

Appendix (9)

Our Safeguarding Team at Cockshut Hill Academy

Designated Safeguarding Lead: Mr J Stevens

Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads: Mrs Shepperson
Mr Clarke
Mr O'Malley
Miss Sheerman
Miss Ash

Contact details for our Designated Safeguarding Lead and Deputies can be found on our academy website and via the following link - <https://cockshuthillschool.org.uk/safeguarding/>

Single Point of Contact (SPOC) for Prevent (in relation to protecting individuals from radicalisation and involvement in terrorism): Mr J Stevens

Operation Encompass Key Adult (in relation to protecting and supporting individuals from domestic abuse): Mrs Shepperson

Designated Teacher for Looked After Children: Mr J Stevens

Senior Mental Health First Aid Lead: Mr J Stevens

Rights Respecting Link: Mrs E Phillips

Safeguarding Governor: Mr Richard Beamish

Local Authority Safeguarding Context

Cockshut Hill School is located in Birmingham and educates children, young people and their families from both the Birmingham and Solihull areas.

Birmingham

Birmingham Council had their Children's Social Care Services Ofsted undertaken in March 2023 and were graded as good: [View OFSTED Report](#)

Birmingham is the largest Local Authority in the UK which means there are a large number of children (over 250,000) to support and safeguard. Birmingham 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 UK 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 ONS data). NHS data 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 take action 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 Cockshut Hill academy is taking
Working together more effectively	At Cockshut Hill School, we work collaboratively with all stakeholders and professionals. We do this by: • Engaging in the Early Help process • Capturing the voice of the learners and their families • Holding family workshops • Provide access to DSL throughout the year

	• DSL representation at all Child Protection, Child in Need and Early Help meetings throughout the year • Support all families through our Base camp offer
Voice of the child and family	At Cockshut Hill School, we strive to ensure the voice of the child and their families are central to all that we do, and shape and inform our timely interventions taking into account the lived experiences of our learners and their families. We do this through: • Providing regular opportunities for learner discussion and contribution to our school life • Learner voice process through our school council • Half termly learner voice focused on Safeguarding • Peer-to -Peer Safeguarding reviews, which includes learner voice • Internal Early Help support systems • Parental engagement programmes • Safeguarding workshops for families • Learner/parent/carer views through SEND reviews • Student council meetings
Children out of sight	At Cockshut Hill School, we have a robust and effective attendance system to oversee and safeguard learners who are out of sight or at risk of being out of sight, including: • First day absence calls • Third day home visits • Actioning Birmingham's Support First protocols • Working with families to find alternative solutions to Elective Home Education requests • Liaise with the Local Authority in respect to Elective Home Education requests/referrals • Working closely with local and central Fair Access panels to share information, risk assess and on roll provision • Investing in extensive educational welfare officer services

	Working extensively with the Local Authority Education legal intervention team to secure school placements and attendance
Harm outside the home	At Cockshut Hill School, safeguarding our learners does not stop at the school gate. We ensure learners are equipped to deal with the dangers and risks which may present themselves outside of school. This includes children at risk of youth violence, gangs, county lines and knife crime. We do this by: - Use of screening tool kits to understand risks to learners ensuring appropriate next steps are taken - Weekly safeguarding briefings to all staff - Weekly safeguarding briefings to learners - Personal Development programme - Safeguarding workshops for parents/carers - Liaison with local police services - Half-termly Knife Arch (metal detector used for screening)

Cockshut Hill Academy Safeguarding Context

At Cockshut Hill School, 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 Cockshut Hill, 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.

Academy Community Factors	The actions that Cockshut Hill are taking
Domestic abuse	We recognise the effect and damage Domestic Abuse can cause to adults and children. We engage with Operation Encompass to receive notifications where an instance of Domestic abuse has taken place. Support for learners and their families can then be implemented in a timely fashion. This may include liaison with and signposting to external agencies and utilising the support of our in-school counsellor or other wellbeing services
Homelessness	Transport provision Summit Base Camp provision

	Supplemented online education provision
Socio economic issues	At Cockshut Hill, we are proud to be able to remove barriers for our learners and families through our Base Camp offer. This includes provision of uniform, food, digital technologies, sanitary and hygiene products and bed poverty.
Emotional wellbeing	At Cockshut Hill School, we prioritise the emotional health and wellbeing of our learners. We provide in school counselling, Compass support, external mentoring, the training of staff (12) as mental health first aiders and providing up to date resources and signposting to support on the school website. Mental/emotional health is integrated into both our personal development programme as well as our Student Council.
Knife crime and youth violence	At Cockshut Hill School, we ensure our learners are equipped to safeguard themselves against Knife crime and youth violence. We work closely with our local PCSOs as well as our school-based police liaison officer. We ensure we deliver a robust and thorough PSHE programme to all learners.

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/>