Spotlight on Site Security

Questions to ask yourself

How easy would it be for an intruder to gain access to the premises?

Would the staff know how to respond to an intruder on the premises?

What should I have in place?

Article taken from the BBC news website Monday 29th July 2024

A group of children had been attending an event at a holiday club dance school when a person armed with a knife walked into the building and attacked those inside.

Police were called to reports of a stabbing at a property on Hart Street in Southport where Officers were "shocked" to find multiple people, many of whom were children, had been subjected to a "ferocious attack" and had suffered serious injuries.

Tragically, three children died from their injuries. Two adults were critically injured "bravely" trying to protect the children from the attack.
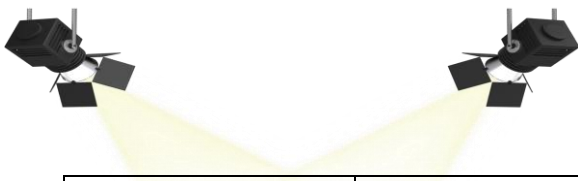
Conclusion

Although attacks like this are extremely rare and sometimes terrible incidents happen, we can take steps to minimise risk of harm should the unthinkable happen.

When considering site security, this is ever changing and needs to be kept under constant review, with vulnerable areas identified and remedial actions implemented to address them. We should also consider what processes, policies and plans we have in place to further strengthen our safeguarding procedures.

Where to start?

No two sites are identical, and the design of the buildings and the layout of the site will differ from venue to venue, with some operating out of public buildings and parks. However many of the issues revolving around security are generic. Some points to consider could include:

Policies	Safeguarding Policy Risk Assessment Risk Assessment for children with SEND	After-school clubs, community activities, and tuition - safeguarding guidance for providers (publishing.service.gov.uk)
Visitors	ID Badges Signing In/out records Entry systems Visitors Policy	Writing safeguarding policies and procedures | NSPCC Learning

Intruders	Lockdown procedure Challenging an Intruder Risk assessment on boundary Risk assessment for public buildings Communication alert – different to a fire alarm	Emergency planning and response for education, childcare, and children's social care settings - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)
Place of safety	Identify a place of safety Policy and procedures shared with parents	Safer settings for children - Posters (dfegovukassets.blob.core.windows.net) Keeping children safe during clubs, tuition and activities – Summary leaflet (dfegovukassets.blob.core.windows.net)
Lone Working	Safety Devices Summing help	

What should I have in place?

EYFS States
Safety of premises
3.65 Providers must take reasonable steps to ensure the safety of children, staff, and others on the premises in the case of fire or any other emergency

Organising premises for confidentiality and safeguarding
3.72 Providers must ensure: They take all reasonable steps to prevent unauthorised persons entering the premises and have an agreed procedure for checking the identity of visitors.

Risk Assessment
3.76 Risk assessments should identify aspects of the environment that need to be checked on a regular basis, when and by whom.

Daycare providers on the compulsory Childcare Register states:
Your premises and equipment

- Your premises and equipment must be safe and suitable for childcare. You must: make sure that no child can leave the premises, and no one can enter the premises, without someone who is providing childcare becoming aware

Further Information

After-school clubs, community activities, and tuition - safeguarding guidance for providers (publishing.service.gov.uk)

School and college security - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)

https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/school-and-college-security/site-security-guidance

https://www.protectuk.police.uk/

Managing risks and risk assessment at work – Overview -HSE

Resources

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/5f6337d98fa8f5106083ed6a/Self-assessment_emergency_incident_planning_checklist.docx

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/5f6337efd3bf7f7239aa13ed/Risk_assessment_template.docx

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/5f63380d8fa8f51068e0be68/Evacuation_template.docx

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/5f6338598fa8f51069100606/Lockdown_template.docx