



## Appendix (9)

### Our Safeguarding Team at Lyndon Academy

**Designated Safeguarding Lead:** Sarah Bloomer

**Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads:** Syreeta Kapswara, Richard Bohdanowitsch, Sharon Chana, Abid Butt.

Contact details for our Designated Safeguarding Lead can be found on our academy website and via the following link [Safeguarding - Lyndon School](#)

**Single Point of Contact (SPOC)** for Prevent (in relation to protecting individuals from radicalisation and involvement in terrorism): Syreeta Kapswara

**Operation Encompass Key Adult** (in relation to protecting and supporting individuals from domestic abuse): Sarah Bloomer

**Designated Teacher for Looked After Children:** Abigail Prentice

**Senior Mental Health First Aid Lead:** Sarah Bloomer

**Rights Respecting Link:** Sophie McCoy

**Safeguarding Governor:** Mrs Caroline Hick

#### Local Authority Safeguarding Context

Lyndon School is in the Metropolitan Borough of Solihull but serves children, young people and their families from both the boroughs of Solihull and Birmingham.

#### **Solihull**

Solihull Children's Services most recent Ofsted visit was undertaken in November 2025, and the services were graded mainly as good, with improvement required in 'The experience and progress of children in care'.

<https://files.ofsted.gov.uk/v1/file/50293398>

#### **Solihull Neglect Strategy 2024 - 2026**

[https://www.safeguardingsolihull.org.uk/lscp/wp-content/uploads/sites/3/2024/10/SSCP-Neglect-Strategy-August-2024-v1\\_compressed.pdf](https://www.safeguardingsolihull.org.uk/lscp/wp-content/uploads/sites/3/2024/10/SSCP-Neglect-Strategy-August-2024-v1_compressed.pdf)

Nationally, neglect is the most common form of child abuse. In Solihull, there are children and young people across the borough who are threatened by neglect. It is a shared concern and is not the responsibility of any one single agency or professional body.

The first neglect strategy in Solihull was developed in response to reviews following serious incidents where children have died or experienced significant harm. The strategy was developed to enable professionals to better understand and recognise the cumulative impact of neglect.

#### **Birmingham**



Birmingham Council had their Children's Social Care Services Ofsted undertaken in March 2023 and were graded as good. <https://reports.ofsted.gov.uk/provider/44/80429>

Birmingham is the largest Local Authority in the UK which means there are many children (over 250,000) to support and safeguard. Birmingham city has a younger than average population with over a quarter of its residents aged under 18 according to 2011 census data. There are significantly more children living in poverty in Birmingham than the national average. Figures published in 2021 show that 3 of the 5 areas with the highest child poverty rates in the United Kingdom are in Birmingham. (Hodge Hill with 53% of children living in households below the poverty line, Ladywood with 50% and Hall Green with 46%). Hodge Hill also has the highest rates of unemployment in the UK.

Health outcomes in Birmingham are also poor in comparison to national averages. The West Midlands has consistently had the highest rates of infant mortality in England and Wales (according to the data provided by the Office for National Statistics). Data produced by the NHS shows that Birmingham has one of the highest childhood obesity rates in England with over a quarter of children classed as obese at age 11.

Birmingham is a diverse city with a higher number of residents than average from minority ethnic backgrounds (including 58% of children according to 2011 census figures). There are also far more residents in the city than the national average born outside of the UK and more than twice as many people than average for whom English is not their first language. Children in these communities may be more vulnerable to neglect than those of White British heritage as their families are more likely to be living in poverty, more likely to experience isolation and may face barriers in terms of access to services.

### **Birmingham Neglect Strategy 2022-2026**

<https://lscpbirmingham.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/Tackling-Neglect-in-Birmingham-A-Strategy-for-Children-and-Young-People-2022-2026-11.pdf>

Neglect is the most common form of child abuse in the UK and, while we don't yet have detailed data, the Covid-19 pandemic is likely to have increased the risk of children being neglected.

Neglect can have a devastating effect on children's lives. Whatever organisation we come from, and whatever role we do, we all have a responsibility to look for signs of neglect in our work with children and families and to act when we identify them. The most likely reason for a child in Birmingham to need support and/or protection is neglect.

Birmingham's Safeguarding Children's Partnership have four priorities for the next two years as outlined in their Business Improvement Plan. <https://lscpbirmingham.org.uk/documents/business-improvement-plan-2025-27>

**Priority 1: Working together more effectively** – Implementing national reforms to strengthen multi-agency practice to support families and safeguard children.

