**Child protection: Role of LA Children's Social Care**

The Director of Children’s Services, under section 18 of the Children Act 2004 has responsibility for ensuring that a local authority meets their specific duties to organise and plan services and to safeguard and promote the welfare of children.

Each local authority is responsible for establishing a Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) in their area and ensuring it is run effectively. An LSCB can cover more than one local authority area.

Social workers take a lead role in:

* responding to children and families in need of support and help
* undertaking enquiries following allegations or suspicion of abuse
* undertaking initial assessments and core assessments as part of the Assessment Framework
* convening strategy meetings and initial and subsequent child-protection conferences
* court action to safeguard and protect children
* coordinating the implementation of the child protection plan for children on the child protection register
* looking after and planning for children in the care of the council
* ensuring that looked-after children are safeguarded in a foster family, children's home or other placement.

http://www.education.gov.uk/childrenandyoungpeople/safeguardingchildren/a0010818/child-protection-role-of-la-childrens-social-care