

Bristol S. 175 report 2021-22

Section 175 of the Education Act 2002 puts a duty on Local Authorities to make arrangements for ensuring that their education functions are exercised with a view to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children. Robustly interpreted, this is to ensure that settings that provide education within its jurisdiction have effective safeguarding arrangements. It acknowledged that the wider sections in s. 175 of the Education Act 2002 places a duty on the governing bodies of maintained schools and FE colleges and that further legislation places similar duties on all other non-maintained settings including academies and free schools (S. 157 of the Education Act 2002 and the Education (Independent School) Regulations 2014).

The report highlights the different areas of where the Local Authority has exercised its functions in relation to safeguarding work within the field of Education.

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s. 175 Audit.

The audit is a self-reporting tool for settings to review whether they are compliant with relevant legislation and guidance as well as a tool for the setting's governance to have appropriate oversight. It is not a legal requirement to complete the version of the audit that the Local Authority and the Local Safeguarding Partnership produce, but it is a useful tool to collate data to identify and commission support for the workforce where there maybe systemic deficits or areas of development. For those who do not complete the Local Authority/Local Safeguarding Partnership's audit tool, then they are required to submit their own audit/action plan to demonstrate that they have considered their duties under relevant legislation.

The outcome of the audits help us commission and target training, CPD, tools and support for the workforce.

Considerations for academic year 2020-21.

Documents:

- [S. 175 Audit 2020-21 Covering letter.pdf](#)
- [S. 175 Audit 2020-21 Guidance and copy of the audit \(do not submit\).docx](#)
- [S.175 Audit 2020-21Outcomes.pptx](#)

It is noted that there was feedback from the workforce which has required the team to make significant changes to how the s.175 Audit is operationalised – Recommendations from the established Task and Finish Group from different phase representatives are being acted upon around the following:

- **Reduce the number of questions** – *this has currently been reduced from 411 to approximately 150. This still needs to be refined and agreed upon considering new versions of statutory guidance.*
- **Removed questions will help form guidance to allow for more structured support for governance around what good, adequate, and poor responses look like to assist with quality assurance** – *in progress in line with previous point.*
- **Remove the ‘task completion’ element, which is quite static, but allow for meaningful change for practice development and growth**– *recommendation to review time limit, giving more time, but also set reminders with calendar invites multiple times an academic year to maintain progress.*
- **Review the format, supporting an ability to pick up and drop to reflect work commitments and develop a format to allow for true collaboration** – *decision to stop using SMART survey and send out survey as an Excel document which can be submitted back to the Local Safeguarding Partnership for data collection.*
- **A reduced version for part time ALPs/Providers** – *develop this in line with guidance from Keeping Children Safe in Out of School Settings.*

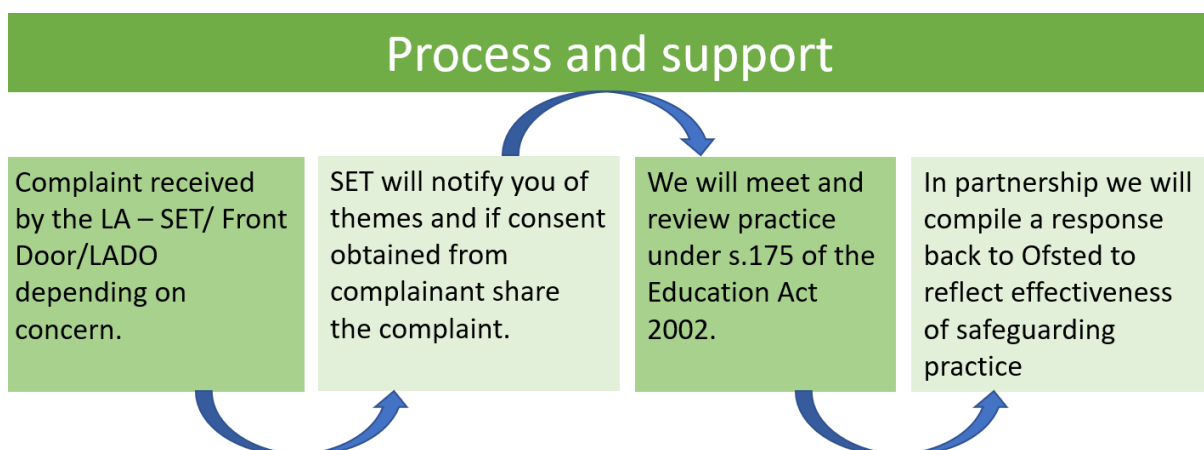
Context for 2021-22.

Due to the pandemic and staff absences within the Safeguarding in Education Team the decision to progress an audit this academic year was delayed. From the outcomes and feedback from the previous years’ audit, it was anticipated that the education workforce should still be self-reviewing and that they could provide action plans from the previous year’s audit and produce evidence of another audit they may have completed last year.

