

Okehampton College Safeguarding Report to Governors.

Friday 3rd July 2020

DSL – Charlotte Edwards

DDSL – Lee Easton

Contact with and monitoring of Vulnerable Students.

Vulnerable students are still identified in 3 main categories –

- Students with safeguarding concerns and social worker involvement
- Students with a significant SEN and an EHCP
- Students identified by tutors or Student progress Leaders as having more vulnerabilities than their peers but not under an open social worker caseload (for example a student who was adopted, has historical Child Protection Issues such as Domestic Violence, children who present as anxious in school or have self-harmed).

All students have contact once a week from their tutor. For vulnerable students if contact is unanswered this is escalated to a Head of House and then to a member of SLT. For Vulnerable students with a social worker, unanswered contact is escalated to the social worker. Contact with County Identified Vulnerable students is also reported to Devon County every Friday by the Attendance Officer. Any students where we continue to be concerned about regarding contact are referred by the Head of House to the Educational Welfare Officer for a home visit.

We are seeing a drop off in contact from families where the school has identified vulnerabilities, especially with only a few weeks to go before the summer holidays, which is leading to an increase in follow up phone calls having to be made by all staff.

Contact with students that have highlighted any Safeguarding concerns, and any barriers to contact.

Contact with students has highlighted a number of safeguarding concerns.

There has been a significant increase in the number of students escalated to MASH referrals and to court to begin the process of taking into care. Most of these MASH referrals have been multi agency work with the college only doing 2 independently (for 3 students).

During lockdown we have had the following:

9 students referred into MASH

6 students sat at Single Assessment, 1 of which escalated to CIN, 3 straight to court re care proceedings, 1 deescalated to early Help and 1 went to Strategy meeting and is currently under a Section 47.

This was in addition to the 3 students already at CIN, which means we currently have 4 students at CIN level.

We have 2 students currently at Child Protection level, both of which were on CP plans prior to lockdown.

1 student was removed from the primary parent under a court order and returned to the other parent. This case took a huge amount of work, with DSL, Early Help Coordinator and Student Progress Leader liaising with social workers from 2 different counties.

We had 7 Children in Care before Lockdown. We now have 8 Children in Care and have had requests for places for an additional 2 students who are Children in Care (1 in Year 7 and 1 in Year 10, both have missed significant amounts of schooling).

Safeguarding Issues Arising during Lockdown.

On the advice of Jane Lake, Charlotte Edwards is currently compiling a spreadsheet, with Karen Moore, to track who will have contact with our most vulnerable children over the summer and whether there are any students we feel that we need to continue weekly contact with. This will consider:

The needs of the child

Other professionals involved

The risk as understood by the school

Parent/carers' feelings around continued contact.

At the moment contact is generally going well, with a lot of positive feedback from the majority of the parents and carers, including one parent whose child is at CP level who said that she appreciates the weekly phone calls so much that she would like them to continue over the summer holidays on a two weekly basis regardless of contact from social worker.

Lockdown Data (23rd March – 26th June)

Category	Number of Incidents	Number of Students
Core Group Meetings attended	9	
Strategy Meetings	1	
CP Review Meetings	1	
Safer Community Mapping Meetings	2	
Peer Group conferences	2	
Requests for Information/Information Sharing (with external agencies)	41	24
Risk Based Behaviour (drugs, alcohol, violence)	17	16
Support Strategies	543	97
Total CPOMS Logs	1094	201