

DESIGNATED SAFEGUARDING LEAD

Resource Pack



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Introduction

NHS England define Safeguarding as "*protecting a citizen's health, wellbeing and human rights; enabling them to live free from harm, abuse and neglect. It is an integral part of providing high-quality health care. Safeguarding children, young people and adults is a collective responsibility.*"

Safeguarding is a vital component of many job roles covering different sectors, from doctors and nurses, social workers and carers, school teachers and caretakers to bus drivers, sports coaches and religious officials. Anyone who has any direct contact with children or vulnerable adults requires the adequate level of safeguarding training in order to spot the signs and symptoms of abuse (both physical and mental) and know the processes involved in dealing with a safeguarding concern. The Designated Safeguarding Lead (sometimes known as a designated safeguarding person or officer) has a key role in safeguarding. They have the responsibility within an organisation to coordinate and oversee safeguarding procedures, and be the first point of contact for staff to report any concerns.

Role of the DSL

The designated safeguarding lead has overarching responsibilities regarding safeguarding in their organisation. They will have an in-depth knowledge of safeguarding guidance (such as Keeping Children Safe in Education and Working Together to Safeguard Children) and related pieces of legislation (e.g. the Children Act 1989) that their workplace must follow. They will apply this knowledge to help implement and maintain safeguarding procedures and policies, as well as be alert to safeguarding issues on a day-to-day basis. This includes ensuring that staff have received appropriate training, that their own training is up to date, safe recruitment practices are sufficient, and all actions are within the best interest of safeguarding children. If the DSL identifies any concerns or another member of staff raises them, they will coordinate with the child's primary caregiver(s) if suitable and the necessary external bodies to pursue a course of action.

Responsibilities of the DSL

The responsibilities of a designated safeguarding lead include:

- Being the first point of contact for all staff in the organisation to discuss any safeguarding concerns.
- Referring safeguarding cases and issues upwards if needed.
- Know the referral process for your organisation and your Local Safeguarding Children Partnership.
- Making sure all staff are trained in safeguarding with particular focus on spotting signs of safeguarding and how to report them as well as running regular refresher training to incorporate all legislation updates.
- Putting in place and maintaining reporting and recording systems for safeguarding procedures.
- Updating your organisation's safeguarding policies and procedures, including recruitment.



- Ensure your own training is up to date, DSL training is needed every 2 years with a safeguarding refresher needed annually. You need to be aware of any legislation changes.

The list above are the main responsibilities of the DSL but not exhaustive. The role can change with legislation updates and circumstances.

Legislation

A Designated Safeguarding Lead needs to be aware of the pieces of legislation which cover safeguarding, especially if you are involved in writing your organisation's policies. It is not required to have an in-depth knowledge of the laws and legislation, but a working knowledge is required and is covered in training.

The legislation which is looked at in detail in the course is:

- The Children Act 1989
- The Children Act 2004
- The Education Act 2002
- Every Child Matters 2004
- Keeping Children Safe in Education
- Working Together to Safeguard Children

Responsibilities of the DSL in School

DSLs for schools should:

- Have a valid and in-date Designated Safeguarding Lead certificate and renew every two years.
- Ensure staff receive refresher training every year and if there are any legislation changes.
- Review and update the child protection and safeguarding policies annually, including policies for responding to repeated absenteeism.
- Keep written records of safeguarding concerns and secure them.
- Have a working knowledge of the Local Safeguarding Children Partnership's referral procedure, and know when and how to refer concerns to Children's Services.
- Be a support to your colleagues who may have concerns or queries

Again, the above list is not exhaustive but covers the main aspects of the DSL role within schools.

If you have any queries at all feel free to get in touch. To book your course visit www.griffincare.co.uk