

SAFEGUARDING COMMITTEE NEWSLETTER

'Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children is everyone's responsibility. Everyone who comes into contact with children and their families and carers has a role to play in safeguarding children. In order to fulfil this responsibility effectively, all professionals should make sure their approach is child-centred. This means that they must consider, at all times, what is in the best interest of the child. No single professional can have a full picture of a child's needs and circumstances. If children and families are to receive the right help at the right time, everyone who comes into contact with them has a role to play in identifying concerns, sharing information and taking prompt action.' - Keeping Children Safe in Education (KCSIE)

Witham Prospect School believes in creating and maintaining a safe living and learning environment for our children and young people; identifying where there are child welfare concerns and taking action to address them in partnership with other organisations.

KEY TOPICS FOR THIS MONTH:

• Safeguarding Communications

The committee agreed that communication and information dissemination is key to keeping staff updated and safeguarding at the forefront of all our minds, therefore staff will be issued with a monthly newsletter following the committee meetings to inform everyone of what was discussed and any procedural changes. Staff will also be issued with a topic focused one minute guide each month to support staff and embed safeguarding knowledge across the entire Witham Prospect School team.

• Safeguarding Systems

CPOMS system is now fully operational. We remind all staff of their duty to RECORD any concerns onto the CPOMS system and REPORT directly to a DSL.

The CPOMS link is below

• New Publications

Working together to safeguard children updated guidance December 2023. Please familiarise yourself with this document and the changes.

HEALTH AND SAFETY

Please be aware that the emergency evacuation point is being split up into departments. This is to aid a quicker, more organised roll call. Please look out for the new signage when it arrives for future evacuations.

There are times when essential maintenance has to take place within areas that cannot be fully isolated. The maintenance team will make the area as safe as possible using barriers, fencing, tape and locking the doors where they can. Health and safety is the responsibility of all staff. Please stay out of their working areas, adhere to all safety notices and barriers and support the children to move around the buildings safely.

The Sign-in App has been cleaned up and updated with all current staff and children/YPs names. This system is used for the roll call following an emergency evacuation so can all staff ensure they sign in and out of the building. This can either be done at reception or via the 'Sign In Companion app'

REGULATORY

A whole school approach to safeguarding is vitally important to managing safeguarding practices effectively and ensuring a company wide safeguarding culture. KCSIE states:

'Proprietors should ensure they facilitate a whole school or college approach to safeguarding. This means involving everyone in the school or college, and ensuring that safeguarding, and child protection are at the forefront and underpin all relevant aspects of process and policy development. Ultimately, all systems, processes and policies should operate with the best interests of the child at their heart.'

We remind all staff to log on to their School Bus account and read the section of 'Keeping Children Safe in Education' (KCSIE) that is relevant to your roles.



[Link to Witham Prospect CPOMS](#)



safeguarding@withamprospect.co.uk



[School Bus](#)



[Working together to safeguard children 2023](#)

THE SAFEGUARDING COMMITTEE

In November 2023, Witham Prospect School formed a safeguarding committee to ensure that a whole school approach to safeguarding is achieved. The committee meets on a monthly basis and the members and their areas of expertise are:

- Jo & Claire - DSL for Care and Education
- Gemma - Chair and Board Level DSL
- Bev, Nicola P & Lindsey - Deputy DSLs
- Colleen - Deputy DSL & Health and Wellbeing Lead
- Nicola W - IT & Health and Safety
- Neil - Health and Safety
- Jason - Site Maintenance
- Sam Roberts - Finance
- Dean - HR
- Paul - Compliance
- David - Staff Development & Behaviour Lead
- Tyler - Psychology Assistant
- Jayne - Committee Secretary

CPD AND FURTHER READING

- David is looking for additional PBS facilitators across care and education. Anyone with a keen interest in developing their coaching skills with particular focus on PBS should contact David directly (david@withamprospect.co.uk).
- Tyler will be offering additional sessions and guidance on positive reinforcement. Please take advantage of these valuable learning opportunities.
- Look out for intensive interaction training that will be offered to all staff during the first part of the year.
- Inline with our new 'Physical and Mental Health and Wellbeing of Children' policy we are seeking to appoint Mental Health Leads and ELSA's (Emotional, Literacy Support Assistants). If you are interested in this additional responsibility, please see your line manager. For more information about both of these important roles follow the links below:

[Mental Health Lead](#)

[Emotional Literacy Support Assistant \(ELSA\)](#)

CASE REVIEWS

In April 2023, the child safeguarding practice review panel published their [Phase 2 report](#) (click link for full report) reviewing safeguarding children with disabilities and complex needs in residential settings.

This review was in response to the appalling abuse suffered by children in dual registered special schools and children's homes run by the Hesley Group.

Recommendations include:

- Providers review their leadership and management to ensure that standards set out in legislation and guidance are achieved.
- Providers are routinely notifying the regulators (in our case Ofsted) where legally required.
- Providers must ensure that their staff are properly trained.
- That we work closely with social workers and schools where necessary.
- That whistle blowing concerns are taken seriously.
- Information about the safety of children is shared with other agencies when required to keep children safe.
- That children and parents are listened to when they tell us that something isn't right.
- Complaints from children and staff are taken very seriously.

There were two specific recommendations directed to providers which were:

- To ensure practitioners understand the legality for deprivation of liberty (DoL), are fully compliant with the safeguards and can meet the standards prior to its implementation.
- To put measures into place to address the longstanding challenges in recruiting, retaining and developing a skilled workforce in residential settings.

Leaders at Witham Prospect School have reviewed this report and the recommendations and assessed our practice against the findings and we are confident that our current practice is in compliance, however we will always monitor this and make appropriate adjustments and improvements where needed.

COMING UP

The next 1 minute guide to be issued will focus on culture and how to promote a safeguarding culture within care & education Settings

Next Safeguarding Committee Meeting: **19th January 2024.**

If you have any points for consideration by the committee please share these with one of the members. Please be aware that the committee does not discuss individual cases. The purpose of the committee is to discuss safeguarding provisions and policy within our setting and review legislative changes and how to implement these effectively.

Social Services: 01522 782111

Childline: 08001111

Lincolnshire Prevent Team: 020 7340 7264

Young Carers Helpline: 01522 553275

NSPCC whistle blowing Helpline: 08088 005000

Samaritans: 01522 528282

Family Services Directory: 0800 19 1635

**UPDATE AND EXPAND YOUR
SAFEGUARDING KNOWLEDGE**



LSCP Training Link

**NSPCC
Learning**

CASPAR newsletter and podcasts