

## Chapter 1

### Introduction

Children are the most vulnerable section in the society as they are in need of care by adults for their well-being and overall development. Dependence on adults creates challenges for children during their fight against abuse at home and outside. Children in Need of Care and Protection (CNCP) are those who are without homes, found begging, street children, mentally or physically challenged, orphans, trafficked or sexually exploited, drug/substance abusers and other such cases. 'Children in conflict with law' refers to children who come into the contact with the Justice System as being suspected/accused of committing an offence.

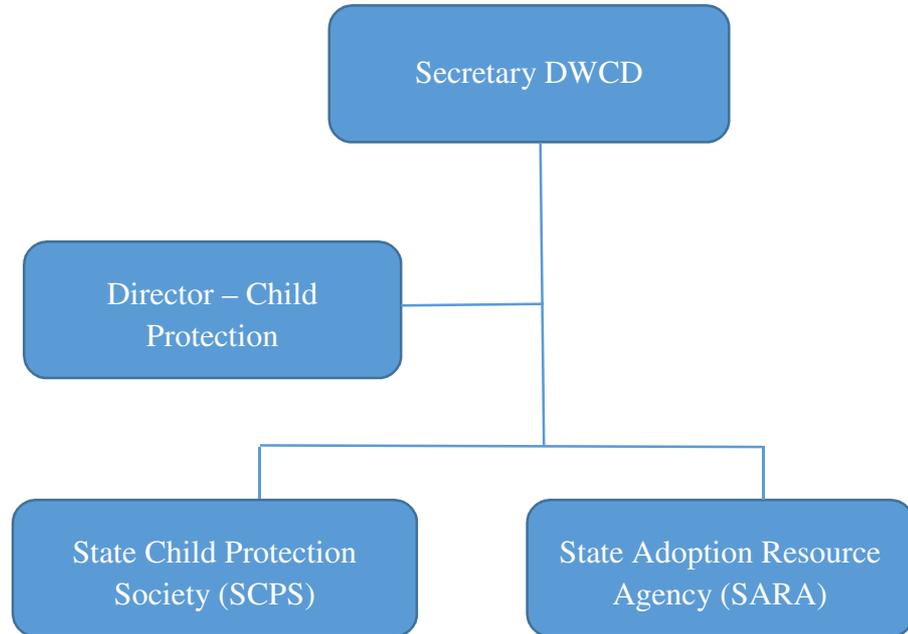
The National Policy for Children, 2013 provides that the State Government commits to taking special protection measures to secure the rights and entitlements of children in need of special protection. In order to ensure protection and promotion of child rights, the Government of India (GoI) enacted various laws, viz. Protection of Child and Sexual offence Act, 2012; Adoption regulations, 2017; Child Labour Act, 1986; Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006; Immoral Traffic Act, 1987; Right to Free and Elementary Education Act, 2009 and Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, (JJ Act) 2000 (amended as JJ Act, 2015 which came into force with effect from January 2016). GoI also made JJ Model Rules, 2016 to implement the JJ Act, 2015. For the purpose of building a protective environment for children in difficult circumstances, as well as other vulnerable children, GoI introduced the Integrated Child Protection Scheme (ICPS) in 2009 (revised in 2014), through Government-Civil Society Partnership. The scheme intended to safeguard both 'Children in need of care and protection' and 'Children in conflict with law'.

As per Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed (March 2010) between the Ministry of Women and Child Development (MoWCD), GoI and Department of Women and Child Development (DWCD), Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi (GNCTD) for implementation of ICPS, DWCD, GNCTD was the nodal department in Delhi. DWCD is responsible for guaranteeing quality standards of care and protection for CNCP.

ICPS provides for setting up of two State level delivery structures viz. State Child Protection Society (SCPS) and State Adoption Resource Agency (SARA) in every State/UT as the fundamental unit for the implementation of the scheme.

The structure of State Child Protection Society (SCPS) and State Adoption Resource Agency (SARA) is given in **Figure 1.1**.

