

Slough Borough Council Safeguarding Policy Statement

Introduction

Slough Borough Council (SBC) is committed to promoting and safeguarding the welfare of children as set out in the statutory guidance “Working Together to Safeguard Children” (HM Government 2018), our view is that safeguarding is *everyone’s* business.

A Pan Berkshire arrangement across the local safeguarding boards provides a set of agreed policies and procedures for safeguarding across all six unitary authorities in Berkshire which informs an agreed safeguarding response that is consistent across partners.

SBC has responsibility for a range of services to children including children’s centres, early help, young people’s services and targeted services and therefore accesses these policies and procedures to support delivery.

Children’s social care is delivered via Slough Children’s Services Trust and there is a strong focus in relation to safeguarding responsibilities across all areas of service delivery and SBC and SCST work in partnership to meet those responsibilities.

The purpose of this policy statement is to:

- Provide a clear commitment from SBC in relation to the responsibilities it holds to safeguard and protect children and young people in Slough.
- Provide parents, staff and volunteers with the overarching principles that guide our approach to safeguarding children and young people.

This policy statement applies to anyone working on behalf of SBC, including senior managers, elected Members, paid staff, volunteers, sessional workers, agency staff and students.

Legal framework

This policy has been drawn up on the basis of legislation, policy and guidance that seeks to protect children in England; in particular Working Together to Safeguard Children – A guide to inter-agency working to safeguard and promote the welfare of children (HM Government 2018).

We believe that:

- children and young people should never experience abuse of any kind
- we have a responsibility to promote the welfare of all children and young people, to keep them safe and to practise in a way that protects them

We recognise that:

- the welfare of the child is paramount
- all children, regardless of age, disability, gender reassignment, race, religion or belief, sex, or sexual orientation have a right to equal protection from all types of harm or abuse.
- some children are additionally vulnerable because of the impact of previous experiences, their level of dependency, communication needs or other issues
- working in partnership with children, young people, their parents, carers and other agencies is essential in promoting young people’s welfare

In conjunction with our delivery partner SCST, we will seek to keep children and young people safe by:

- valuing, listening to and respecting them
- appointing a nominated child protection / safeguarding lead
- working within the Pan Berkshire child protection policies and procedures and where relevant developing local child protection and safeguarding policies and procedures which reflect best practice.

Slough Borough Council Safeguarding Policy Statement

- using our safeguarding procedures to share concerns and relevant information with agencies who need to know, and involving children, young people, parents, families and carers appropriately
- creating and maintaining an anti-bullying environment and ensuring that we have a policy and procedure to help us deal effectively with any bullying that does arise
- developing and implementing an effective online safety policy and related procedures
- sharing information about child protection and safeguarding best practice with children, their families, staff and volunteers via leaflets, posters, group work and one-to-one discussions
- recruiting staff and volunteers safely, ensuring all necessary checks are made
- providing effective management for staff and volunteers through supervision, support, training and quality assurance measures
- implementing a code of conduct for staff and volunteers
- using our procedures to manage any allegations against staff and volunteers appropriately
- ensuring that we have effective complaints and whistleblowing measures in place
- ensuring that we provide a safe physical environment for our children, young people, staff and volunteers, by applying health and safety measures in accordance with the law and regulatory guidance
- recording and storing information professionally and securely

Related policies and procedures

This policy statement should be read alongside the Pan Berkshire policies and procedures and where relevant our organisational policies and procedures, including where appropriate those of our delivery partner SCST:

- Procedures for responding to concerns about a child or young person's wellbeing
- Dealing with allegations of abuse against a child or young person
- Role of the designated safeguarding officer
- Managing allegations against staff and volunteers
- Safer recruitment policy and procedures
- Adult to child supervision ratios
- Code of conduct for staff and volunteers
- Anti-bullying policy and procedures
- Online safety policy and procedures for responding to concerns about online abuse
- Photography and image sharing guidance
- Child protection records retention and storage policy
- Whistleblowing policy

Information about safeguarding arrangements in Slough:

Slough Borough Council has a Safeguarding Children (Section 11) Strategic Leads Group that meets every other month and is responsible for

- monitoring the Council's compliance against the requirements of Section 11 of the Children's Act 2004
- informing ongoing safeguarding development
- ensuring staff and volunteers across Slough Borough Council are aware of and discharging their safeguarding duties and responsibilities.

The Council's Education Safeguarding Officer, who is a member of the Safeguarding Children (S11) Strategic Leads Group, provides

- expert advice and consultation to education settings regarding safeguarding matters in schools

Slough Borough Council Safeguarding Policy Statement

- support to schools with compliance on government guidance in respect of safeguarding responsibilities and training requirements.

Contact details

Chair of Safeguarding Children (S11) Strategic Leads Group

Rodney D'Costa, Service Lead for Children's Commissioning, Partnerships & Performance
rodney.dcosta@slough.gov.uk

Education Safeguarding Officer - Jatinder Matharu

Jatinder.matharu@slough.gov.uk

LADO (Local Authority Designated Officer):-

<http://www.scstrust.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/LADO-Contact-Information-for-Slough.pdf>

<http://www.scstrust.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/LADO-Referral-Form.docx>

(SLSCB) Slough Local Safeguarding Children's Board:-

safeguardingboards@slough.gov.uk

Independent Chair – Nick Georgiou

nick.georgiou@slough.gov.uk

Safeguarding Partnerships Manager – Betty Lynch

<mailto:betty.lynch@slough.gov.uk>

[Pan Berkshire On line policies and procedures](#)

<http://www.proceduresonline.com/berks/slough/index.html>

We are committed to reviewing our policy and good practice annually. This policy statement was last reviewed by the Children's Safeguarding (section 11) group on: 21.01.2019

Signed:



Cate Duffy – Director of Children, Learning & Skills and statutory Director of Children's Services

Date: 04.02.2019