

BRIEFING	TO:	Rotherham Schools Forum
	DATE:	19 th January 2024
	LEAD OFFICER:	Pam Ward Pam.ward@rotherham.gov.uk
	TITLE:	Education Safeguarding Lead

1. Background

1.1	An Education Safeguarding Lead (ESL) was appointed in January 2023. This post has been jointly funded through a £17k contribution from Rotherham Safeguarding Children Partnership (RSCP) with the remaining £35k to be funded from CYPS through schools.
1.2	<p>The establishment of this post was previously discussed at Schools' Forum 22nd September 2022. For reference, please see below for the minutes from the meeting.</p> <p><i>EDUCATION SAFEGUARDING</i></p> <p><i>Consideration was given to a presentation by Pam Ward, Strategic Lead for Education, which provided an update on Education Safeguarding.</i></p> <p><i>The presentation set out:-</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>The key areas of focus.</i> • <i>Current structures and support.</i> • <i>Rotherham Safeguarding Children's Partnership – Business Plan 2021/23.</i> • <i>White Paper Chapter 4 – A stronger and fairer system.</i> • <i>Final report of the Independent Review of Children's Social Care.</i> • <i>Education Safeguarding Support 2021/22.</i> • <i>Key areas of development.</i> • <i>Proposed Role and Responsibility of Education Safeguarding Lead.</i> • <i>Option Considerations:-</i> <p><i>Option 1 – Continue with current arrangements.</i></p> <p><i>Option 2 – Enhance support through development of an Education Safeguarding Officer. Funding to be provided through the partnership and schools – approx. £350 contribution.</i></p> <p><i>Option 3 - Safeguarding to be a school/trust led responsibility.</i></p> <p><i>With these in mind it was recommended that the Forum consider the three options set out above in order to close the gaps that had been created with the former Safeguarding Lead leaving and to ensure a consistent local approach to safeguarding across the borough.</i></p> <p><i>Whilst Forum Members noted schools could not be forced to contribute to a Safeguarding Lead it made sense for a collaborative support approach for Rotherham. In order to fill the vacant position it would cost in the region of £44,000.</i></p> <p><i>As a result of several questions about funding, progression of the three year audits, if the funding would be top sliced from budgets and the impact on schools</i></p>

who had far less students than others, the Assistant Director of Education confirmed consideration could be given to a tiered approach, but it would be for all schools to fund the amount as this was integral to working practices.

Forum Members in discussing how best to obtain agreement with all schools were advised that a vote was, therefore, required to agree on which option the Forum would then recommend.

Following observations of the unanimous vote, Option 2 was recommended.

Agreed:-

(1) That Pam Ward be thanked for her presentation.

(2) That the presentation be received and the content noted.

(3) That the Local Authority take forward Option 2 - the proposal to enhance safeguarding support to schools through the development of an Education Safeguarding Officer through a collaborative approach between Rotherham Children's Safeguarding Board and all schools in Rotherham.

Action:- Nathan Heath

1.3 Since being in post the ESL has had a wide and varied role:

- Supporting Rotherham schools and nursery settings, Private, Voluntary and Independent early years sector, Post 16 and Colleges
- Participation and delivery of Rotherham Safeguarding Children Partnership priorities through work with schools via attendance at key RSCP Safeguarding Delivery Groups and membership of key safeguarding networks (Neglect Delivery Group, Performance, Practice and Learning Review Delivery Group, Safeguarding in Education Delivery Group, Child Exploitation Delivery Group, Child Death Overview Panel, Channel Panel, Serious Violence Group – Silver)
- Leading Local Authority Safeguarding Compliance Audits to ensure that safeguarding practice, policy and systems are effective and compliant in line with Keeping Children Safe 2023.
- Leading Attendance Audits
- Supporting Behaviour Audits
- Delivery of the termly Education Safeguarding Forums for Governors, Trustees, Heads of Schools and Designated Safeguarding Leads.
- Leading training for schools, Designated Safeguarding Leads (DSL) and governors
- Provided a single point of contact for education, early years and Further Education professionals in relation to safeguarding systems, pathways, and procedures.
- Multi-agency partnership work (LADO, MASH, EH, Youth Justice, Community Safety, Violence Reduction Unit, South Yorkshire Police – GRIP Team, Protective Vulnerable People Team, Counter Terrorism Team, Rotherham Public Health, Rotherham Alcohol and Drug Service, Rotherham NHS Foundation Trust)
- Responding to and supporting schools with an ever-increasing number of safeguarding complaints including Ofsted safeguarding qualifying complaints. Meetings with school leaders to monitor and quality assure safeguarding practice, Leading multidisciplinary Team to assess safeguarding provision where Ofsted/HMI express concern - S11a
- On site support during Ofsted inspections.
- Supporting schools with a potential inadequate safeguarding judgement to achieve an 'Effective' safeguarding outcome.
- Writing policies, providing updates of statutory guidance and information linked to emerging or priority issues.

- LA representation on Aspire Management Committee and Governing Boards where safeguarding capacity is identified as an area which requires improvement
- Education representation within RSCP Quality Assurance and Audit process
- Education representative for Joint Target Area Inspection (JTAI)

1.4 As a result:

- The role has ensured Rotherham schools and settings are fulfilling their safeguarding duties as required under the 2002 Education Act and ‘ Keeping Children Safe in Education 2023’.
- There is a growing consistency of effective safeguarding practice across settings.
- There is now an LA safeguarding and attendance audit.
- All maintained schools and settings are supported before and during their inspection.
- There is a training and development portfolio which provides statutory training and addresses contextual/emerging safeguarding themes has been delivered (e.g., Urban Street Gang awareness raising, knife crime)
- Schools have a single point of contact to discuss a range of safeguarding issues.
- There is greater multidisciplinary partnership.
- Education is a priority for RSCP and a new Education safeguarding driver group is evidence of this.
- Senior Leaders, Governors, DSL’s are supported to raise awareness and disseminate practice to embed Rotherham Safeguarding Children Partnership priority areas (e.g. Exploitation, Neglect)

There is direct partnership work between the RSCP and education settings re:

- Elective Home Education
- School exclusions
- Attendance data (including pupils missing from education)
- SEMH
- Early Years
- Post pandemic legacy issues
- Children’s Social Care – MASH, First Response

2. Key Issues

2.1 The post will be funded through a traded service with schools alongside the part funding from the RSCP.

2.2 The traded service will offer a core level of support with additional charges for some aspects of the menu outlined in 1.3. These will be offered at a small subsidy cost to schools.

3. Key Actions and Timelines

3.1 Finance have supported the generation of a funding formula to cover the single post for 2023-24.

3.2 Safeguarding post recharges

PRIMARY SCHOOLS		Band	23.24, £
Pupil Numbers	<250	1	£200
	251-300	2	£250
	301-350	3	£300
	351-400	4	£350

>400

5

£400

SECONDARY SCHOOLS		Band	23.24, £
Pupil Numbers	<1000	6	£700
	1001-1500	7	£1,100
	1501-2000	8	£1,300
	>2000	9	£1,500

3.3 A funding formula will be considered for any future posts at a later date.

4. Recommendations

4.1 That the report to be received and the content noted.