

Whole Setting Safeguarding Update

Presenter information

Safeguarding Network was built with Designated Safeguarding Leads, for Designated Safeguarding Leads, to support the crucial role of safeguarding in education settings and improving outcomes for children. We know that the role of DSL is a big one and the responsibilities outlined in Keeping Children Safe in Education require time, dedication and strategic support to ensure the right person or people are able to lay the foundation building blocks for a strong and robust culture of safeguarding.

Safeguarding is everybody's responsibility. However, we don't know what we don't know, and quality staff training is a key part in raising awareness and improving practice so that every adult in your setting understands the role they play in safeguarding. This is where Safeguarding Network membership can really help.

As with any topic, acquiring knowledge which translates into strong and effective practice takes time and cannot be achieved through a stand-alone session delivered once a year. Our member materials are designed to be delivered in bite-size chunks over a 2 year staff training calendar, with plenty of resources to keep the delivery fresh and topics interesting. This allows staff in settings to digest the content in a manageable way and keeps safeguarding at the top of the agenda. And remember – it doesn't have to be the DSL who delivers the monthly updates. Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility – you might want to delegate delivery of the updates across you staff body to help embed this statutory message.

In response to many requests and in addition to our monthly materials we have now produced an annual Safeguarding Update package, which can be delivered to all staff as part of an INSET. This short guide provides a few points to reflect upon before delivery which will help staff to access the package and get the most out of it.

Before you start:

Our package has been designed to cover the main elements of part one of the statutory guidance Keeping Children Safe in Education and how these might translate in practice. It is not designed to be a replacement for reading the guidance, and we would advise that the audience is requested to read part one prior to the training and given time at the start of the training to recap on this. The more familiar the audience is with the guidance, the more the training will support them in understanding the key messages. We would advise this is consolidated by all staff completing Safeguarding Network's [Keeping Children Safe in](#)

[Education Knowledge Check](#) at the end of the session to provide strong evidence of the impact of this approach.

Our materials are designed to be accessed across our membership base. Although we focus on the English statutory guidance, we know our materials are accessed on an international level too. We acknowledge the diverse nature of our member settings, both nationally and internally, and would therefore remind our members that our PowerPoints are accessed on a fully editable basis for you to amend to include relevant details to your local context.

Although we consider our materials to provide a very thorough and robust approach to developing staff knowledge in safeguarding, we recognise that it is not possible to train staff on every possible safeguarding situation they might face. We remind all settings accessing our materials that it is your ongoing responsibility to ensure effective safeguarding practice through your policy, process and culture built with strategic oversight and support.

We would also recommend that staff read all relevant policies and are made aware of how these can be accessed outside of the training and supported to do so.

Timings:

This session is designed to be delivered in 3 hours. There is time for a 15 minute break written into the package. We strongly advise this is the minimum time allocated to this training, as some of the concepts are complex and it is important that all staff members have the time they need to fully understand the key messages.

It is important that the audience know in advance that they are required to stay for the full session, as safeguarding training is a statutory requirement and full participation is required in order for the training to be effective.

Of course, should you want to, you can extend this session through some of our other materials or elearning, depending on the most prevalent safeguarding concerns in your setting.

By allocating enough time for all staff to engage and complete the training you are prioritising safeguarding and sending a clear message to your setting community that safeguarding is paramount, and rightly has the priority place in all practice.

Logistics and setting:

This training will require a large screen with connected sound for the audience to see and hear the presentation. There are several short video clips distributed throughout the session which are key to understanding some of the content, so sound is essential. **We would strongly recommend that you view the videos (all of which are under 3 minutes) before delivering the training to ensure you are aware of their content and how to support staff if necessary.**

Consider where the session will be delivered. Safeguarding can be an emotive subject for some and it is important that the training is delivered in a space which can comfortably accommodate the full intended audience.

Some activities will require group work – you'll want to consider the room layout and use of tables and arrangements of chairs to allow for group conversation.

The session has a break built in halfway through. This is important, as the content can feel heavy to some and maintaining concentration for lengthy periods of time on an emotive subject will not allow for the training to be easily digested. Ensuring the audience can access refreshments during the break is advised. It's important to take care of people and meeting the physical needs of the audience will support them in refocusing for the second half of the session.

There are two additional handouts for activities during the training. These will need printing out, although one/two per small group will suffice, no need for one each – we know what a precious and expensive resource paper is in education settings!

Content – trigger warning:

As we have mentioned already, safeguarding is an emotive topic. Every audience member will have their own experiences and personal histories that they will be carrying. This training uses videos, case studies and scenarios that depict abuse / neglect and this might provide a trigger for some people. It is important that this is stressed at the start of the training, and it is made clear that if anyone finds anything difficult and needs a minute out, this is ok. The DSL / Senior Leadership Team should be ready to support anyone who finds the content particularly upsetting.

We remind our members that initial advice is included in your membership. If you would like to discuss any professional issues arising from the training, please get in touch.

Delivery:

The whole setting safeguarding update package is designed to be delivered by the DSL or alternative member of the Senior Leadership Team. This is because the messages are around whole setting practice and statutory guidance, which as a DSL, you will be best placed to expand upon, explain and answer questions due to your additional training.

However, many settings choose an alternative for internal delivery and request us to provide external speakers. This can be really helpful and instrumental in promoting staff engagement. If you would like us to come and deliver this training in your setting, please do get in touch. We have a database of highly qualified and experienced consultants who would be happy to help (additional cost applies – please discuss with a member of our team).

Enhancing practice further...

We acknowledge that staff training is a crucial part of safeguarding – but it is also only one part of your approach to safeguarding. If you would like to discuss how you can further improve your safeguarding practice, talk to us about our *NEW* membership options and additional services.

Thank you.