

What Level training is the Advanced Safeguarding for Designated Safeguarding Leads ?

The training levels were originally set out in Working Together 2010, but were removed in Working Together 2013. Since 2013 there has been no national statutory guidance on the content of safeguarding training, but Local Safeguarding Children Boards still have a duty to provide, monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of training in their area. This may include the LSCB setting training standards.

Providers should not be advertising courses as Level 1, 2, 3, etc. (but I know they still do).

Schools may obtain training from any provider they wish and are accountable to Ofsted for the impact of their training. Ofsted say that schools should take into account LSCB advice when planning or commissioning training.

In London, the Pan-London Safeguarding Children Board have set out the training standards in a document 'Competence Still Matters: Safeguarding training for all employees and volunteers', the current version is 2014.

Download Competence Still Matters here:

www.safeguardingschools.co.uk/csm

Most of my work is in London (and as an ex-London Headteacher), I use the 'Competence Still Matters' document as the basis of the training I offer. This is usually accepted in other LSCB areas, except to say that some LSCBs insist on multi-agency training for DSLs.

I usually suggest to clients that in addition to the DSL training I offer, they also complete the local training so that they (a) comply with their LSCB requirements for multi-agency training, and (b) understand local thresholds and referral procedures (which no provider external to LSCB will ever be able to cover).

In schools there are two groups I train, as specified in 'Competence Still Matters':

Group 3 – Staff who work 'predominantly with children [and] young people'; and

Group 5 – Staff who are designated lead professionals

I therefore simply call my training programmes, Basic (for all staff) and Advanced (for Designated Safeguarding Leads, Headteachers, Deputies and anyone else with a significant safeguarding role).

The summary of each training group's content is outlined below. See 'Competence Still Matters' for detailed content.

Group 3 staff need all the following training topics

Group 1 topics (within one week of starting employment)

- Definitions of abuse
- Child Development (as related to child protection)
- Signs and symptoms of abuse and neglect
- Awareness of the organisation's basic safeguarding procedures
- Awareness of who in the organisation concerns about children should be taken
- Awareness of who in the organisation concerns about adults should be taken

Group 2 topics (within six months of starting employment):

- Documentation for sharing concerns
- Using the Framework for Assessment (eg. CAF)
- Own safeguarding roles and responsibilities

Group 3 topics (within twelve months of starting employment):

- Working Together to identify and meet the needs of children where there are concerns
- Historical context
- Lessons learned from Serious Case Reviews
- Current legislation and guidance
- Awareness of s.17 and s.47 process
- The impact of parenting capacity
- Recognising the importance of family history and functioning
- Working with children and family members

Group 5 staff (DSLs) need all the above, plus the topics below (within twelve months of starting employment)

- Understand their role and responsibilities
- Understand the part they play in
- Safer recruitment
- Developing code of conduct
- Responding to allegations against staff
- Responding appropriately to concerns about children (and their family)
- Ensuring policies and procedures are in place

- Ensuring that staff and volunteers receive adequate training
- Compliance with government guidance

In addition, my 'Advanced Safeguarding for DSLs' also covers the latest additional safeguarding concerns, including:

- Female Genital Mutilation
- Child Sexual Exploitation
- Tackling extremism

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