
Multi-Academy Trust DSLs CPD programme: Achieving excellence in MAT safeguarding led by Dai Durbridge

Safeguarding in MATs brings additional areas of focus: governance structures, consistency of approach, information sharing and strong communication all help achieve safeguarding excellence in MATs

This course, devised and led by safeguarding expert Dai Durbridge, is designed for Lead DSLs in MATs. As well as covering key safeguarding issues that apply across education, this course focuses on how to excel as a MAT Safeguarding Lead.

With 21 hours of contact time over five months, this bite-sized approach to learning provides:

- eight two-hour sessions of interactive training; and
- five one-hour sessions placed throughout the course.

to help embed learning, create space for discussion with other MAT Lead DSLs, and ensure all of your questions are answered

October 2023 – April 2024: Course Agenda

1. Sound Safeguarding foundations (2 hours)

16 October 2023, 10.00am – 12.00pm

- Policy, dissemination and single source of truth
- Staff training and updating
- Designing your knowledge transfer calendar

2. Session 1 reflection and free-form Q&A (1 hour)

31 October 2023, 10.00am - 11.00am

- Embedding Session 1
- Your safeguarding questions answered
- Group discussion on any issue

3. Excellence in MAT safeguarding governance (2 hours)

10 November 2023, 10.00am – 12.00pm

Part One:

- The 3Cs of MAT safeguarding governance -
- Communication, Consistency and Continuous Development
- Developing your safeguarding structure

4. Excellence in MAT safeguarding governance (2 hours)

21 November 2023, 10.00am – 12.00pm

Part Two:

- The role of the safeguarding Trustee/governor
- Upskilling your safeguarding Trustee/governor

5. Sessions 3 and 4 reflection and free-form Q&A (1 hour)

4 December 2023, 10.00am – 11.00am

- Embedding Sessions 3 and 4
- Your safeguarding questions answered
- Group discussion on any issue

6. Safeguarding quality assurance across your Trust (2 hours)

11 December 2023, 10.00am – 12.00pm

- Ensuring a consistent Trust-wide approach
- Best practice Q&A
- Evidencing culture
- Frequency, reactivity and necessary focus
- Reporting through the Trust

7. Session 6 reflection and free-form Q&A (1 hour)

15 January 2024, 10.00am – 11.00am

- Embedding Session 6
- Your safeguarding questions answered
- Group discussion on any issue

8. Subject matter deep-dive (2 hours)

6 February 2024, 10.00am - 12.00pm

- Effectively managing allegations against staff
- Embedding your Low-Level Concerns culture

9. 9. Subject matter deep-dive (2 hours)

19 February 2024, 10.00am – 12.00pm

- Harmful sexual behaviour (HSB)
- ***Delegate choice***

10. Sessions 8 and 9 reflection and free-form Q&A (1 hour)

8 March 2024, 10.00am – 11.00am

- Embedding Sessions 8 and 9
- Your safeguarding questions answered
- Group discussion on any issue

11. The importance of safeguarding intelligence (2 hours)

27 March 2024, 10.00am - 12.00pm

- Harvesting, analysing and using safeguarding data
- Engaging with other agencies
- Working with other schools and Trusts

- Engaging with your communities

12. Developing your safeguarding strategy (2 hours)

18 April 2024, 10.00am - 12.00pm

- Your five-point plan/strategy
- Horizon scanning
- Future proofing your safeguarding team
- DSL support and development

13. Sessions 11 and 12 reflection and next steps (1 hour)

25 April 2024, 10.00am – 11.00am

- Embedding Sessions 11 and 12
- Your safeguarding questions answered
- Group discussion on any issue
- Next steps and continued learning