

# Improving Child Protection

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Children: Over Surveilled, Under Protected

LSE

27 June 2006



THE LONDON SCHOOL  
OF ECONOMICS AND  
POLITICAL SCIENCE ■

# Importance of sharing information

- No legal barriers
- Well established procedures
- “Healthy scepticism” and “respectful uncertainty” are needed (Lord Lamming, 2003).

# Failures to share

- Not seen as indicating abuse so no need to share
- Shared but receiver did not agree that it suggested abuse

# Dangers of overload

More = better is not always true

“If you are looking for a needle in a haystack,  
don’t make the haystack bigger”  
Information Commissioner, 2004.

Crying wolf

# Shifting the focus

- to early intervention and prevention
- *away from* child protection

# Talking to the child

Recurrent failing in child abuse inquiries:

No-one talked to the child

# Talking to parents

- Importance in
  - Assessment
  - Helping
- Time for talking
- Difficulties in interviewing

# Improving practice

- No panacea
- Need to increase the skills of the workforce
  - ensure the basic practice is competent
- Need to increase our understanding of child abuse and neglect
- IT may be useful