

Love Learn & Grow Together



**Safeguarding Escalation Policy
2017/18**

St Teresa of Lisieux Catholic Primary School

Safeguarding Escalation Policy

This policy considers where there is:

1. Disagreement internally within the school as to the need for a referral,
2. Disagreement about Children's Services' (Careline) decision to accept a referral,
3. Concerns about the progress of a Child in Need/ Child Protection Plan,
4. Disagreement about the need to put into place a Child Protection Plan at Case Conference or to remove a child from a plan.

(Schools should also consult the LSCB's Escalation Policy on their website)

1. Disagreement internally within the school as to the need for a referral

In situations where the Designated Safeguarding Lead **does not** believe Children's Services (Careline) is appropriate and this decision **is questioned** by a member of staff, then Careline should always be contacted and the information/concerns shared.

It is important to remember Keeping Children in Education (DFE 2015) makes it clear that any member of staff can make a referral to Children's Services (Careline).

2. Disagreement about CARELINE's decision to accept a referral

You have been told that your referral does not meet the Level 4 of the LSCB Levels of Need Framework. If you do not agree with the decision of Careline (on behalf of Children's Services) not to accept a Child in Need or Child Protection Referral **you have a responsibility to escalate your concerns:**

Have you completed the multi-agency referral form? This is the required 'written submission' to support your initial telephone contact. This form provides considerable holistic information that will provide a greater context to your referral and will enable Children's Services to have all the information they need to make an informed judgement as to whether it meets the 'threshold'. This is particularly important if they are historic concerns related to the family. Are there any other agencies/schools that support your concerns/referral?

When summarising your concerns always provide a chronology of key events. Draw upon the LSCB Levels of Need Framework matching and evidencing your written concerns to the criteria. Draw upon the statutory definitions of Section 17 or Section 47 assessments (Child in Need and Child Protection)

Take the following steps when escalating your concerns to Children's Services:

- a. Ask to speak to the Careline social worker who has made the decision. The advisor who answered the call should never refuse this request
- b. If there is no agreement ask to speak to a Careline Team Leader
- c. If there is no agreement put your concerns in writing to the Careline Service Manager: mike.evans@liverpooledirectlimited.co.uk tel: 0151 225 2045
- d. Seek advice from phil.cooper@liverpool.gov.uk
- e. You should escalate your concerns further to the Line Manager of Careline in Children's Services and then to the Assistant Director of Children's Services and if needed to the

Director of Children's Services if you believe a child is at risk and a referral is not being accepted or a Section 17 Child in Need Assessment is required.

You should always be told the outcome of a referral and receive an explanation as to why a referral is not being accepted.

Schools have a responsibility to work with other agencies to provide Early Help and carry out Early Help Assessments. For children with additional or unmet needs that require a multi-agency coordinated approach and plan, an **Early Help Assessment** should be drawn up to provide early intervention where a child does not meet the thresholds for statutory assessment by Children's Services. Given their knowledge and relationship with the family, schools are well placed to initiate **Early Help Assessments** or support other agencies to do so. If a parent does not agree to an **Early Help Assessment** consider the impact on the child. Professional meetings and co-ordinated interventions may still be possible. However, the lack of parental engagement may well lead to the need for a Child in Need/Child Protection Referral.

The **Early Intervention Team** and the **Family Support Workers** are available to support schools to provide Early Help and initiate Early Help Assessments.

3. Concerns about the progress of a Child in Need/ Child Protection Plan

You may have significant concerns about a child subject to a 'Child Protection Plan' or 'Child in Need Plan,' believing that there is no progress with the case or it has deteriorated significantly. You may feel the child should be moved from Child in Need to Child Protection, or additional services and interventions are required or even that the child should be removed from the home.

Share your concerns verbally and in writing with the social worker. You should also escalate your concerns when you feel you are 'not being heard' or when you disagree with the decisions made. Invite the social worker to bring forward the next Core Group Meeting. Forward your concerns to the Independent Reviewing Officer at the Safeguarding Unit.

Escalate your concerns to the Social Workers Team Leader and seek advice from phil.cooper@liverpool.gov.uk Escalate your concerns to the Service Manager, their line manager, Assistant Director and Director of Children's Services.

Whilst it is important to share your concerns at Core Group Meetings and Case Conferences do not delay sharing your concerns until these opportunities arise.

4. Disagreement about the need to put into place a Child Protection Plan at Case Conference or to remove a child from a plan

Ask for your concerns to be captured in the minutes. Ask for a clarification of the reasons underpinning the decision. If you still disagree with the decision write to the Independent Chair detailing your concerns. You should escalate your concerns beyond the Independent Chair if your concerns remain unresolved and you believe the child is at risk of significant harm. Agencies have a responsibility to consider Care Proceeding to remove a child from the home when there is insufficient progress and a child remains at risk.

