



Pam Gartland **SAFEGUARDING FIRST**

Designated Safeguarding Lead checklist for phased return of children to school following the Covid-19 pandemic and Summer break

At PG:SF Ltd we have produced this checklist of considerations for our Designated Safeguarding Leads to support you during this time in planning and preparing for the return of all children in September 2020.

Your training as a DSL

Although training updates are not expected during the pandemic, what is your current training status? We are continuing to provide all of the DSL Experienced Training versions 1-3, this term please see our event dates on our website

Staff training/briefings

Have you updated all staff on safeguarding expectations in any new arrangements? This should include an expectation in the rise of disclosures from children upon their return to school. There may be a rise in gang activity, peer on peer/child on child abuse or concerns within the family home and staff should be prepared for these disclosures over the coming months and be assured of protocols, reporting directly to DSL's and recording accurately on CPOMS/other recording systems.

We are continuing to offer virtual KCSIE training at this time and face to face training will resume as soon as Government restrictions allow.

How are you supporting staff with any grief and loss issues of their own? What updates/check-ins with staff's mental health and well-being are in place? (please see the re-admission template for staff)

How to contact you/communication

How clear is it to all staff, children, parents and other professionals of how to contact you, particularly if you are not on-site? Is it in your updated CP Policy/reviewed addendum September 2020? Have you shared it in briefing with all staff? Staff must be prepared to share information with you quickly and accurately whether you are on or off site.

Supporting staff with contact with children and families

Have you reviewed your contact processes? As more children are returning and are on site, who is monitoring and recording for those children? What processes are still in place for the monitoring and recording of children who are at home self-isolating or not attending school? If this is class teachers/Pastoral staff - have you reviewed the script of information you need recording e.g. home schooling, well-being, **online access**? If vulnerable children are not attending what level of contact is in place and agreed with multi agency partners?

Contacts

Are you keeping up to date with changes in social care or local authority personnel? Are you aware of any changes with local safeguarding children partnerships and their arrangements during this time?

Numbers of vulnerable children

Have you got a clear overview of children who are vulnerable, before, during and after lockdown? Have you reviewed and are you continuing to review the situation regularly?

Have you been able to attend meetings and discussions about children? Do you know where each child is at in terms of their progress and outcomes with social care?

Are you prepared for a rise in disclosures and referrals (consider any training needs)?

Have you re-assessed all children who are involved in gang-related activity, experienced peer on peer/child on child abuse, are at risk of online harm/grooming/radicalisation?

Have you considered how you are grouping your vulnerable children together in groups in school? How are you supporting their needs and wellbeing and giving time for 1:1 support?

Professional escalation

Are you following up and challenging outcomes for children despite the lock down and pandemic having impact?

Transition

Have you got everything prepared for the new nursery/reception or year 7 class coming and the nursery, year 6, year 11 class that have moved on? Have you ensured the information you require regarding vulnerable children you have received or have made contact with other DSL's for handover? Have you prepared and sent information for those children who have moved on?

Staff behaviour policy/expectations

Have you reviewed your Staff Behaviour Policy in light of recent changes particularly a rise in online meetings, home working and online teaching? Are staff aware of these protocols and aware of risks? Are staff moving across sites or are you receiving different or new staff and have all the necessary checks been undertaken?

Communication with parents

Are all parents receiving and accessing communication? How are you staying in touch? How are you gaining their views and feedback? How are you supporting them with their children and the return to school and checking in with them?

Mental health, wellbeing, grief and changing circumstances

What have you put in place for children, staff and the wider community who may be grieving for death, loss and changing circumstances? What have you got in place on the curriculum to support children with increasing mental health needs?

Professional supervision

What professional supervision have you got in place for yourself and your own needs alongside the team of DSL's in these difficult circumstances?