



Nottingham
City Council



Nottingham City Council
**Safeguarding
in Education**

Nottingham City DSL Network

Autumn Term 2026-27

Tuesday 13th October
2026

Welcome



Session outline

- Welcome
- Introduction
- Updates Part 1
- Toolkit development workshop
- Updates Part 2, including Q+A
- Reflections and Evaluations
- Close

Today's session



Key updates: national and local



Focus on using, sharing and amplifying our collective knowledge and expertise

Moving beyond compliance to culture

Illustrating and enabling culture

'Doing the doing' today – tangible toolkit as a result of this session



Focus on 'the how' and what impact looks and feels like when it's working



Developing our language of 'Nottingham city safeguarding'



The work we do together will be collated and shared after the session

Questions

Please use this QR code or link to submit your questions:

[Autumn 2026 Nottingham City DSL Network: Questions for Q+A – Fill in form](#)

(NB link open for duration of session only)

Autumn 2026 Nottingham City
DSL Network: Questions for Q+A



Introduction

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Alys Finch, Director of School Improvement at Nottingham City Council

Where are we now?

- Changes in the city
- *KCSIE 2026*
- The LA's vision, strategy and plans for improvement



- Our next steps as safeguarding partners

OUR VISION

We are building a future where every infant, child, and young person in Nottingham City is seen, heard, and supported to thrive.

Together, we will create a city where support is timely and tailored, services are joined up, and relationships are strong – so that every child is surrounded by a team that puts their unique needs first.

GUIDED BY THEIR VOICES AND LIVED EXPERIENCES, WE'RE CREATING A FUTURE THAT IS INCLUSIVE, GROUNDED IN CARE, AND FULL OF POSSIBILITY



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Which education services now sit where?

Education Services – Director of Education	School Improvement Services – Director of School Improvement
SEND Inclusive Learning • Behaviour • Attendance • AP Virtual School Educational Psychology	Continuous improvement and quality teams, including: • Schools & education and EY & childcare safeguarding • Schools Health & Safety • Governor Services • Early Years • Primary Advisor • Transition • Enrichment • Achieve Well team SACRE LA maintained schools Nottingham Schools Trust
Some Early Years teams will move to Family Help over the coming months: this is a gradual transition over the next 6 months and settings will be updated about any changes.	
Commissioning and sufficiency are now in the new Commissioning and Partnerships teams.	



Safeguarding in Nottingham city

LADO – process remains the same

Prevent referrals process remains the same

Police involvement remains the same

Child care safeguarding – remains the same

Safeguarding partnership remains

- Head of Continuous Improvement and Quality (HoCIQ), Martyn Owen, now chairs the education sub-group

Schools and education safeguarding

- Now sits under school improvement
- Senior leadership sits with Director of School Improvement and HoCIQ
- Want to make sure that we keep what's working well (such as ADSLs) and make developments where we need to improve – we will do this in partnership

Key contact information at the end of these slides – you will have a copy

“Human connection is the heart of Nottingham City’s safeguarding culture.”

Member of the network
planning group for this session

Updates Part 1

Deborah Somerset, Nottingham City Safeguarding Partnerships

Sonia Burton, Adolescence Service Manager at Nottingham City Council

NCSCP Safeguarding Updates

Deborah
Somerset

Training
Officer

NCSCP/SAB

Nottingham City Safeguarding Children Partnership

Local safeguarding arrangements in Nottingham City are set out in Working Together to Safeguard Children 2023 (updated 2026)

The Partnership brings statutory partners together:

- Nottingham City Council
- Nottinghamshire Police
- NHS Nottingham & Nottinghamshire ICB

.....who hold equal and joint responsibility for the effectiveness of safeguarding arrangements across the City

.....working with education, early help, voluntary sector and wider agencies to strengthen how we safeguard children together across the city.

Why the Partnership Exists

Safeguarding partners are responsible for ensuring agencies work effectively together to safeguard children.

