

From Departmental Employee – who wishes to remain anonymous

Sent: Wednesday, 27 January 2010 5:12 PM

To: WWCVP consultation

Subject: Feedback and Suggestion

Could this contribution be received without mentioning my name / role and title?

I would like to promote taking this one step further, and introducing processes and protocols between all agencies to allow for best practice *Investigations into allegations against people working with children / vulnerable adults (employees and volunteers)*. Procedures in responding to such allegations should also have very clear roles and responsibilities of all involved clearly outlined (i.e. protocol). Note: that vulnerable adults could be defined by law (such as in the UK) and could comprise of people from CALD communities to aged care. Example: Psychologist involved in allegation as alleged perpetrator. Psychologist working in Education / but also have private practice. There is a duty of care for i.e. DoE, but also Child Protection Services, Police etc. Who would be the lead professional? HR implications? Criminal matters pending?

The result of including such a section within the paper / separate follow-up paper would allow / prompt organisations and departments to consider a structural proactive approach to prevention of abuse and neglect; necessary training for all staff (possibly joint approach) to create awareness and develop skills to identify, manage and respond to such complaints; and prompt a collaborative approach with all agencies involved when such an allegation is received.

The UK previously defined such investigations within *Chapter 6 and Appendix 5 of Working Together 2006*. I have quickly looked up one such policy (just for a bit of background): https://esi.essexcc.gov.uk/vip8/si/esi/content/binaries/documents/Service_Areas/Safeguarding/Working_together_to_safeguard_children.doc

Hope this assists.