



<b>Briefing for:</b>	Children's Safeguarding Policy and Practice Advisory Committee and Corporate Parenting Advisory Committee	<b>Item number</b>	
<b>Title:</b>	The Munro Review of Child Protection: Final Report <i>A child-centred system</i>		
<b>Lead Officer:</b>	Hilary Corrick, Independent Member		
<b>Date:</b>	11th October 2011		

## 1. Introduction

Professor Eileen Munro was commissioned by the Coalition Government to undertake a review of child protection in this country and make recommendations as to how the system could be improved. Members will find attached to this report a briefing paper which summarises Professor Munro's final report. The Government responded in detail to the report, and a summary of the key points of their response is attached, courtesy of Reconstruct Research Service.

## 2. Background information

The report was commissioned in the light of publicity surrounding a number of child deaths, and professional concern about working within a very prescriptive culture, leaving little room for professional judgment.

3. **Members will note** the recommendations of the report and the increased freedom it advises for local accountability and performance management.



However, the report and the Government response offers challenges to local safeguarding services, which include:

- How to provide effective and accountable child protection services in the context of reducing budgets and increased demand resulting from cuts to public services and economic recession.
- An emphasis on early intervention and “sufficient provision of early help informed by the local profile of need” while resources are shrinking and partnership arrangements are subject to change;
- The need to rebalance expenditure to ensure the protection of the most vulnerable children with complex needs, while investing in evidence based practice, exploring areas of overlap and duplication with a view to increased joint commissioning where appropriate;
- The recruitment of adequate numbers of well qualified, knowledgeable and resilient social workers and other staff;
- The ‘designation’ of a Principal Child and Family Social Worker;
- A review of the role and responsibilities of the DCS and Lead Member;
- A review of the ways that child and family social work services are delivered locally, taking particular note of models developed in other authorities.

The new DCS, when she takes up her appointment in November, will wish to be at the forefront of shouldering these challenges. It is clear from the Government response to the Munro reports that there is likely to be a significant number of changes to structure, process and joint working arrangements in the next 1 – 2 years.