

Role Description

For Safeguarding Link Governors



Role Purpose

One of the most important duties that the Local Management Committee (LMC) fulfils is to ensure that their provision is creating safe environments for children and young people (CYP) through robust safeguarding practices. The LMC must appoint a Governor to take leadership responsibility for their provision and the trust's safeguarding arrangements. The role of the appointed Safeguarding Link Governor is to take the lead on safeguarding. However, the LMC retains collective responsibility for making sure that safeguarding procedures are properly followed.

Safeguarding Link Governor Duties:

Work with the Designated Safeguarding Lead. The Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) is a senior member of the provision leadership team who takes lead responsibility for safeguarding and child protection in their provision. The safeguarding governor is the LMC's main point of contact with the DSL and so they should:

- build an effective relationship with the DSL that allows for appropriate support and challenge
- arrange monitoring visits in Term 4 and Term 6 with the DSL to learn about the provision and trust's context and how this influences the approach to safeguarding
- through discussion with the DSL (and other stakeholders within the provision community), understand the provision/trust's safeguarding strengths and areas for development
- meet with the DSL termly to discuss (without specific CYP details) any safeguarding incidents; conversation should be around the suitability of policies and whether any amendments are necessary
- use meetings and visits with the DSL to monitor progress on any strategic safeguarding priorities. Complete a Governor Visit Report template and share with the LMC
- ensure the DSL has received the training they need and is well supported to carry out their role
- talk to the DSL about employee safeguarding training, seeking assurance that employees are up to date with policy and practice and know what steps to take if they have concerns about a CYP
- make sure that checks to the single central record (SCR) are happening

Understand how Safeguarding Works in Practice

The Safeguarding Link Governor should be aware of the legal duties that provisions, and their LMC, must comply with to keep CYP safe. It's also important to build an understanding of how safeguarding procedures work in practice. This should focus around:

- How the requirements set out in Keeping Children Safe in Education (KCSiE), the DfE's statutory safeguarding guidance are being implemented within the provision
- reviewing the effectiveness of safeguarding policies including child protection, code of conduct, safer recruitment and managing allegations and low level concerns ensuring these are policies are regularly reviewed and updated
- observing (through arranged visits) how the culture of safeguarding is working within the provision
- understanding how safeguarding is built into the provision curriculum and how CYP are taught about staying safe (including online safety)

- using the annual safeguarding self assessment (s175), deep dive and any other relevance quality assurance activities undertaken as part of trust safeguarding quality assurance framework help ascertain the robustness of safeguarding procedures and systems
- using data (supplied within headteacher safeguarding reports) to spot trends, for example, absence rates for looked-after children

All governors and trustees must receive appropriate safeguarding and child protection training (that includes online safety). This forms part of the Trust's Governor induction programme and takes place annually thereafter.

Report to the LMC & Keeping them Informed

As the LMC's specialist on safeguarding and child protection, the Safeguarding Link Governor should:

- stay up to date on relevant guidance and policy (including local guidance), ensuring the LMC are made aware of any changes to their safeguarding responsibilities
- report to the LMC following monitoring meetings with the DSL and any visits/interactions with employees and CYP
- ensure safeguarding is given suitable coverage and prominence within the LMC's strategic discussions
- feed into LMC discussions, ensuring that decision making is based on a sound understanding of both the legal requirements and the provision/trust procedures and culture
- ensure that the results of safeguarding audits are shared with the LMC and any concerns addressed
- Support the LMCs oversight of safe recruitment processes within the provision by checking Single Central Record audits and information provided in headteacher safeguarding reports to the LMC.