

## Ministry for Vulnerable Children, Oranga Tamariki Operational Response to Review of Practice for Infant B

	Recommendation	Work Currently Underway	Lead	Status	Timescale
<b>1</b>	<b>Consideration of Family Histories in Current Assessments</b>				
	The development of practice guidance on the compilation and use of chronologies for the Ministry for Vulnerable Children, Oranga Tamariki staff	To be considered as part of the accompanying practice guidance and documentation to support the forthcoming practice framework.	Practice Framework workstream/OCSW	To be developed	
<b>2</b>	<b>Provision of Reports to District Court</b>				
	The Ministry for Vulnerable Children, Oranga Tamariki and the Department of Corrections and other services ensure there is clarity in policy around the provision of assessments for the District Court.	Existing policy between Corrections and the Ministry on the provision of information to the Courts should be considered as part of their review mechanisms.	DCE Tamariki Advocate/Voices of Children - Protection Team	To be determined	30 April 2018
<b>3</b>	<b>Risk Assessment and Joint Decision making</b>				
	Practice guidance on investigation/assessment of initial responses to care and protection concerns is reviewed to strengthen:				
<b>(a)</b>	Initial risk assessments should more explicitly highlight areas of uncertainty and what steps should be taken to explore and manage these uncertainties	Current development of practice framework for all frontline practitioners.	Practice Framework workstream/OCSW	Underway	New Practice Framework will be available 2017. The development of detailed practice guidance and implementation will follow thereafter
<b>(b)</b>	The Ministry for Vulnerable Children, Oranga Tamariki supervision and management of child protection investigations which promote coordination of investigations and critical reflection of decision making.	As part of the new practice framework, clear standards will describe the 'must do's'. This will be supported by a new decision making framework that enables practitioners to exercise professional judgement and make critical decisions based on individual needs and circumstances. This will be supported by a revised supervision framework and strong evidence base	Practice Framework workstream/OCSW	Underway	New Practice Framework will be available 2017. The development of detailed practice guidance and implementation will follow thereafter
<b>(c)</b>	The importance of joint face-to-face inter agency planning and collective consideration and management of risks.	Further to the practice framework for the Ministry a system practice framework will be developed collaboratively with a range of agencies involved with vulnerable children. This will describe a common set of principles and ways of working	Practice Framework workstream/OCSW	To be determined	

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		together that are child centred.			
<b>4</b>	<b>Safety Planning</b>				
	Practice guidance on safety planning reviewed to better reflect the guidance on multi-agency discharge planning:				
<b>(a)</b>	A clear account of risks, both known and unknown present in the situation, as well as identifying any known strengths that can address these risks	As above, the new practice framework will identify a number of practice standards for frontline staff – there will be accompanying guidance produced to support evidenced based professional judgement and intervention strategies. In addition, there will be new documentation developed to record decisions and the rationale for these decisions  A core objective of the new framework being developed is to build the capability of staff to exercise professional judgement in areas of risk and ambiguity. The framework will reflect the requirement for collaborative practice with a wide range of agencies and services as well as families and to support this, a workforce competency framework is being developed to support the new practice framework.	Practice Framework workstream/OCSW	Underway	New Practice Framework will be available 2017. The development of detailed practice guidance and implementation will follow thereafter
<b>(b)</b>	Specific reference should be made to areas where there remains uncertainty and a safety plan constructed to take account of these uncertainties				
<b>(c)</b>	The actual or potential impact on the child should be central to the decision making and evidenced throughout the safety plan				
<b>(d)</b>	A clear rationale for a child returning to or remaining in the family home				
<b>(e)</b>	Mechanism in place to ensure the safety plan is constructed and shared with the relevant persons, including family members, agencies etc. who will be contributing to the safety of the child.				
<b>(f)</b>	Contingency arrangements should be explicit if elements of the safety plan are not adhered to.				
<b>(g)</b>	Quality assurance mechanisms to ensure safety plans meet the expected standards.	As part of its remit, the Office of the Chief Social Worker / Director of Professional practice will develop revised quality assurance mechanisms following the delivery of the new practice framework.	Practice Framework workstream/OCSW	To be developed	This will be taken forward following development of revised guidance
<b>5</b>	<b>Information Sharing</b>				
	To work with the Investing in Children Programme, who are leading on the design of the core services that will be delivered by the Ministry for Vulnerable Children, Oranga Tamariki, on the development of principles and operational guidance to enhance the level and quality of information sharing between agencies:				
<b>(a)</b>	Cross agency guidance should emphasise the principles and purpose of information sharing that allows staff to	Proposals around strengthening information sharing for vulnerable children is currently being	To be determined	Underway	Will be determined dependent on passing of

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	make informed, child centred and justifiable decisions about sharing relevant information.	considered as part of Bill Two which is before the Select Committee currently. If passed, this will be supported by supporting practice guidance for frontline practitioners and will require implementation across the wider children's services workforce.			legislation
<b>(b)</b>	The guidance should also highlight the need for professional conversations to understand the information available and inform planning and joint decision making.				
<b>(c)</b>	Particular attention should be paid to highlighting the need for informed conversations between agencies where there is differing opinions and potentially conflicting information where there are concerns about a child's safety and well-being. The purpose of these conversations is not primarily to secure agreement, but rather to acknowledge the uncertainties and ensure an open mind and flexible response is maintained by all involved and identify mechanisms for progressing assessments and planning.				
<b>6</b>	<b>Capacity</b>				
	Regions will have a plan to identify and manage local site capacity and staffing issues and take action to address these.	Senior leaders are implementing leadership development initiatives, as well as actively recruiting to fill all vacancies and identify critical staffing needs and additional resourcing requirements which will improve the present experience for children.	DCE Leadership & Organisational Development	Underway	30 June2017