

Date: 8<sup>th</sup> March 2024

Dear Headteacher and Designated Safeguarding Lead,

**Re: Effective Safeguarding Communications**

I would like to thank all schools for setting up and/or clarifying their dedicated school safeguarding email address with the Derby and Derbyshire Safeguarding Children Partnership (DDSCP) Business Support team.

The work to promote effective safeguarding communications is now nearly completed and to ensure all schools are up to date with the progress made, the key current developments are outlined below.

- **Domestic abuse notifications to schools**

The DDSCP Business Support team have worked alongside Derbyshire Constabulary to ensure their domestic abuse notification system reflects the safeguarding email addresses provided. In addition, Derbyshire Constabulary have also made several improvements to their processes, which, alongside the up-to-date safeguarding email addresses, will help support the effectiveness of the Stopping Domestic Abuse Together (SDAT) initiative.

You can read more about this in the updated [Derby and Derbyshire Education Providers Stopping Domestic Abuse Together \(SDAT\) Guidance](#).

- **DDSCP communications to schools**

The DDSCP Business Support team will use school safeguarding email addresses to send local and national safeguarding updates and communications to all Derby and Derbyshire schools. To enable them to do this, they will be using [GOV.UK Notify](#) and aim to roll this out at the start of the summer term.

- **Partner agency communications to schools**

The DDSCP Business Support Team will also share a list of dedicated school safeguarding email addresses with partner agencies to their nominated Authorised Users. This will support important safeguarding communications from partner agencies to schools. Agencies include:

- Derbyshire County Council and Derby City Council Children's Services to communicate to a school about a child or sibling group, alongside telephone calls as appropriate.
- NHS Derby and Derbyshire Integrated Care Board (ICB) to support the GP and school communications pilot.

**Partner agencies should only use the dedicated school safeguarding email address for safeguarding communications about a child or sibling group.**

## **Actions for schools**

To support the on-going effectiveness of safeguarding communications between schools and key partner agencies, it is important we all work together to ensure the system is up to date and effective. With this in mind, the DDSCP request that all schools please:

- Notify the police ([schchildrenenquiries@derbyshire.police.uk](mailto:schchildrenenquiries@derbyshire.police.uk)), the DDSCP ([ddscp@derby.gov.uk](mailto:ddscp@derby.gov.uk)) and relevant partner agencies, whenever there are any changes to the school dedicated safeguarding email address. Wherever possible, this should be done in advance of any email system update going live.
- Complete the SDAT checklist as this will enable the school to review their arrangements and identify if any actions are required to improve safeguarding communications and responses to notifications. The checklist is located on the DDSCP schools and colleges [page](#).
- Directly liaise with the agency concerned, whenever there are any issues about communications which are not related to an individual child or from the DDSCP Business Support Team.

By working together, we can all help strengthen the multi-agency safeguarding arrangements across Derby and Derbyshire, enabling us all to work effectively in partnership to promote children's well-being and keep them safe from harm.

Thank you for your hard work to help keep children safe.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mark Sobey', with a horizontal line extending to the right.

Mark Sobey  
Partnership Manager, Derby and Derbyshire Safeguarding Children Partnership