Safeguarding Strategy

Policy Family	Safeguarding/Child Protection
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2.0	September 2024	C.Steele	Updates for Trust structure
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Introduction

The Learning for Life Trust has effective co-ordination and strategic oversight of safeguarding. It provides consistency in the delivery of safeguarding practice across all of the academies in the trust.

Achieving this consistent approach doesn't mean everyone doing the same thing as we recognise that individual academies can be faced with very different risks and threats.

We ensure that safeguarding issues are identified and monitored, formulate effective plans, nurture relationships with our communities and engage effectively with the appropriate statutory agencies to create a strong safeguarding culture.

Trust Safeguarding Policy/Procedures

The Trust prepare a number of policies for use across Trust schools in relation to safeguarding. Policies are prepared in line with national guidance and best practice with the support of our appointed advisory body.

ALL schools within the Trust must adopt and adhere to these procedures and policies and this will be monitored by the Trust Executive.

Central Trust Safeguarding Policies

- Overarching Trust Safeguarding statement
- Safer Recruitment
- Appointment processes
- Whistleblowing Policy
- Code of Conduct (Staff and Volunteers)
- Recruitment of ex-offenders

School Safeguarding Policy/Procedures

Schools are required to ensure that operations and procedures in school are aligned with the most up-to-date guidance and best-practice.

Schools are required to prepare and implement effective compliant policy to meet the needs of their community.

The Trust will ensure schools have access to the appropriate resources to be able to deploy such policy and procedure and its implementation will be monitored and supported by the Trust Executive.

School Safeguarding Policies *(non-exhaustive list)*

- Keeping Children Safe in Education
- Over-arching safeguarding statement
- Child Protection policy
- Child on Child Abuse policy
- Behaviour policy/Exclusion policy
- First Day Calling procedures

- Missing Child Policy & Procedures
- Online Safety Policy
- Positive Handling Policy
- Supporting Children with Medical Conditions Policy
- Allergy Policy

Training - Governance

The Trust is committed to ensuring that all those involved in the governance of the Trust and its schools are adequately trained in safeguarding.

All Trustees and local governors undertake training relevant to their role. This includes **a minimum of level 1 safeguarding** training on an annual basis and reading and understanding at least Part One of the current Keeping Children Safe in Education guidance.

Further training is offered to Trustees and local Governors to fulfil their roles (e.g. safer recruitment, online safety) and in relation to local or developing issues.

Training – Safeguarding Leaders

The Trust is fully committed to ensuring that its academies have the competency and capacity within their schools to deliver outstanding safeguarding practice.

All Trust schools have an extended safeguarding leadership team who have access to relevant and up-to-date training and the capacity in which to fulfil their roles effectively.

All training and expiration dates will be logged by the school DSL and reviewed throughout the year.

Localised training to ensure that schools can engage with statutory services effectively is also prioritised.

Training – All Staff & Volunteers working in Schools

All staff and volunteers (inc governors and trustees) within Trust schools have a minimum requirement for safeguarding training. This is defined as:

- Level 1 Safeguarding
- read and understand at least Part One of the current Keeping Children Safe in Education guidance
- Prevent Training
- E-Safety

All staff and volunteers are to be familiar with the policy suite within in each school and Keeping Children Safe in Education.

All staff must receive appropriate training to fully understand what to do in the event of having concerns about a child.

Governance of Safeguarding

Safeguarding is the highest priority for all within the Trust. Each layer of governance within the Trust has a link trustee/governor responsible for Safeguarding.

This link will work closely with the appropriate person to ensure that different layers of governance are aware of the safeguarding priorities and issues. It will also ensure that the Trust is responding and reacting appropriately to all risks associated with safeguarding.

Training and self-reflection help to ensure that trustees/governors have the highest level of knowledge in relation to safeguarding and many factors are used to ensure that governors are aware of risks and mitigations in place to safeguard children.

Annual Audits

All schools within the Trust are required to perform an annual audit of safeguarding practices.

Results of the audit are to be shared with the Trust Board and Local Governing Board and will allow each school to develop an action plan.

The safeguarding audit in each school must be supported by the link LGB governor and the Trust Executive.

Response to local and national guidance and issues

The Trust and its schools monitor local and national issues to assess what impact might be felt on its community. Trustees, Governors and Leaders meet regularly to discuss issues related to safeguarding and to implement any measure required in order to protect the school community and to comply with any guidance and legislation in a timely fashion.

Safeguarding in the curriculum

We ensure that pupils are given opportunities to experience life in all its diversity, to acquire knowledge, understanding, and skills that significantly impact personal development, behaviour, and welfare, and equips every child with the knowledge and skills required for personal safeguarding.

Appointment of professional advisory body

All schools within the Trust are required to subscribe to the Trusts appointed Health & Safety and Safeguarding Consultant (Kym Allan).

This provides schools with knowledge, guidance and models on which to build their safety systems.

It also provides a 24/7 service for support in the event of an issue related to the safeguarding of pupils (along with the Cumberland Safeguarding Children's Partnership).

Record Keeping

All schools within the Trust will use CPOMs as their record keeping system in relation to safeguarding.

Staff will be given appropriate training to use it effectively, in line with policy.

DSL Half-termly Meetings & Supervision

The DSLs from each academy will meet together termly along with a Trust Executive. The meetings are designed to:

- Give a degree of safeguarding supervision to leaders.
- Allow leaders to share good practice and recent learning.
- Allow for a programme of safeguarding audit and supportive challenge to leaders of Trust schools.
- The meetings can also be responsive to changing safeguarding issues linked to the local area.
- Allow for an accurate assessment of the safeguarding issues across the MAT and for that process to be sufficiently detailed to help prioritise key objectives.