

Annual Child Protection and Safeguarding Report 2023/2024 by the Designated Safeguarding Lead to the Governing Body

This report applies to the **Academic Year 2023/2024**
Completed July 2024 by Gary Anderson: Designated Safeguarding Lead

To ensure confidentiality, no individual children will be identified in this report.

Introduction

The Safeguarding Report to Governors is made annually in the Summer Term and interim reports are provided at Autumn and Spring term governors meetings. This ensures that Beam Governors can monitor the school's compliance, highlight issues and plan for improvements.

The report is an opportunity for governors to discuss safeguarding and child protection at a strategic level. (It is not identify individual cases; anonymity will be preserved.)

The report is prepared by the Designated Safeguarding Lead.

Section 1 – Governor Responsibilities

Single Central Record (SCR) of employment checks – Overview for Governors

Keeping our school as a safe place for children includes making sure we employ safe adults. We keep a single central record in line with statutory guidance and associated legislation. **The single central record is a record of the pre-employment checks undertaken.** The Governing Body should ensure that the single central record is up-to-date and accurate. This does not mean that a governor should check the SCR themselves. At Beam the DSL and Deputy review the Single Central Register at least once a term and report any matters arising from the review at the weekly Safeguarding Monitoring Meeting. This year a check has been completed each half term.

An important change was embedded this year and the Single Central Record is now being kept on CPOMSstaff. This speeds up recording and retrieval and has automatic features to identify the school's level of compliance. The school is showing 100% compliance at the time of this report.

Section 2 – Basic Information and Workload

total number of incidents logged in school year 2023/24. (in chosen categories.)



Incident Report

Filters for incidents:

- After date: Fri 01 September 2023
- Before date: Tue 16 July 2024
- Logged in any of these categories: Attendance, CAF / Early Help Assessment, Child In Need, Child Protection, Early Intervention / Early Help, LAC, Safeguarding

Category	Number of Incidents	Associated Students
	all	all
Attendance	414	140
CAF / Early Help Assessment	34	13
Child In Need	52	15
Child Protection	45	10
Early Intervention / Early Help	109	40
LAC	9	2
Safeguarding	224	109
Totals (unique)	852	227

Section 3: Quality of Safeguarding

In November 2023 Ella Savell-Boss Ltd on behalf of Optimus Education conducted a Safeguarding Review. The very favourable outcomes were reported to Governors in the Autumn Term. There will be a self audit reported to the Local Authority in Autumn Term 2024. Audits are used to inform the annual policy review and update.

The weekly safeguarding meeting continues and has a part in our quality assurance.

Section 4 - Policy and Procedures:

Beam County Primary School has a Safeguarding / Child Protection Policy which is compliant with BARKING AND DAGENHAM SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN PARTNERSHIP and the Department for Education expectations. The policy is available for parents and others to access through our website. It complies with Working Together to Safeguard Children (as updated in 2023) ; Keeping Children Safe in Education (2023 and will be updated to include 2024 updates when they come into effect in September 2024). The London Safeguarding Children Procedures remain our “go to” document for policy and practice.

All staff and volunteers are made aware of the procedures including those for dealing with allegations made against staff.

Section 5 - Training

DSL: Beam County Primary's Designated Safeguarding Lead; Gary Anderson completed appropriate training. (see appendix 1)

All staff: safeguarding training: In the Autumn 2023 term (or as part of subsequent induction) all staff completed safeguarding training

Section 6 - Information Sharing and Storage:

Weekly Safeguarding meetings have been held throughout the academic year. These ensure information is shared, action is planned and monitored, vulnerable children and families are identified and consideration is given to concerns that have been identified each week. Participating each week are: DSL / deputyDSL / Parent Support Advisor / Attendance Officer / Headteacher / Behaviour Lead / SENDCO / deputy SENDCO (medical) / mental Health and Wellbeing lead / Assistant head.

Swift and efficient record keeping happens through us using an electronic system called CPOMS which is good for sharing information within school and with other agencies in the protection of children.

All child protection and safeguarding records are stored securely as described in our policy. A very limited number of our staff have access to these records. There is a procedure for transferring information when a child, for whom there is a child protection file, transfers to another school.

Section 7: Early Help:

We have remained very committed to Early Interventions that work with parents within our principles of providing help, support and protection to children

Section 8 : Child Protection and safeguarding

The Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) and deputy DSL are part of the Leadership Team and Safeguarding Team. All staff report and discuss all child protection concerns with the DSL following school procedures. Child Protection concerns are immediately discussed with Children's Services via the MASH (multi agency safeguarding hub) and advice followed regarding a referral.

Records are kept of all notifications of concern and considered.

Section 9 : Looked After Children (LAC)

We continue to equip staff to ensure they have the knowledge and understanding to keep looked after children (LAC) safe through strong safeguarding practice for all pupils. (The DSL is also the LAC Designated Teacher.))

