

CHILDREN'S SERVICES AND SKILLS

To: Governing Body Chairpersons

Early Years and Education Improvement
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Please ask for: Lorraine Lord

Date: 15th December 2015

Dear Chair of Governors

Governors have a key role to play in ensuring schools and their pupils are safe and that statutory duties are met. Governors responsibilities are outlined in Chapter two of Keeping Children Safe in Education (July 2015), which is attached. It is important that all governors are aware of their responsibilities in this area of work and that there is a nominated safeguarding governor. Governors need to ensure they hold school leaders to account for their work in this area and document their evidence base in order to fully self-evaluate their work.

The Education and Skills Scrutiny Board have requested that we remind all governors of their need to regularly consider safeguarding and the school's approach. Chapter one of Keeping Children Safe in Education (2015) specifies the statutory requirements around child protection, and the following four areas have been strengthened:-

- Child Sexual Exploitation,
- Preventing Radicalisation,
- Female Genital Mutilation,
- Children Missing from Education.

All governors should be familiar with this chapter, the school's child protection policy and know about both the staff and governor code of conduct (particularly how to act in the event of a breach of the code of conduct). We also bring to your attention the new Designated Safeguarding Lead Handbook which has been shared with all education providers. As part of your monitoring of child protection work, it would be useful to find out how helpful the Designated Safeguarding Lead has found this document.

Preventing child sexual exploitation and protecting those at risk remains a priority for Solihull's Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB). Schools and governing bodies play a crucial role in both prevention and protection. This includes providing a curriculum that helps children and young people to learn how to keep themselves and others safe. The LSCB monitors information about the number of schools where governors attend specific training about child sexual exploitation with the expectation that every school will have at least one governor who has attended.

In order to support you in your work, please be aware of the following briefings around Safeguarding in the Spring Term. These safeguarding courses are available free of charge for governing bodies who purchased the 2015/16 Service Package. To book please contact Governor Services on governorservices@solihull.gov.uk or Tel: 0121 704 6403.

Health and Safety in Schools

Thursday, 7th January 2016 12.30-2.30pm The Loft, Chelmsley Wood

Child Sexual Exploitation

Wednesday, 20th January 12.30-2.30pm The Loft, Chelmsley Wood

Wednesday, 16th March 7.00-9.00pm Civic Suite, Solihull

E-Safety in Schools

Thursday, 21st January 2016 7.00-9.00pm Civic Suite, Solihull

Freedom of Information/Data Protection

Tuesday, 26th January 2016 7.00-9.00pm Civic Suite, Solihull

Understanding the Role of the Governor in relation to Safeguarding Pupils, with a focus on Child Protection

Thursday, 11th February 2016 12.30-2.30pm The Loft, Chelmsley Wood

We would also like to raise awareness of the recently published Solihull Serious Case Review (<http://socialsolihull.org.uk/lscb/professionalsvolunteers/publications-and-practice-guidance/>). In relation to your role as Chair of Governors, please ensure that your school acts on the key learning and the recommendations and how this impacts on the work of the school in safeguarding pupils. The following areas in the designated safeguarding lead's handbook will be a valuable point of reference for school leaders in moving forward and addressing local priorities:

- Drugs and alcohol (particularly parents in relation to the serious case review)
- Domestic Abuse
- Mental health (particularly parents in relation to the serious case review)
- Neglect

Should you have any queries or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me on 0121 704 6620.

Yours faithfully



Lorraine Lord
Senior Adviser: Safeguarding & Vulnerable Children
Learning and Achievement