

Child Protection Timeline

The Prevention of Cruelty to, and Protection of Children Act was passed allowing police to arrest anyone mistreating a child and enter homes to prevent danger to children

The Children Act 1989 introduced the concept of parental responsibility and enshrined in the law the right to inquire to safeguard children.

The Protection of Children Act 1999 aimed to prevent paedophiles from gaining employment which gave them access to children

The Birchard Enquiry recommended a registration scheme for those working with children and vulnerable adults following the murder of Holly Wells and Jessica Chapman

The Children's Act 2004 mandated Local Authorities to appoint a children's director and create statutory Local Safeguarding Children Boards (LSCB's)

Eileen Munro published 'A Child-centred system' – a review of child protection practice in England

The Children and Social Work Act 2017 received Royal Assent. It includes new partnership arrangements for safeguarding being led by local authorities, health and the police as well as a range of provision from support for children in care and care leavers, to PHSE education for school pupils.

Child Protection In England 2022 set out recommendations and findings for national government and local safeguarding partners to protect children at serious risk of harm following the deaths of Star Hobson and Arthur Labinjo-Hughes. Josh McAlister Independent review of the needs, experiences and outcomes of the children supported by social care is published.

1889

1908

1989

1993

1999

2003

2004

2010

2011

2014

2017

2018

2022

2023

The Children's Act 1908 established juvenile courts and introduced the registration of foster parents. The Punishment of Incest Act made sexual abuse within families a matter for state jurisdiction rather than intervention by the clergy.

The Children and Young Persons Act combined all child protection laws into a single piece of legislation and added further guidelines such as minimum working age for children

Lord Laming published his report into the death of child abuse victim Victoria Climbié. It found that 12 opportunities to save her were missed.

The statutory guidance Working Together to Safeguard Children was released, outlining inter-agency working to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and young people

The Children and Families Act 2014 obtained royal assent and became law, giving greater protection to vulnerable children

The Department for Education (DfE) published an updated version of Working Together 2018 updated in 2020 to include assessment of harm outside of the home.

2023 The Department for Education (DfE) consult on updates for Working Together and information sharing guidance.