



DATE: 6<sup>th</sup> October 2017

**To: All partners working in schools and education settings**

Partners,

I am the new independent chair for Solihull LSCB and I am writing to introduce myself to you and to share with you the current thinking in the LSCB about the future. I want to say thank you to all staff who have made me very welcome in Solihull. I am impressed with the work of the Safeguarding Children in Education Settings sub-group and with the knowledge and skills I have seen so far. I am assured that schools are very committed to safeguarding children.

The main drive for change for the LSCB in the coming year will be the Children and Social Work act 2017. This will require us to reflect on safeguarding partnerships and I see it as an opportunity for us to think together about how best we can arrange our partnerships to deliver the best outcomes for children. We are unclear about the details, but we do know that the government intends to publish consultation documents in this current academic term. A new draft Working Together is expected and I will consult with you about this and we will provide feedback to government. We also know that we will be given time to plan and deliver the new arrangements which will need to begin in 2019.

In the meantime, children need safeguarding and essential to that is our sound arrangements to support staff. There are three important grass roots areas we will continue to focus on throughout all these changes;

1) **Multi-agency procedures** will continue to be monitored and reviewed by the LSCB policy sub-group. This is chaired by Simon Rushall, the Local Authority assistant director for safeguarding children.

2) **Training**: The LSCB training strategy provides multi-agency training to all professionals working with children and young people. The strategy aims to complement single agency training. It enhances the skills of all staff to work in partnership with others, enabling them to challenge, negotiate and share information effectively and to feel confident in doing so. The strategy is drawn from lessons learned from serious case reviews. Module 2 is particularly important for all staff who work with children and is essential learning for Designated Safeguarding Leads who are new to the role, new to Solihull or have not updated their Safeguarding training since the new modular programme was introduced in September 2015. I suggest that they have this training in

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the first academic year of commencement in post. Thereafter, they can update their multi-agency skills using the range of learning opportunities the LSCB provides to them and attend multi-agency training for at least 6 hours per academic year. I am pleased to learn that the School Improvement Service provides safeguarding training specifically for schools. This is very important as DSL's and school staff need to be clear about their specific role and contribution to safeguarding children as contained in Keeping Children Safe in Education 2016.

I would like to encourage schools to attend LSCB multi-agency training to develop skills to work in a multi-agency environment and to attend the school improvement service training to understand their specific role in safeguarding children in educational settings. The two complement each other to support the learning and development of practitioners, managers and leaders.

The training strategy is attached in this link  
[http://training.solihullscb.co.uk/images/Strategy\\_2017\\_to\\_19.docx](http://training.solihullscb.co.uk/images/Strategy_2017_to_19.docx)

Please contact Denise Lewis on 0121 788 4464 if you need any further information.

### 3) Quality assurance; transparent accountability

I will be working with the LSCB to continually improve how each partner accounts to the LSCB for their safeguarding responsibilities. With so many schools in Solihull, this could be challenging. However, the LSCB representative and chair of the Safeguarding schools sub-group provides comprehensive reports on a regular basis to the LSCB, providing assurances about the performance of all our schools around safeguarding children. In the coming year, I want to make arrangements to give more time to partner agencies so that I can gain an understanding of the challenges they face everyday and perhaps provide some supportive challenge for continual improvement.

I will keep you updated on these and on all the LSCB developments in our newsletter which is issued at least once per academic term. I am looking forward to meeting with the Head teachers on December 12<sup>th</sup>, and I hope that this will be an opportunity to share our experiences so that we continually improve partnership working to safeguard children.

If you wish to contact me, please see contact details below.

Yours sincerely



David Peplow,  
Solihull LSCB independent chair.