Termly Safeguarding Briefing for Schools (revised)

Safeguarding in Education

Feedback from recent Ofsted inspections

A number of themes have emerged around safeguarding from recent Ofsted inspections. These are set out below and schools are advised to conduct an audit and take prompt action if needed. A governors checklist/audit is available on LTS and from the Governor Development Service to assist with this.

Record Keeping

Whether schools are using paper-based or electronic recording systems, records must always be dated and signed (possibly electronically) and include a brief chronology of the file activity. Any concern must have an action recorded even if this is simply to continue monitoring the pupil. Any subsequent monitoring must also be dated and recorded. If a risk assessment is required for "peer on peer" abuse, for example, this must be available to all the relevant staff. Outcomes of any actions must also be recorded. Generally, records need to be rigorous, timely, detailed and capable of being understood and used by anyone else subsequently taking responsibility for the case.

Single Central Record

There should be no gaps on the SCR spreadsheet. Criminal record checks for time spent overseas must be completed. All necessary checks on third-party staff / contractors must be evidenced by written confirmation, this includes any Alternative Providers used by the school. There should be two references in staff personnel files and where this has not previously happened Ofsted have issued the following advice… "Ofsted does not expect schools to retrospectively apply for references for staff appointed prior to and continuously employed since the introduction of the vetting and barring requirements" (ie 2012). LCC HR offer an SCR auditing service.

Alternative Providers and students on part-time or reduced timetables

Health and Safety checks should be completed for any Alternative Providers used by the school. A clear rationale for why it is considered to be in the best interests of a student to attend an Alternative Provider should be available. Unregistered schools are illegal and must not be used—schools should make the necessary checks to confirm this. For students who are not receiving a full-time education there needs to be a clear rationale and a plan detailing how a return to full-time education may be achievable. Schools are responsible for their students' safety during the school day even when they are not in school.

Absence

Students who are not in school may not be safe. Protocols for students who are absent need to be rigorously followed and all calls/visits etc logged. A plan of support for students identified as having poor attendance needs to be prepared and implemented.

Safeguarding Training/Induction Records

Training needs to be up to date and records must include all staff and volunteers in school eg catering staff and cleaners (even where they are supplied by third-parties).

Site Security

Risk assessments and appropriate supervision of students should be in place where any risks are identified from the school site eg roads in split school sites, public footpaths, fences, access issues etc. There is new DfE guidance just published https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/

New Thresholds for Access to Services document

There is a new thresholds procedure for making referrals which has moved to a 4 Tier model where Tier 4 is the most serious concern. This should be consulted prior to making a referral to First Response Children's Duty. It can be downloaded here… http://lrsb.org.uk/policiesandprocedures

Thresholds for access to services

For children and families
in Leicester, Leicestershire & Rutland

New Example Safeguarding Policy including cybercrime

A revision was made to the example Child Protection Policy in September 2019 to include an additional statement about Cyber Crime. If your school policy has not been updated since the publication of KCSIE Sept 2019 this should be done without delay. The model policy is available on the Safeguarding in Education pages on the LTS website.

Cyber Crime Briefings—(highly recommended)

Children with advanced coding/computer skills are vulnerable to becoming involved in cyber crime, often in complete ignorance of offences under the "Computer Misuse Act". Schools have a responsibility to educate children about this and to identify any student whose skills may lead them in this direction. The police's Cyber Prevent Team (soon to re-named Cyber Choices) are offering to engage with students, schools and families to raise skill levels and to work alongside young people to give them brilliant opportunities to develop their skills in positive ways. There are two free briefings that have been arranged for the Spring Term. See details below.

Training at *Leicestershire Force Head Quarters—Enderby (13:00-16:00)* either *27th Feb* or *4th March 2020*

Free session will cover:

- Cyber4schools.net- What free materials are available for schools

- Assembly Presentation- Demonstration and resources for Computer Misuse Act assembly

- Staff Cyber Safety Training- Training to keep staff cyber safe

- Cyber Ambassador Programme- Award winning programme for your students

- Pupil Referral- Detailed process for dealing with students and cyber issues

- **To book your place email…** EMSOU_CyberPrevent@Leicestershire.pnn.police.uk

Internet Safety Surveys and Safer Internet Day

Safer Internet Day is Tuesday 11th February 2020 and will be based on the theme "Together for a better internet". Resources will be available here…

https://www.saferinternet.org.uk/safer-internet-day/2020

To coincide with this event and for the month of February, there will be two Leicestershire and Rutland e-safety surveys for Year 6 and Year 9. Further details will be sent out nearer the date.

Don't forget the new internet safety guidance "Teaching online safety in schools"…

https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/teaching-online-safety-in-schools

Safeguarding Development Officers, Children and Family Services:

Simon Genders; email: simon.genders@leics.gov.uk; tel: 0116 3057750

Ann Prideaux; email: ann.prideaux@leics.gov.uk; tel: 0116 3057317

Leicestershire County Council