

Safeguarding post-Laming: initial scoping study

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1 Introduction

The Local Government Association (LGA) commissioned the National Foundation for Educational Research (NFER) to undertake an initial scoping study into safeguarding post-Laming with a view to undertaking further work, if relevant. The purpose of this initial scoping study was to identify research and grey literature, which has been produced since the Laming report (i.e. since March 2009) and to provide a summary of the key findings. It should be noted that the initial scoping study was conducted using a limited number of search terms and was not a systematic scoping study.

Literature was identified through:

- a search of relevant databases (the search strategy for this is provided in Appendix 1)
- a search of local authority websites and relevant national organisation and government websites (the websites searched are listed in Appendix 1)
- existing NFER knowledge of forthcoming publications and knowledge of key contacts within the field of safeguarding.

The key findings

This section provides the key findings from the scoping study. A summary is provided here of the findings from the:

- database searches
- website searches
- items identified by NFER colleagues and other key contacts.

Database searches: summary

Database searches revealed a total of 48 relevant items. Further details of the items can be found in Appendices 2 and 3. In summary:

- SPP, SCIE and Childdata were the sources from which the greatest number of items were identified.
- The majority of items identified were journal articles, although a significant number were also classified as books or reports.
- The majority of the items were based on research or evaluation, although a large number were also practice discussion/guidance pieces.
- Although a number of items were only dated '2009', where specified, items were mainly published over the last three quarters of 2009.

The following table shows the content covered by the items identified by the database searches. A summary of the content of items is provided below the table (more details of the content of items can be found in Appendix 3).

Content of items	Number
Safeguarding generally	12
Social work practice	7
Baby Peter case	6
Child protection practice	6
Child abuse	5
Serious case reviews	4
Laming Report	4
Integrated working generally	2
Local Safeguarding Children Boards (LSCBs)	2
TOTAL	48

- The greatest number of items was focused on safeguarding generally. These covered a range of areas but included good practice guidance, assessing the quality of safeguarding services and interagency training and information sharing, following the Laming recommendations.
- The seven items focused on social work practice included items on the balance of child protection and child welfare work and early identification and intervention.
- All but one of the items specifically focused on the Baby Peter case was about the impact of the case and, in particular, the pressure on services.
- The items about serious case reviews focused on the lessons learnt from serious case reviews, new models and training for reviews.
- Items specifically about the Laming Report either summarised the recommendations or discussed the implications of the report.
- The two items which examined LCSBs focused on the different approaches to LCSBs and their effectiveness.

Website searches: summary

Website searches revealed a total of 41 relevant items. Further details of the items can be found in Appendices 2 and 3. In summary:

- The majority of these were responses from national organisations to the Laming Report or articles and press releases about their responses to the Laming report
- The items also included a small selection of local authority progress reports to committees in response to the Laming Report (i.e. more were available but are not included here).
- The majority of items were published in the first two quarters of 2009.

The following table shows the content covered by the items identified by the website searches. A summary of the content of items is provided below the table (more details of the content of items can be found in Appendix 3).

Content of items	Number
Laming Report	26
Serious case reviews	4
Safeguarding generally	3
Singleton Report	3
Baby Peter case	2
LSCBs	2
Social work practice	1
TOTAL	41

- As noted above, by far the majority of items were focused on responses to the Laming Report, including local authority progress reports.
- The four items focused on serious case reviews included guidance on reviews, local authority evaluation data and a list of executive summaries from individual serious case reviews, from which it was noted that learning points could be drawn.
- The three items focused on safeguarding generally included information about the National Safeguarding Unit and the framework for the new safeguarding inspections.

- The three items focused on the Singleton Report included the report itself and responses to it.

Items identified through NFER and other key contacts

The following items were identified from NFER and other existing contacts.

- Research by CAF/CASS into the effect of the Baby Peter case on Section 31 applications (published January 2010)
- A knowledge review being undertaken by C4EO in the area of safeguarding (due to be published March 2010)
- Research undertaken by Loughborough University into the cost and capacity implications of the Laming Review (due to be published March 2010)
- Research by NFER for the LGA focused on the impact of the case of Baby Peter on section 31 applications and child protection activity more widely (Forthcoming).
- NICE quick reference guide on 'When to Suspect Child Maltreatment' (Published July 2009).

Suggested areas for further research

In light of the findings, the following, or a combination of the following, are suggested as potential areas for further research:

- A literature review examining the key messages from current literature about safeguarding practice post Laming.
- Analysis of local authority responses and progress reports which have been produced in the light of the Laming recommendations in order to inform local authority practice.

Appendix 1 Search strategy

This appendix outlines the search strategy for the databases and the websites.

Database searches

The key words used in the searches of the databases, together with a brief description of each of the databases searched, are outlined below. Throughout, (ft) has been used to denote free-text search terms and * to denote truncation of terms.

Applied Social Sciences Index and Abstracts (ASSIA)

ASSIA is an index of articles from over 600 international English language social science journals.

