Rivermead Inclusive Trust

Edition 3





A way for our Trust community to stay updated with Safeguarding news.

Most of all- a place to get ideas and build confidence & positivity!

MESSAGE FROM THE TRUST SAFEGUARDING TEAM

Happy New Year. We hope that you all had a relaxing holiday. Thank you for ensuring all pupils and staff continue to feel safe.

The Christmas break can be a torrid time for many children and young people. Whether teaching on site or online, plan conversations with learners that you know face hardship. Remember we must continue to hear the voice of the child.

In 2014 two young boys appeared on **Britain's Got Talent** and got the first ever golden buzzer by Simon Cowell. They sang an original song to raise awareness of the impact of **bullying**. This song is more than just the lyrics sung, it symbolises the importance of hearing the 'voice of the child' and ensuring they are given the opportunity to express themselves.

As practitioners watching this video take time to reflect on your current in-house practice to ensure that every child, young person or adult at risk is given the opportunity to express any concerns they may have.



Useful websites:

Medway Safeguarding Children Partnership's (MSCP)
Medway Education Safeguarding Resources: MSCP

MSCP Free e-learning courses
A selection of course linked to safeguarding for professionals
https://www.kscmp.org.uk/__data/assets/pdf_file/0006/105279/KSCMP-and-MSCP-E-Learning-Courses.pdf

COVID 19 Safeguarding Links: The Education People

https://www.theeducationpeople.org/blog/covid-19-online-safeguarding-resources-for-educational-settings-and-parents/

Racism
It's illegal to treat people differently because of their race or culture.
https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/support-for-parents/children-race-racism-racial-bullying/

https://www.childline.org.uk/info-advice/bullying-abuse-safety/crime-law/racism-racial-bullying/

Homelessness and Poverty
There has been an increase in homelessness and child poverty across Kent and Medway
https://www.medwayadvice.org.uk/
https://www.beyondhomelessness.org.uk/
http://www.family-action.org.uk
https://www.turn2us.org.uk/



Worried about a learner or child? Don't assume that someone else will do something. Speak to a DSL immediately.

If a child is in immediate danger, call 999



Working Together to Safeguard Children
The Department for Education (DfE) has updated the Working together to safeguard children 2018 statutory guidance for England. The main changes include factual changes in relation to information sharing, homelessness duty and references to domestic abuse.
There is a young person's version of the guidance which is excellent for sharing with pupils and can be found at the following link:
Working Together- Young Persons Guide



Keeping Children Safe in Education Consultation
The Department for Education is seeking views on proposed changes to the statutory guidance 'Keeping children safe in education' 2020, with a view to making changes for the September 2021 edition.

The consultation will include proposed updates to advice on sexual violence and sexual harassment between children in schools and colleges.

The deadline for responses is 4 March 2021.

TRUST DSL MEETINGS

DSLs from each school attend a regular Trust DSL meeting- if you have anything that you wish to raise please speak to your Safeguarding Team or email me directly:

quare043@rivermeadinclusivetrust.org

HOT TOPICS!

Safeguarding pupils and teachers online

Keeping pupils and teachers safe during remote education is essential. Staff delivering remote education online should be aware that the same principles set out in the school's staff behaviour policy (staff code of conduct) and remote learning policy/agreement will apply.

Staff may wish to use these resources to understand more about how to ensure online education is safe:

- advice from NSPCC on undertaking remote education safely
- guidance from the UK Safer Internet Centre on remote education

School staff can access the free Professionals Online Safety Helpline which supports the online safeguarding of both children and professionals. Call 0344 381 4772 or email helpline@saferinternet.org.uk. The helpline is open from Monday to Friday from 10am to 4pm.



Supporting transgender children in schools

Talking to colleagues, many schools are seeing pupils who are describing themselves as transgender. This raises a number of issues when supporting transgender children in schools. A number of issues in schools will impact on Gender Variant children and Trans* young people, including gender specific language, uniform policies, PE and competitive sports, toilets, seating plans in the classroom and perceived gender specific activities.

Research has shown that:

- 58% of young people say they first thought they were Trans* aged 13 or under, 40% under 11.
- Only 6% of pupils nationally have learned about Trans* issues in school and the majority of school staff lack the knowledge or confidence to discuss matters pertaining to gender variance.
- 91% of Trans* boys and 66% of Trans* girls experience harassment or bullying at school, leading to depression, isolation and a desire to leave education as early as possible. *(Transgender Equality, House of Commons Women and Equalities Committee Equality and Human Rights Commission research)*
- 84% of Trans* young people have deliberately harmed themselves at some point
- 92% of Trans* young people have thought about taking their own life lives
- 45% of Trans* young people have at some point attempted to take their own life *(Stonewall School Report 2017)*

Colleagues have recommended the following websites and resources:

Organisations
The Gender Identity Research and Education Society (GIRES)
Mermaids UK
The Proud Trust
Stonewall

Directory of local groups
https://mgsd-centre.org/

Resource Packs for schools
transgender-easy-read-guide-1
https://www.allsortsyouth.org.uk/resources/toolkits-booklets-guides

Free Training
LGBTQ+ awareness training - Kent Safeguarding Children Multi-Agency Partnership (kscmp.org.uk)