

Jane Held is a former Director of Social Services in Camden and prior to that in Southend on Sea. Her background is in social work, and she began her career working in children's homes in Scotland. She held a range of management roles between 1979 and 1991. She was also co-chair of the Children and Families Committee of the Association of Directors of Social Services (the Professional Association) for three years.

After retiring from local government service in 2004 she set up an independent consultancy service specialising in Children's Services, and in particular safeguarding policy and practice. Since then she has worked on contracts with a variety of local and national bodies including government and regulators. She has participated in a range of major national reviews and inquiries including the Savile Inquiry. She mainly focusses on how to improve what we do, and how system change and system transformation can be used to underpin radical change, improved outcomes and deliver continuous improvement.

Formerly Chair of the Leeds Safeguarding Children Board, and the Birmingham Safeguarding Children Board currently she is the Independent Chair of both the Sunderland Safeguarding Children Board and the Milton Keynes Safeguarding Children and Safeguarding Adults Boards. She was also until recently the Independent Chair of the Medway Improvement Board and until November was the Vice-Chair of the National Children's Bureau.