Safeguarding Briefing - 13th May 2024

Critical Incidents

The government has recently published a new guidance document helping schools to prepare for serious incidents. Although schools are often encouraged to consider potential threats from external sources, two recent serious incidents in south Wales and Sheffield remind us that threats can come from inside the school too.

Whilst no-one would want to stress pupils by involving them in an exercise, especially younger children, it is important that senior leaders perhaps consider a 'walk through' of a serious scenario. It is also useful to consider asking the 'what-if-it-happened here' question after an incident which has been reported in the media.

Links to the government guidance and some useful local authority information can be found below:

Government Guidance

Protective security and preparedness for education settings (DfE, April 2024)
https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/protective-security-and-preparedness-for-education-settings

Emergency planning and response for education, childcare, and children's social care settings (DfE)
https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/emergency-planning-and-response-for-education-childcare-and-childrens-social-care-settings/emergency-planning-and-response-for-education-childcare-and-childrens-social-care-settings

School and college security (DfE)
https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/school-and-college-security/school-and-college-security

School and college security - templates and checklists (DfE)
https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/school-and-college-security

Other useful resources

Emergencies and Critical Incidents (Outdoor Education Advisers' Panel)
https://oeapng.info/4797-emergencies-and-critical-incidents/

Critical Incidents in Educational Communities (UK Trauma Council)
https://uktraumacouncil.org/resources/critical-incidents

Critical incident pack for schools (Devon County Council)
https://www.devon.gov.uk/support-schools-settings/send/educational-psychology/critical-incident-pack-information-for-schools/

Critical Incident Guide (Ealing Grid for Learning)
https://www.egfl.org.uk/facilities/critical-incident-guide

Security Minded Communications (National Protective Security Authority)

Could you be giving away too much information on your website or social media pages?

Thinking about critical incidents, cyber-security and personnel safety, it is worth thinking about how the sharing of detailed information about your school could inadvertently put people at risk.

Some years ago at a school I was associated with the estranged partner of a school governor managed to trace her whereabouts as a result of the information the school had posted about their governing body. The person waited outside the school to attack the woman after a meeting. She thought she had made it difficult for her ex-partner to trace her, not least by avoiding using social media herself. However, the school published a list of governors and their photographs on its website, along with sufficient detail in each person's biography for the attacker to confirm that was his ex-partner. A calendar of meeting dates and times ensured that the ex-partner knew when she would be there, even though he didn't know her home address.

The National Protective Security Authority (NPSA) is the UK government's technical authority for physical and personnel protective security. The NPSA says, 'Educational settings are places that are

typically thought to be welcoming and safe. However, they may also be a viable target for a hostile act.'

'The guidance [document] provides information on the concept of Security-Minded Communications, which should be considered when publishing information for the public.'

For example:

Look through the information that you have already put in the public domain, or information that you plan to share soon, and check you are not accidentally gifting information of use to a hostile.
You could consider the use of mailing lists to ensure you have control over who receives the most detailed information about your setting.
Avoid providing detailed and direct contact details for people which may help a hostile undertake a 'spear phishing' attack.

Security Minded Communications: Guidance for Educational Settings (National Protective Security Authority)
https://www.npsa.gov.uk/resources/smc-guidance-educational-settings

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Staff Question of the Week

Topic: Child deaths 2022/23

Which three offences are included in 'homicide'?
Answer: Murder, manslaughter and infanticide (child under one year old and where mother's 'balance of mind is disturbed')

How many homicides were there in England of under 18s during 2022/23 ? (The latest data we have)
Answer: 71

Which age group across the whole population is most likely to be killed by another person?
Answer: Under 1s (The next highest age group is 16 - 24s)

What percentage of child homicides are perpetrated by the child's parent or step-parent?
Answer: 35%

In 2022/23 how many suicides were there of under-18s?
Answer: 18

Source: Statistics briefing: child deaths due to abuse or neglect (NSPCC)

Did Someone Forward this Safeguarding Briefing to You?

If you would like to receive your own copy of the Safeguarding Briefing, simply go to: www.safeguardingbriefing.co.uk

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Filming near school gates (LGfL/Islington Council)

Katy Potts, Computing, Digital and Online - Lead for schools at Islington Council writes:

Islington Council and the London Grid for Learning are currently working with schools on a pilot campaign to stop filming near school gates. Filming outside the school gates can put adults and children at risk by showing the name of the school, its sign and the school uniform. Some children may have been adopted, families may have moved from across the country to escape crime.

Many schools already have robust phone and filming policies for pupils, and now Islington Council have partnered with LGFL to support schools to update these policies to include No Filming, including for the wider community and media.

Mark Bentley, from LGfL, explains why it is important to stop filming outside schools in this video: https://youtu.be/BWw-1xztvbM

Schools can order these 'No Filming' signs from their usual provider or contact *Signs4Schools* who make the Islington signs (remember to say that you will need your own logo/design). See here: https://www.schoolsigns-uk.co.uk/LGfl-Islington.html

(PS Islington Schools have received sponsorship from LGfL to fund the purchase of their first sign. Use your internal systems to contact Katy Potts in the first instance.)

EVOLVE accidentbook

EVOLVE accidentbook is more than your traditional Accident Reporting Book, it allows you to report trends, identify and resolve safety pinch points and have a robust audit trail for Governors, Inspectors and proprietors. You may be familiar with EVOLVE Visits and if your school uses it the integration is seamless allowing you to use the same login details.

Key Features:

Record staff and student illnesses, injuries, and accidents;
View student medical details and care plans;
Record medical administration and readings such as blood sugar levels;
Produce Parent incident letters and emails;
Generate reports to identify problem areas;
Automatically notify key staff when an incident occurs.

EVOLVE Advice has provided an exclusive offer to Safeguarding Briefing readers starting at £1 per pupil (up to 500 pupils then a scaled pricing) visit https://www.evolveadvice.co.uk/eab and quote 'Safeguarding Briefing'.

Recognising and responding to shame in child protection: key practice points (Community Care magazine)

This useful article from Community Care magazine presents a few key pieces of advice about shame and how it may present in children and parents involved with child protection services. This short guide explores theoretical frameworks that can help us understand shame and approach direct work with children and families where there are behavioural presentations of shame.

https://www.communitycare.co.uk/2024/04/30/recognising-and-responding-to-shame-in-child-protection-key-practice-points/

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."

Next live online courses

Tuesday 14th May 2024 **Book here**

On-demand online courses

The on-demand course is always available and is updated after each live session **Book Online**

Live and in-person

Monday 10th June 2024 LONDON **Book here**

At your school or venue

Remember that you can book Andrew to share his Advanced Safeguarding for DSLs' Course at your own school or organisation. The group size can be up to 25, and to spread the cost, the group can be made up of people from more than one school, so why not invite your neighbours! Email office@safeguardinginschools.co.uk to enquire.

Other available online courses include:

Whole School Safeguarding Course
Safeguarding Refresher
An Introduction to Cybersecurity

For further details, go to:
www.safeguardinginschools.co.uk/availablecourses

For our Senior Mental Health Lead Course, go to: https://www.smhl.pro/

Until next time, keep safe,

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