

CHILDREN'S SAFEGUARDING BRIEFING No 2.

October 2018

UPDATE TO KEEPING CHILDREN SAFE IN EDUCATION 2018

In September 2018 the Department for Education published updated guidance in Keeping Children Safe in Education. The document provides guidance to schools to fulfil their statutory duty to the safeguarding of children.

Whilst the majority of the document remains unchanged from the previous 2016 version, there have been additions and amendments to the guidance with a focus on Early Help and Prevention in line with the revisions to Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018 and the statutory responsibility on schools to incorporate PSHE as outlined by the Children and Social Work Act 2017.

Most significantly is the addition of Part 5 of the document which focusses on child on child sexual abuse and sexual harassment in line with the 2017 / 18 DfE document which sits alongside KCSIE 2018.

The following sections will highlight the significant changes within the 2018 guidance.

Part 1: Safeguarding Information for all school staff

- Clarity and greater emphasis placed on staff knowing the safeguarding systems in the school, should know how to make a referral, should know what to look out for and what to do if they have a concern, highlighting the importance that concerns should be reported 'immediately'
- Greater emphasis on the role of the school and staff in Early Help and those children who may especially benefit from Early Help
- Updated guidance on 'Whistleblowing' and the NSPCC helpline if staff feel unable to escalate concerns of a safeguarding nature within their own organisation
- Addition information on peer on peer abuse to reflect Sexual Violence and Sexual Harassment 2017 DfE guidance

Part 2: The Management of Safeguarding

- Governing bodies and proprietors should have a senior board level (or equivalent) lead to take responsibility for their schools or colleges safeguarding arrangements
- Schools and Colleges should have their own individual Child Protection policy which reflects not just government guidance but local circumstances, procedures and is updated annually as a minimum
- Governing bodies and proprietors should ensure an appropriate senior member of staff from the school or college leadership team, is appointed to the role of designated safeguarding lead
- Where reasonably possible, schools and colleges should hold more than one emergency contact number for each pupil or student. This goes beyond the legal minimum. *
- Schools and colleges have a pivotal role to play in multi-agency safeguarding arrangements. Governing bodies and proprietors should ensure that the school contributes to multi-agency working in line with Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018.
- The Data Protection Act 2018 and GDPR do not prevent or limit the sharing of information for the purposes of keeping children safe. Fears about sharing information must not be allowed to stand in the way of the need to promote the welfare and protect the safety of children.
- Governing bodies and proprietors must appoint a designated teacher who works with the LA to promote the educational achievement of 'looked after and 'previously looked after' children
- Increased emphasis on the need for school child protection policies to reflect peer on peer abuse and that staff are adequately trained and equipped with the knowledge to respond to it effectively

* This is in response to the Hackney 2016 serious case review related to the death of a 4-year-old boy with learning and developmental needs. This should be considered in line with the school's responsibility, policies and procedures for Children Missing Education.

Part 3: Safer Recruitment

- Greater clarification related to what is meant by 'Regulated' and 'Un-regulated' activity when working with children and the level of pre-appointment checked required.
- New information clarifying the responsibility on schools when working with alternative provision providers
- Minimum information that must be recorded on the school Single Central Register (SCR)

Part 4: Allegations of Abuse against Teachers and other staff

- The document clarifies that the allegations process and any possible subsequent investigations is applicable to 'volunteers' working within the school
- The LADO outcome of 'Unfounded' has been reinstated as a possible outcome to an investigation and LADO process for staff in school and college settings
- The Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) should be involved in the process of managing allegations where there is an allegation about the safeguarding of a child / children

Part 5: Child on Child Sexual Violence and Sexual Harassment

- This is a new section within the guidance and reflects the introduction of Sexual Violence and Sexual Harassment between Children in Schools and Colleges, December 2017 and subsequently updated in May 2018.
- The guidance sets out to assist schools in minimising the risks of it occurring and what to do if it does occur or is alleged to have occurred.
- It is best practice guidance, but schools are expected to develop their own policies and procedures to respond to this area of safeguarding.

Annex:

- Children and the Court System – New Information
- Children with Family Members in Prison – New Information
- County Lines – New Information
- Domestic Abuse – New Information
- Homelessness – New Information
- Peer on Peer Abuse – New Information
- Sexual Violence and Sexual Harassment – New Information

- Preventing Radicalisation – Revised Guidance
- Honour Based Violence – Revised Guidance
- Children Missing Education – Revised Guidance

The DfE have published a stand-alone document which all staff are expected to read, KCSIE, Part 1: Information for all staff. Staff who work directly with children are expected to also read the Annex section of the guidance which has been incorporated back into the main body of the 'all staff' document.

This briefing paper is to provide partners with an overview of recent updates to the guidance. It is advisable that multi-agency partners familiarise themselves with Keeping Children Safe in Education, 2018 which sits alongside Working Together to Safeguard Children, 2018.

Any queries related to the guidance can be directed to Mike Cullern, Safeguarding Lead for Education on 020 8227 3934 or mike.cullern@lbbd.gov.uk