



# Safeguarding children

The third joint chief inspectors' report on  
arrangements to safeguard children

2008



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**Christine Gilbert**  
Her Majesty's Chief Inspector

The Rt Hon Ed Balls MP, Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families  
The Rt Hon Des Browne MP, Secretary of State for Defence  
The Rt Hon John Denham MP, Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills  
The Rt Hon Alan Johnson MP, Secretary of State for Health  
The Rt Hon the Baroness Scotland of Asthal QC, Attorney General  
The Rt Hon Jacqui Smith MP, Secretary of State for the Home Department  
The Rt Hon Jack Straw MP, Secretary of State for Justice and Lord Chancellor

### **The third joint Chief Inspectors' report on arrangements to safeguard children**

On behalf of eight inspectorates, I am pleased to present the third joint Chief Inspectors' report on arrangements to safeguard children. This draws on individual and joint inspection activity; it follows the two previous reports published in 2002 and 2005.

We report many improvements over the past three years and these sit securely within the changing landscape of children's services underpinned by the Children Act 2004 and the Every Child Matters agenda. However, we also identify a number of recurring issues which indicate that some children are still not well enough served by public services.

We make a number of recommendations to improve safeguarding arrangements for children and young people. If implemented, these would support the ambitions of the Children's Plan and lead to improvements in the quality of life for children and, indeed, their families.

We urge you to consider the recommendations with speed.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Christine Gilbert'.

Christine Gilbert CBE, Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Education, Children's Services and Skills

On behalf of:

Anna Walker CB, Chief Executive, Healthcare Commission  
Paul Snell, Chief Inspector of the Commission for Social Care Inspection  
Sir Ronnie Flanagan GBE QPM, Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Constabulary  
Stephen J Wooler CB, Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of the Crown Prosecution Service Inspectorate  
Eddie Bloomfield, Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Court Administration  
Anne Owers CBE, Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Prisons  
Andrew Bridges, Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Probation

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Sir Ronnie Flanagan GBE QPM,  
Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Constabulary

Stephen J Wooler CB,  
Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of the Crown  
Prosecution Service Inspectorate


Eddie Bloomfield,  
Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of  
Court Administration


Anne Owers CBE,  
Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Prisons


Andrew Bridges,  
Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Probation

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