**Figure 1.1: State Child Protection Society (SCPS) and State Adoption Resource Agency (SARA)**

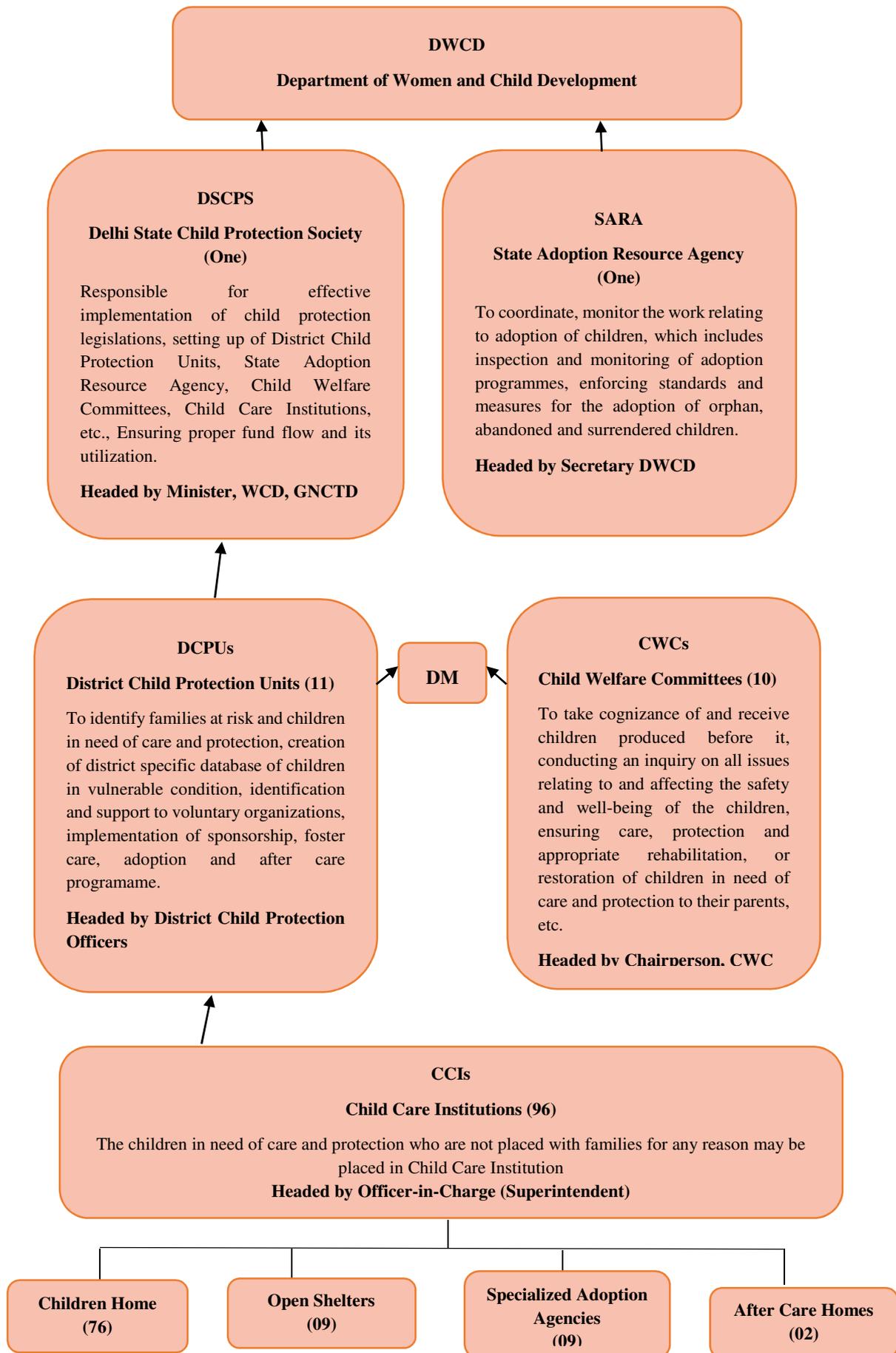


ICPS envisages setting up a District Child Protection Unit (DCPU) in each district as a fundamental unit for the implementation of the scheme. The structure of District Child Protection Units (DCPUs) is given in **Annexure I**.

The activities for providing these services to CNCP are executed through different institutions, both at State and District levels, functions<sup>1</sup> of which are as given below:

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<sup>1</sup> As envisaged in ICPS Guidelines, JJ Act, and JJ Model Rules.



## Audit Objectives, Scope, Coverage and Methodology

The Audit objectives were to see whether the Government extended effective care, support and rehabilitation services to Children in Need of Care and protection and whether the Child Care Institutions were functioning efficiently and a robust oversight mechanism was in place. This audit covered the steps taken by GNCTD for the welfare of the CNCP in Delhi but does not cover 'children in conflict with law'.

Audit scrutinized the records of three years from April 2018 to March 2021 of DWCD and test checked some other institutions which were providing services to the Children in Need of Care and Protection in Delhi. The institutions selected were -

- Delhi State Child Protection Society (DSCPS) and Specialized Adoption Resource Agency (SARA)
- Four<sup>2</sup> out of 11 District Child Protection Units (DCPUs)
- Four<sup>3</sup> out of 10 Child Welfare Committees (CWCs)
- Fifteen Child Care Institutions (out of 44 run by the Government and aided Non-Governmental Organisations) comprising nine Children Homes, two Open Shelters, two Specialised Adoption Agencies and two After Care Homes as detailed in **Annexure II**.

Exit conference was held with the Special Secretary-cum-Director (WCD), GNCTD on 20 December 2021 to discuss the audit findings. Replies received from the Government have been suitably incorporated in the Report.

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<sup>2</sup> DCPU-I (Central), DCPU-II (North East & Shahdara), DCPU-III (South), and DCPU-V (North)

<sup>3</sup> CWC-II (South), Lajpat Nagar, CWC-III (Central), Kingsway Camp, CWC-V (North East and Shahdara), Dilshad Garden and CWC-X (North), Alipur