

Date: January 2023

What is Section 11 (S11)?

When we talk about Section 11 Self-Assessments we are referring to **Section 11 of the Children's Act 2004**. Under S11 named organisations have a statutory duty placed upon them to cooperate and work together to safeguard children and promote their welfare.

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Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018, (Chapter 2) clearly identifies the agencies for which compliance with the standards set in Section 11 are mandatory.

Who are the Statutory Organisations?

- Local authorities and district councils that provide children's and other types of services, including children's and adult social care services, public health, housing, sport, culture and leisure services, licensing authorities and youth services
- NHS organisations and the independent sector, including NHS England and Clinical Commissioning Groups, NHS Trusts, NHS Foundation Trusts and General Practitioners
- The police, including police and crime commissioners and the chief officer of police for the police area
- British Transport Police
- National Probation Service and Community Rehabilitation Companies
- Governors/Directors of Prisons and Young Offender Institutions (YOIs)
- Directors of Secure Training Centres (STCs)
- Principals of Secure Colleges
- Youth Offending Teams/Services (YOTs)
- Contracted services, including those provided by voluntary services

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3 What are your responsibilities?

Chapter 2 of 'Working Together to safeguard children 2018' details the common features which must be demonstrated by agencies in order to fulfil their commitment to safeguard children and promote the welfare of children. It is the Agency's responsibility to ensure that you are meeting these commitments.

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What is the responsibility of the SSCP?

There is a shared responsibility between organisations and agencies in Surrey to safeguard and promote the welfare of all children in our local area. Leadership is provided by the 3 Statutory partners; CEO of Surrey County Council, Senior Responsible Officer for the Surrey Heartlands Integrated Care System and Chief Constable of Surrey Police who have equal and joint responsibility for local safeguarding arrangements. The SSCP is therefore responsible for ensuring that agencies understand and are meeting their obligations under Section 11.

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How often do you need to Self-Assess?

In 2023 Surrey Safeguarding Partners have agreed to move away from the 2 or 3 year self-assessment cycle and instead encourage partners to undertake an ongoing self-assessment gradually across the year. The cycle will follow the academic year, starting in September and then concluding in the Summer each year with a final review of progress. This final review will involve a face to face meeting between Senior responsible person in the agency and a small moderation team made up of members of the SSCP.

The Surrey Approach

The Section 11 Self-Assessment Framework consists of :

- A **Core Set of Safeguarding Policies and Procedures**, agreed by the Partnership – these will be held by and managed by the agency
- An **annual template of questions** – devised, agreed and published by the partnership prior to the start of each academic year.
- An ongoing **action plan** that is designed, owned and managed by the agency but can be made available to the SSCP on request.

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Working Together to implement S11:

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The SSCP would like to encourage its partners to work closely together to ensure that Surrey is meeting the duties laid out under Section 11 of The Children Act 2004. As such the approach to S11 self-assessments introduced in 2023 includes a proposal for agencies to have a **standing item on SSCP Network/Forum agendas throughout the year** that focuses in on one or more aspects of the self-assessment framework for that year. What is covered and when is for the Network to decide but it will provide a platform to share good practice, problem solve together and overcome barriers.

"The support and protection of children cannot be achieved by a single agency....Every Service has to play its part. All staff must have placed upon them the clear expectation that their primary responsibility is to the child and his or her family." Lord Laming in the Victoria Climbié Inquiry Report, paragraphs 17.92 and 17.93.