- #1 Laming (ft)
- #2 Safeguarding (ft)
- #3 Child protection
- #4 Child abuse
- #5 Child sexual abuse
- #6 Child neglect
- #7 Child maltreatment
- #8 Child welfare
- #9 Children at risk (ft)
- #10 Serious case review (ft)
- #11 Baby P (ft)
- #12 Baby Peter (ft)
- #13 #1 or #2 or #3 or #4 or #5 or #6 or #7 or #8 or #9 or #10 or #11 or #12

British Education Index (BEI)

BEI provides information on research, policy and practice in education and training in the UK. Sources include over 300 journals, mostly published in the UK, plus other material including reports, series and conference papers.

- #1 Laming (ft)
- #2 Safeguarding (ft)
- #3 Child protection (ft)
- #4 Child abuse
- #5 Child sexual abuse
- #6 Child neglect
- #7 Child maltreatment (ft)
- #8 Child welfare
- #9 Children at risk
- #10 Serious case review (ft)
- #11 Baby P (ft)
- #12 Baby Peter (ft)
- #13 #1 or #2 or #3 or #4 or #5 or #6 or #7 or #8 or #9 or #10 or #11 or #12

British Education Index Free Collections

The free collections search interface of the British Education Index (BEI) (formerly the British Education Internet Resource Catalogue) includes access to a range of freely available internet resources as well as records for the most recently indexed journal articles not yet included in the full BEI subscription database.

- #1 Laming (ft)
- #2 Safeguarding (ft)
- #3 Child protection (ft)
- #4 Child abuse
- #5 Child sexual abuse
- #6 Child neglect
- #7 Child maltreatment
- #8 Child welfare
- #9 Children at risk
- #10 Serious case review (ft)
- #11 Baby P (ft)
- #12 Baby Peter (ft)
- #13 #1 or #2 or #3 or #4 or #5 or #6 or #7 or #8 or #9 or #10 or #11 or #12

ChildData

ChildData is produced by the National Children's Bureau. It encompasses four information databases: bibliographic information on books, reports and journal articles (including some full text access); directory information on more than 3000 UK and international organisations concerned with children; Children in the News, an index to press coverage of children's issues since early 1996; and an indexed guide to conferences and events.

- #1 Safeguarding
- #2 Laming
- #3 Baby P
- #4 Child protection
- #5 Serious case review

Criminal Justice Abstracts

Criminal Justice Abstracts is a database providing access to abstracts for a wide range of current books, book chapters, journal articles, government reports and dissertations published worldwide across the criminal justice field. The wide variety of topics covered includes juvenile justice and delinquency.

- #1 Laming (ft)
- #2 Safeguarding (ft)
- #3 Child protection (ft)
- #4 Child abuse
- #5 Child sexual abuse
- #6 Child neglect
- #7 Child maltreatment
- #8 Child welfare (ft)
- #9 Children at risk (ft)
- #10 Serious case review (ft)
- #11 Baby P (ft)
- #12 Baby Peter (ft)
- #13 #1 or #2 or #3 or #4 or #5 or #6 or #7 or #8 or #9 or #10 or #11 or #12

Social Care Online

Social Care Online is the Social Care Institute for Excellence's database covering an extensive range of information and research on all aspects of social care. Content is drawn from a range of sources including journal articles, websites, research reviews, legislation and government documents and service user knowledge.

- #1 Laming (ft)
- #2 Safeguarding (ft)

#3 Child protection (ft)

#4 Child abuse (ft)

#5 Child sexual abuse (ft)

#6 Child neglect (ft)

#7 Child maltreatment (ft)

#8 Child welfare (ft)

#9 Children at risk (ft)

#10 Serious case review (ft)

#11 Baby P (ft)

#12 Baby Peter (ft)

#13 #1 or #2 or #3 or #4 or #5 or #6 or #7 or #8 or #9 or #10 or #11 or #12

#14 United Kingdom

#15 #13 and #14

Social Policy and Practice

Social Policy and Practice is a bibliographic database with abstracts covering evidence-based social policy, public health, social services, and mental and community health. Content is from the UK with some material from the USA and Europe.

#1 Laming (ft)

#2 Safeguarding (ft)

#3 Baby P (ft)

#4 Baby Peter (ft)

#5 Child protection

#6 Child abuse

#7 Child sexual abuse

#8 Child neglect

#9 Child maltreatment

#10 Child welfare

#11 Children at risk

#12 Serious case review

#13 #1 or #2 or #3 or #4 or #5 or #6 or #7 or #8 or #9 or #10 or #11 or #12

Website searches

A range of government, organisation and local authority websites were searched using the key search terms: 'safeguarding', 'child protection' and 'Laming'. The websites included:

- Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF)
- Local Government Association (LGA)
- Association of Directors of Children's Services (ADCS)
- Ofsted
- National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children (NSPCC)
- Barnardo's
- Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service (CAFCASS)
- Independent Safeguarding Authority (ISA)
- National Association of Head Teachers (NAHT)
- National Union of Teachers (NUT)
- Social Work Task Force
- Children and Young People Now
- Local Government Chronicle
- a selection of local authority websites.

Appendix 2 Details of the literature

This appendix provides details of the:

- database searches
- website searches.