In Nottingham City this includes:

- Understanding how well the safeguarding system is working by leading and co-ordinating safeguarding across the city
- Identifying where improvement is needed
- Learning from reviews and multi-agency audits
- Strengthen how agencies work together
- Supporting a confident multi-agency workforce
- Ensure learning leads to improvements notably improve outcomes for children

The focus is the whole safeguarding system, not individual agencies.

NCSCP Partnership Priorities 2024/26

The Partnership shared priorities continue to focus improvement where it makes the greatest difference to children's experiences

- Exploitation - earlier identification, disruption and protection
- Making the system work - front door and MASH improvement
- Cultural competency and confidence across the workforce
- Domestic abuse - strengthening coordinated responses

What this looks like in Nottingham City

The Partnership:

- Agrees the city's safeguarding priorities
- Oversees multi-agency practice at the front door and beyond
- Reviews how well agencies are working together
- Identifies where improvement is needed, pressure points, areas of good practice and strengths
- Ensures learning leads to change across services
- Shares learning across organisation
- Supports improvements where practice need to strengthen

How the Work is Delivered Locally

Delivered through:

- Strategic Leadership Group (SLG)
- Business Management Group (BMG)
- Quality Assurance & Audit activity
- Policy and Procedures arrangements
- Education Subgroup
- Learning & Workforce Development work
- Local Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews

These arrangements help partners understand how well the Safeguarding system is working for children

Why this Matters for Practitioners

Effective safeguarding in Nottingham City depends on how well we work together around children and families

The Partnership supports practitioners by:

- Setting shared safeguarding priorities for the city
- Setting shared safeguarding expectations across agencies
- Strengthening information sharing and joint working
- Providing routes for escalation and professional challenge
- Sharing learning from reviews and audits

Prevent Programme - Radicalisation and Extremism

Home Affairs Select Committee (April 2026) produced a report where they talked about the Prevent Programme being outdated and inadequate. The programme has been reluctant to address contemporary extremist trends such as shared ideologies or no specific ideology at all. There were high closure rates for children with 79% child referrals closed without wider support.

Disproportionate number of referrals involving neurodivergent individuals such as those with mental health needs who may lack clear ideological motivation for harm. Proposed reset to route non-ideological behaviour or mental health concerns to appropriate social and health services.

[Prevent referral mechanism unprepared to deal with reality of modern extremism - Home Affairs Committee warns - Committees - UK Parliament](#)

[Prevent duty training: Learn how to support people susceptible to radicalisation | Prevent duty training](#)

Emerging DSL Professional Standards

September 2026 saw the publication of a new DSL Professional competency framework, recognising the increasingly strategic role of DSL's in safeguarding leadership, culture, partnership working and safeguarding quality assurance

[DSL Professional competency framework - 2026-09-15.pdf](#)

[Red: A young girl's spiral into the world of serious violence - YouTube](#)

Tackling Child Exploitation Conference Briefing

18 March 2027, National Child Exploitation Awareness Day

1. Conference Theme

Concept 1: "Through Their Eyes": *Strengthening Contextual Safeguarding Through Partnership and Practice*

Concept 2: "A Lens on Exploitation": *Understanding Context, Challenging Assumptions, Creating Safer Spaces*

1. Theme outline

"To effectively safeguard children from exploitation, we must understand not only the child, but the contexts in which they live, learn, travel, socialise and form relationships. By looking through different lenses, we can see the wider system of harm and work collectively to create safer places and stronger communities."

