

EDUCATION SAFEGUARDING STRATEGY: Headteachers breakfast notes 29th January 2019, Senior Education Safeguarding Officer

LL introduced Education Safeguarding Administrator who can be contacted on 0121 704 6616 or educationsafeguarding@solihull.gov.uk

The Education safeguarding strategy www.solgrid.org.uk/education/safeguarding/ sets out local arrangements for working in co-operation with education providers in Solihull using Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018 as a point of reference.

It is a statutory requirement for all education providers to be compliant to Keeping Children Safe in Education (2018). Governors/trustees/management committees must ensure this.

This means:

- Child protection arrangements follow local procedures including training, DSL, CP policy (Chapters 1 and 5 KCSIE 2018)
- Safer recruitment including SCR, managing allegations, whistleblowing. (Chapters 3 and 4 KCSIE 2018)
- Health and safety policy procedures and risk assessments in place – including fire and staff receive appropriate training. Stress awareness also included here – duty of care.
- Food safety protocols adhered to where food is served on site.
- Clear oversight of safeguarding by governors/trustees/proprietors (Chapter 2 KCSIE 2018).

Local Education Safeguarding arrangements – specified activity under Section 10 of Education Act 2004.

- Annual safeguarding audit – key tool, governor oversight & sign off.
- Acting on safeguarding complaints, eg, Ofsted, DFoE, police, CTU, LADO concerns
- Training and support, responses/needs – specified in detail in the strategy
- LSCB Education sub group: mechanism for sharing safeguarding information and bringing concerns/issues
- Communication via telephone, visit or safeguarding review depending on safeguarding risk

We have 95 providers: maintained, academies, independent schools, post 16 providers, free school – it's about the relationship we have with you – honest/open, if you share the issues/challenges we can work together to find resolutions or support to rectify.

This informs the local authority safeguarding risk assessment which I co-ordinate. We have to work differently, identifying risks and responding appropriately. For example recent single central record workshops.

School Improvement and Safeguarding separated out in new structure. Safeguarding matters need to be come to me either through your education subgroup representative or directly. Changing ways we work. My main role is mainly now just safeguarding. I will be doing most of the safeguarding work – visits/reviews. The safeguarding risk assessment drives my work. Where a concern is an issue in a range of education provision across the LA (eg, information sharing, this will be addressed through the DSL annual conference and, if a timely response needed, through the education sub-

group of the LSCB. More recently the single central record has been a concern with many SCR administrators not being clear on why it is being kept and vetting and barring procedures (a number of emails or calls into the office to speak to myself and Deana are similar – with significantly reduced service – capacity to respond an issue. Offered bespoke workshops and we will update you on the outcomes/way forward. Hugely successful and further work to do. We attach the email that has been sent to all single central record administrators. Where it is a school level matter, it might be addressed through a telephone call or a specific input; e.g. short visit to full review depending on the need and risk. I have liaised with schools this term where there are risk and have plans in place where necessary for further follow up. Protocol for safeguarding reviews listed in the safeguarding strategy.

Education safeguarding administrator is currently looking through school websites to check child protection and safeguarding policies. She will communicate with you shortly on her findings directly.

In addition other audits will take place as required, eg, LSCB multi-agency audits. These were completed between summer and autumn terms 2018. Focus: wider child exploitation, early help and neglect. These are requested via LSCB and aligned to the Ofsted local area Joint Targeted Area Inspectors – where a sample of cases are selected and we are allocated to audit the education files – each agency audits are approximately 7 cases for each focus. We knew child sexual abuse in the family environment is a current focus – more on that in communications to Heads and DSLs this week.

Over a 3-year period I hope to have done a review of sorts of safeguarding of all maintained schools. However, this will be a challenge due to my capacity, eg, I attend 6 LSCB groups, chair the Education Sub Group and attend a number of police/CTU group, responding to complaints/school queries, carry out audits and serious case reviews on behalf of LSCB, Advisor to a small number of schools. I have talked with Phil Leivers about how we might increase this capacity within budget constraints.

Priority will be given to at risk schools.

Training specified in strategy – I get endless queries about training. Can I ask that before you contact me you read the final pages in the safeguarding strategy to find out about:

- Whole school safeguarding awareness training
- Annual education DSL conference
- Annual safeguarding governor conference
- Multi-agency safeguarding training through LSCB. Module 2 is for new DSLs. Please don't ask LSCB for DSL training, they will send you back to us. Ask for Module 2 multi-agency training.
- Managing allegations and safer recruitment training

Education Sub-group of LSCB

- Reports from each collaborative
- Really important that we have regular attendance from your representative and if they can't come, someone else attends.
- Important that minutes from Ed-Sub are shared and circulated at collaboratives and Heads take this back to their safeguarding teams so that all DSLs and those working in safeguarding

are kept up to date. Currently an issued that information isn't getting to the right people. We need to ensure broad coverage.

- Associate members of group including social work head of service, police, CTU, school nurse service, SOLAR, Kooth, Health and safety, now have SCR administrator rep, etc.
- Group where safeguarding issues fed up and down and decisions made. Your group – use it. Please stop sending safeguarding queries to police/LSCB – they need to come to group.

Hopefully I have helped you to understand our focus and how, with reduced resources, we can deliver a slicker, bespoke targeted offer. We can't do everything any more, can't be all things to all people, but need to ensure priorities are met.

Thank you for your time. Taking the safeguarding strategy to SSAB next week for final scrutiny.
