no more than 2-3 hours per organisation / school.

3. Peer Review Team

- 3.1 The Peer Review Team will comprise a minimum of two members: a member of CHSCB and a lay member / Board Member outside of the reviewed organisation.

4. Process

- The number of peer reviews per year in each borough will be determined by the respective Executive Group.
- Statutory organisations are selected for Peer Review by the City and Hackney Executives, either randomly or based on local intelligence.
- Organisations / schools can also request a peer review.
- Organisations / schools are contacted to provide notice of the Peer Review, supplied with a copy of their audit and asked to identify key members of staff to meet with.
- A Peer Review Team is assembled and the date of review agreed.
- Review preparation (including supporting documentation provided by the organisation) is undertaken by the Peer Review Team.
- The Peer Review Team are onsite for interview and document review.
- An initial report is written and provided to the organisation / school for response within a specified period.
- The final report is presented at the next Executive Group meeting.