**Priority 2: Voice of the child and family** – Ensuring children and parents/carers views are central to our multi-agency practice and engaging children and families with lived experience to improve our multi-agency safeguarding arrangements.

**Priority 3: Children out of sight** – Developing multi-agency pathways to better support and safeguard children who are at risk of, or who have become, out of sight to services.

**Priority 4: Harm outside the home** – Improving earlier identification and responses to children at risk of, or who are engaged in, serious youth violence or who are being criminally and/or sexually exploited.

Local Authority Factors	The actions Lyndon Academy is taking
Working together more effectively	Lyndon School is committed to working within the multi-agency framework both facilitating and attending reviews/meetings to support our learners and their families.
Voice of the child and family	At Lyndon School, learners are central to all decision making, we are committed to ensuring that Article 3 of the Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child is delivered. The best interests of learners is a top priority in all decisions and actions that affect children, therefore we support the voice of both child and families and will advocate if needed when outside agencies are involved.
Children out of sight	At Lyndon School our Attendance and Safeguarding Teams work closely to monitor the attendance of all learners. Our established procedures are designed to ensure every learner is carefully tracked to ensure they are where they are required to be and not in a place of risk. The school recognises that when a child goes missing from school it is a potential indicator of abuse or neglect, i.e. – sexual abuse or exploitation. Lyndon School follows the local authority procedures “Identifying and maintaining contact with children missing or at risk of going missing from Education 2013”.
Harm outside the home	Our Personal Development curriculum promotes an awareness and develops the understanding of the knowledge, skills, and attributes learners need to keep themselves healthy and safe and to prepare them for life and work in modern Britain. We ensure our learners acquire the appropriate knowledge, skills and attributes they need to make responsible decisions in life. Our curriculum seeks to help learners to manage many of the most critical opportunities, challenges and responsibilities they will face growing up. This curriculum helps children and young people to achieve their potential by supporting their wellbeing and tackling issues that can affect their ability to learn, such as anxiety and unhealthy relationships.

### Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council

The Metropolitan Borough of Solihull is increasingly varied in context. Some areas in the north of the borough area are amongst the most deprived neighbourhoods in England. The 2016 – 2019 Health & Wellbeing Strategy (produced by the Solihull Health & Wellbeing Board) stated “The number of children on a protection plan has increased to a point where it is now above the rate for England and its statistically equivalent neighbours. Both domestic abuse and sexual exploitation have been identified as priority issues for the borough along with neglect and the interconnectivity of key issues.

Around 54% of Solihull children living in poverty live in the three North Solihull regeneration wards (3,645 children) where the child poverty rate is 33% compared to 9% in the rest of the borough (3,090 children). (HMRC 2016).



Solihull's Safeguarding Children's Partnership have 3 priorities for the next two years as outlined in their Business Improvement Plan 2024-2026.

[https://www.safeguardingsolihull.org.uk/lscp/wp-content/uploads/sites/3/2024/11/SSCP-Business-Plan-2024-26-v2.2\\_compressed.pdf](https://www.safeguardingsolihull.org.uk/lscp/wp-content/uploads/sites/3/2024/11/SSCP-Business-Plan-2024-26-v2.2_compressed.pdf)

Local Authority Factors	The actions Lyndon Academy is taking
<p><b>Priority 1:</b> Neglect Embed and evidence impact of Solihull's Neglect Strategy</p>	<p>At Lyndon School Work we are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Committed to working with our multi agency partners to a shared understanding of neglect, definitions, causes and impact across Solihull.</li> <li>• Identify children and young people at risk of neglect at the earliest opportunity.</li> <li>• Ensure we work closely with our multi agency partners to ensure effective assessments at all levels of intervention.</li> <li>• Respond promptly and effectively through interventions which seek to address the root causes of neglect and make a sustainable difference to our learners and their families.</li> <li>• Maintain a focus on the actual lived experiences of our learners.</li> <li>• Ensure that learners are protected from harm and support our multi agency partners to ensure we collectively minimise the long-term effects of cumulative neglect.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Priority 2a:</b> Connections and Impact Increase understanding, identification and impact of interconnectivity of key issues affecting our children and young people to identify joint improvement opportunities e.g. mental and emotional wellbeing, school behaviour and attendance, extra-familial harm.</p>	<p>At Lyndon School we provide support for learners and colleagues through a range of mental and emotional health and wellbeing offers. All staff at Lyndon receive regular workshops on all aspects of safeguarding including how children may mask their behaviours. Our staff are trained on how mental health may manifest itself amongst adolescents in relation to changes in behaviour and attitudes towards their education. We have established procedures which requires all staff to promptly report any concerns regarding students including concerns regarding their emotional and mental health to the appropriate Pastoral Manager. These referrals are monitored closely by our Pastoral Team, which consists of accredited Mental Health First Aiders. The appropriate Wave One support is provided, monitored, and evaluated for impact. Under the supervision of the Vice Principal, Pastoral Managers will also consider each case against other contextual factors and in consultation with parents/carers will make a referral to the academy's Inclusion Panel as part of our graduated and multiagency approach.</p>
<p><b>Priority 2b:</b> Connections and Impact Provision of assurance of impact from related partnership groups (such as</p>	<p>At Lyndon School we work closely with our partner agencies to ensure a consistent and robust approach is maintained to support our vulnerable families. We will specifically work to:</p>

