

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL

CHILDREN'S CHAMPIONS BOARD

MINUTES of A meeting of the Children's Champions Board held in the Swale 2, Sessions House, County Hall, Maidstone on Wednesday, 12 March 2008.

PRESENT: Mrs A D Allen (Chairman), Mr M J Vye (Vice-Chairman), Mr I T N Jones, DL, Dr T R Robinson, Mr J D Simmonds and Mr T J Birkett

ALSO PRESENT: Mr M C Dance

IN ATTENDANCE: Miss T Grayell (Democratic Services Officer)

UNRESTRICTED ITEMS

1. **Substitutes**
2. **Declarations of Members' Interest relating to items on today's agenda**
3. **Minutes of Board Meetings held on (a) 26 September 2007 and (b) 5 December 2007**

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the meeting held on 5 December 2007 are correctly recorded and they be signed by the Chairman. There were no matters arising.

The Minutes of the meeting held on 26 September 2007 were signed at the December meeting, but one small retrospective correction to the title of Minute 16 has since been made, and a corrected version of this page was signed by the Chairman.

4. **Chairman's Announcements**
5. **Integrated Processes - presentation**

(Item B1 – Presentation by Miss N Patient, ContactPoint Project Manager, who was in attendance at the invitation of the Board)

(The presentation is attached as a Appendix to these Minutes)

(1) Miss Patient referred to a series of slides which had been included in the meeting papers and tabled some additional, updated information. She explained how the ContactPoint and Common Assessment Framework (CAF) processes fitted together and the range of services they would cover. Points highlighted in Miss Patient's introduction, and in response to questions from Members, were as follows:-

- (a) the ContactPoint Service would be established in Kent early in 2009, and would bring several benefits. It would allow early identification of children with problems, aid preventative work, and allow one central information database which would link all agencies and avoid duplication;

- (b) the ContactPoint directory would include basic information only – no case notes or information from GPs. There was a statutory requirement for organisations to supply data, including all schools and independent schools, for example, so this would help identify children not attending school;
- (c) the ‘sensitive services’ referred to were services relating to any mental health, substance misuse or sexual health needs a young person may have;
- (d) the large number of potential users of the ContactPoint identified – 10,400 – was made up of staff who most needed access to the service to do their jobs; for example, headteachers, deputy headteachers and social workers responsible for referring young people onto services. Access for these users would be introduced in stages;
- (e) all users of the system would need to have had enhanced CRB checks (which would be reviewed every three years) and be fully trained before being able to access it. Miss Patient emphasised that ContactPoint could not be accessed from the Internet, or by any authorised user;
- (f) young people and their parents would not be able to log in directly but a young person could request to see their record under existing Access to Information legislation;
- (g) Members would not be able to access it directly but, to help them assist a local family which had approached them for help, they could request information via an authorised practitioner;
- (h) most children would have one ‘lead professional’, in most cases their lead Social Worker, but, for those with complex needs, professionals would need to decide between them who would take on the lead responsibility;
- (i) ensuring the quality of the data included was covered in the responsibilities of Miss Patient’s colleague, the CAF/Lead Professional Project Co-ordinator, Ms Burwell;
- (j) Members were shown an example ContactPoint screen. The system was flexible and could be searched in several ways. After its launch, the system would continue to be developed to cover further and non-statutory services, for example, allowing a young person to search for local youth club facilities;
- (k) Members asked to be advised of the costs of introducing the new system, once these were known, and be advised as and when each new part of the system was introduced/launched.

(2). RESOLVED that:-

- (a) the content of the presentation, and the information given in response to questions, be noted, with thanks; and
- (b) the Board be kept informed of the progress of the system and be advised when each new part of it is introduced/launched, and the of costs of introducing the new system, once these are known.

6. The Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006, and the Independent Safeguarding Authority

*(Item B2 – Report by Director, Strategy, Policy and Performance)
(The presentation is attached as a Appendix to these Minutes)*

(1) Mr Arthur introduced the report and explained that the new arrangements had emerged in response to the recommendations of the Bichard inquiry into the murders of two young girls in Soham. The report set out the key points of the new arrangements and had appended to it the Kent Safeguarding Children Board's guidelines on safer recruitment and employment. These guidelines were essentially a set of minimum standards that all agencies within Kent's children's workforce could sign up to in preventing unsuitable people being appointed to work with children.

