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Sent: 20 July 2005 19:07
To:
Subject: Child Protection and data Protection

Hi

It was good to talk this afternoon.

Basic issues as mentioned:

Concerning LEAs who employ / contract independent consultants to deal with HE.

- a. Letters being written WITHOUT the consultant being introduced first
- b. Letterhead has no official address and phone no. on it to "check out" the person who has written (eg Kingston Upon Thames seem to just hand out a stack of letterhead consultants put own address on it as it just has the logo at the top! Example attached - the phone number etc has nothing to do with the main admin or the ed. dept -..... please respect privacy). Good practice on the other hand can be seen at East Yorkshire - contact for further info.
- c. Some only phone - no letters and no written report afterwards (most guilty culprit is Birmingham who have been doing this for at least 4 yrs as far as I can gather and take no notice of repeated requests from many diff parties to tighten up)
- d. Data protection issue must be covered - ie
 - i. giving personal details of families to these consultants who may or may not be construed as third parties (is this permissible without consent)
 - ii. Is the LEA obliged by Section 7 of the Act if a request is made by the family re their data being processed.

Hope this is clear enough

Thanks again

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