



Services for Young Children

Safeguarding updates

OFSTED safeguarding action audit

In the December 2015 Blog, information was shared about the recent audit of OFSTED safeguarding actions for childcare providers which highlighted the need for managers to be vigilant in the ongoing checking of the suitability of all staff, including committee members, to ensure a safe and secure environment is provided for children in their care.

The latest audit of OFSTED safeguarding actions has identified this as an ongoing trend (although incidents have reduced). For more information about checking suitability please see the December 2015 blog:

<http://www.sfyblog.hants.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2016/01/January-2016-DBS-checks-and-disqualification-of-staff.pdf>

Below is a summary of OFSTED safeguarding actions for Early Years settings for the July to September 2015 and the October to December 2015 periods.

July to September 2015:

158 settings were inspected (15 of which had a 'Requires Improvement' or 'Inadequate' inspection outcome)

7 settings* had safeguarding actions (4.4%)

- Safer premises (access/exit and risk assessment) x 3
- Suitability/DBS checks and informing OFSTED/evidencing checks complete for committee members x 4
- Check suitability with regards to person sharing household x 1
- All staff understanding Safeguarding / Child Protection procedures x 1
- Fire drill x 1
- Permission for medication x 1

October to December 2015:

158 settings were inspected (11 of which had a 'Requires Improvement' or 'Inadequate' inspection outcome)

6 settings* had safeguarding actions (3.6%)

- Notify statutory agencies (referral) x 1
- Policy x 1
- Suitability checks x 2 (1 specific for committee) – continuous trend from the last
- Audit (6 incidences in audit)
- Ensure knowledge and training is up to date x 3 (2 specifically for Lead Practitioners for SG)
- Ensure up to date First Aid training
- Maintain a register of children's attendance

*Some settings had more than 1 safeguarding action

Ofsted consultancy service

Providers are reminded of their responsibility to verify the identity of potential visitors to their settings, particularly with the growing number people claiming to offer consultancy support or training.

Settings might:

- Check the back ground of any organisations (including checking Company House or the Charity Commission website where applicable)
- Check if any potential provider is registered with the DBS checking service
- Ask to see any original qualifications
- Check I.D.
- Ask for references and follow the references up
- Ask about the providers experience and knowledge
- Settings should always seek explicit parental consent if there is an intention for children to be observed or personal information to be shared
- Contact Trading Standards for advice:
<http://www3.hants.gov.uk/tradingstandards/tradingstandards-business/tsguide-scams-business/tsguide-business-scams.htm>
- If you are concerned that someone is not who they claim to be and is trying to gain access to the setting or children, you should call the police

The following excerpts from the Early Years Foundation in Stage may be useful:

- Providers must take all reasonable steps to prevent unauthorised persons entering the premises, and have an agreed procedure for checking the identity of visitors.
- Confidential information and records about staff and children must be held securely and only accessible and available to those who have a right or professional need to see them. Providers must be aware of their responsibilities under the Data Protection Act (DPA) 1998 and where relevant the Freedom of Information Act 2000.
- Providers must ensure that all staff understand the need to protect the privacy of the children in their care as well the legal requirements that exist to ensure that information relating to the child is handled in a way that ensures confidentiality