

## **Terms of Reference**

### **Designated Safeguarding Leads (DSL) Network**

#### **Purpose of Group:**

The Designated Safeguarding Leads (DSL) network will facilitate and promote a culture of safeguarding as everybody's business. It provides a networking opportunity for DSLs in education settings to keep abreast of the latest safeguarding updates and guidance nationally and locally.

#### **Objectives:**

1. Strengthen strategic communication and relationships between Slough Safeguarding Partner Board (SPB), Slough Borough Council (SBC) School Effectiveness Team and education providers.
2. Provide networking opportunities for DSL's for mutual support, reflection and good practice sharing.
3. Disseminate the latest safeguarding practice and guidance to inform and contribute to needs led safeguarding commissioning intentions by wider partners.
4. Advocate, promote and facilitate continued and consistent development, implementation and review of safeguarding practice through networking and co production.
5. Disseminate learning and recommendations post national inquiries and safeguarding reviews undertaken by national external agencies (e.g. Ofsted, NSPCC) and/or local safeguarding reviews (e.g. SPR, SBC).

#### **Membership:**

The network is aimed at Designated Safeguarding Lead's (DSL) and Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads (DDSL) from nursery, primary and secondary education settings. The forum is open to all maintained, community, voluntary aided, free, academies, faith and independent settings who have paid into the safeguarding subscription.

#### **Relationship to other partnership forums**

The discussions from the network may be fed back into the Safeguarding Partnership Board (SPB) Education Sub group and other groups for service improvements as and when required.

### **Managing the business/how the meetings will be organised**

Jatinder Matharu, Education Safeguarding Officer - will lead, chair and circulate the papers for the meetings.

The group is jointly responsible for informing and shaping the agenda, sharing of local contextual information to inform discussion/debate at the meetings. This group has no budget.

Regular attendance is required from the DSL/and or DDSL. The agenda items for discussion will vary dependent upon local trends and concerns but will remain open and flexible for schools to include areas they wish to discuss around key priorities or issues. The chair will seek key speakers to facilitate discussion and debate on topical subjects.

### **Frequency of meetings:**

The network will meet termly (3 times per year) in line with the academic year. Meetings will be scheduled on an annual basis working to a 12 month forward calendar.

Other forms of communication will include a termly safeguarding newsletter and access to the LINK web portal for education providers.

Frequency of the meetings may be increased in exceptional circumstances for better flow of information (e.g. COVID 19).

### **Working methods:**

No individual case discussion will take place and only anonymized information will be shared in the forums therefore no information sharing protocols are required.

Minutes of the meetings will be sent out within 10 days of the meeting taking place and the agenda will be circulated 3 days prior to the meeting.

### **Review Date of terms of reference:**

Terms of Reference will be reviewed and revised on an annual basis or as required if significant changes occur through national and /or local arrangements.

Date: Sept 2020

Review Date: Sept 2021