(2) Although the funding details of the new arrangements were not yet known, Mr Arthur set out some likely costs. He explained that the current cost of a CRB check was £40 per person, and the new arrangements would require some 30,000 staff to be registered within the Authority. This number covered staff engaged under two areas of activity – regulated (those who worked directly with young people, including Social Workers, Youth Workers, Teachers, School Governors, etc) and controlled (support and administrative staff who would have access to information about young people but not work directly with them). The overall estimated cost for KCC of bringing in the new arrangements was £1.5m. This did not include the costs of supporting those voluntary organisations for which KCC acted as an 'umbrella', as it did for current CRB checking arrangements, and the ISA had stated that there will be no charge for registration of volunteers who meet the criteria. It was also recognised that up to 11 million people will need to be registered with the ISA in total, which will present a logistical challenge to central government, and it has been confirmed that the Criminal Records Bureau will administer the arrangements

(3) There would be a transition period of approximately 12 to 18 months while the new arrangements were set up, and new Independent Safeguarding Authority (ISA) registrations carried out, and it was important to minimize the risk of people falling through the net during this time. Those likely to be registered first would be those who had either never been CRB checked or had last been checked years ago. Those who had most recently been CRB checked would be registered last by the ISA. Also, in the transition period, everyone currently on a barred list (List 99, POCA and POVA) would be reviewed to see if they met the new barring criteria. Each case would necessarily be reviewed thoroughly by an ISA panel of experts (chaired by Sir Roger Singleton) and everyone was likely to be allowed to make representation, so the review process would be slow and potentially very costly.

(4) RESOLVED that the information given in the report, and in response to questions, be noted, with thanks.

7. Meetings with Care Leavers

(Item B3 – Report by Overview, Scrutiny & Localism Manager)

(Mr P Brightwell was in attendance for this item at the invitation of the Board)

(1) Miss Grayell introduced the report of the January meeting with young people leaving care, and sought Members' views on how they wished to approach the next meeting with the same group, due in July 2008.

(2) Members who had attended the meeting said how impressed they were with the mature approach the young people had taken to tackling and relating the problems they had experienced. Members also observed that many of the points raised were those which any young person might share, whether or not they were in care.

(3) Mr Brightwell explained that a recent meeting between the Leader of the County Council and a similar group of care leavers had raised similar issues, which the Leader had asked the Board to address. He set out how he proposed to take forward each of the issues raised, and explained that he would prepare a detailed action plan which he would share with Board Members. Points highlighted in discussion, and in response to questions raised by Members, were as follows:-

- (a) all young people who have left care continued to receive advice and support from a personal adviser up to the age of 21, via the Connexions service;
- (b) some district councils had raised the minimum age for housing application in an attempt to manage demand on very limited housing stock;
- (c) young people had expressed a range of views on whether or not a school should be advised of a student's care status, but several Members and officers expressed the view that a school did have a legitimate need to know and echoed the young people's unanimous view that such information should be treated very sensitively;
- (d) private and voluntary organisations had a role to play in the provision of housing and advocacy services. KCC supported some such organisations and services via grant funding – for example, the Young Lives Foundation and the Independent Visitor service. Members expressed concern that budget pressures may force the KCC to reduce its financial support, and sought reassurance on this point.

(4). RESOLVED that:-

- (a) the issues which arose at the recent meeting with care leavers, and the actions being put in place to take them forward, be noted;
- (b) the next meeting between the Board and the same group of care leavers, to be held in July 2008, be planned as a daytime rather than an evening meeting, in the school holidays, but the young people be consulted to see if this arrangement also suited them; and

- (c) the second Corporate Parenting event, to which all KCC Members would be invited, be planned for June 2008, so the guidance still awaited from the National Children's Bureau (currently expected at the end of March) could be used in preparing its content. The event would serve to keep all Members up to date with their role as Corporate Parents and also highlight the work of the Children's Champions Board in equipping Members to fulfil this vital role.

