

Welcome to the first termly safeguarding newsletter and a warm welcome from me, Jatinder Matharu.

I am the newly appointed Slough Education Safeguarding Officer supporting all schools (maintained, non-maintained and independent schools, academies and free schools).

It is a new role and can assist with the following areas:

- Support schools with compliance on government guidance in respect of safeguarding responsibilities and training requirements
- Provide expert advice and consultation to education setting regarding safeguarding matters in schools and to sign post to the most appropriate support services
- To foster and facilitate good communication between schools and partners to safeguard children
- Disseminate and signpost best practice in safeguarding in schools on policy development and share learning from serious case reviews
- Support, follow up and manage any safeguarding complaints with schools from external bodies (Ofsted, ESFA, and CP&S Unit) on behalf of the local authority
- Collate, manage and evaluate the annual Sec 11 audits on behalf of the LSCB including safeguarding training needs

I'm happy to attend head teacher forums, DSL forums and any other networks to establish good links.

You can contact me for non urgent information and advice here:

Slough Borough Council
St Martins Place, 2nd Floor East,
51 Bath Road, Slough, SL1 3UF

Tel: 01753 875068
07714 858213

Email: jatinder.matharu@slough.gov.uk
jatinder.matharu@slough.gcsx.gov.uk

If your query is regarding a child being harmed please continue using the existing systems in place through First Contact to log your concern. If your concern is regarding an allegation about a member of staff please use the LADO process - details for both services are listed below.

Harm to a child: reporting

If your concern is regarding the harm of a child or young person please immediately contact:

First Contact: 01753 875362
Email: Child.protection@slough.gcsx.gov.uk

Children's Services Trust Ltd
St Martins Place, 51 Bath Road
Slough SL1 3UF
For out of hours service please call: 01344 786543

NSPCC Helpline: 0808 800 5000

Whistleblowing and LADO

If you have a concern about a professionals' or volunteers' suitability to work with children or there is an allegation about a member of the workforce, it must be immediately reported to a designated safeguarding lead or head teacher (within your service) first. If the allegation is about the head teacher then you can approach the chair of governors and then the local authority designated officer (LADO) within one working day. The LADO is also available for advice and can be contacted during office hours:

Slough LADO is Nicola Johnstone

Email: nicola.johnstone@scstrust.co.uk or
nicola.johnstone@slough.gcsx.gov.uk

LADO Tel: 01753 474053
0788 5828 387

LADO email:
LADO@slough.gcsx.gov.uk

If you have concerns that a criminal offence has been committed please notify your manager and contact the police straight away.

Thames Valley Police:
www.thamesvalley.police.uk
Tel: 101



Key safeguarding updates

New exciting LSCB website

Slough merged the Safeguarding Business Unit into one on 1 October 2017. Both the adults and children's boards will be supported jointly through Slough Borough Council. The boards will remain independent and as part of the newly formed business unit they have funded a new website. It includes a professional's page where you can access a range of resources and tools. I will be adding to these with a range of support for schools over the coming months. I will keep you updated.

Anti-bullying week

It is national anti-bullying week from 13-17 November 2017. You can access a range of activities through the Anti-bullying Alliance, "All Different, All Equal". The focus this year is on empowering young people.

www.anti-bullyingalliance.org.uk/

Students aged between 12-20 can access the "Ditch the Label" annual bullying 2018 survey by registering your school's interest in taking part here:

www.ditchthelabel.org/abs-enrol/

To celebrate the launch of their 6th edition, they are offering 20 grants of £500 to qualifying schools and colleges, to enable them to receive a free tailored report on bullying.

Working together 2018 consultation

The Department for Education has revised the guidance Working together to safeguard children: guide to inter-agency working to safeguard and promote the welfare of children, to include the changes needed to support the new system of multi-agency safeguarding arrangements established by the Children and Social Work Act 2017. These changes relate to the:

- replacement of Local Children Safeguarding Boards (LCSBs) with local safeguarding partners
- establishment of a new national Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel
- transfer of responsibility for child death reviews from Local Safeguarding Children Boards to new Child Death Review Partners.

Please use this consultation to make your voice heard especially the front facing DSL roles that manage safeguarding concerns in schools.

I'm happy to pull together a joint response from Slough schools through the DSL and head teacher forums and feedback.

<https://consult.education.gov.uk/child-protection-safeguarding-and-family-law/working-together-to-safe-guard-children-revisions-t/>

The deadline for responses to the consultation is 31 December 2017.

Sec 175 audits

Section 175 of the Education Act 2002 places a statutory duty on schools/settings, governing bodies and local authorities. S.175 guidance, requires governing bodies to carry out an annual review of the school's policies and procedures and to provide information to the LA about how the duties set out in the guidance have been discharged. Independent School's/setting's and Academies are covered under Section 157 of the same Act.

The annual Sec 175/157 audits are due by 30 November 2017. Due to changes and movements in the LSCB I will be resuming responsibility for the collection of the Sec 175 audits moving forward. I will be emailing a copy of the 2017-18 template to all DSL leads over the coming week.

What next?

I'm happy to take suggestions and requests regarding topics you would like to see covered on the next newsletter or any forums. Please drop me a line jatinder.matharu@slough.gov.uk.

I'm looking forward to working with you all and developing some great professional relationships to safeguard children and young people in Slough.

