

CONSULTATION QUESTIONS

1. For draft Regulation 3, do you agree with the proposed arrangements for the recruitment and selection of members of the Safeguarders Panel?

We would agree with this but feel if nominations should not be sought from CHS or SCRA in order to maintain independence then they also should not be sought from the social work department for the same reasons.

2. In respect of draft regulation 5(2) and 5(3), do you agree with the suggested prerequisites for appointment to the safeguarders panel?

We would fully agree with this.

3. In respect of draft regulation 5(4), do you agree with the proposed classes of persons disqualified from appointment, or from continuing as a member of the Safeguarders Panel?

We would agree with this but feel in order to maintain independence that social work should be added to the classes.

4. Based on draft regulation 7(1) & 7(2), do you agree with the basis on which the Scottish Ministers must appoint and reappoint a person as a member of the Safeguarders Panel?

We would fully agree with this.

5. In considering draft regulation 7(4), do you conclude that the grounds on which a person may be removed from the Safeguarders Panel are sufficiently wide?

We would agree with the grounds but feel in the rare instances that this occurs it should be considered in consultation with the National Convenor.

6. Do you support the requirements set out in draft regulation 8 – that mean that members and prospective members of the safeguarders panel must attend (and successfully complete) training required by the Scottish Ministers?

We would fully agree with this.

7. Do you support the proposals set out at draft regulation 10 for the payment of fees, expenses and allowances to members and potential members of the Safeguarders Panel?

We would fully agree with this. Although perhaps the monies for this should be kept separate from any Childrens Hearings budgets in order to maintain impartiality.

8. Do you agree with the proposed arrangements set out at draft regulation 11(4) and (5) for the monitoring and assessment of the performance of members of the safeguarders panel? Are they realistic and proportionate?

Monitoring of Safeguarders can realistically only happen through the quality and content of their reports. From the end product it is normally possible to recognise how much work, consultation and reflection has taken place in order to produce the report. It is also realistic to some degree to assess the Safeguarders experience in this field by the quantity of Safeguarding appointments they have accepted. Panel Members should have the authority to use the Childrens hearing comments book in respect of Safeguarders in order to alert the ASTs as to the quality of the reports being received.