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Children's Trust Development

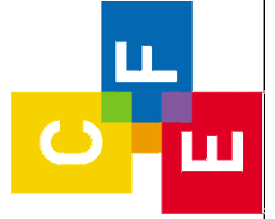
Engaging you

Children's Champions Board

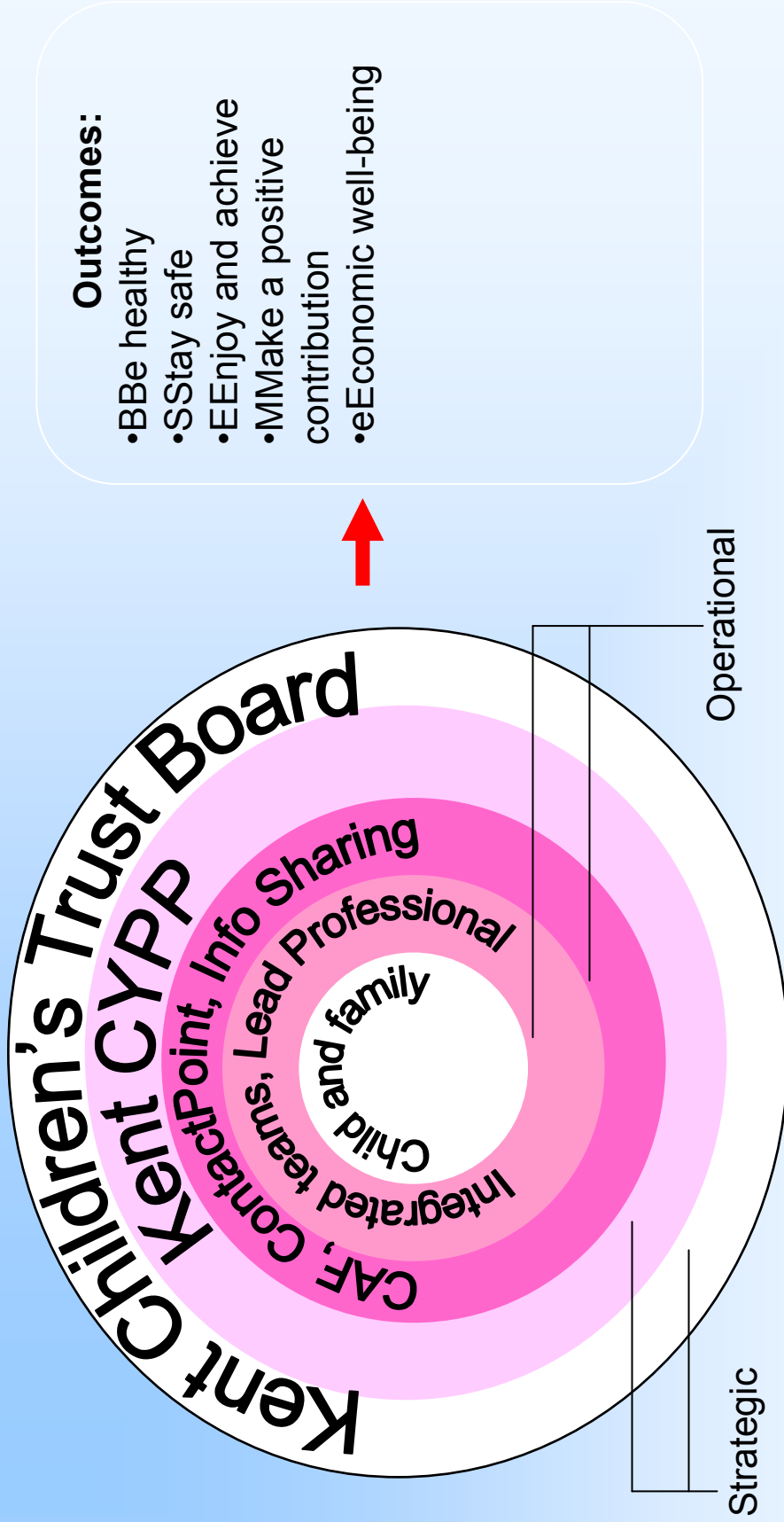
Integrated Processes



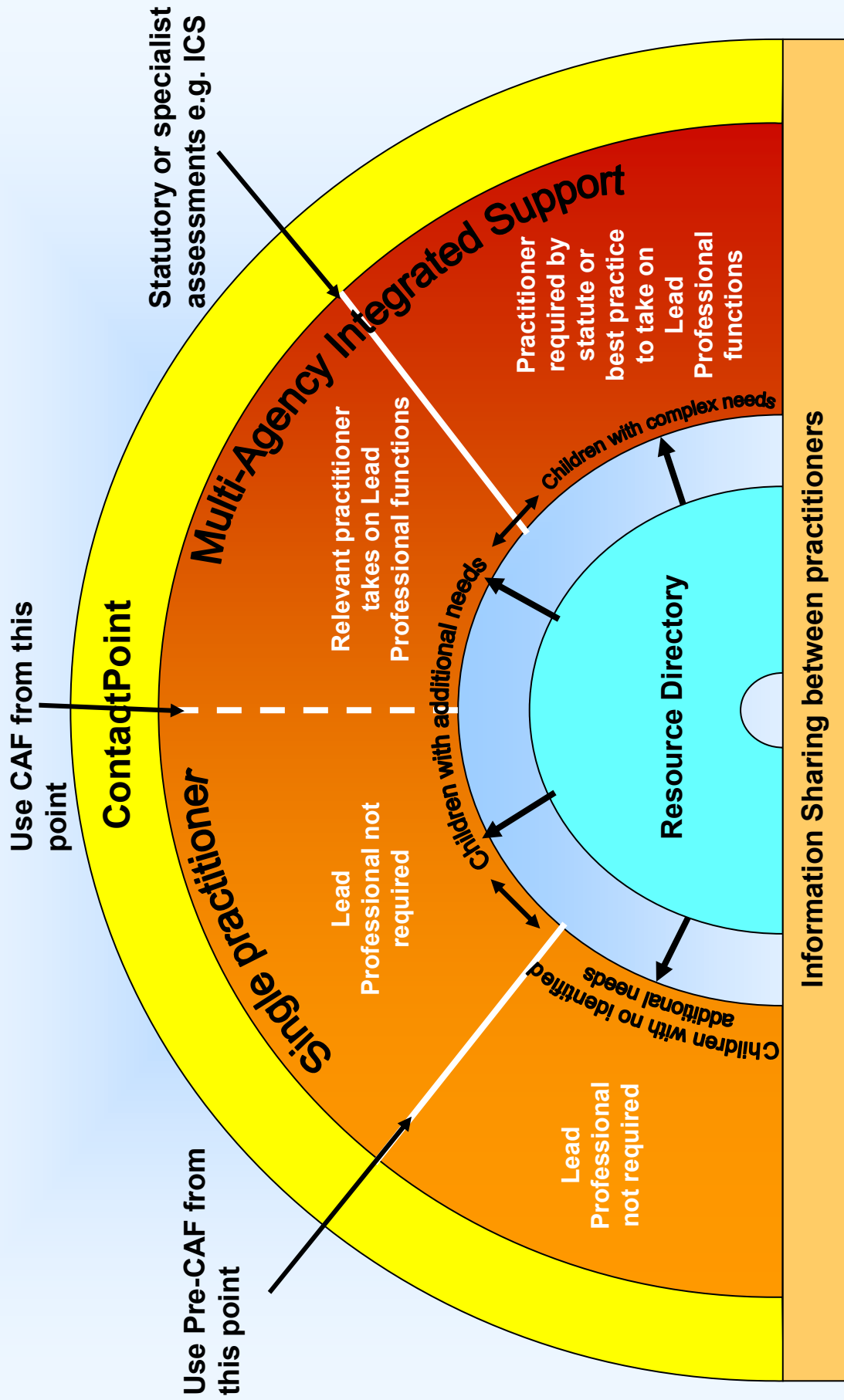
In partnership with



Improving outcomes: the context



Supporting integrated working: tools and processes



ContactPoint ... Principles

- ContactPoint will be the quick way to find out who else is working with the same child
- Will store very basic information for all children (0 to 17) in England - no case information
- Data will be drawn from existing national and local systems
- ContactPoint will be available across England by the end of 2008

ContactPoint: What information will it hold?

BASIC DEMOGRAPHICS

Child's Name

Gender

Date of Birth

Address

Parent / Carer
Contact Details

Unique Identifier

UNIVERSAL SERVICES

General Practice
Contact Details

Health Visitor
Contact Details

Educ/School
Contact Details

School Nurse
Contact Details

ADDITIONAL INVOLVEMENT

Youth Worker
Contact Details

Social Worker
Contact Details

SENCO
Contact Details

Lead Professional
Contact Details

Sensitive Service
Contact Details

CAF
Who, when, where?