NCSCP Learning and Development Opportunities

The learning and development programme begins in April 2026 and runs until March 2027

It is split into 4 terms

Colleagues can find out about the training by accessing Learning Zone, clicking on NCSCP and reading about the appropriate courses. They can also book themselves onto their chosen course(s)

Colleagues who are external to NCC can still attend courses they are interested in. You can set up your own account and there is a PDF document on the Learning Management System to support you doing this. Any issues, contact us at the Partnership, so we can assist you. Contact details on the last slide. Charges may apply

This is the link to the Learning Zone and our courses..... [Home: NCSCP - Nottingham City Safeguarding Children Partnership](#)

NCSCP Learning and Development Opportunities

AutoSave Full NCSCP Training Schedule... Search

File Home Insert Design Layout References Mailings Review View Help Table Design Table Layout

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August – no training					
MAPPA	7 th September 2026	09.30-12.30 – Microsoft Teams		Cancelled	
Harmful Sexual Behaviour (Part 1)	7 th September 2026	09:30 – 1:00 – Microsoft Teams	Deborah Somerset,	1 st September 2026	
Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACES)	7 th September 2026	09.30-12.30 – Microsoft Teams	Unallocated at the moment	Paused	
Referral to MASH (What makes a good MARF)	9 th September 2026	09.30-11.30 – Microsoft Teams		3 rd September 2026	
Safeguarding Children Today	9 th September 2026	09.30-12.00 – Microsoft Teams	Deborah Somerset and others	3 rd September 2026	
Safer Sleeping	10 th September 2026	09:30 – 1:00 – Microsoft	Deborah Somerset	Cancelled	
Introduction to Safeguarding Children	11 th September 2026	09.30-1:00– LB22 LH	Deborah Somerset	3 rd September 2026	

Page 5 of 6 1373 words English (United Kingdom) Text Predictions: On Focus 100%

NCSCP Learning and Development Opportunities

Allegations Training (LADO) - this course supports practitioners to understand what happens when an allegation is made against an adult that works with children. The LADO oversees investigations, monitors progress, gives advice and works with the Police, Childrens Social Care and other agencies

Domestic Abuse - This course supports practitioners to recognise abusive behaviours, understanding the impact on families and to respond appropriately. We know many young children live in households where DA exists, so a broad understanding of this area is essential.

Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) - This course explores FGM as a form of child abuse and violence against women and girls. The session will help practitioners recognise concerns and respond effectively

Neglect - a priority for the city. We have talked about neglect at previous network meetings. This training is split into 2 parts. It focuses on recognition and then how to approach it. Neglect is best identified as soon as possible in order to limit the damage caused

Contact Us

Email

safeguarding.partnerships@

nottinghamcity.gov.uk

Deborah.somerset@nottinghamcity.
gov.uk

Telephone

0115 876 4762

Nottingham City Child Exploitation Pathway



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Remember

- "Exploitation is not a safeguarding issue that sits solely with the child; it is an abuse issue that requires disruption of the adults, places and networks causing the harm."

