

Child Safeguarding: the Children and Social Work Act 2017

The Children and Social Work Act 2017, will herald the biggest changes in child safeguarding in forty years. The new structures will be described as well as the risks and opportunities for practitioners.

Dr Peter Green

As well as working for over 30 years as a Forensic Physician, for the last ten years I have also been working as the Designated Doctor for Child Safeguarding for Wandsworth CCG.

The two areas of work, Forensic Medicine and Child Safeguarding, are not as separate as many think. Although the proportion is falling, a significant number of police detainees are under 18.

In my safeguarding role, I set up a GP network for the leads to meet regularly, introduced Child Safeguarding training to my Faculty of Forensic & Legal Medicine and established the national designated professionals network.

My professional passion is a forensically based thesis - the implementation of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. While the UK lingers midway down the international league of childhood well being, and 50 to 60 children nationally a year die at the hands of parents and carers, there is much work to do.



Learning Objectives

- An understanding of current legal child safeguarding requirements.
- An understanding of the new legal safeguarding requirements.
- An awareness of the possible risks and benefits from the new legislation.