



Safeguarding Briefing - 8th January 2024

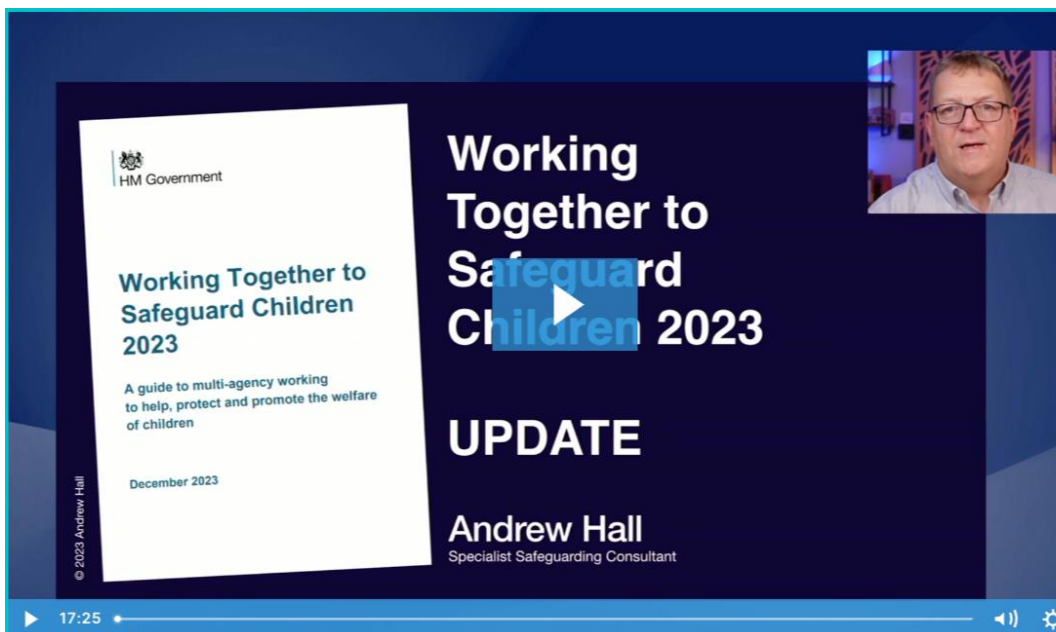
I hope you had a lovely break over the Christmas period and a Happy 2024 to you.

NEW Working Together to Safeguarding Children 2023

The Government has now published the revised version of Working Together to Safeguard Children following the consultation. I've created the video below to help you understand the changes.

Key points

- No statutory roles or functions have been removed
- Increased emphasis on multi-agency working
- Changes to law included, for example, Domestic Violence Act 2021
- Greater emphasis on extra-familial harms and exploitation
- Sets out what a good assessment (report) might include
- Useful annex of resources



Safeguarding.Pro members can download the slides used in the video to use in your own information sessions.

You can join Safeguarding.Pro here:

<https://www.safeguardingschools.co.uk/offers/g9HCKJXM/checkout>

Download the guidance here: [safeguarding.info/wt2023](https://www.safeguarding.info/wt2023)

Reader Survey Results - December 2023

'A good DSL is like a good bottle of wine - gets better with age!'

Just one reply from our reader survey!

Thank you so much for taking the time to complete the Reader Survey before Christmas. It was so supportive to have the many responses that came.

Your thoughts will really help shape the Safeguarding Briefing and other work going into the New Year and beyond.

Who reads the Safeguarding Briefing?

Although I set up the Safeguarding Briefing to support DSLs in schools, I found it really reassuring that although many of you are not DSLs, but find the content helpful in your role. Whilst I feel that I should stay focussed on the needs of DSLs, I will aim to include some broader content too from time to time.

Community

A lovely response in the survey, was how many of you felt that the briefing gave a sense of community united by the desire to make a real difference to the lives of children and young people.

Replies included:

'makes me feel like I'm part of a team'

'I feel part of a community of DSLs'

'I feel less isolated'

'I feel part of a shared endeavour'

A large number of people said that they would like to be able to communicate with other DSLs.

An online community is fairly easy to set up, for example, it could be set up for free in Facebook. However, as the subject matter would be around safeguarding and schools, I think it would be essential to have an audit

trail and moderation on any platform we used. As far as I'm aware, these features aren't available on a free platform, so if we set up online forum using an app, there would be cost implication.

The forum would also need a few people to volunteer to be moderators/admins of the group. If that sounds like something you'd be interested in doing, please let me know.

What keeps DSLs busy?

The most frequent answers here referred to (in no particular order):

poor mental health (including increasing in eating disorders, increasingly seen in boys; and self-harm)

Neglect

Poverty

Dealing with acrimonious parental separations

Harmful Sexual Behaviour between learners

Emotionally-based School Avoidance

Domestic Abuse

What are the biggest challenges?

