

SAFEGUARDING COMMITTEE NEWSLETTER

Welcome to our latest newsletter! This edition is a direct outcome of our most recent Safeguarding Committee meeting, where a key focus was placed on enhancing our collective wellbeing and operational efficiency.

The next 1-minute guide to be issued will focus on the topic of **recognising and interpreting pain in non-verbal individuals**. This edition serves as a vital resource for our team, as many of the children and young people we support cannot use words to express physical distress. Because pain is a highly individual experience, it is critical that we understand a person's normal routines and baseline behaviours to identify when they are struggling.

Here's a quick insight into the topic and some useful links below:

MEDICAL AWARENESS – RECOGNISING PAIN

A primary focus of our recent meeting was the critical importance of recognising and interpreting signs of pain in children and young people who are unable to communicate their distress verbally. For many of our children and young people, uncommunicated pain can manifest as changes in behaviour, such as increased agitation or self-injury, rather than a direct verbal report. We are committed to a "detective" approach where staff use the "What If" mindset to consider whether a behavioural shift is actually a cry for medical help. To support this, we are ensuring that communication aids are used consistently as the "voice" of the child and that all staff are trained to spot subtle physiological red flags. Furthermore, we have integrated our nurse, Liz, more deeply into our clinical status to provide expert oversight on these medical concerns.

Pain communication through body posture: The many postures of pain - International Association for the Study of Pain (IASP)

2.3 Explain how to recognise that an individual is in pain when they are not able to verbally communicate this – Care Learning

FLACC Scale - English version.pdf

FLACC Scale - Complete Explanation + PDF - clinicaltoolslibrary.com

Improving Pain Management in Non-verbal Patients | British Geriatrics Society



REMINDER:

PEER-ON-PEER BEHAVIOURAL
INCIDENTS ARE RECORDED
STRICTLY ON BEHAVIOURWATCH

FLACC Behavioral Pain Assessment Scale			
CATEGORIES	SCORING		
	0	1	2
Face	No particular expression or smile	Occasional grimace or frown; withdrawn, disinterested	Frequent to constant frown, clenched jaw, quivering chin
Legs	Normal position or relaxed	Uneasy, restless, tense	Kicking or legs drawn up
Activity	Lying quietly, normal position, moves easily	Squirming, shifting back and forth, tense	Arched, rigid, or jerking
Cry	No cry (awake or asleep)	Moans or whimpers, occasional complaint	Crying steadily, screams or sobs; frequent complaints
Consolability	Content, relaxed	Reassured by occasional touching, hugging, or being talked to; distractable	Difficult to console or comfort



I CANNOT BE SEEN, BUT I CAN CHANGE EVERYTHING YOU DO. I HAVE NO VOICE OF MY OWN, SO I USE YOUR BODY TO SPEAK FOR ME. I MIGHT LOOK LIKE A FROWN, A TEAR, OR A SUDDEN FLASH OF ANGER. I AM THE SECRET MESSAGE THAT ONLY THE MOST OBSERVANT CAN READ. WHAT AM I?

(ANSWER WILL BE ON THE NEXT ISSUE)
ANSWER FROM LAST ISSUE: AAC



[Link to Witham Prospect CPOMS](#)



safeguarding@withamprospect.co.uk



[National College](#)



[Working together to safeguard children 2023](#)

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS: THE NEW LOCKDOWN PROCEDURE

We are currently implementing a robust new lockdown procedure across the site to ensure we are prepared for any external or internal threat. A practice drill has been scheduled/conducted to test our new alarm system and ensure that the "Command Centre" in the main offices can manage the situation effectively. This procedure has been designed for speed and clarity, moving away from slow phone-based alerts to a site-wide alarm that anyone is authorised to trigger in an emergency. We are also reviewing our policies to ensure they align with emergency service requirements, prioritising a direct line to the police as our first point of contact.

DIGITAL SAFETY AND PROFESSIONAL ACCOUNTABILITY

Our digital boundaries remain a high priority as we continue to see risks associated with unattended technology. iPads are still being found left in communal areas, which presents a significant risk of data breaches if staff members remain logged into sensitive systems. We urge all staff to apply the "What If" mindset by asking what could happen if a resident accessed a device left in "private mode" or a personal laptop that has not been PAT-tested for safety. To further harden our digital defenses, we have enforced Multi-Factor Authentication (MFA) and are working toward "Cyber Essentials" certification to protect our network from external threats.

SITE STANDARDS AND OPERATIONAL READINESS

Maintaining a professional and safe environment requires constant attention to the "micro-hazards" around us. We have noted concerns regarding fire safety, specifically instances where chairs have been moved to block fire exits in the staff room. Additionally, our vehicle readiness policy has been strengthened; all drivers are now required to refuel minibuses if the fuel level drops below half a tank, ensuring we are always ready for off-site transitions or emergencies. We are also making strides in sustainability, with new food waste collections set to begin in April and a site-wide effort to reduce single-use plastics.

THERAPY, WELLBEING, AND DIGNITY

We are pleased to report a positive increase in the usage of communication devices following targeted support for staff. To further support the comfort and dignity of our young people, we have ordered new "dignity blankets" and grab bags to assist during periods of high distress. We are also enhancing our living environments with new sensory equipment, such as yoga mats for minibuses and lounges, to provide immediate support for children experiencing agitation. Finally, our mental health advocate, Amy, has completed new training to ensure that staff wellbeing remains a priority as we navigate these essential safety improvements.

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, Melissa H & Rhianna - Deputy DSLs
- Colleen - Deputy DSL & Health and Wellbeing Lead
- Liz - Health and Wellbeing
- Nicola W - IT & Health and Safety
- Jason - Site Maintenance
- James P - Digital/Online Safety
- Sam Roberts - Finance
- Dean - HR
- Paul - Compliance
- David - Staff Development & Behaviour Lead
- Tyler - Psychology Assistant
- Jayne - Committee Secretary

COMING UP

The next Safeguarding Committee focus will be on **vehicle safety and etiquette**, specifically to ensure constant operational readiness

Next Safeguarding Committee Meeting: **8th May 2026**

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](#)