



Solihull
METROPOLITAN
BOROUGH COUNCIL

Headteachers / Principals / Centre Managers
in Education Provision in Solihull

CHILDREN'S SERVICES AND SKILLS

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Your Ref:

Our Ref: LL/BK

Date: 12 November 2015

Dear Colleague

Solihull Serious Case Review and the Designated Safeguarding Lead Handbook

We would also like to raise awareness of the Solihull Serious Case Review (<http://socialsolihull.org.uk/lscb/professionalsvolunteers/publications-and-practice-guidance/>) which has now been published. It is important that we look at the key learning and recommendations and how this impacts on our work in safeguarding children and young people. Please share this with all school staff.

Please find enclosed our draft version of the new handbook for designated safeguarding leads (DSL, formerly the DMS) to help them in their work in safeguarding to protect pupils, and preventative work with pupils and their families. We welcome feedback on this resource directly to the SEIS inbox (seis@solihull.gov.uk) with the title Feedback on the DSL Handbook. We hope to review this draft document early in the spring term, and launch the document during the March conferences.

In the first instance we suggest you focus on the following sections, which have been strengthened in Keeping Children Safe In Education (2015) to raise awareness with all staff:

- preventing radicalisation
- child sexual exploitation (LSCB priority area)
- children missing from education
- female genital mutilation

In relation to key learning and recommendations from serious case reviews, we also suggest you focus on the following sections to raise awareness with all staff:

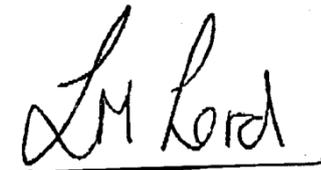
- neglect (LSCB priority area)
- domestic abuse
- drugs and alcohol (particularly parents)
- mental health (particularly parents)



Please refer to the domestic abuse section of the DSL handbook and ensure you have been appropriately trained to undertake this work. (There is a link to an on-line training resource.) The DV rim and DASH tools have been shared on training and are referred to within the domestic abuse section of the DSL handbook which highlights the Solihull LSCB procedures for domestic abuse. Please ensure that where these are used to inform decision making and a referral has been made, that the DV rim and DASH are shared with Children's Social Services. It is also important to note that the levels in the DV rim do not correlate with the levels on the Solihull LSCB Supporting Professional Judgement: Thresholds document but should be used to inform the decision making around the threshold levels. Please note the same applies to the graded care profile for neglect and the CSE screening tool.

Please also note the areas in the DSL handbook dedicated to vulnerable groups, for example young carers and disadvantaged pupils. We are currently working on pathways for Gypsy, Roma, Traveller pupils and English as Additional Language pupils, which will be issued in the revised version in the spring term.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "L M Lord". The signature is written in a cursive style and is underlined with a single horizontal line.

Lorraine Lord
Senior Education Improvement Adviser (Safeguarding and Vulnerable Children)
Solihull Education Improvement Service
Education & Skills Division