Domestic Abuse Partnership Board and Early Help Strategic Group).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support the prompt identification of families that may benefit from Early Help ensuring that preventative support will in time reduce the number of cases that escalate to statutory services.</li> <li>• Ensure our colleagues have the appropriate Early Help training and provide feedback on the impact of Early Help training.</li> </ul>
<b>Priority 3:</b> SSCP Effectiveness Continue to review our safeguarding arrangements and governance structure.	At Lyndon School we will regularly partake in external reviews to evaluate the effectiveness of our systems, processes and procedures. These reviews continuously feed into improvements to safeguarding arrangements and structures.

### **Lyndon Academy Safeguarding Context**

At Lyndon academy we regularly seek the views of our local stakeholders in addition to the safeguarding procedures we robustly have in place to identify emerging and escalating safeguarding issues. We do this to ensure that we have a historic and current understanding of the contextual matters affecting our community, particularly our learners and their families. At Lyndon we are here to notice, listen, respect, help, and support. This support may be from a key member of staff in our academy or from a local service or organisation.

<b>Academy Community Factors</b>	<b>The actions that Lyndon are taking</b>
Poverty within our community and extended community	Lyndon Pantry – supplying food parcels, also hygiene products along with clothing/uniform and basic equipment
Child Sexual Exploitation/Child Criminal Exploitation – geographical location of the school to major international transport facilities	Learners receive assemblies, tutor time and specific education around how to keep themselves and peers safe. What to do if they are concerned, and who can they report concerns to.
Localised community concerns	Lyndon, as all education settings, teach learners about contextual safeguarding, including localised crime. We have strong links with police who are regular visitors to the school. Police led assemblies, sharing true life concerns and outcomes of crime.
Online Safety	<p>At Lyndon all learners are taught about online safety as part of the curriculum.</p> <p>As a result, by the end of secondary school all pupils will know:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Their rights, responsibilities and opportunities online, including that the same expectations of behaviour apply in all contexts, including online</li> <li>• About online risks, including that any material someone provides to another has the potential to be shared online and the difficulty of removing potentially compromising material placed online</li> <li>• Not to provide material to others that they would not want shared further and not to share personal material which is sent to them</li> <li>• What to do and where to get support to report material or manage issues online</li> <li>• The impact of viewing harmful content</li> </ul>

- That specifically sexually explicit material (e.g. pornography) presents a distorted picture of sexual behaviours, can damage the way people see themselves in relation to others and negatively affect how they behave towards sexual partners
- That sharing and viewing indecent images of children (including those created by children) is a criminal offence which carries severe penalties including jail
- How information and data is generated, collected, shared and used online
- How to identify harmful behaviours online (including bullying, abuse or harassment) and how to report, or find support, if they have been affected by those behaviours
- How people can actively communicate and recognise consent from others, including sexual consent, and how and when consent can be withdrawn (in all contexts, including online)

**Birmingham Children’s Trust**

The Children's Advice and Support Service (CASS) provides a single point of contact for professionals and members of the public who want to access support or raise concerns about a child.

<https://www.birminghamchildrenstrust.co.uk/contact>

Telephone: **0121 303 1888** Emergency out-of-hours Telephone: **0121 675 4806**

**Solihull Safeguarding Children Partnership**

Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH)

If you have significant worries about the safeguarding of a child, please call the MASH Team to speak to the Duty Social Worker for advice before submitting this form:

**<https://digital.solihull.gov.uk/ChildrensSocialWorkServiceReferral/>**

Telephone: **0121 788 4300 option 2** (Monday to Thursday 8:45am - 5:20pm, Friday 8:45am - 4.30pm), or **0121 605 6060** (Evenings, weekends, or bank holidays)

<https://www.safeguardingsolihull.org.uk/lscp/>