

Governor Briefing

Safeguarding Children in Education

Safeguarding – what is it?

Protecting children from maltreatment, preventing impairment of children’s health or development; and ensuring that children are growing up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care; and taking action to enable those children to have the best outcomes. (*Working Together 2013*)

Safeguarding in schools incorporates all of the following and your Safeguarding Policy should include or refer to policies and procedures relating to the following issues;



The Legal Framework

The Education Act 2002 s175 requires Local Authorities and Governing Bodies to make arrangements to ensure that the functions of schools are carried out with a view to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children. This means:

- providing a safe environment for them to learn
- identifying those who are suffering or likely to suffer significant harm, and taking appropriate action to keep them safe at home and at school (Safeguarding Children and Safer Recruitment in Education 2007)

As a Governing Body you have a responsibility to ensure:

- Your school has a Safeguarding Policy (there is a model policy available which can be adapted for individual schools which can be found on www.kirkleessafeguardingchildren.co.uk by clicking on **Info for professionals** followed by **safeguarding in education**) which includes child protection procedures that are in accordance with Local Authority guidance and locally agreed inter-agency procedures and this policy should be made available to parents on request.
- Your school operates Safer Recruitment procedures and makes sure that all appropriate checks are carried out on staff and volunteers who work with children and that at least one member of each selection panel has completed the training.
- Your school has appropriate procedures for dealing with allegations of abuse against members of staff and volunteers that comply with guidance from the local authority and locally agreed inter-agency procedures
- Your school has a **Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL)** from the school's leadership team who is responsible for dealing with child protection issues, providing advice and support to other staff, liaising with the local authority, and working with other agencies. The DSL need not be a teacher but must have the status and authority within the school management structure to carry out the duties of the post including committing resources to child protection matters, and where appropriate directing other staff. This includes ensuring staff and governors receive appropriate training which may be delivered by them.
- The **DSL** has undertaken basic child protection training for the role and multi-agency training that is provided by or to standards agreed by, the Kirklees Safeguarding Children Board and completing further training at two yearly intervals to keep up to date on knowledge and skills

- The Head teacher and all other staff who work with children have received appropriate training to equip them to carry out their responsibilities for child protection effectively, that this is kept up to date by attending refresher training regularly; this should include temporary staff and volunteers.
- You remedy without delay any deficiencies or weaknesses in regard to child protection arrangements that are brought to your attention
- You have a nominated member of the governing body (usually the chair) who takes responsibility for liaising with the Local Authority and/or other partner agencies in the event of an allegation being made against the Headteacher
- You review your policies and procedures annually and provide information to the local authority about them and how the above duties have been discharged.

Useful Checklist

Kirklees Safeguarding Children Board (KSCB) has a statutory responsibility to ensure the effectiveness of what each agency does in safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children. In response to that the Safeguarding Officer for Schools and Learning sends out a Safeguarding Audit to each school at the beginning of the academic year each year for completion and return. The purpose of this is two fold: firstly it will enable the creation of a data base of information which can be used to determine future training needs and provides a list of DSL's within the authority; secondly it assists the KSCB and the school in ensuring they are compliant with safeguarding requirements which can be a useful checklist for Ofsted Inspections.

The governing body should ensure that their school has completed this audit and be fully aware of the content. This can often be reassurance to Governing Bodies that their school is safeguarding compliant.

Training

Governor training for safeguarding can be accessed via the learning service for more details email amerjit.sahota@kirklees.gov.uk

If governors wish to undertake the Basic Awareness training, they can do this by attending the course along with their school staff which is either delivered by keely.mathews@kirklees.gov.uk (Safeguarding Officer) or they can complete the e-learning course online at www.kirkleessafeguardingchildren.co.uk and click on

information for professionals and follow the link, upon completion of the questionnaire they can download a certificate.

Safeguarding Governor Termly Visit;

Things to consider:

Safeguarding Audit

Ideally you should co-complete the safeguarding audit with your Head Teacher or Safeguarding Lead. You should consider any audit feedback given by safeguarding officer and if there is anything outstanding ensure that this is remedied. Please share the details of the safeguarding Audit with your Governing Body.

Safeguarding Training

Please ask if your whole school staff training in place, have all staff received a safeguarding induction and are there any staff members who have not completed safeguarding training. Has your DSL (Designated Safeguarding Lead) attended all relevant training;

Roles and responsibilities of the DSL,

Working Together to Safeguard Children

Making a Positive Contribution to Child Protection Conferences and Core Groups

Other relevant level 3 courses (at least one every 2 years)

Ideally include a plan; dates attended, next due training and does this meet requirements

Number of Cases

Ask your DSL for the numbers of cases; recording and monitoring, EHA (Early Help Assessment), CIN (Child in Need), CP (Child Protection), LAC (Looked After Children), Young Carers, Private Fostering and/or Other.

If you do this regularly/termly please compare to previous visit & ask questions i.e. why have we got three more Child Protection cases this term?

Support/funding Offered

Ask how is pupil premium being spent, what additional support is being provided for the child, what impact has the support offered made for the child etc.

Any Specific issues

Please ask questions about any specific issues i.e. an increase in cases, a specific case, complaints, allegations etc.

Role of the DSL

Ask about who covers for this role, have they had the specific DSL training? What support is in place for the DSL and what time is needed for the safeguarding role is this appropriate?

Please note that childrens names and specific details do not need to be shared (confidentiality), a summary of this information can then be included within the Head Teachers report and should be shared at full GB meetings