CONTACTPOINT WILL NOT HOLD CASE DATA OR ASSESSMENT INFORMATION

ContactPoint Update and What Next

- National timetable revised: roll out to LAs, including Kent, from Jan - May 2009
- Statutory requirement for organisations to supply data to ContactPoint came into force on 1 August 2007
- Kent Workforce Analysis (WFA) has identified 10,400 potential ContactPoint users. Half have a current eCRB
- 24 main local case management systems identified that will need to feed data to ContactPoint
- Next steps: services need to review current local policies and processes to include ContactPoint
- Training from Early 2009 onwards

CAF . . . Principles in Kent

- Draft guidelines based on Signs of Safety
- CAF assessment tool not a referral mechanism
- Solution focused approach
- Undertaken with consent
- Holistic and takes account of strengths as well as needs
- Building a working partnership
- Enables information to follow the child

CAF . . . How it will help

- Provide a single method of early assessment
- Reduce duplication and requests for information
- Improve joint working and communication.
- Actively engage children, young people and their families.
- Form a front sheet to specialist assessments
- Provide better evidence-based referrals for advice and support

Lead Professional . . . Functions

Vision: All Children and young people with additional needs who require support from more than one practitioner should experience a seamless and effective service in which one practitioner takes a lead role to ensure that services are co-ordinated, coherent and achieving intended outcomes

Core Functions

Act as a single point of contact for the child or family

Co-ordinate the delivery of actions agreed by the practitioners involved

Increase coherence in the services received

CAF, Lead Professional and Information Sharing Training

- In excess of 2,000 practitioners will have attended multi-agency training by end of March
- 96% evaluations satisfactory or above
- Ongoing 2 day practitioner training programme
- Half day workshop to raise awareness for those staff who do not provide direct delivery and support front line practitioners

CAF and Lead Professional What Next

- Operational procedures will be in place for April 2008 developed by multi-agency working group
- Single Point of Access (SPA) and Team around the child (TAC) piloted in Shepway and Canterbury
- National E CAF delayed until end of 2009
- Kent E CAF interim solution to store and retrieve completed CAFs
- Educational Psychology Service to support implementation of CAF and Lead Professional from April 2008

Kent Resource Directory for Children's Services

- Website address: www.krd.org.uk
- Available from April 2008
- Services and activities for children and young people aged 0 -19 years
- Audience children, young people, parents /carers and practitioners
- Fully searchable e.g. localities, ECM, zones
- Ongoing development - further range of services and activities, map link



Kent Resource Directory

for Children's Services

be healthy
stay safe
enjoy and achieve
make a positive contribution
achieve economic well-being

- home
- about
- directory
- a-z
- links
- advanced search
- contact

search

Keyword:

GO

advanced search



welcome to the Kent Resource Directory for Children's Services

This on-line directory brings together information about services, activities, support and guidance for children and young people, aged 0 -19 years, parents and practitioners across Kent.

The aim is to meet peoples needs and to provide practitioners with a network of information.

You can search a wealth of information by keyword search or by using the advance search tab. You can also access more focussed information by clicking on the different zones and headings to find the information you need.



directory



Children
Things to do, help, support and advice



Young People
Your life, schools, colleges, support, help, friendship and fun!



Parents and carers
Caring for your family, health, safety, support, leisure, things that could matter to you and your children



Practitioners
Every Child Matters (ECM) Working with Children's Services, information and advice.



every child matters

What is it?

Every Child Matters: Change for Children is a new approach to the well-being of children and young people from birth to age 19.

The Five Outcomes -

The Government's aim is for every child, whatever their background or their circumstances, to have the support they need to meet the five outcomes:

- Be healthy
- Stay safe
- Enjoy and achieve
- Make a positive contribution
- Achieve economic well-being

For more information -

<http://www.everychildmatters.gov.uk/>



Contact Information

For further information please contact:

- Nikki Patient, ContactPoint Project Manager:
nikki.patient@kent.gov.uk
- Mary Burwell, CAF/Lead Professional Project Coordinator:
mary.burwell@kent.gov.uk

Link to information via Clusterweb:

- www.clusterweb.org.uk/children/childrenstrust.cfm



Kel Arthur
Head of Children's
Safeguards
(Education Services)
New Vetting and
Barring Arrangements

The Bichard Report - Recommendation 19

‘New arrangements should be introduced requiring those who wish to work with children, or vulnerable adults, to be registered. The register would confirm that there is no known reason why an individual should not work with these client groups.’

Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006

- The Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act provides the legal framework for the new scheme.
- The Scheme will reform current vetting and barring practices.
- Employers retain their responsibilities for ensuring safe recruitment and employment practices

Legal Framework: Regulated Activity:

- Any activity which involves contact with children or vulnerable adults and is of a specified nature (e.g. teaching, training, care, supervision, advice treatment or transport) ... frequently, intensively and / or overnight.
- Any activity allowing contact with children or vulnerable adults and is in a specified place (e.g. schools, care homes, etc.,) ... frequently or intensively.
- Fostering and childcare
- Certain defined positions of responsibility (e.g. school governor, director of social services, trustees of certain charities).

