

# Keeping Children Safe in Education

**Michael Bell**

**Safeguarding in Schools- DfE**

**17<sup>th</sup> November 2016**



Department  
for Education

# Presentation Content:

- **Safeguarding in Schools: My Team**
- **The Schools Role**
- **Keeping Children Safe in Education: Overview**
- **Keeping Children Safe in Education 2016: Changes**
- **Questions**



# Keeping Children Safe in Education

## Safeguarding in Schools: My Team:

- Safeguarding in Schools Team set up in late 2014.
- Before this Keeping Children Safe in Education and safeguarding policy was managed across multiple teams.
- As well as managing the statutory guidance we also lead for DfE with regards to general safeguarding policy and online safety.
- We work closely with child protection colleagues who are responsible for “Working Together to Safeguard Children” whose work has numerous overlaps with ours.



# Keeping Children Safe in Education

## The Schools Role:

- From the DfE perspective the schools role is set out in two main pieces of statutory guidance and one advice document:
  - Keeping children safe in education
  - Working together to safeguard children
  - What to do if you worried a child is being abused: Advice for practitioners



# Keeping Children Safe in Education

## The Schools Role:

- Schools must have regard to statutory guidance- **Keeping children safe in education** when carrying out their duties to safeguard and promote the welfare of children.
- Schools and their staff form part of the wider safeguarding system for children. The system is based on the principle of acting in the **best interests** of the child.



# Keeping Children Safe in Education

## The Schools Role:

- Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children is **everyone's** responsibility.
- School and College approaches to safeguarding should be child centred and should consider at all times what is in the **best interests** of the child.
- No single professional can have a full picture of a child's needs and circumstances. If children and families are to receive the right help at the right time, **everyone** who comes into contact with them has a role to play in identifying concerns, sharing information and taking prompt action.



# Keeping Children Safe in Education

## Keeping Children Safe in Education: Overview

Keeping children safe in education is split into 5 parts:

- Summary
- Part 1- Safeguarding information for all staff
- Part 2- The management of safeguarding
- Part 3- Safer recruitment
- Part 4- Allegations of abuse made against teachers and other staff



# Keeping Children Safe in Education

## Keeping Children Safe in Education: Overview

- **Summary**

- Sets out what we mean by school and college and who the guidance is for:
  - ❖ Governing bodies of maintained schools, non maintained special schools and colleges;
  - ❖ Proprietors of independent schools (including academies); and
  - ❖ Management committees of pupil referral units
  
- It's at this level that ultimate responsibility sits.





# Keeping Children Safe in Education

## Keeping Children Safe in Education: Overview

- **Part 1: Safeguarding information for all staff**
  - The role of the schools and college;
  - What staff need to know;
  - What staff should look out for;
  - What staff should do if they have a concern about a child;
  - What staff should do if they have a concern about a staff member; and
  - Types of abuse, neglect and safeguarding issues



# Keeping Children Safe in Education

## Keeping Children Safe in Education: Overview

- **Part 2: The management of safeguarding**
  - Safeguarding policies;
  - Inter-agency working;
  - The designated safeguarding lead;
  - Opportunities to teach safeguarding;
  - Allegations of abuse against other children;
  - Inspection;
  - The child's wishes; and
  - Looked after children



# Keeping Children Safe in Education

## Keeping Children Safe in Education: Overview

- **Part 3: Safer recruitment**
  - Regulated activity;
  - Types of check;
  - Pre-appointment checks;
  - Single central record;
  - Agency staff;
  - Volunteers;
  - Contractors; and
  - Work experience



# Keeping Children Safe in Education

## Keeping Children Safe in Education: Overview

- **Part 4: Allegations of abuse made against teachers and other staff**
  - Duties as an employer;
  - Initial considerations;
  - Supporting those involved;
  - Confidentiality;
  - Exit arrangements;
  - Record keeping;
  - References; and
  - Suspension



# Keeping Children Safe in Education

## Keeping Children Safe in Education: Overview

- Aim to make one set of changes per year (maximum- if required).
- Aim to publish revised version once a year in advance of the start of the new school year.
- Aim to make changes in line with Ofsted updating their guidance documents- especially:
  - Inspecting safeguarding in early years, education and skills settings.



# Keeping Children Safe in Education

## Keeping Children Safe in Education 2016: Summary- Changes

- Clarification on what “must have regard means”
- Change emphasis from all staff “reading” Part 1 to also include “ensure that mechanisms are in place to assist staff to understand and discharge their role and responsibilities as set out in Part 1”



# Keeping Children Safe in Education

## Keeping Children Safe in Education 2016: Part 1- Changes

- More information provided on wider safeguarding system that's school operate within- including more information on “early help”.
- Clarifying difference between having a “concern” about a child and a child “in immediate danger” and the necessary actions.
- Reinforcing the importance of considering the “best interests” of the child.



# Keeping Children Safe in Education

## Keeping Children Safe in Education 2016: Part 1- Changes

- Information on “confidentiality” moved from Part 2 to Part 1.
- Information on what to do if staff have concerns about a head who is also the sole proprietor moved from Part 2 into Part 1.
- “further information” turned into an Annex, targeted at those staff that work directly with children.





# Keeping Children Safe in Education

## Keeping Children Safe in Education 2016: Part 2- Changes

- Clarification on cover requirements for the Designated Safeguarding Lead.
- Added requirement for staff to be regularly updated (at least annually) on safeguarding and child protection- in addition to regular training.



# Keeping Children Safe in Education

## Keeping Children Safe in Education 2016: Part 2- Changes

- New online safety section- sets out requirement for **appropriate** filters and monitoring systems.
- Change emphasis from “considering” teaching children about safeguarding to “ensuring”.



# Keeping Children Safe in Education

## Keeping Children Safe in Education 2016: Part 3- Changes

- Changed to reflect the new section 128 power to bar unsuitable people from management positions in independent schools.
- Various paragraphs updated to reflect latest DBS policy position.



# Keeping Children Safe in Education

## Keeping Children Safe in Education 2016: Annex- Changes

- Updating Designated Safeguarding Leads job description.
- New Annex to support online safety.
- Including a table of changes to highlight changes that have been made compared to the 2015 version.



# Keeping Children Safe in Education

## Summary

Key message from me would be its got to be more than a process and tick box exercise (and it is in the majority of schools!).

Yes it is vital to have all the policies and processes in place- but it has to be more than that– it has to be about the culture and a whole school approach to safeguarding-

- **Every** member of staff has a role to play;
- **Every** member of staff has a responsibility; and
- **Every** member of staff must be confident to put the child's needs first and escalate incidents- regardless of how difficult this is or how uncomfortable it makes them feel.



# Questions



# For more information

## Contact Details

- By email: [michael.bell@education.gov.uk](mailto:michael.bell@education.gov.uk)

Keeping children safe in education-

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/keeping-children-safe-in-education--2>

The Consultation-

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/keeping-children-safe-in-education-proposed-changes>

