

Early years Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL)

Roles and Responsibilities

The Designated Safeguarding lead (DSL) should have the appropriate status and authority within the setting to carry out the duties of the post.

The role of the DSL carries a significant level of responsibility, and they should be given the additional time, funding, training, and support.

In conjunction with policies and procedures parents should be made aware of what to do if

The DSL is responsible for training and upskilling adults working with children regularly and effectively and ensuring everyone knows their responsibilities around safeguarding. This includes informing adults of what to do if they feel their concerns raised have not been dealt with effectively which may result in whistleblowing.

Good practice is to create a safeguarding training pathway for the team which starts at induction and carries on through the academic year.

The DSL should attend regular DSL network meetings ran by the Worcestershire county council to keep informed of local processes and the everchanging safeguarding landscape.

In addition the [NSPCC Caspar newsletter](#) is a good resource to keep yourself informed of developments and research within safeguarding.

The DSL should be aware of how health and safety issues can potentially harm children. They should work with the leadership of the setting to ensure the environment is safe. This also includes how the setting approach safer sleeping, allergies, administering of medication, supervision of children, and the risk assessments around this.

The DSL should regularly audit safeguarding procedures to ensure they are effective. This includes completion of the annual Safeguarding audit provided by Worcestershire children first which will help to identify areas for development to ensure safeguarding practices remain strong.

The DSL should have a good understanding of Worcestershire children first early help process and how to request services from early help support through the referral process. The DSL should be familiar with the safeguarding and early help information on the Worcestershire children first website.

The DSL should be familiar with the signs of safety model which helps to identify what is working well for a family, what are we worried about and what needs to happen next.

[What Is Signs of Safety? - Signs of Safety](#)

The DSL should have the time and space to hold meetings as required with parents/carers and other professionals.

The DSL should lead conversations with parents to address any concerns and agree a plan for support.

The DSL is required to complete early help assessments with families as required. This can be completed in conjunction with the settings manager where necessary.

[Early help assessment and guidance | Worcestershire County Council](#)

The DSL should be available to take part in strategy meetings and child protection conferences with the local safeguarding partnership as required. They should be the settings main point of contact where multi agency working is happening.

The DSL should keep the registered provider and manager of the setting informed of the current safeguarding cases and the work involved. They should work closely with

Significant events must be reported to Ofsted as soon as reasonably possible and within 14 days. The DSL may be involved in this and future discussions around the event dependent on what this was.

Refer

The DSL should have a good understanding of how to refer into family front door at level 4 and how to write a good referral. There is a range of training to support with this:

