

## **Evaluating & Developing Safeguarding Provision and Practice in Hillingdon Schools, Settings and Colleges 2023-24**

Helping schools, academies and further education providers share good practice and, at the same time, meet basic statutory requirements.

The following process has been agreed by the Education Safeguarding sub-group of the Hillingdon Safeguarding Partnership.

Sections 157 and 175 of the Education Act 2002 places a statutory duty on independent and maintained schools to make arrangements to ensure that in discharging their functions, they have regard to the need to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and that any services they contract out to others are provided having regard to that need.

In fulfilling its statutory objectives under Section 14 of the Children Act 2004, the Hillingdon Safeguarding Children Partnership (HSCP) is required to ensure that schools are meeting these duties effectively.

One of the mechanisms by which the HSCP establishes this assurance is through individual schools and settings self-evaluating their performance under an agreed framework and then sharing these results and the associated improvements required with the HSCP.

To support schools and settings to do this, Hillingdon education team has developed a safeguarding audit tool. This tool can help provide clear evidence about the progress schools and settings are making in response to the safeguarding agenda and their own quality assurance processes. It further provides a focus on relevant safeguarding priorities; whilst also maintaining a clear audit trail of scrutiny and activity for Governing Bodies and Ofsted.

Audit findings are not only important for individual schools and settings, but for the system as a whole. Understanding where the strengths and areas for improvement are across all of Hillingdon is a necessary function of the HSCP. Adopting this systematic and simple approach to reviewing the contribution of schools and settings will assist in identifying how the HSCP can better support the education community in making sure that children and young people are seen, heard and helped.

### **The audit process:**

The audit programme follows a two-year cycle which provides annual reassurance of safeguarding standards and arrangements. In year one, an audit tool is completed by all schools.

1. **The Council Education Team share an updated S175/157 self-audit tool in September 2023** to provide a framework for you to evaluate your safeguarding practice and identify strengths and areas for development. You can:
  - a. Use this tool to undertake a self-evaluation audit
  - b. Use this tool as a reference document to identify the key elements of KCSIE 2023
  - c. Use your own self-evaluation audit tool if you believe it to be as robust if not better than the Council version.

## 2. **DSL self-evaluation development day.**

You are invited to send your DSL to a DSL development day on 13<sup>th</sup> October 2023.

This one-day event will provide the opportunity for your DSL to:

- a. Reflect on some of the key self-evaluation themes and questions with other DSLs;
- b. Share examples of your practice that are effective to help other DSLs improve their practice;
- c. To learn from how other schools & settings address aspects of safeguarding to support you in your work;
- d. This will then help you self-evaluate your practice in an interactive, practical and resource sharing way.

The event will take place at:

ACS Hillingdon International School

108 Vine Lane

Hillingdon, Middlesex

UB10 0BE

There will be no cost to schools, academies or FE providers. Due to limits of space, only 1 representative from each setting can attend.

3. **To share your self-evaluation and safeguarding development priorities** (to meet at least the basic statutory requirements set out in the Hillingdon document) by end of the Autumn term 2023. To avoid unnecessary repetition of processes this can be in a format you already use in your school or MAT, not necessarily the format of our S175/157 audit. If you do not already have a self-audit format, please use the HSCP format. Your format needs to identify strengths and areas for development with an evidence base.
4. **A quality assurance meeting of the education safeguarding sub-group will be scheduled to review audit returns from selected schools.** The purpose of this additional layer of scrutiny is to provide constructive challenge and feedback to schools on their self-assessment, identifying areas for improvement and where additional evidence is required to support the school's findings. This will take place in Spring term 2024. Some schools & settings will be chosen for an audit visit.

This process will hopefully be repeated in 24-25 to reduce repetition and focus on developing practice. We are waiting for approval from the HSCP and will let you know the process for 2024-25 as soon as we know.