



## **Protocol between School Improvement Service ( CFBT) and LSCB to safeguard children and young people**

An awareness and appreciation of the role of others is essential for effective collaboration between organisations. This protocol is intended to clarify the main roles and responsibilities of School Improvement Service and Lincolnshire Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) in safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children with schools.

At the same time it is important to emphasise that every practitioner shares responsibility for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people. All members of the community can help to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and young people if they are mindful of their needs, and willing and able to act if they have concerns about a child's welfare.

### **Statutory Duties**

All organisations that work with children share a commitment to safeguard and promote their welfare, and for schools, this is underpinned by statutory duties. This includes:

- Creating and maintaining a safe learning environment for children and young people;
- Identifying where there are child welfare concerns and taking action to address them, in partnership with other organisations where appropriate.

School also contribute through the curriculum by developing children's understanding, awareness, and resilience. Creating a safe learning environment means having effective arrangements in place to address a range of issues. Some are subject to statutory requirements, including child protection arrangements, pupil health and safety, and bullying. Others include arrangements for meeting the health needs of children with medical conditions, providing first aid, school security, tackling drugs and substance misuse, and having arrangements in place to safeguard and promote the welfare of children on extended vocational placements.

### **Common Features**

To fulfil their commitment to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and young people Schools need to have in place:

- Clear priorities for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people explicitly stated in strategic policy documents;
- A clear commitment by senior management to the importance of safeguarding and promoting children's and young people's welfare;
- A clear line of accountability within the organisation for work on safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people

- Recruitment and human resources management procedures that take account of the need to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and young people including arrangements for appropriate checks on new staff and volunteers;
- Procedures for dealing with allegations of abuse against members of staff and volunteers
- Arrangements to ensure that all staff undertake appropriate training to equip them to carry out their responsibilities effectively, and keep this up to date by refresher training at regular intervals; and that all staff, including temporary staff and volunteers who work with children and young people are made aware of the establishment's arrangements for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and their responsibilities for that;
- Have policies in place for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people, including a child protection policy, and procedures that are in accordance with guidance from the local authority and locally agreed inter-agency procedures;
- Have arrangements in place to work effectively with other organisations to safeguard and promote the welfare of children, including arrangements for sharing information;
- A culture of listening to and engaging in dialogue with children and young people seeking their views in ways appropriate to their age and understanding, and taking account of those both in individual decisions and the establishment or development of services;,
- Appropriate whistle blowing procedures and a culture that enables issues about safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people to be addressed.

In addition to the common features listed above, schools should have a senior member of staff who is designated to take lead responsibility for dealing with child protection issues, providing advice and support to other staff, liaising with the authority, and working with other organisations as necessary. A school should remedy any deficiencies or weaknesses in its arrangements for safeguarding and promoting welfare that are brought to its attention without delay.

Corporal punishment is outlawed for all pupils in all schools, including independent schools. The law forbids a teacher or other member of staff using any degree of physical contact which is deliberately intended to punish a pupil, or which is primarily intended to cause pain or injury or humiliation.

Teachers at a school are allowed to use reasonable force to control or restrain pupils under certain circumstances. Other staff may also do so, in the same way as teachers, provided they have been authorised by the head teacher to have control or charge of pupils. All schools should have a policy about the use of force to control or restrain pupils. For detailed guidance refer to the Local Authority guidance issued in 2002.

### **Procedure**

LSCB and The School Improvement Service will work together to support schools to fulfil their statutory duties for safeguarding children and young people through advice, guidance, support and training. The School Improvement Service and LSCB will also share information to enable each body to fulfil their duties.

If any concern's about a school's ability to fulfil their statutory duties for safeguarding children is identified by The School Improvement Service or LSCB, they will notify each other through the School Alert Investigation Form or the Schools Causing Concern Committee The School Alert Investigation Form will also provide the means by which a

direct referral to the Assistant Director of Children's Services or the Head of the School Improvement Service is made. This will normally be done with the knowledge of the Head Teacher and or Chair of Governors although if concerns that this would prevent detection of crime, Police advice should be sought.

### **Allegations made against individuals who work with children**

LSCB has lead responsibility for ensuring that all agencies operate procedures for dealing with allegations made against individuals working with children to ensure a consistent approach. LSCB will notify The School Improvement Service of all allegations (reported to them) that are made against any member of the senior management team working within a school in Lincolnshire as they arise. In addition, LSCB will provide a quarterly reports to The School Improvement Service of all allegations made against individuals working in schools to enable The School Improvement Service to identify trends, to support operational issues and practice development.

LSCB will also monitor allegations and report trends which may identify practice issues to The School Improvement Service to ensure a strategic and coordinated approach to safeguarding children.

### **Preventative Working**

Through the School Causing Concern Committee, LSCB will work with The School Improvement Service and other agencies within the authority to support schools identified to be in need of additional support to have access to guidance, support and information to assist them to fulfil their statutory safeguarding duties.

The LSCB Senior Liaison Officer will attend the termly Schools Causing Concern committee to facilitate this.

### **Death of a Child**

The death of a child is a very distressing event for everyone who is involved with the families concerned and it is important that schools are supported during the initial period. LSCB and Pupil Services, supported by The School Improvement Service will work together to offer guidance and information. Information about available support is included in the school's handbook.

In addition, LSCB has a statutory duty to collect and analyse information about all child deaths with a view to identifying—

- any case giving rise to the need for a serious case review
- any matters of concern affecting the safety and welfare of children in the area
- any wider public health or safety concerns arising from a particular death or from a pattern of deaths in that area;

To help fulfil this function, schools will be routinely asked to secure ALL records of a child / young person who have died. An LSCB Officer will contact the school to obtain these records in due course.

April 07

Agreed at LSCB 26<sup>th</sup> July 2007