Legal Framework

Duties and responsibilities under regulated activity:

- To undertake regulated activity the individual must be a member of the scheme.
- An employer must check that a prospective employee who is in regulated activity is a member of the Scheme.
- A barred individual must not undertake regulated activity
- An employer must not engage in regulated activity a barred person or a person who is not a member of the Scheme.
- No distinction is made between paid and voluntary work.
- Personal and family relationships are not covered.

Legal Framework

Controlled activity:

- It will be *mandatory to check* individuals in controlled activity.
- A barred person *can be employed* in controlled activity, providing *safeguards* have been put in place
- Ancillary support work in *general health, NHS, adult social care and FE settings* (e.g. cleaner, caretaker, shop worker, catering staff, car park attendant, receptionist).
- Those working for *specified organisations* (e.g. a Local Authority) with frequent access to sensitive records about children and vulnerable adults.

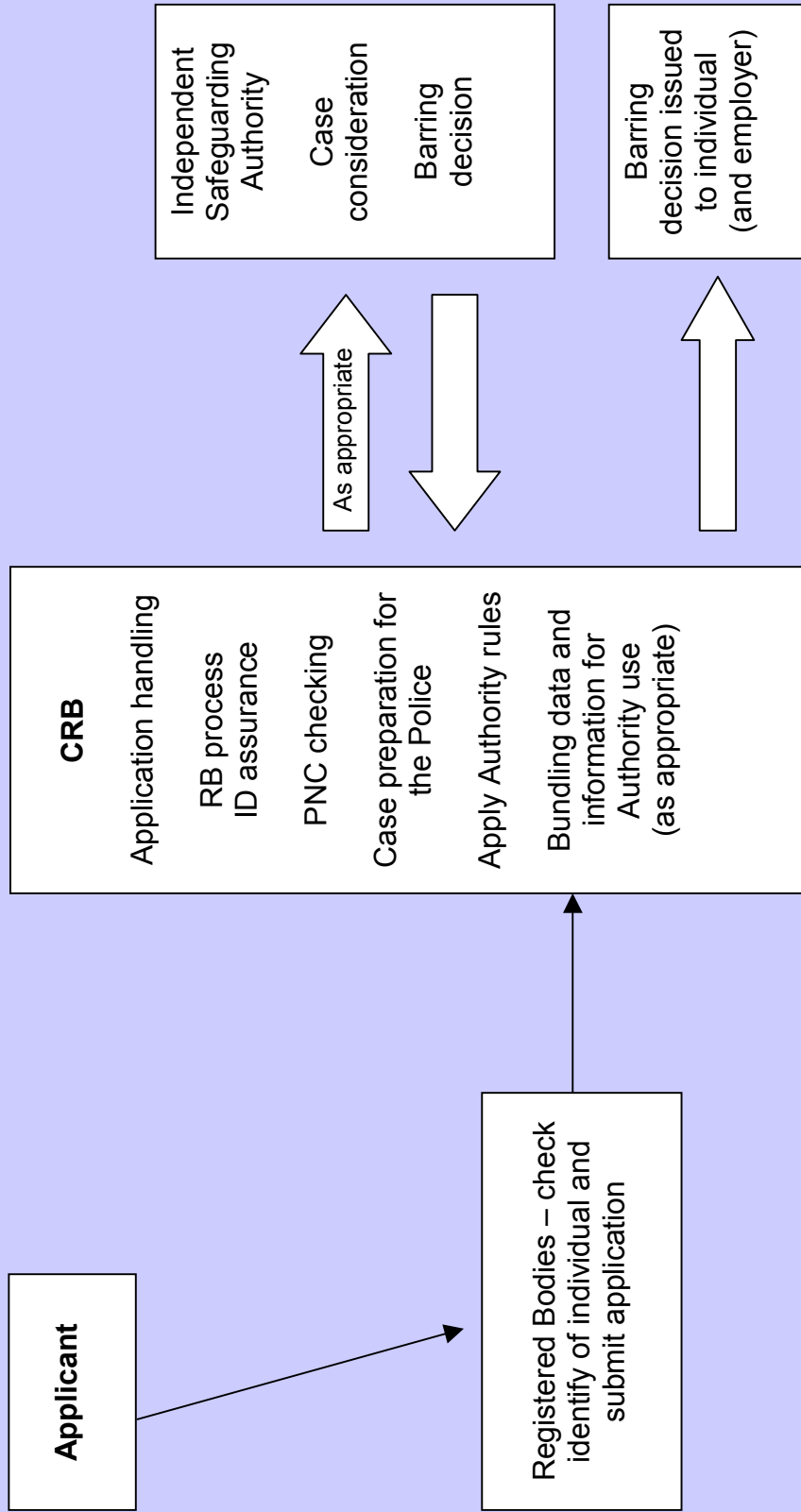
Employer duties - Referrals

- Employers, professional and regulatory bodies, and child / adult protection teams in Local Authorities will be under a duty to refer relevant information
- All other employers of those working with children and / or vulnerable adults may refer
- Parents / private employers should go to a statutory agency who can investigate and refer if appropriate (e.g. social services or the police).
