**Education Improvement**

**Safeguarding Team**

**Key Information**

The Shropshire Council Learning and Skills Education Improvement Safeguarding Team’s role is to work with educational settings and organisations operating in the Shropshire Local Authority area. The team aim to engage with and support education settings in fulfilling their statutory duties to safeguard and promote the welfare of children living and receiving education in Shropshire.

Please refer to: <https://www.shropshirelg.net/safeguarding-and-child-protection/>

As Local Authority Officers, the Team also act on behalf of Shropshire Council. They are part of the Learning and Skills Service, led by David Shaw (Assistant Director of Education and Achievement), which is part of the People’s Directorate. Shropshire Council are a statutory safeguarding partner (as outlined in statutory guidance: [Working Together To Safeguard Children](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/working-together-to-safeguard-children--2)) and part of Shropshire Safeguarding Community Partnership.

To find out more about the safeguarding partnership arrangements in Shropshire (including the local criteria for action and assessment: threshold document); please visit: <http://www.shropshiresafeguardingcommunitypartnership.co.uk/>

**Team Contacts**

The Education Safeguarding Team consists of three Safeguarding Officers; all of whom lead on distinct areas of work (as indicated in title areas):

School Safeguarding Officers

* Emma Harding

Email: [Emma.Harding-Safeguarding@shropshire.gov.uk](mailto:Emma.Harding-Safeguarding@shropshire.gov.uk)

Phone: 01743 257929.

***\*Note for 24/25:*** *Emma Harding plans is on maternity leave from 7th October 2024; returning in the Summer Term 2025. Summer Term dates will be communicated to schools later in the academic year); and will also be published at:* [*CPD Schedule and Booking Information 2024-2025 | Shropshire Learning Gateway (shropshirelg.net)*](https://www.shropshirelg.net/teaching-learning/cpd-schedule-and-booking-information-2024-2025/)*.*

*Please refer to our Local Authority Training Statement (available to view* [*here*](https://www.shropshirelg.net/safeguarding-and-child-protection/safeguarding-team-information-and-services/early-years-and-schools-training-and-consultancies/)*) for how to remain up to date in these circumstances.*

*During this time, School DSL/Governor/School Based training and development and/or consultancy delivery will be limited. CPD Raising Awareness for Schools will continue as below.*

* Jane Parsons

Email: [Jane.parsons@shropshire.gov.uk](mailto:Jane.parsons@shropshire.gov.uk)

Phone: 01743 254676

Early Years and Childcare Safeguarding Officer

* Charlotte Percival

Email: [Charlotte.Percival@shropshire.gov.uk](mailto:Charlotte.Percival@shropshire.gov.uk)

Phone: 01743 254147.

The team reports to:

* John Rowe: Head of Education Quality and Safeguarding

Email: [John.Rowe@shropshire.gov.uk](mailto:John.Rowe@shropshire.gov.uk).

Phone: 01743 254515

**Training and Professional Development**:

Charlotte Percival (Early Years)

Emma Harding (Schools)

The Safeguarding Training and Professional Development offer is provided on a traded basis by Safeguarding Officers. It is in alignment with statutory requirements and local safeguarding arrangements.

To ensure your staff and Governors safeguarding training aligns with local arrangements, please also refer to the Shropshire Schools & Early Years Training statement available to view [here](https://www.shropshirelg.net/safeguarding-and-child-protection/safeguarding-team-information-and-services/early-and-schools-training-and-consultancies/).

We can deliver directly in settings (SBD). For further details and costs visit:

<https://www.shropshirelg.net/safeguarding-and-child-protection/safeguarding-team-information-and-services/early-and-schools-training-and-consultancies/>

The CPD training and development schedule (CPD); including costs and booking is available at: <https://www.shropshirelg.net/teaching-learning/cpd-schedule-and-booking-information-autumn-term-2024/> .

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Training/Development Event** | **Phase (Early Years, School, College)** | **CPD via** [**CPD Schedule**](https://www.shropshirelg.net/teaching-learning/cpd-schedule-and-booking-information-autumn-term-2024/) | **Setting Based via**   * **Schools: Emma Harding** * **Early Years: Charlotte Percival** |
| Staff/Volunteers | | | |
| Raising Awareness in Safeguarding and Protecting Children | All | Yes: 3 courses available each term | Yes: whole setting. Either online or in person |
| Designated (including Deputy) Safeguarding Leads | | | |
| Designated Safeguarding Lead Training  (Separate Newly appointed and Refresher courses) | Separate for Early Years and School/Colleges. | Yes: Termly (3 sessions per course) | Yes: for 10+ staff. Either online or in person |
| Safeguarding Lead Network Meetings | Separate Networks for Early Years and School/Colleges. | Yes: Termly | No |
| Governors/Trustees/Committee Members | | | |
| School Governor/Trustee (including New Safeguarding Link Governor) Safeguarding Training | School Governors/Trustees | Yes: Termly | Whole school: On request, capacity dependant. |
| School Safeguarding Link Governor Briefings | School Safeguarding Link Governors/Trustees | Yes: Bi-Termly | No |
| Early Years Committee Member Safeguarding Training | Early Years Committee Members | Yes: Termly | No |

**Consultancies**

Charlotte Percival (Early Years)

Emma Harding (Schools)

Safeguarding consultancies can be undertaken by Safeguarding Officers for both schools and early years settings. This is a traded offer through the Setting Based Development Offer. Further information about the consultancy offer can be found [here](https://www.shropshirelg.net/safeguarding-and-child-protection/safeguarding-team-information-and-services/early-and-schools-training-and-consultancies/). Please contact lead officers to arrange or discuss further.

