



# One minute guide

## Education Safeguarding Team

No. 199, November 2024

### What is the Education Safeguarding Team?

The Education Safeguarding Team is part of Childrens Services. The team offers specialist advice, support and training for Leeds education providers, including: early years (Children's Centres, and private, voluntary and independent settings); primary and secondary schools; off-site providers; and further and higher education settings. This is to support those working with children and young people in these settings to identify and manage safeguarding issues.

The team consists of experienced advisors and accredited safeguarding trainers with a strong track record of safeguarding, and an understanding of both national and local safeguarding agendas.

### How does the team work?

The team work with [Ofsted](#), the [Education and Skills Funding Agency](#) (regulatory body for academy schools), and the Department for Education. They also have representation on [CAPE](#) (Child Protection in Education) practitioners' forum.

This partnership work takes place to ensure that up to date, high quality safeguarding advice, support and quality assurance is available to schools and other education providers in Leeds.

In order to address city-wide safeguarding needs effectively, the team takes a significant and active role on behalf of the Leeds education sector on the following multi-agency panels and groups: [Channel](#) Panel; Multi Agency Child Exploitation ([MACE](#)); Domestic Violence Forum; [Local Authority Designated Officer \(LADO\)](#) Forum; Serious Youth Violence Board, and independent review panels as required e.g. [Local Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews](#) (previously known as Serious Case Reviews), [Domestic Homicide Reviews \(DHRs\)](#) and Child Death Overview Panel (CDOP).

The team also represent the education sector at a number of sub groups of [Leeds Safeguarding Children Partnership](#) (LSCP) to ensure that the voice of schools and other education providers is reflected in locally agreed multi-agency protocols.

The Education Safeguarding Team also have a responsibility to respond to any safeguarding complaints referred to Ofsted about a school or other education setting.

### Work undertaken by the team:

**Advice, consultancy and specialist safeguarding support** – The team responds to queries from Designated Safeguarding Leads and other practitioners about safeguarding issues, concerns and policy matters, and advise as appropriate, including whether to contact the [Duty and Advice](#) team.

**Senior leadership support** – the team provide support with managing allegations against staff, including providing one to one safer working practice training for staff, and attendance at Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) meetings.

**Traded offer** – the team run a traded service for educational providers which includes a core training offer, inset (teacher training) days and twilight sessions, in addition to independent chairing for Risk Assessment Management Plans (RAMP) for children and young people exhibiting harmful sexual behaviours. The team also trade audit work – see quality assurance below.

**Quality assurance** - the team quality assure safeguarding arrangements in education settings and ensure compliance with local protocols, including monitoring attendance at child protection conferences. The team has oversight of the annual safeguarding monitoring return, all schools and education settings self-evaluate their compliance against statutory guidance and legislation. It is an expectation of each Chair of Governors to ensure any identified actions are followed up and completed. The Education Safeguarding Team use the learning from the returns to inform the LSOP of the quality of safeguarding practice in schools and education settings.

In addition, through the traded offer schools and other education settings can request the team to carry out a safeguarding audit. These audits can provide evidence for inspection purposes through an excellent high support and high challenge approach. Additionally, if any safeguarding issues are identified through an external review, e.g. Child Safeguarding Practice Review, the team may insist on carrying out a safeguarding audit.

### Key contacts and more information

Consultation, advice and training booking enquiries can be made by contacting the team tel: 0113 37 89685 or email: [estconsultation@leeds.gov.uk](mailto:estconsultation@leeds.gov.uk).

The Education Safeguarding Team aim to respond to all messages for advice within 24 hours. However as the team are often out training or auditing for any child protection concerns please contact [Duty and Advice](#): 0113 37 60336

You can find out more about the Education Safeguarding Team and their traded offer on the [Leeds for Learning](#) website.