

## CABINET

20th November 2018

# RUTLAND COUNTY COUNCIL SAFEGUARDING THROUGH EDUCATION REPORT 2017-18

### Report of the Director for People

|                                |  |  |
|--------------------------------|--|--|
| Strategic Aim:                 | Creating a brighter future for all   |  |
| Key Decision: No               | Forward Plan Reference: FP/010818  |  |
| Exempt Information             | No   |  |
| Cabinet Member(s) Responsible: | Cllr D Wilby, Portfolio Holder for Lifelong Learning, Early Years, Special Educational Needs & Disabilities, Inclusion |  |
| Contact Officer(s):            | Gill Curtis<br>Head of Learning and Skills   | Telephone: 01572 758460<br>gcurtis@rutland.gov.uk      |
|                                | Karen Bland<br>Early Education and Safeguarding Through Education Advisor  | Telephone: 01572 758235<br>Email: kbland@utland.gov.uk |
| Ward Councillors               | N/A  |  |

### DECISION RECOMMENDATIONS

That Cabinet:

1. Notes the actions and priorities for Safeguarding through Education identified within the report.
2. Provides feedback on planned actions identified through review of current practice and procedures

## 1 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 All Local Authorities have an overarching responsibility for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of all children and young people in their area. Section 11 of the Children Act 2004 places duties on a range of organisations and individuals to 'ensure their functions, and any services that they contract out to others, are discharged having regard to the need to safeguard and promote the welfare of children'. The 2018 updated DfE guidance 'Keeping Children Safe in Education' clearly sets out the statutory responsibilities of all schools, including maintained schools, academies and the independent sector.
- 1.2 This report aims to provide Cabinet with assurance that there is a comprehensive approach by the Learning and Skills Service that contributes to the Council meeting these Section 11 requirements. This is achieved through supporting and promoting

the knowledge and understanding of safeguarding for staff working in Rutland early years' settings, all schools and wraparound and holiday childcare.

- 1.3 An annual review is undertaken of the effectiveness of safeguarding through education activity and this report identifies where this is working well and sets out planned actions for addressing any areas where future focus is required.
- 1.4 It is recognised that this is a lengthier report than typically produced. This is to enable the Learning and Skills Service to demonstrate the direction of change from the previous methodology of reviewing processes to a more audit driven approach to evaluating the effectiveness of the Service's role in enabling all those in the education sector to safeguard the children and young people in their care.

## **2 BACKGROUND AND MAIN CONSIDERATIONS**

- 2.1 Her Majesty's Government's guidance '*Working together to safeguard children – a guide to inter-agency working to safeguard and promote the welfare of children*' (July 2018) sets out the local authority's responsibility for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of all children and young people in their area.
- 2.2 Rutland County Council's Learning and Skills Service contributes to safeguarding processes and procedures in education settings across Rutland through the delivery or commissioning of training programmes and by issuing guidance and information updates. The Learning and Skills Service is not responsible for evaluating the effectiveness of safeguarding processes or procedures in schools and early years settings; this is the remit of Ofsted, the Regulatory Compliance (for Independent Schools) or Rutland's Childminding Agency. The purpose of inspecting is to evaluate how well providers fulfil their statutory and other responsibilities and how well staff exercise their professional judgement in keeping children and learners safe. Should safeguarding concerns be raised to, or identified by, members of the Learning and Skills Service, these are escalated in line with Rutland County Council safeguarding procedures.
- 2.3 The Learning and Skills Service works in partnership with Children's Social Care to ensure that the information being provided and the training offered remains current and reflects the very latest statutory guidance and recommendations, as well as taking in to account findings from local and regional incidents and concerns.
- 2.4 In order to support all providers in maintaining provision which focuses on the safety and well-being of the children and young people in their care, the Learning and Skills Service undertakes routine reviews which include the annual audit of safeguarding through education. The questions asked within this audit are agreed through consultation with the Local Safeguarding Children's Board (LSCB) and are adjusted each year to reflect changes to national legislation and guidelines or areas of concern which have been raised locally or regionally.
- 2.5 The audit is an on-line questionnaire which is sent to Rutland state-funded and independent schools, early years' providers and wraparound and holiday childcare providers. Cross border education providers for children with SEND and children looked after were invited to complete the 2018 safeguarding audit. Results from the audit are analysed and key outcomes are fed back to responders, the outcomes also inform future actions for the Learning and Skills Service.

- 2.6 The outcomes of the 2017-18 audit indicate that whilst there are no significant concerns from participants of the audit it is essential that safeguarding continues to remain a high priority for all those who work with children and young people.
- 2.7 The audit has provided a systematic approach to gathering safeguarding information. Analysis of the audit has generated a relevant and cohesive training package, delivered in partnership with the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO), Children's Social Care, Community Safety Representatives and Rutland Teaching School Alliance to all Rutland schools and early years' providers, inclusive of wraparound and holiday childcare providers.
- 2.8 Further review, including the Safeguarding through Education audit 2019, will be undertaken by the Learning and Skills Service to ensure that areas for development identified through the 2018 audit have been addressed and actions taken are impacting on the work of schools and early years' providers in the safeguarding of children and young people in Rutland.

### **3 CONSULTATION**

- 3.1 Consultation, through the Safeguarding through Education Group, is undertaken with LSCB, the Learning and Skills Service, the Education Sector and Children's Social Care.

### **4 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS**

- 4.1 Section 11 of the Children Act 2004 places a duty on Local Authorities to safeguard and promote the welfare of all children and young people in their area.
- 4.2 Although there could be a number of methods to evaluate the effectiveness of the Learning and Skills Service in undertaking activity to support the education sector in keeping children and young people in their care safe, there are no significant alternative options.

### **5 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 The promotion and associated actions and resources, including staffing, is funded through the Learning and Skills Budget for Education Officers and School Improvement Consultancy. There are no additional costs incurred through the implementation of the intent of this Report.

### **6 LEGAL AND GOVERNANCE CONSIDERATIONS**

- 6.1 Section 11 of the Children Act 2004, supported through Her Majesty's Government's guidance 'Working together to safeguard children – a guide to inter-agency working to safeguard and promote the welfare of children' (July 2018), set out the local authority's responsibility for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of all children and young people in their area.
- 6.2 The activity of the Learning and Skills Service within Safeguarding through Education Activity, in partnership with Children's' Social Care, supports the Local Authority in

meeting this duty

## **7 EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

7.1 An Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) has not been completed.

## **8 COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS**

8.1 The Community Safety Team is represented in the Safeguarding through Education Group and contributes to actions and activities undertaken through this group.

## **9 HEALTH AND WELLBEING**

9.1 Safeguarding through Education promotes the welfare of children and young people in education settings in Rutland.

## **10 CONCLUSION AND SUMMARY OF REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS**

10.1 This report provides elected members with an overview of the activities undertaken by the Learning and Skills Service, in partnership with Children's' Social Care, to provide all childcare providers and school staff with training and guidance, so that they know and understand how to keep the children in their care safe and from harm.

10.2 Through regular review of this aspect of the Learning and Skills Service role, assurances can be made regarding the effectiveness of the work undertaken and enable planned actions to be timely, relevant and leading to continued quality of support for education providers.

## **11 BACKGROUND PAPERS**

11.1 There are no additional background papers to the report.

## **12 APPENDICES**

Appendix A: Rutland County Council Safeguarding through Education Report 2017-18.

**A Large Print or Braille Version of this Report is available upon request – Contact 01572 722577.**