Although not part of the decision to not proceed with audit, the school’s White Paper 2022 has indicated a view to move to Local Safeguarding Partnerships moving to completing s.175 Audits every three years. This proposal will go through to the relevant governance of the Local Safeguarding Partnership with a potential risk paper to consider options beyond the traditional annual audit.

Complaints and concerns.

The Safeguarding in Education Team have the duty to review practice where a concern has been raised about an establishment. These have come via a variety of different sources – the flow chart generally demonstrates the process of how these are responded to with setting’s headteachers/principal and their governance.



Number of complaints and concerns episodes responded to by the Safeguarding in Education Team				
Academic year	Regulatory Bodies (Ofsted, DfE, EFSA)	Other agencies (Social care, Police, Health)	Complaints from parents/public	Total
2019-20	24	23	0	47
2020-21	37	15	2	54
2021-22	64	8	7	79

The outcomes for these interventions have generally found and concluded that safeguarding arrangements remain effective. In the small minority, support has been made available to the setting through additional training, recommendations, and advice. It is noted that themes have centred around

- Child on Child harm (bullying, responding to harmful sexualised behaviour)
- Prejudice related incidents.
- Staff management of behaviour.
- Unmet Special Education Needs and Disabilities.
- Unresponsive leadership and management.

There have been additional resources for the workforce around these concerns in the Safeguarding in Education Team's training and CPD opportunities.

Setting Safeguarding Reviews.

The Local Authority has been commissioned to carry out more in-depth reviews for a few settings in Bristol where concerns around safeguarding arrangements have been ineffective and requiring a higher level of support.

Type of establishment	Cause for concern	Outcome
SEMH Residential	Concerns raised from statutory agencies and Ofsted around Child on Child harm.	Pending
Alternative Learning Provider School	The setting has been involved with 2 children subject to Rapid Reviews under Working Together to Safeguard Children.	Safeguarding arrangements effective, however wider systemic work required around SEN and Safeguarding.
Complex Need Special School	A significant series of anonymous complaints against the headteacher and concerns around system.	Safeguarding arrangements effective. Setting has action plan to work on and ongoing support as necessary.
Independent School	Inadequate judgements and significant concerns around leadership	The review forms part of formal ongoing intervention and support for the establishment.

Training

The training offer to education settings can be found on the [Bristol Safeguarding in Education Website](#). The training offer is commissioned but is affordable. All income generated comes back to into the High Needs Block funding for vulnerable learners.

Training has been delivered virtually online since the pandemic. Training courses are adapted to reflect the needs of the workforce informed by the findings of the exercising of the Local Authority's s.175 Duties. It is noted that prior to doing the New DSL course, delegates are required to complete the Advanced Child Protection (level 3) multi-agency training through the Keeping Bristol Safe Partnership.

Course	Length	Link to S. 175 duties.
New DSL Training	4 x half day modules	Objectives <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Using systems to effectively identify vulnerable children within your setting - Materials adapted to reflect local learning and practice - Topical safeguarding issues updated to reflect local priorities.
Refresher DSL Training	2x half day modules	Modules developed <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Reflecting on tackling rape cultures - Contextual Safeguarding to tackle peer on peer (now child on child) harm. - Develop a proportionate, trauma informed response to peer on peer (child on child) harm.
Courses required of the Local Safeguarding partnership (mandatory) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Police Safeguarding Notification Briefing. - Graded Care Profile 2 		
Specialist courses (optional): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Adverse Childhood Experiences Ambassador course for Education (FREE) - Tackling Child Exploitation in Education training. - Tackling Domestic Abuse Training. - Tackling Female Genital Mutilation Training. - Training facilitated by other teams/ organisations: - Undertaking investigations training. - Safeguarding Governors Training - Children Affected by Parental Offending (CAPO) - Barnardo's 		

Emerging need for 2022-23

The s.175 audit will be in a different format this year which incorporates the changes that the workforce has requested. Despite this there has been rich data collected from the wider work undertaken under the s.175 duties of the Local Authority. The following areas will be explored and expanded through the Keeping Bristol Safeguarding Partnership Education Reference Group and operationalised through the Safeguarding in Education Team.

- Review of the Police Safeguarding Notification Scheme considering new published statutory guidance around Domestic abuse and Force Marriage.
- Develop a Critical Incident resource (guidance and training) for education settings.
- Work with Ofsted and the LADO around further CPD and resource to respond to Low Level Incidents.



- Develop a sustainable model of Safeguarding CPD and learning for Governing bodies.
- Create accessible 'easy read' versions of safeguarding related policies and complaints.

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