**Template Policies and Guidance**

The Safeguarding Team develop and maintains safeguarding and child protection template policies, which settings can adapt and adopt according to their individual needs. The templates are updated annually and are in line with statutory requirements and local arrangements.

The Team also provides additional guidance and information to support schools in their delivery of their statutory safeguarding duties. Information, guidance and template policies are located on the Shropshire Learning Gateway: <https://www.shropshirelg.net/safeguarding-and-child-protection/early-years-and-schools-safeguarding-policies-and-guidance/>

**Safeguarding audits**

Charlotte Percival (Early Years)

Jane Parsons (Schools)

Section 11 Audits: safeguarding arrangements

Section 11 Children’s Act 2004 places a duty on Shropshire Safeguarding Community Partnership to ensure the effectiveness of safeguarding arrangements for agencies working with children and families in their area. (For information on organisational responsibilities under Section 11 Children’s Act 2004, please refer to Chapter 2, [Working Together to Safeguard Children](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/working-together-to-safeguard-children--2).). Settings senior leaders and governing bodies also have a duty to ensure that their safeguarding and welfare arrangements are effective (section 157 and 175 Education Act 2002, s40 Childcare Act 2006).

As such, settings are expected to complete a “Section 11 Safeguarding Compliance Audit” annually. The local section 11 audit process is outlined below:

**Autumn Term:**

Schools are requested to complete a section 11 Compliance Audit (communicated via Weekly Headteacher email)

**Autumn/Spring Term**

A sample of settings are selected and contacted by the Local Authority to submit their section 11 Audit.

The sample is analysed for assurance purposes by the Local Authority as a Safeguarding Partner of Shropshire Safeguarding Community Partnership.

**Spring Term**

Governing Bodies to review what has been identified as requiring progress as part of ensuring children are safeguarded and their welfare is promoted as part of school evaluation and improvement processes.

Practice Audits

All settings are encouraged to complete safeguarding practice audits on a termly basis. Please note that completion of the practice audit is **not** a statutory requirement.

The Local Authority produce a practice audit template to assist settings in this regard. The template also contains useful links for pupils who are looked after. All records should be retained within the setting as part of the internal safeguarding assurance recorded activities. There is **no** requirement to return completed audits to the local authority.

The practice audit template is located at: <https://shropshirelg.net/safeguarding-and-child-protection/safeguarding-audits/>

**Domestic Abuse: Operation Encompass**

Jane Parsons (Schools)

Charlotte Percival (Early Years)

The Local Authority work in partnership with West Mercia Police to locally enable the national initiative [Operation Encompass](https://www.operationencompass.org/). This enables reporting to schools and Early Years settings when a child has been involved in or exposed to domestic abuse. It is a national multi-agency initiative for the safeguarding of children experiencing or exposed to domestic abuse and a preventative measure to try and influence how the effects of the experience may impact on these children as future adults. The scheme complements existing safeguarding procedures.

The purpose of the information sharing is to ensure schools have more information to support safeguarding of children. By knowing that the child has had this experience, the school is in a better position to understand and be supportive of the child’s needs and possible behaviours.

To find out more about Operation Encompass and how it is operating in Shropshire, please visit:

Schools: <https://shropshirelg.net/safeguarding-and-child-protection/school-operation-encompass/>

Early Years: <https://shropshirelg.net/safeguarding-and-child-protection/early-years-operation-encompass/>

**Domestic Abuse: Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC)**

Jane Parsons (Schools)

As part of the local multi-agency arrangements to respond to [Domestic Abuse](http://www.shropshiresafeguardingcommunitypartnership.co.uk/partnership-priority-areas/local-domestic-abuse-partnership-board/); Learning and Skills Local Authority Officers represent Education at the monthly MARAC (Multi-agency risk assessment conference). Officers are responsible for contacting the DSL at the setting the child attends to request information if a MARAC referral has been received in relation to the child’s parent/significant adult.

Please be aware of the Shropshire Safeguarding Community Partnership [Domestic Abuse Tools and Pathways](https://westmidlands.procedures.org.uk/local-content/wQzN/domestic-abuse-tools-and-pathways/?b=Shropshire).

If you have any queries regarding the MARAC process, please contact Jane Parsons.

**Preventing Terrorism: Channel Panel**

Jane Parsons (Schools)

Charlotte Percival (Early Years)

All schools, colleges and registered childcare providers are subject to the Prevent Duty: "to have due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism".

Please refer to <https://www.shropshirelg.net/safeguarding-and-child-protection/early-years-and-schools-safeguarding-policies-and-guidance/the-prevent-duty-preventing-terrorism/> for further guidance and local information to enable settings to implement the Prevent Duty.

The Local Authority Safeguarding Officers represent Education at the monthly Channel Panel. Where settings are working with individuals discussed at Channel Panel and are responsible for contacting the DSL at the setting the child attends to request information if a Prevent referral has been received in relation to the child’s parent/significant adult.

If you have any queries regarding the Channel process, please contact the relevant officer.

**Complaints**

The Local Authority Safeguarding Officers are responsible for investigation of safeguarding complaints reported to Ofsted and Department for Education in line with the LA complaints process. The Safeguarding Officer will always consult with the complainant (if consent to share details is provided) and the headteacher as part of an investigation. If you have any queries regarding the complaints process, please contact a member of the Safeguarding Team.