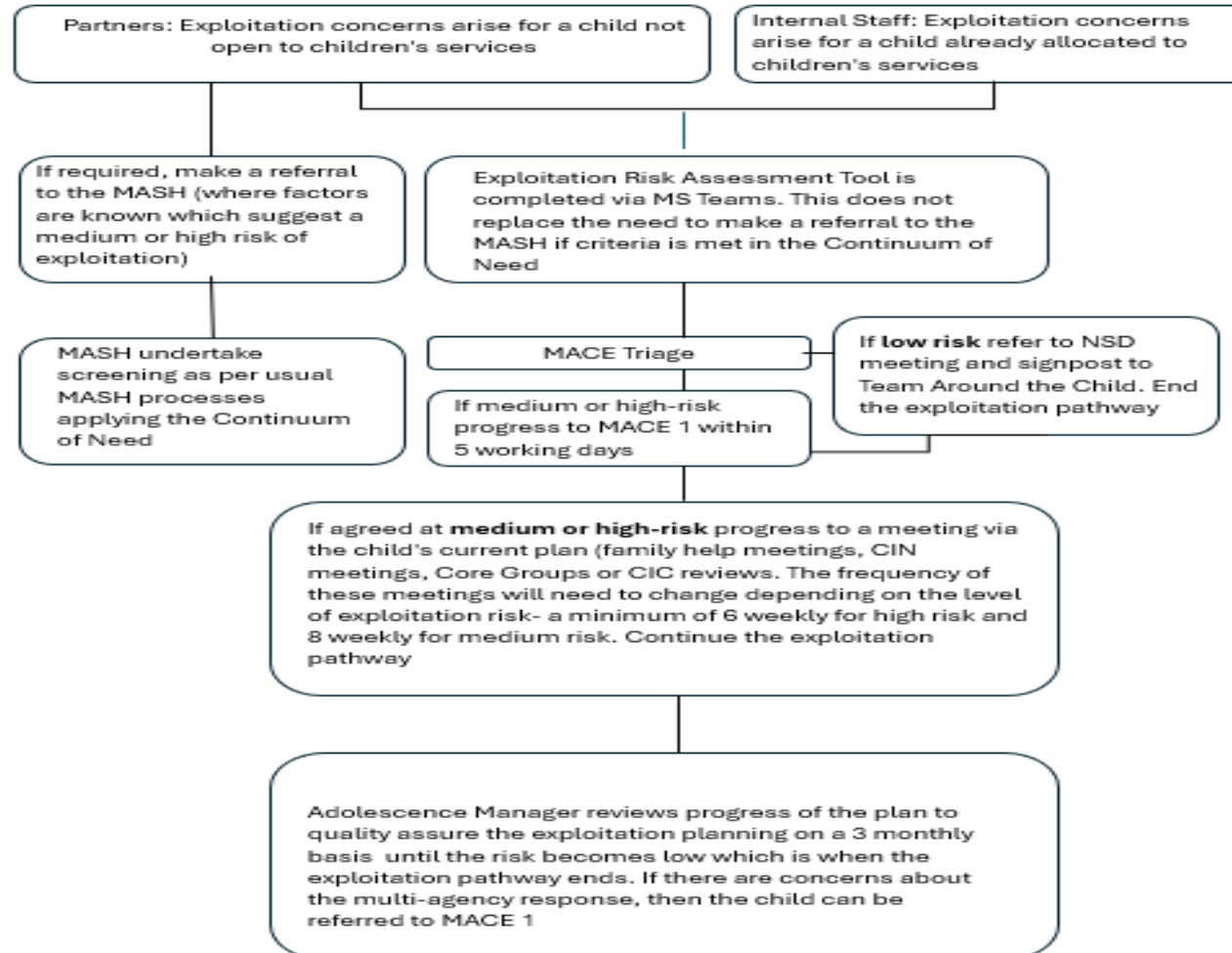
New screen /risk assessment tool

Microsoft form screening/risk assessment tool

[MACE Screening Tool – Fill in form](#)

Please note that if a child is assessed as medium or high risk of exploitation concerns you also need to submit a MARF at the same time.

Child Exploitation Pathway



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Nottingham Exploitation Pathway

- Concern of exploitation
- MACE screening tool > MARF
- Pre MACE - daily triage – check with MASH for MARF
- MACE 1 weekly Multi-Agency triage to review assess and share any additional information

Nottingham Exploitation Pathway

One meeting one plan

Exploitation agenda and discussed at the following meetings:

- Family help meeting
- Children in need meetings
- Core group meeting
- Child in care review

Who needs to attend when exploitation is a concern?

Police CARE TEAM- Children at Risk of exploitation - HIGH

Police neighbour team - MEDIUM

Childs Social worker

Early help – adolescence / family help worker

Education

Youth Justice

Health

Child and their care giver

Signs of Safety recording approach for Exploitation

- What is working well?
 - What are we worried about?
 - What needs to happen?
- (Actions to include disruption)

Please ensure that the action to address exploitation are recorded in the child's plan

MACE 2

- Strategic exploitation monthly meeting focused on disruption and community safety.
- Providing a Multi-Agency response to challenging exploitation
- Recognising safeguarding responses must extend beyond the family, and address risks present in peer groups, schools, neighbourhoods, and online environments.