Details of the database searches

Database searches and key contacts revealed a total of **48** relevant items about safeguarding and child protection. The following table shows the sources from which the items were identified.

Database	Number
SPP	13
SCIE	12
Childdata	10
BEI	8
ASSIA	4
Criminal Justice Abstracts	1
TOTAL	48

The following table shows the different types of items which were identified.

Type of source	Number
Journal article	31
Book/report	12
Briefing paper	3
Research summary	1
Statistical release	1
TOTAL	48

The following table shows the type of items that were identified by the database sources.

Type of item	Number
Research/evaluation	18
Practice discussion	12
Practice guidance, review, recommendations	7
Policy report/discussion	4
Statistics and analyses	4
Case example/summary	2
Unclear	1
TOTAL	48

The following table shows the dates of items identified by the database sources.

Dates	Number
2009	19
Jan-March 09	1
April-June 09	7
July-Sept 09	9
Oct-Dec 09	8
Jan-March 10	4
TOTAL	48

Details of the website searches

The table below shows the type of items that were identified by the website searches.

Type of item	Number
Articles	8
National organisation responses to the Laming Report or Government action plan	6
Local authority progress reports to committees in response to the Laming Report	6
Briefing paper/summary	5
Practice guidance/review	4
News statements/press releases	4
Analysis of data/practice	3
Responses to the Singleton Report	2
Consultation document	1
Discussion paper/letter	1
Conference presentation	1
TOTAL	41

The table below shows the dates of items identified by the website searches.

Dates	Number
2009	2
Jan-March 09	12
April-June 09	14
July-Sept 09	5
Oct-Dec 09	3
Jan-March 10	2
No date	3
TOTAL	41

Appendix 3 Content of the literature

This appendix provides a detailed breakdown of the content of the items for the items identified through the database searches and for the items identified by the website searches.

Database items

The following table shows the number of items per content area. This is followed by a detailed breakdown of the items under each content area.

Content of items	Number
Safeguarding generally	12
Social work practice	7
Baby Peter case	6
Child protection practice	6
Child abuse	5
Serious case reviews	4
Laming Report	4
Integrated working generally	2
LSCBs	2
TOTAL	48

Safeguarding generally:

- Good practice guidance/approaches/inspection recommendations (3)
- Assessing quality of services (2)
- Interagency training/information sharing (2)
- NHS arrangements/role of school nurse (2)
- Personalisation agenda
- Children in need services
- Lessons from adoption.

Social work practice:

- Managing/balance of child protection and child welfare (2)

- Early identification and intervention with families with problems
- Care proceedings and court delay
- Implications of policy and legislation
- Child–social worker relationships
- Training.

Baby Peter case:

- Pressure on services/impact (5)
- Action of health.

Child protection practice:

- Work of health visitors/home visiting (2)
- Referrals and assessments
- Skills required
- Vetting and barring
- Inter-professional learning.

Child abuse:

- Identification and support (3)
- Therapeutic services
- Investigative interviews.

Serious case reviews:

- Lessons learnt (2)
- New models
- Training.

Laming Report:

- The recommendations (2)
- Implications
- Response to the report.

Integrated working generally:

- Integrated children's services and outcomes (2).

LCSBs:

- Effectiveness
- Approaches.

Website items

The following table shows the number of items per content area. This is followed by a detailed breakdown of the items under each content area.

Content of items	Number
Laming Report	26
Serious case reviews	4
Safeguarding	3
Singleton Report	3
Baby Peter case	2
LSCBs	2
Social work practice	1
TOTAL	41

Laming Report:

- Responses of national organisations (16)
- Local authority progress reports (5)
- Government action plan (2)
- Summary of implications for councils/schools (2)
- Summary of recommendations (1).

Serious case reviews:

- Guidance
- Evaluations
- Understanding and impact
- List of LA executive summaries.

Safeguarding:

- The National Safeguarding Unit
- Framework for safeguarding inspections
- Using technology to improve service delivery.

Singleton Report:

- Response (2)
- Report.

Baby Peter case:

- Impact in one local authority
- Prevention.

LSCBs

- Effective practice
- LSCB report and business plan for one local authority.

Social work practice:

- Review.

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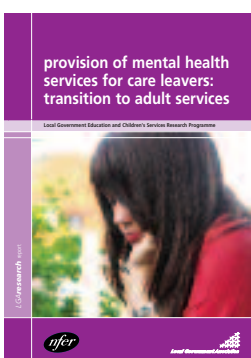
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The Local Government Association (LGA) commissioned the National Foundation for Educational Research (NFER) to undertake an initial scoping study into safeguarding post-Laming, with a view to undertaking further work if relevant. The purpose of the study was to identify research and literature produced since the Laming report was published in March 2009.

Literature was identified through:

- a search of relevant databases
- a search of local authority websites and those of relevant national organisations and government bodies
- existing NFER knowledge of forthcoming publications and key contacts in the field of safeguarding.

This report sets out the search strategies used, a detailed breakdown of the findings and recommendations for future research. It is important reading for local authority managers working in the area of safeguarding, policy-makers and all professionals involved in commissioning and undertaking research on this key area of children's services.