

This matter is being dealt with by:

Name: Cheryl Stollery
Reference: SIE Annual Audit 2024/2025
T 0115 804 1047
E cheryl.stollery@nottscc.gov.uk
W nottinghamshire.gov.uk



July 2024

For the attention of: The Head Teachers/Principal's and Chair of Governors/ CEO's of Trusts in all schools and academies in Nottinghamshire, including independent schools, alternative providers, and colleges.

Assurance of statutory safeguarding arrangements in Nottinghamshire schools, colleges, independent and alternative education providers.

This letter accompanies a copy of the Nottinghamshire Safeguarding Children in Education (SiE) Self-Audit Form for 2024/2025. This self-auditing form reflects the statutory guidance from the Department of Education issued under Section 175 of the Education Act 2002, the Education (Independent School Standards) Regulations 2014, the Non-Maintained Special Schools (England) Regulations 2015, the Children and Social Work Act 2017 Section 16H and the Education and Training (Welfare of Children Act 2021).

The Department for Education published 'Keeping Children Safe in Education 2024' on 26th of May 2024 which comes into effect and becomes statutory guidance on the 1st of September 2024. Schools, academies, colleges, and alternative education providers in England **must** have regard to this guidance when carrying out their duties to safeguard and promote the welfare of children, this includes everyone under the age of eighteen.

The self-audit tool, has been revised to reflect the changes and strengthening of safeguarding requirements in:

- HM Working Together to Safeguard Children, published 6th of December 2023
[Working together to safeguard children 2023: statutory guidance \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://publishing.service.gov.uk)
- DfE Keeping Children Safe in Education 2024 (KCSiE) in force as statutory guidance from 1st of September 2024: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/keeping-children-safe-in-education--2>

Please Note: The substantive changes from KCSiE 2023 are within KCSiE 2024 at Annex F (pages 183 to 184) and can be accessed from the electronic link above. We strongly advise that you ensure these are read and used to revise your school, academy, college, or alternative education provisions 'safeguarding arrangements.'

The substantive changes in KCSiE 24 Annex F have not required any revisions to be made to this year's NCC & NSCP Safeguarding in Education Audit Form for academic year 2024 to 2025.

In addition; Nottinghamshire Safeguarding Children's Partnership (NSCP) provides our local safeguarding policy, procedures, practice guidance and training and can be accessed from: <https://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/nscp/about-the-partnership>.

This request to complete the SiE Self-Audit Form is therefore made under the auspices of the Nottinghamshire Safeguarding Children Partnership and by Nottinghamshire County Council as part of their statutory responsibility for overseeing safeguarding children and young people wherever they are educated.

Please Note: HM Working Together to Safeguard Children 23 paragraph 79: *Education providers, including multi-academy trusts, have a responsibility to play their full part in local safeguarding arrangements, including where their footprint extends across several local authority areas. This includes, but should not be limited to, responding to safeguarding audits of quality and compliance, as requested by the local authority and/or local safeguarding partners. This is to ensure that policies are consistent with the local multi-agency safeguarding arrangements and relevant legislation and/or regulations. They should also provide staff and governor training that meets local and national safeguarding requirements. Education providers where required should report their audits to their governing bodies and proprietors to be shared as requested by the LSPs. Training for designated safeguarding leads and designated teachers should include shared understanding about different levels of need and how these need to be responded to. Education providers also play a vital role in sharing and contributing to key information about children, including attendance data, exclusions, concerns about abuse, neglect, exploitation, and wider social and environmental factors including extra-familial contexts, which are a key aspect of keeping children safe.*

Nottinghamshire's maintained schools' Governing bodies will be expected to use the self-audit form from the 1st of September 2024 to support gathering the evidence to quality assure the 'safeguarding arrangements' and report them at the full Governing body/ Trust meeting of the Autumn term 2024, where the form should be signed off and reported within the minutes of the meeting.

This NCC & NSCP SiE Self-Audit Form reflects the statutory requirements contained within KCSiE 2024 at the time of publication. It will be for Governing bodies/Trusts, Head teachers and Designated Safeguarding Leads (DSLs) to ensure they remain abreast of any further Government or local safeguarding changes made to statutory guidance during the 2024 to 2025 academic year.

The SiE Annual Self-Audit toolkit for 2024/2025 is in two parts:

1. Letter of introduction.
2. The SiE Annual Self- Audit Form, with evidence related questions and combined with the Training Information Form.

The SiE Self-Audit Form – is designed to break down the requirements in KCSiE 2024 and help Head teachers, Designated Safeguarding Leads, Governing bodies, and Trusts to undertake their own quality assurance of the 'safeguarding arrangements' in place and address any shortfalls.

The SiE Self- Audit Form combined with the Training Section of the Form – continues to differentiate what is a 'statutory requirement' and must be in place, and what is considered 'best practice' and should be in place. Please use the 'evidence' sections to provide supporting information.

Please Note: The self-audit form should be completed by **all** schools, academies, colleges, independent schools, and education providers and include signatures to evidence 'safeguarding compliance' has been confirmed by the Head teacher and Chair of Governors or CEO on behalf of the governing body/trust. It can be returned as a word document or in pdf format, however, please ensure legibility and formatting of the form content has been checked before returning.

Returns must only be in electronic format and emailed to: cheryl.stollery@nottscc.gov.uk **no later than 20th of December 2024.**

All completed forms will be safely and securely retained and stored by the Local Authority and Nottinghamshire Safeguarding Children Partnership (NSCP), to evidence compliance with statutory duties in relation to Keeping Children Safe in Education 2024 and Working Together to Safeguard Children 2023 (statutory guidance).

We will ensure you are kept informed of any further changes which may impact on statutory safeguarding requirements which you will need to consider.

Early Notification: We are in the process of seeking to develop an electronic management tool for future NCC & NSCP Safeguarding in Education Annual Audits and hope to have it in place for academic year 2025 to 2026.

Should you have any queries, please contact Cheryl Stollery, Safeguarding Children in Education Officer on Tel: 0115 804 1047.

Yours sincerely,



Cheryl Stollery - Safeguarding Children in Education Officer, Education Access, Standards and Safeguarding



Sam Harris - NSCP Service Manager, Partnerships and Planning, Safeguarding and Independent Review Service



Peter McConnochie Service - Director of Education and Inclusion, Children and Families



Colin Pettigrew - Corporate Director Children Families and Cultural Services