Nottinghamshire Police Partnership Intelligence Portal

- Share intelligence on people, locations, vehicles and activity.

https://emsldh.org.uk/Notts_Partnership_Intelligence_Portal/story.html

Once you have watched the above video you can register on link below- work email required

[Home page - Intel Partnership Portal \(notts.police.uk\)](https://notts.police.uk)

Useful links

[MACE Screening Tool – Fill in form](#)

[Child Exploitation](#)

[Child Exploitation Language Guide | The Children's Society](#)

[County Lines Toolkit For Professionals | The Children's Society](#)

[Child exploitation disruption toolkit - GOV.UK](#)

‘Reflective’ practice workshops



Reflection into action we can take in our settings: sharing and creating our toolkit

‘Reflective’*
practice

Reflection + action = impact

**Olevi’s OPAL Fellowship Workshops*

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Key themes for our Nottingham city setting' 'culture of safeguarding toolkit'

What children learn and experience through school

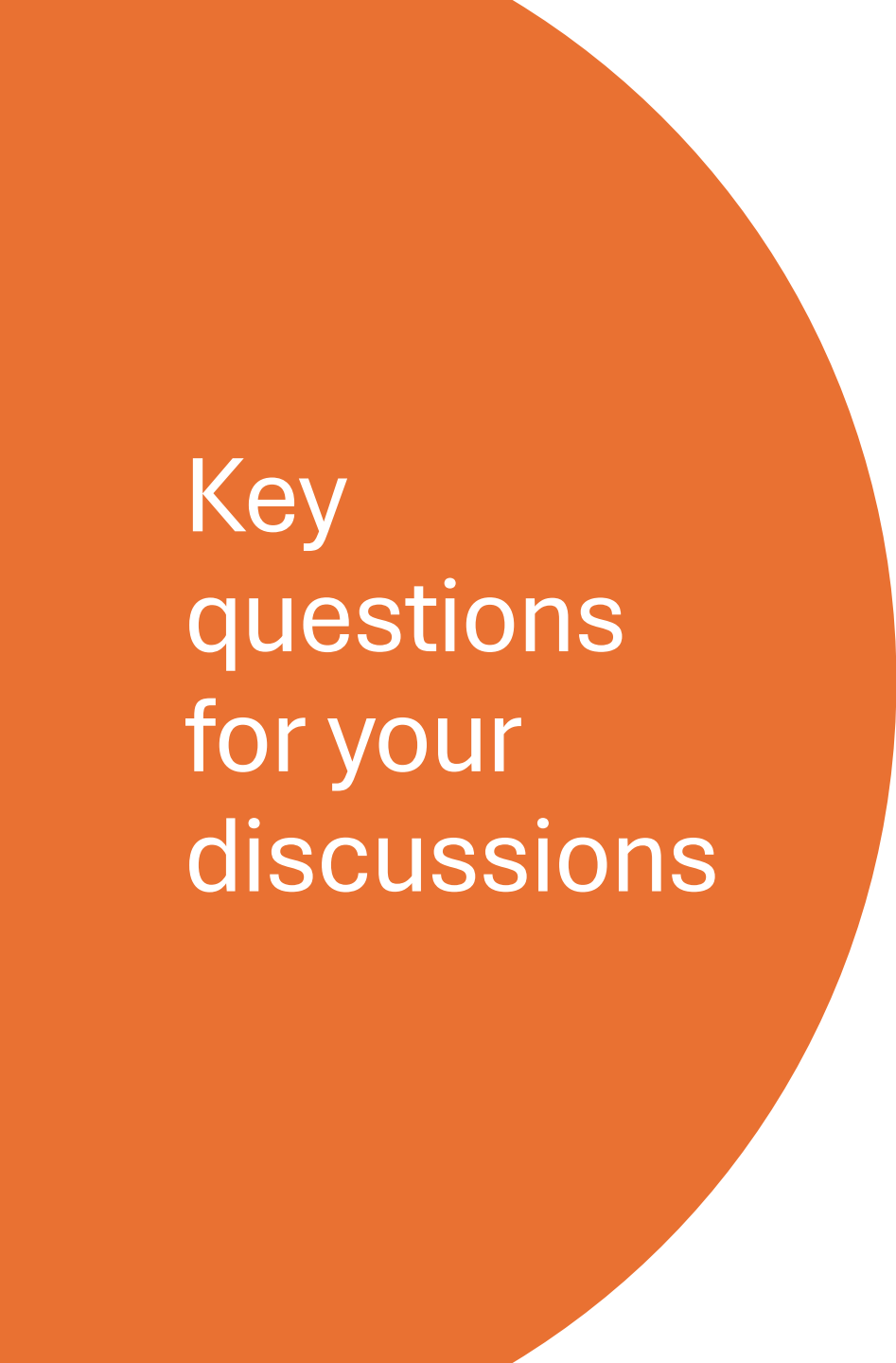
How staff enact safeguarding in education settings