Section 10 GDPR and Safeguarding

Regarding GDPR (The General Data Protection Regulations) from a safeguarding perspective the key issue is "GDPR does not prevent, or limit, the sharing of information for the purposes of keeping children safe. Legal and secure information sharing between schools, Children's Social Care, and other local agencies, is essential for keeping children safe and ensuring they get the support they need". Information can be shared without consent if to gain consent would place a child at risk.

We have a protocol for passing on safeguarding files when the child transfers to another school.

Section 11: Governance and safeguarding

The Competency Framework for Governance says that 'someone' on the board should know the requirements relating to safeguarding, and that 'everyone' should know their duties. This essentially means that everyone should understand safeguarding, but that one person has the detailed knowledge and leadership responsibility for the board.

Section 12: The ongoing and new challenges

Operation Encompass

Operation Encompass is a police and education early information safeguarding partnership enabling schools to offer immediate support to children experiencing domestic abuse. The scheme means there is a notification to the Designated Safeguarding Lead Team's email address by to the start of the next school day after an incident of police attended domestic abuse where there are children related to either of the adult parties involved.

We already receive and use Operation Encompass alerts effectively. Technical updates are going through that will not change the availability or use we make of the notifications. It might be interesting to note that on 24th May 2024 Royal Assent was granted to The Victims and Prisoners Act which puts a statutory obligation on police forces to share Operation Encompass notifications with schools. (it is not yet clear when the provision of the The Victims and Prisoners Act will come into force.)

Keeping Children Safe in Education UPDATE

As we went into the last half-term holiday, the DfE published 'Keeping children safe in education' 2024, which will become statutory from 1 September. This is what you need to know.

Key changes

New definition of safeguarding (based on Working Together 2023)

Addition of "exploitation" throughout the document

Reminder : Where children "see, hear or experience domestic violence" they are victims of domestic abuse

We have to record rationale for making decisions (including decision NOT to make a referral)

Change in terminology:

“deliberately missing education” amended to reflect revised definition of “unexplainable and/or persistent absences from education.

Possible further changes (as pending review) in next year: Gender questioning children
Preventing radicalisation

KCSIE and our policy / procedures are to be updated to include other changes since last year

- Working Together to Safeguard Children (December 2023)
- Sharing Nudes and Semi-nudes (UKCIS; March 2024) [mostly related to images made by A.I. Artificial Intelligence)
- Information Sharing (May 2024)

New definition of Safeguarding (from Working together 2023)

Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children is defined for the purposes of this guidance as:

- Providing help and support to meet the needs of children as soon as problems emerge
- protecting children from maltreatment, whether that is within or outside the home, including online
- preventing the impairment of children’s mental and physical health or development
- ensuring that children grow up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care
- taking action to enable all children to have the best outcomes.

Although based on Working Together, the KCSIE does not list in these bullet points the other point from working together which is

- Promoting the upbringing of children with their birth parents, or otherwise their family network through a kinship care arrangement, whenever possible and where this is in the best interests of the children.
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Information Sharing DfE May 2024

- 7 golden rules of sharing information have not changed but the document adds clarity. The additions are in line with findings from recent serious case reviews

Sharing of information requires a lawful basis (we believe failure to share may result in the child being at risk of harm); not consent

Final comment

Each case is individual but some themes have been prevalent through this year. We are receiving more reported issues around housing. Multi-agency plans are frequently dealing with issues of children witnessing domestic abuse and its impact.

Government guidance revisions to Keeping Children Safe in Education come into effect from September. We are ready for discharging our duties but very aware that even though our culture of vigilance is robust we can’t become complacent.

The support of the Governing Body remains essential to safeguarding and is appreciated by the rest of the safeguarding team

Thank you

Gary Anderson –Designated Safeguarding Lead. – July 2024

Appendix : DSL training this academic year

What training, learning	Date:	development activity	Where
Leading Safeguarding	Thursday 20 th September 2023 1 day	Conference	Optimus Education (part of Shaw Trust)
Extremism and Radicalisation: managing and reporting concerns in line with the Updated guidance / Primary	14/12/2023	Webinar	Online The National College Elizabeth Kitto
Tackling and Responding to Domestic Abuse – what schools should know.	Wed 13/03/2024 10:00 - 11:00	Webinar	Online Judicium Education = “sofa session”
Schools in the middle – your responsibilities when parents are in conflict	Apr 17, 2024 03:45	Webinar	Live at 3:45 Judicium Education
The Senior Attendance Champion Role	7 th May 2024	Webinar	DfE
Leading Safeguarding	13 th June 2024	Full day CONFERENCE	Optimus
Attachment	21 June 2024	e-learning	BDSIP e-learning course
Anaphylaxis	21 June 2024	Online course	https://www.anaphylaxis.org.uk/ Allergywise for Schools. ONLINE COURSE
Health and Safety	June 2024	Beam H&S awareness training	Self directed study using Beam Health and Safety Presentation - June 2024.pptx
DSL Refresher Training	15 th July 2024	1 day In-person course	LBBD LADO