- The Independent Safeguarding Authority will inform professional and regulatory bodies when it bars someone, so that their professional registration can also be reviewed.

Improvements under the new Scheme

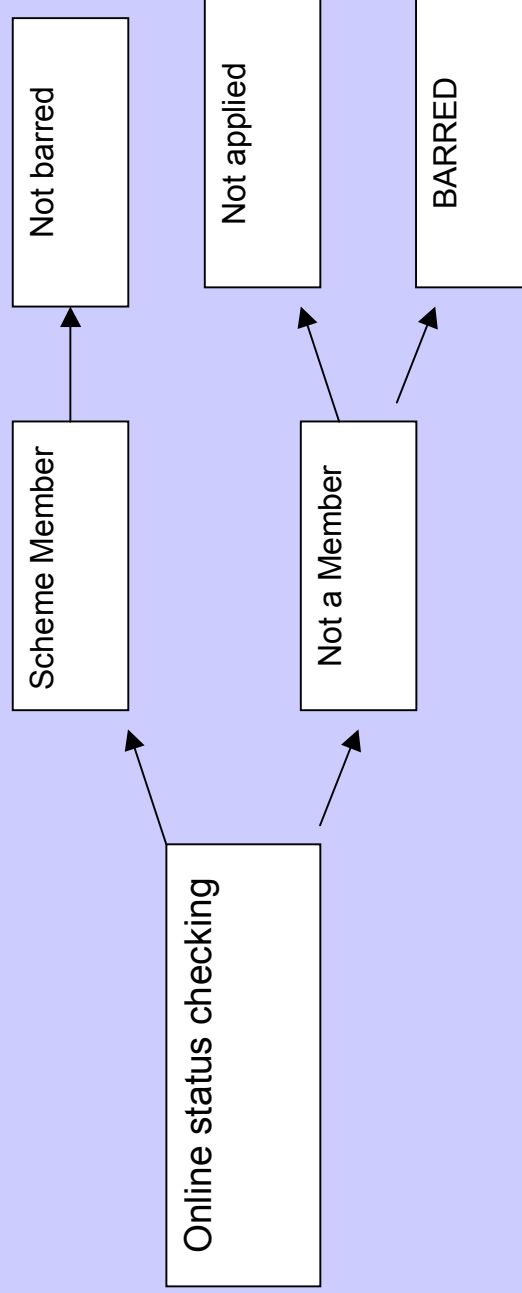
- Integration of lists - POCA, POVA, List 99 and Disqualification Orders (Transition arrangements)
- Pre-employment vetting - Barring decisions made prior to employment
- Consistent decisions by experts - The Independent Safeguarding Authority
- Continuous updating - Notification if a person's status in the Scheme changes

Scheme Operation – Application Overview



Scheme Operation – Online status

- The status of individuals will be continuously updated on receipt of new information, such as new convictions or referrals from employers.
- Employers will be notified where they have registered an interest, if the status of their employee changes.
- Scheme membership is fully portable.



Time Table

- Royal Assent Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act November 2006
- Home Office implementation from January 2007
- Consultation on secondary legislation starting Summer 2007
- Independent Safeguarding Authority Chair, Sir Roger Singleton, appointed April 2007
- Systems ready for testing Spring 2008
- Systems readiness review Summer 2008
- Children's workforce 11 million people
- Regulations/fee setting pending
- Phased scheme roll-out starts Autumn 2008?

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