
Multi-Academy Trust DSLs CPD programme:

Achieving excellence in trust safeguarding

Led by Dai Durbridge

Safeguarding in Trusts brings additional areas of focus: governance structures, consistency of approach, information sharing, strong communication across your schools, and excellent quality assurance processes all help achieve safeguarding excellence in Trusts.

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

With 22 hours of contact time over five months, this bite-sized approach to learning provides:

- 10 two-hour sessions of interactive training.
- Two one-hour sessions in the middle and at the end of the course.

To help embed learning, create space for discussion with other Trust Safeguarding Directors, and to ensure all of your questions are answered.

1. Sound Safeguarding foundations (2 hours)

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

2. Clarity of structure part one (2 hours)

Getting your operational structures right:

- Developing the centre and avoiding single points of failure.
- Your place (and voice) at the table.
- Designing the pyramid – creating regional/hub leads.
- Identifying and highlighting topic experts.
- Mastering communication and joint working.

3. Clarity of structure part two (2 hours)

A functioning governance structure:

- If you can't draw it, it probably doesn't work...
- Objectives and delivery: getting your governance layers right.
- Consistency and clarity: Terms of Reference, Schemes of Delegation, and other key documents.
- Reporting to and attending board/committee.

4. Getting the best from your Local Governing Board (2 hours)

- Ensuring best value and playing to their strengths.
- Avoiding 'busy work'.
- Understanding the local context.
- Supporting the local DSL.

5. Empowering your Safeguarding Trustee (2 hours)

- Training, updating and developing your Trustee.
- How they should support and challenge you.
- Questions to ask, answers to expect and issues to address.
- Networks, coaching and developing a Safeguarding Trustee handbook.

6. Mid-course round up and review (1 hour)

- Embedding sessions 1-5.
- Your varied safeguarding questions answered.
- Group discussion on any issue.

7. Use it wisely: safeguarding data and intelligence (2 hours)

- Harvesting, analysing and using safeguarding data.
 - Engaging with other agencies.
 - Working with other schools and Trusts.
 - Engaging with your communities.
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8. Quality assurance – evidencing best practice (2 hours)

- Understanding the ‘why?’ and getting the balance right.
- Ensuring a consistent Trust-wide approach.
- ‘Peer validation’: the importance of language.
- Psychological safety and celebrating weakness/failure.
- Utilising self-evaluation.
- Next steps: action plan and the delivery team.

9. Safeguarding strategy and sector leadership (2 hours)

- Development and delivery of your strategy: sharing practice and learning from each other.
- The hub and spokes: strategy and delivery/action plans.
- Driving safeguarding across the sector – leading the way, driving cross-agency collaboration, and sharing data and intelligence.

10. Supporting your people: supervision and wellbeing (2 hours)

- Supervision -v- line management.
- Internal -v- external supervision.
- Objectives, frequency and approach.
- Don’t forget you...

11. Future proofing your team (2 hours)

- Succession planning in safeguarding.
- Talent development – the next safeguarding leaders.
- Nurturing your topic experts.
- Opportunities to lead.

12. End of course round up, review and next steps(1 hour)

- Review of sessions 11-12.
 - Free form Q&A.
 - Next steps for you.
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