It will be no surprise to you that the key challenges for DSL are:

Insufficient time to deal with the workload

Lack of support capacity in other agencies

Increasing expectations on schools

Supervision

About a third of the DSLs who answered the survey said they had regular supervision; another third had supervision occasionally; and the other third said they wanted the opportunity. You will remember that I asked you to grade your stress level. This was not a scientific survey by any measure, but it did seem that people who had supervision reported slightly less stress.

As you may know, I offer supervision training and this might help more people access supervision.

Open courses and events

Although I work with schools and other organisations at their own premises and venues, I haven't offered any open courses for a few years. The reader survey showed that you would again welcome the opportunity to attend events and so I will be offering some of those again.

Online Consultancy Calls

One really good idea that came up a number of times was the ability to book an online time to access support and advice from me. This is fairly easy to set up and trial, so I'll share a link for that probably next week.

For various reasons, any consultancy I offered online would be around the implementation of safeguarding strategies and protocols in an organisation and it would not be possible to comment on individual pupil (or staff) cases.

Best tips for DSLs

The final question in the reader survey asked for the best tip you were given to meet the needs of your role. There were some brilliant and really helpful comments shared in these answers, and I'll share these with you over the next few weeks.

Weekly question?

One finding that came out of the reader survey was how many of you use the briefing as a starter for your staff meetings. Someone suggested there could be a 'Question of the Week'. Are you able to help write these?

Could you be a contributor for the Safeguarding Briefing?

One thing that became clear as I read your responses to the survey, was how much more you would like the Safeguarding Briefing to include.

But, I can't write this alone!

I know that there are many, many skilled and knowledgeable people who read the briefing and it would be amazing if you felt able to volunteer to write for the Safeguarding Briefing.

I know how busy you are, so it needn't be a regular commitment by any means and the article is only 150 - 250 words, plus relevant links. Just let me know if you would to contribute and what your topic would be using the form below.

[I'd like to contribute](#)

Just some of the issues people wanted to hear more about were:

safeguarding for children with complex special needs

how to meet workload challenges

managing anxiety in children and young people

tips for working with difficult adults

tackling physical chastisement

managing absences and especially EBSA
how to escalate concerns where other agencies don't have capacity
or anything you think would be of interest to other readers.

Raise your hand and contribute to the Safeguarding Briefing Community!

What was clear from the recent reader survey is how we need to use the talent of the readers to make the briefing even better.

So, are you interested in helping?

If you would like to contribute to the Safeguarding Briefing, please complete the form here:

[I'd like to contribute form](#)

Forthcoming Courses

Advanced Safeguarding for DSLs

This is a four-session course for DSLs over a full-day. The course is offered live and as a recorded replay. When the course is live, there are plenty of opportunities to contribute with observations, questions or answers. As a recording, the interactions from other people are included and feedback notes that this makes it feel like you are not on your own.

"I just wanted to say that I thought today's training was absolutely fantastic. By a mile it was the most engaging training I have done."

"I came to a session in Birmingham back in 2019 (the day after the GE I think) and it was superb. Today [online] was just as good, if not better. The use of video mixed with live speaking was excellent and goes way beyond what other safeguarding courses provide. You've been there and done it, and your openness with your own story is inspirational."

LIVE ON LOCATION remember that you can book Andrew to visit your school, cluster or MAT to share his DSL course. Please contact us for details and bookings.

Next Advanced Safeguarding for DSLs Course

(Online) Tuesday 16th January 2024 10am - 4pm [Book Online](#)

Remember that the on-demand course is always available and is regularly updated. [Book Online](#)

Whole School Safeguarding CPD Online Session for 2024

In this two and half hour online presentation aimed at staff in all roles, specialist safeguarding consultant, Andrew Hall, explores important aspects of safeguarding in schools including child protection, learning from case studies and the latest version of Keeping Children Safe in Education.

"In my excitement, I forgot to add our star rating to the Safeguarding training we have just watched. If we could, we would give it 10 stars! That was the best Safeguarding training we have ever had, thank you so much. Feedback from staff has, so far, been overwhelmingly positive...I can't thank you enough."

"I would like to extend my thanks to Andrew for his fantastic online training. It was filmed so well - almost as if he were here with us! We were kept engaged throughout and felt so well informed - a huge thank you. It was a real success, and we look forward to booking you again in the future - with the staff team saying it was the best safeguarding training they have ever had. We really appreciated Andrew's real-life storytelling and the way such sensitive information was shared - it was excellent training."

Watch extracts from last year's presentation here: <https://www.safeguardinglearning.co.uk/findoutmore>

You can book your online session here: www.safeguardinginschools.co.uk/availablecourses

Thank you for reading this week's edition. Keep Safe.

Andrew Hall
Specialist Safeguarding Consultant,
Director, Success In Schools Ltd.

Are you a busy DSL with no time?

Need a place to ask questions. find support and download resources

Click here and join Safeguarding.Pro today!