

# Safeguarding in Early Years and education settings in the City of London

## Context

Each school and early years setting has its own responsibility for safeguarding, whether they are from the maintained or independent sector.

The City of London Corporation has an overarching safeguarding responsibility to all children in those settings and schools, whether they are maintained or not.

## Key issues for the City of London Corporation:

- Children are less visible in the City because the majority attend early years settings or schools that are independent or outside the City boundary.
- It is difficult to be certain how many City children there are because:
  - it is common for parents not to register their child's birth in the City
  - parents access services for them privately and have little, if any, direct contact with the City about them.

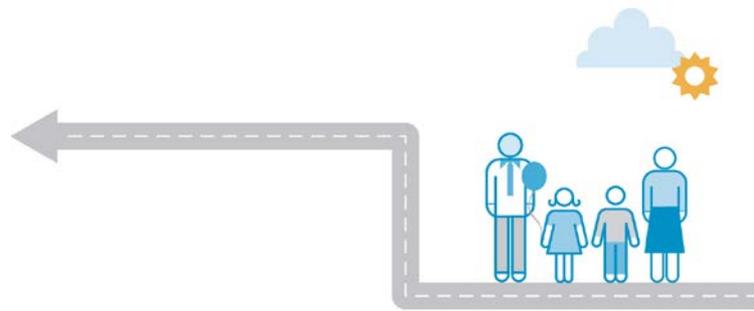
This makes it equally difficult to know if these children are where they should be.

- Independent schools are not inspected by Ofsted or under the same framework, although general expectations are the same.

Relationships, collaboration and mutual trust and respect between schools, early years partners and the City Corporation are all central to reducing the risk to children in early years and educational settings.

## Current areas of safeguarding activity:

- We have contracted Islington Council to undertake a review of safeguarding practices in all early years settings and schools in the City. These visits will be reported to the City Corporation with key recommendations to improve practice.
- We are working with schools and education settings to design and share a coherent City-wide training programme on safeguarding with partners in these settings. This is a practitioner-led piece of work that draws on the direct experience and expertise of partners in these settings.
- We are tracking all school age children to make sure they are attending school. We are working to an assumed total of 600 school age children. So far, we have



managed to locate over 300 and confirm them as safe and attending school regularly.

- We are fast-tracking Children Looked After into school places. Applications for Children Looked After have priority for a school place above all other children and must be in school within 20 days of application. Older unaccompanied asylum seeking children can meet with resistance from some schools so persistence and knowing colleagues in other local authorities well is important.
- We are monitoring the attendance, attainment and progress of Children Looked After, children who have a Child in Need plan or a Child Protection Plan. This is a new team responsibility and reflects the need to manage the risk of lower educational outcomes for these children.

### **Key contact**

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