

Safeguarding Guidance- Multi Academy Trusts

For multi academy trusts to work effectively clear arrangements for safeguarding must be in place. The arrangements for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children must be compliant with Keeping Children Safe In Education, 2018. At the top of the MAT, the trust board directors must hold ultimate account for those safeguarding arrangements, by assurances from their local governing body, Headteachers and Designated Safeguarding leads across all of the key areas of safeguarding. Where there are shortfalls identified as well as developments required they must identify how this is being managed with clear timescales.

Trustees/CEO

Need to receive from each local Governing Body assurance that the arrangements for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children are secure and robust. They should be provided with a summary from the Local Governing Body, Safeguarding Lead (Governor), the Designated Safeguarding Lead and/or Head teacher showing the security in safeguarding arrangements across the 5 key areas of safeguarding (PGSF). This summary should include how their particular school is secure and compliant and any areas of development should be highlighted with clear timescales.

A senior lead on the trust board who holds safeguarding in their portfolio (but not as their job role or expertise) alongside the other directors should challenge and unpick with scrutiny the security of these arrangements in each school that is part of the MAT.

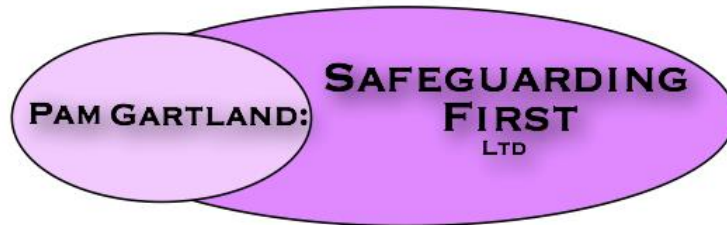
The safeguarding governors of each local governing body and the designated leads from each school should meet regularly at Trust Forums (at least twice a year) to share best practice amongst all the schools in the MAT, looking at strengths and difficulties. The summary of these meetings should also be given to the senior lead on the trust board who holds the responsibility for safeguarding.



Local governing body

Need to hold their Headteacher to account for safeguarding across their school within the MAT and feed back to Trust board directors. The local governing body should be aware of the detail and actions of the HT via the safeguarding lead on the governing body. They should be able to challenge and ask additional questions if required.





Safeguarding Lead Governor (Senior Lead) on Governing body

There should be a safeguarding lead (senior lead) who holds responsibility for safeguarding. This individual should meet regularly with the HT/DSL to hold them to account for safeguarding. They should ensure that there is capacity and resource to meet the needs of all vulnerable children. They are responsible for ensuring timeliness of referrals and challenging the Headteacher's report in demonstrating accountability (This should also include any external validation across the key areas of safeguarding). The safeguarding lead should give feedback to the rest of the governors in the governing body meetings.

Headteachers

Designated Safeguarding Leads

Must hold account for their site and know all issues regarding safeguarding in the wider sense across their site.
Must feed to Governing Body, CEO and maintain communications with DSL's

Must hold case responsibility for child protection, child in need, looked after children and early help and be able to feed to the Headteacher

This evidence can be shown for safeguarding activity across the key areas of safeguarding by:

Our Responsibility to safeguarding in schools and settings: Clear policies and procedures ratified and agreed across the sites for consistency. Those policies are regularly reviewed and reflect consistent practice across each school.

Evidence through ratification process, changes to policy and how they are implemented and the impact on practice.

Safeguarding children and Vulnerable adults – HT DSL report clear and consistent. The report has been fully discussed and challenged by governing body/council. Governors are confident that the school is continuing to be a culture of vigilance and children are safe.

Evidence through detail scrutiny of vulnerable list to ensure impact for all those subject to intervention or plan. Evidence through examples of good practice for individual cases showing improvement or movement.

Safe people – the Single central record has been Quality Assured and is compliant. Quality CPD has been accessed this term for all staff and demonstrates impact.

Evidence through change to practice, improved practice, or examples of good work undertaken.

Safe premises and places - Health and safety issues following external review have been managed and are all now compliant.

Evidence through external audit, changes to audit and improvements to site and premises to safeguard children.

Safe children- Broad and balanced curriculum in place allowing safe discussions for children to manage risk and safety plan.

Evidence of curriculum plan, effective work within curriculum and examples for individual learners.