

<b>CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE</b>
<b>22 DECEMBER 2015</b>
<b>SAFEGUARDING IN SCHOOLS</b>
<b>REPORT OF HEAD OF DEMOCRATIC SERVICES</b>

**1 Purpose**

- 1.1 To provide an overview of the programme for safeguarding in schools in Nottingham.

**2 Action required**

- 2.1 The Committee is asked to use the information provided to scrutinise work taking place on safeguarding children and young people in schools in Nottingham; and identify whether any further scrutiny is required.

**3 Background information**

- 3.1 Ofsted, the Children Act 2004 and the Department for Education have summarised the definition of safeguarding as:
- Protecting children and learners from maltreatment;
  - Preventing impairment of children's and learner's health or development;
  - Ensuring that children and learners are growing up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care;
  - Undertaking that role so as to enable those children and learners to have optimum life chances and to enter adulthood successfully.
- 3.2 Schools must provide a safe environment and take action to identify and protect any children or young people who are at risk of significant harm. Schools are also required to prevent unsuitable people from working with children and young people, promote safe practice and challenge unsafe practices, ensure staff members receive necessary training for their roles and to work in partnership with other agencies providing services for children and young people.
- 3.3 Each school and college should have a designated safeguarding lead who will provide support to staff members to carry out their safeguarding duties and who will liaise closely with other services such as children's social care.
- 3.4 Safeguarding in schools can cover a range of specific issues, such as a child missing from education, Child Sexual Exploitation, bullying (including cyber-bullying), domestic violence, faith abuse, mental health, teenage relationship abuse, and gangs/youth violence. The Committee will receive an overview of the current procedures in place to ensure children and young people are safeguarding in schools in Nottingham.

## What measures have been put in place to safeguard Nottingham's children?

3.5 We have strengthened safeguarding arrangements for schools by:

### **Establishing a professional network for Designated Safeguarding Leads (DSL's) in school settings in order to disseminate clear and consistent messages about how to keep children safe.**

We have established a termly DSL network meeting from May 2015

These meetings cover:

1. National changes- learning from SCRs etc.
2. Local changes, information and partners
3. Locality based case work- opportunities to discuss current cases with DSL's local to area.

We encourage DSL's in all schools and academies to attend the briefings as a 'one stop shop for information and guidance. Topics covered at the network so far this year have included:

#### **National Updates- Statutory Guidance Updates and Key Changes**

- ✓ Working Together March 2015
- ✓ Keeping Children Safe in Education 2015
- ✓ Information Sharing Guidance
- ✓ What to do if you are worried a child is being abused
- ✓ Tackling Child Sexual Exploitation
- ✓ PREVENT training

#### **Local Developments**

- ✓ Software to support PREVENT strategy
- ✓ Domestic Violence and Abuse
- ✓ Self-Harm Guidance
- ✓ Safeguarding Policy and SCR Framework
- ✓ Private Fostering
- ✓ NGAGE App – frontline assessment
- ✓ Safeguarding and Social Care Referrals
  - Thresholds
  - Referral Process
  - Escalation Process

#### **LSCB Communication**

- ✓ FGM communication

#### **SCR and SILP Key Learning Points and Implications**

3.6 We have also developed an initiative designed to support the quality assurance of safeguarding procedures and practice in schools and academies at case level. To this end we have developed the role of **Advanced Designated Safeguarding Leads in Schools**. We are currently recruiting to our pilot project which will begin in January 2016 and we have secured resources to support the programme until July 2017.

- 3.7 The programme is using a similar set of principles to the Advanced Skills Teacher (AST) and Specialist Leader of Education (SLE). We have created our first cohort of 18 Advanced Designated Safeguarding Leads. They are currently being recruited for training from January 2016.
- 3.8 The focus of the role is to support clusters of school DSL and includes:
- ✓ Quality assuring school based processes at case level.
  - ✓ Providing direct linkage with social care locality based team managers.
  - ✓ Supporting schools to undertake audit activity including multi-agency audits.
  - ✓ Acting as a forum for communication and consultation in particular between schools and the NCSCB but also with other partnership bodies.
  - ✓ Offering advice and guidance on policy and procedure
  - ✓ Supporting the functioning of the DSL Network including planning, delivery and feedback
  - ✓ Supporting newly appointed DSL's during induction
  - ✓ Cascading training and learning to the cluster of schools that they work with e.g. Prevent
  - ✓ Developing and sharing evidence based good practice.
- 3.9 Clear expectations and practices are described in an ADSL handbook. The 11 clusters identified will align with Social Care school groupings providing opportunities for the two agencies to work more closely together and understand each other's practice more fully.

#### **4 List of attached information**

- 4.1 None.

#### **5 Background papers, other than published works or those disclosing exempt or confidential information**

- 5.1 None.

#### **6 Published documents referred to in compiling this report**

- 6.1 Department for Education, Keeping children safe in education, statutory guidance for schools and colleges. July 2015.

#### **7 Wards affected**

- 7.1 All.

## **8 Contact information**

### 8.1 Contact Colleagues

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