



## Governor Visit Record

<b>Date</b>	21.01.22	<b>Governors</b>	Gill Finch, Karyn McMahon, Julie Brown
<b>Objectives for</b>			
Safeguarding: All Governors DSLs			
<b>Links with School Development Plan 2020-21</b>			
KCSiE 2021			
<b>Background preparation</b>			
<p>For some time we have been assessing the extent to which the school is investing in the best possible safeguarding support for DSLs and the governing body to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• embed best safeguarding practice</li> <li>• support all staff and governors with a timely, robust and accessible offer of training, advice and resources</li> <li>• obtain training and guidance which addresses new challenges and aspects of safeguarding in an anticipatory way</li> </ul> <p>Aware of some shortcomings with the promptness and availability of the support purchased from the current provider, Karyn had invited another established local provider of safeguarding services to discuss and demonstrate their offer to schools.</p>			
<b>Scope of visit / Breadth of visit Scrutiny</b>			
<p>Mick Dunn of Clennell Education Solutions attended to demonstrate the features of the package which most closely corresponds to that which school currently purchases from the Northumberland Virtual School.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The core package which costs £1500 +VAT is a very comprehensive service, offering guaranteed updates to policies prior to the commencement of term in September (there was a significant delay for a compliant policy to be produced in 2021 by our current service).</li> <li>• Training packages are relevant and dynamic</li> <li>• There is a governor area of the web site, and access to a governor safeguarding compliance checklist (we currently devise our own, as the LA S175 audit tends to go live 6 or 8 months into the new academic year). One annual governor update is included in the package; Northumberland VS does not offer this to SLA schools.</li> <li>• Safer recruitment training is included (Northumberland SLA schools have to join a waiting list although no dates are available nor is the wait time defined).</li> <li>• A comprehensive website of training, documentation, resources and materials is available from CSS. Our DSLs find that the SharePoint site for</li> </ul>			

the service currently purchased from the Virtual School is difficult to access. Governors have no access to the site.

**Governor Observations and Comments**

We were unanimous in our observation that the service we were being shown provided better value for money and superior safeguarding services for the school than the current service being offered for the same charge.

Greater value or accountability were represented by:

- Templates to use in school
- Training (face to face and a significant online library of recorded training on topics of concern such as neglect and acting on low level concerns)
- Audit tools
- Supervision and support for DSLs if required
- Membership of a wider safeguarding community, with networks and shared learning opportunities.
- Action plans

**Issues to be raised with the Full Governing Body (if any)**

Decision of moving to a provider which offers better safeguarding resources and strengthens the offer to the two DSLs and which will provide an enhanced offer to staff and the wider governing body.

Consider moving ahead of the renewal date for the current package in order to obtain the enhanced services and resources sooner.

**Plans for Follow-up Visit**

Summer term

**Date reviewed at FGB**