

BOARDING SCHOOLS' ASSOCIATION

NEWSLETTER FOR DESIGNATED SAFEGUARDING LEADS AND THOSE RESPONSIBLE FOR CHILD PROTECTION IN BOARDING SCHOOLS

Dear colleague,

I hope you are enjoying a successful term, and that your skills in child protection have not been called upon too often. Having been a "DSL" until very recently, I am well aware of the challenges you face, and of the speed with which the landscape changes. Please find below details of some current and future initiatives being introduced to assist you and your pastoral care colleagues to carry out your role. Much of what is below is of relevance to our English members, but it is my aim moving forward to ensure that child protection and safeguarding work within BSA responds to the needs of all regions.

SAFEGUARDING CONFERENCE

Can I please recommend to our English members the SAFEGUARDING CONFERENCE on 15th November. We have an excellent line-up of speakers, and I do hope you will come if you can. Please [click here](#) to download the programme. I am investigating the logistics of hosting similar events for other regions, and will report back to the relevant BSA Forum meetings in due course.

TRUTH PROJECT REPORT

The Truth Project strand of IiCSA (Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse) has recently published a report, which makes tough reading. However, I urge all of you to browse through it at the very least, as it gives some important indicators of the scale and nature of abuse, and the way many victims feel they have been treated. Further thoughts and comments will be included in the next newsletter.

IiCSA AND SCOTTISH INQUIRY

Although the boarding school strand of both inquiries does not begin until next year at the earliest, I am aware that some schools have already been contacted. It would be very helpful to know of any school which has been contacted in this way, and BSA will always offer advice, support and guidance whenever we are able to do so.

WORKING TOGETHER TO SAFEGUARD CHILDREN CONSULTATION

A consultation has been launched into potential revisions to the key Working Together document. There are also a number of consultation events around the country, which are booking up fast. BSA will be making a response and I will also be attending one of the consultation events, and will report back afterwards. Details of the consultation can be found [here](#). It is believed that there will also be a revision of Keeping Children Safe in Education in the new year

CHARTER v2

This term has seen the launch of version two of our Commitment to Care Charter. Please [download a copy](#) if you have not seen it. This new version aims to make the document accessible to all member schools, and to clarify that it is a core expectation of BSA membership that schools will follow local safeguarding and child protection guidance faithfully and responsibly, even if the process varies from region to region. I can reassure all DSLs, Heads and Principals that our expectation is to be informed as and when it is possible to do so, as explained on the back of the charter document, and then only to report to us that a case has been externally referred. Further guidance was issued on 13th October 2017 in the newsletter, and can be [found here](#)

ACCREDITED BOARDING PRACTITIONER

Hopefully you will have seen our recent launch of Accredited Boarding Practitioner status. Whilst also hoping that many of you will join the scheme, I do hope also you will note the emphasis on safeguarding and child protection at the core of the application process and, with the support of relevant colleagues, will give prospective applicants every encouragement to meet this core commitment. Details are at <http://www.boarding.org.uk/464/training/accredited-boarding-practitioner>

COMING SOON...

The following initiatives will be launched later this term or in the early spring

- Updated guidance sheets on key welfare matters:
 - Transgender issues in schools
 - Safeguarding overseas pupils
 - Please email me (dale@boarding.org.uk) with any further suggestions
- Dedicated safeguarding training for boarding staff, both online and with the potential for “face to face” delivery
- A safeguarding package for boarding school Governors
- Safeguarding database. An easy point of reference for DSLs to know how to contact the relevant staff in other local authority areas and jurisdictions. Bear with me on this one....there are 418 in the UK alone!

Finally, I am very keen to establish a database of child protection and safeguarding staff in schools, so that I can email you directly. This will be used for Safeguarding and Child Protection newsletters ONLY. If you would like to participate, do please email me on dale@boarding.org.uk

All good wishes,

Dale Wilkins

BSA Head of Safeguarding and Standards

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