Environment (including Health and Safety)

Leadership, management and governance

Inclusion (in all its forms)

Relationships, partnerships and stakeholders.



Key questions for your discussions

Key questions for colleagues to consider through the safeguarding lens when thinking about the themes linked with creating and sustaining a culture of safeguarding:

What does good/great practice look like?

What does it look like when it's working?

What evidence/data/examples are useful for demonstrating this is how our safeguarding is?

How are you capturing and using the voices of children and families in your setting? What impact does this have?

What principles should we have as a city that we all share, own and hold ourselves to account for as our individual and collective 'culture of safeguarding' in Nottingham city?

What words/phrases/language should we have across the city when we're talking about safeguarding?

What do
you need to
have
captured on
your table
by the end
of this part
of this
session?

Specific examples for the theme(s) you're working on which cover the questions: 'what?', 'how?', 'why?' and 'impact?' are the four things to make sure you cover in examples.

Make sure you've captured as much on the flipchart paper and/or via electronic files as possible – this is what we'll use to put our toolkit together, so the more information we've got the better!

If you're happy to put the name(s) of your setting so we can highlight the good practice in specific places across our city, great – it's ok if you want this to be anonymous, though.

'Golden rule' - please do not include names or other information that could identify a child, family, or member of staff from a case.

Updates Part 2



Alys Finch

MASH updates

From Gillian Till Service Manager
MASH / EDT

Nottingham City Council



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Day to day management

MASH Service Manager

Gillian Till

EDT Team Manager

Lyndsey Astill

MASH Team Managers

Maneesh Lehal

Angela Mutapiri

Aakanksha Agrawal

Suzanne Eastwood



Children's Social Workers / Family Help Support Workers and Call Handlers MASH

Suzanne Eastwood TM	Maneesh Lehal TM	Angela Mutapiri TM	Aakansha Agrawal
Nonny Dube SW	Ellie Barton SW	Lucy Ramsden SW	Barnaby Mulholland SW
Lynn Marshall SW	Dawn Montiel SW	Dionne Johnson SW	Tim Street SW
Stephanie Everest SW	Amber Wynn-Handbury SW	Lucy Alcock SW	Thokozile SW
Susan Beckworth FHW	Chloe Goodacre FHW	Donna Simpson-White FHW	Tracey Atkins FHW
Pula Bagshaw FHW	Hayley Voce FHW	Kate Winter FHW	Amanda Pales FHW
Call Handlers x2	Call Handlers x2	Call Handlers x2	Call Handlers x2

Locality Team Managers

South Locality 1:

Irvin Shangwa
Alice Kennedy
Issifu Abudu

South Locality 2:

Emmaculate Mashingaidze
Alivia Francis
Nicky Lee

North Locality 1:

Julie French
Caroline Barton
Lucy Manuel
Maggie Masih

North Locality 2:

Sophie Gilby
Elroy Robinson
Laura Cresci
Samuel Vallee

North Locality 3

Lisa Statham
Tracy Moss
Thomas Beesley



Locality Service Managers

Locality Service Managers

North Locality 1: Steve Breakell

North Locality 2: Ian Joddrell

North Locality 3: Caroline Vallelly

South Locality 1: TBC – interim coverage by leadership team

South Locality 2 : Tracy Hayden



Volume of Emails into the MASH

Average for this time of year - 4,300 a month
Roughly 1,100 a week, 200+ a day

2655 contacts September 2026

- **1127 Yellow**
- **1419 Amber**
- **109 Red**

Breakdown

- 981 were from Police
- 456 were from Settings within Education
- 408 were from Health services
- 306 Individual/self/family
- 504 other



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Q+A

Alys Finch

Safeguarding: key contacts

Schools and education safeguarding contacts



Nottingham City Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO)

LADO@nottinghamcity.gov.uk

For LADO enquiries call: 0115 87 65166

Schools and Education safeguarding contact

safeguardingineducation@nottinghamcity.gov.uk

Childcare safeguarding contact

rochelle.patterson@nottinghamcity.gov.uk

Nottingham City MASH

CityMASH@nottinghamcity.gov.uk or contact 0115 8764800

Chair of the Safeguarding Partnership Education Sub-group – Martyn Owen

martyn.owen@nottinghamcity.gov.uk

Senior Leadership for schools and education safebguarding, childcare safeguarding and schools health and safety at Nottingham City Council

Martyn Owen, (Interim) Head of Continuous Improvement and Quality - martyn.owen@nottinghamcity.gov.uk

Alys Finch, Director of School Improvement – alys.finch@nottinghamcity.gov.uk

David Thompson, Risk and Health and Safety Lead - David.Thompson@nottinghamcity.gov.uk

Prevent referrals

Settings across the City are advised to contact the NCC team, Louise Cox as the Prevent Education Officer, or the Prevent Coordinator in her absence (Mark Pollock) if you have any initial queries or are unsure about whether a concern meets the Prevent threshold.

You are also advised to make a referral directly through the Prevent Police website which is linked in the training package: [Refer someone to the Prevent Team | Nottinghamshire Police](#).

Louise Cox, Prevent Education Officer 07890 897344 or louise.cox@nottinghamcity.gov.uk

Children's and Education Services leadership



CORPORATE DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S AND EDUCATION SERVICES	SARAH NARDONE
(Interim) Director of Education	Abrilli Phillip Abrilli.phillip@nottinghamcity.gov.uk
Director of School Improvement	Alys Finch alys.finch@nottinghamcity.gov.uk
Director of Children's Social Care	Paula Bexon Paula.Bexon@nottunghamcity.gov.uk
Director of Family Help	Jackie Difolco Jackie.difolco@nottinghamcity.gov.uk
Head of Inclusive learning (includes attendance and behaviour)	Sharon White (Interim) sharon.white@nottinghamcity.gov.uk
Head of SEND	Graham Pirt (Interim) graham.pirt@nottinghamcity.gov.uk
Head of Virtual School	Fatmir Deda (Interim) Fatmir.deda@nottinghamcity.gov.uk
Principal Educational Psychologist	Lisa DeSouza Lisa.DeSouza@nottinghamcity.gov.uk
Head of Continuous Improvement and Quality	Martyn Owen (Interim) Martyn.owen@nottinghamcity.gov.uk

Reflections and evaluations

A large orange circle on the left side of the slide, containing the text 'Your personal takeaways and thinking from today'.

Your personal takeaways and thinking from today

- What do you need to do to fill your own gaps/blind spots as a leader of safeguarding? How will you do this?
 - What can you go back and celebrate in your setting? How can you telegraph 'great safeguarding' to amplify your culture?
 - What's reassured you from sharing and discussions with colleagues today?
 - What one thing are you going to focus on to make a greater impact between now and the end of term?
- 
- A blue dashed line graphic in the bottom right corner, consisting of several short, curved segments.

Session evaluation

Please use this QR code or link to access the evaluation form:

[Autumn DSL Network - October 2026](#)

(NB link open at end of session only)



And... thank you!

Close of event