

<b>SOUTHWARK DIOCESAN BOARD OF EDUCATION</b>	
<b>BRIEFING SHEET</b>	
<b>SUBJECT:</b> SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN IN EDUCATION	
<b>RECIPIENT(S):</b> Headteachers and Chairs of Governors C of E Schools	
<b>SDBE CONTACT:</b> Carol Jerwood	<b>DATE:</b> April 2005

## **I Background**

**1.1** The Children Act 1989 places a duty on local authorities to safeguard and promote the welfare of children within their area and to provide a range and level of services appropriate to those children's needs. Local authorities must also make child protection enquiries if they have reasonable cause to suspect a child in their area is suffering, or likely to suffer, significant harm.

**1.2** The Education Act 2002 requires LEAs and governing bodies of maintained schools and proprietors of independent schools (including academies and city technology colleges) to make arrangements to safeguard and promote the welfare of children. Those bodies must have regard to any guidance issued by the Secretary of State. This briefing summarises the DfES guidance *Safeguarding Children in Education* (DfES/0027/2004).

## **2 Safeguarding and promoting welfare**

**2.1** There are two aspects to safeguarding and promoting welfare:

- (i) arrangements to take all reasonable measures to ensure risks of harm to children's welfare are minimised; and
- (ii) arrangements to take all appropriate action to address concerns about the welfare of children, working to agreed local policies on partnership with other agencies.

**2.2** Safeguarding does not simply cover child protection in relation to individual children, but also encompasses health and safety, bullying, meeting the needs of children with medical conditions, school security, drugs etc.

**2.3** Headteachers and/or other members of staff are responsible for carrying out their duties in compliance with the arrangements made by the LEA, governing body or proprietor.

## **3 Framework for protecting children from abuse and neglect**

### **3.1 Three-fold role of LEA**

- (i) **Strategic:** planning, co-ordinating the delivery of services, allocating resources and working in partnership with other agencies.
- (ii) **Support:** ensure maintained schools are aware of their responsibilities, provision of training, model policies and procedures, providing advice and support, facilitating links with other agencies, monitoring.
- (iii) **Operational:** responsibility for safeguarding excluded pupils or those unable to obtain a school place, involvement in dealing with allegations against staff, ensuring arrangements in place to prevent unsuitable staff from working with children.

### **3.2 Role of the governing body**

**3.2.1** Governing body is accountable for ensuring that effective policies and procedures are in place in accordance with DfES guidance and for monitoring the school's compliance with the policy.

**3.2.2** The governing body should ensure that:

- (i) child protection policy and procedures are in place in accordance with DfES guidance and locally agreed inter-agency procedures;
- (ii) recruitment procedures incorporate appropriate checks on new staff and volunteers who will work with children, including Criminal Records Bureau checks and List 99;

- (iii) procedures in place to deal with allegations of abuse against staff and volunteers in accordance with DfES guidance and locally agreed inter-agency procedures;
- (iv) a senior member of the school leadership team is designated to take responsibility for child protection issues and provide advice and support to other staff and liaise with other agencies and the LEA. A deputy should be appointed to act in the person's absence.
- (v) a designated person should undertake child protection training in relation to inter-agency working to standards agreed by the ACPC and knowledge should be updated at two-yearly intervals.
- (vi) the headteacher and other staff working with children should undertake appropriate training, refreshed at three-yearly intervals; temporary staff must also be made aware of child protection arrangements;
- (vii) any deficiencies in child protection arrangements brought to its attention are remedied without delay;
- (viii) a member of governing body (usually the chair) is nominated to be responsible for liaising with the LEA and other agencies, as appropriate, in the event of an allegation against the headteacher;
- (ix) governors are trained appropriately; and
- (x) procedures and policies are reviewed annually and the LEA is informed about them and how their duties have been discharged.

### **3.3 Proprietors of independent schools (including academies and CTCs)**

**3.3.1** These schools have similar responsibilities to those described above although they cannot automatically rely on the LEA to provide advice and support. However, LEAs may offer services to such schools.

### **3.4 Extended schools and out of school hours activities**

**3.4.1** Where the governing body is the provider of services or activities directly under the supervision and management of school staff, the school's arrangements for child protection will apply. Where activities are provided separately, governing bodies should seek assurance that the provider has appropriate policies and procedures in place for child protection and safeguarding children.

### **3.5 Responsibilities of headteachers**

**3.5.1** Headteachers should ensure that policies and procedures adopted by the governing body are fully implemented and followed by staff; that sufficient resources and time are allocated to staff to enable them to discharge their responsibilities, and that all staff and volunteers feel able to raise concerns about poor, or unsafe, practice in regard to child protection. Headteachers must also ensure that such concerns are addressed sensitively and effectively in accordance with the school's whistle-blowing policy.

## **4 Annexes**

**4.1** Annexes to the guidance give further detail on the following issues:

### **Annex A – Protecting children from unsuitable people**

- (i) staff appointments;
- (ii) pupils/students in workplace placements;
- (iii) physical contact with pupils/restraint;
- (iv) allegations against staff;

### **Annex B – Helping to keep children safe**

- (i) training issues/listening to children;
- (ii) drug/alcohol abusing parents;
- (iii) domestic violence;
- (iv) children and young people who sexually abuse;
- (v) sexual exploitation;
- (vi) female genital mutilation;
- (vii) forced marriage;

### **Appendices**

- (i) list of relevant guidance;
- (ii) areas of responsibility for child protection officers;
- (iii) areas of responsibility for designated senior person for child protection;
- (iv) allegations flow-chart.