

- ii) The volume of child protection work has significantly increased during the past 10 years, as evidenced by an increase of over 200% in the number of children entered on the Child Protection Register in the absence of any increase in resources during that time.
- iii) A significant factor in the increase in the volume of work has been an increase in the different types of abuse revealed to the child protection agencies, notably sexual abuse.
- iv) "Working Together" makes recommendations which have significant resource and workload implications for the Social Services Department and the NSPCC, these are: that the categories of neglect, emotional abuse, and grave concern should be included in the criteria for inclusion on the Child Protection Register; and that only Officers of the Social Services Department or the NSPCC should act as "key workers" in cases where children are placed on the Child Protection Register.
- v) All these factors have led the NSPCC, at both national and local level, to reconsider its role in child protection work, since the demands of managing child protection systems are making it increasingly impossible for the Society to continue with the development of methods of treatment and training in child protection work.
- vi) At the same time, I had concluded that, as the lead agency both in terms of policy and practice, the Social Services Department should now resume responsibility for the multi-disciplinary child protection system. The recommendations of "Working Together" together with the fact that over 90% of referrals of child abuse are dealt with by Local Authority Social Workers, mean that the management of the multi-disciplinary child protection system and service delivery by the lead agency should be dealt with directly by that agency.
- vii) Finally, reorganisation of the Social Services Department's Management Structure as a result of Decentralisation will provide two opportunities for the Local Authority: firstly, the integration of managerial responsibility for the management of all the Child Care services for which the Social Services is responsible, including child protection, under an Assistant Director (Child Care); secondly, the inclusion of child protection work in integrated Council strategies which include supportive and rehabilitative services for children and families.

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