**Safeguarding Report**

**June 2019**

**Jane Swettenham**

**Safeguarding Governor**

**Meeting 19th November 2018**

**Present:** Jenny Comerford (JC)

Jane Swettenham (JS)

**Attendance**

The rate of PA has increased and is currently running at 15%. Overall attendance is fine at 95%. Our PA rate is normally in the region of 11% as against a national figure of 13%. The current figure of 15% is due to 5 school refusers and one challenging medical situation. Three of the PA students who are school refusers are in year 11. Mary Walsh-Pammen is working closely with them. However, the cases are challenging. Two of these students are mid term entrants. With regard to the other two students, the school have put in place a team around the family meeting which has proved to be a successful strategy in the past. One of the students who is in year 10, having joined the school in January 2018 from St Martins, currently has an absentee rate of 74% compared to a rate of 66%. This improved attendance rate shows that the team around the family approach is having some impact since the meeting a month ago. Since the meeting there have been four days unauthorised absence. The team comprises JC, the attendance officer Linda Jones, the pastoral manager for that year, the parents and the student. Early intervention is key. SHS has adopted an Essex County Council proforma which has proved to be helpful in practice. The team will look at what the issues are, what is going well, what needs to change and the next steps. The team will take account of the views of the child and aim to identify the barriers to attendance. The student will be asked to rank were they feel they are. In each case the school can show what has been done to tackle persistent absenteeism and the impact on attendance of the intervention. JC does find that a number of the students who are PA are mid term entrants. However due to steadily increasing numbers on the roll SHS currently only has space in year 11. The school did have an issue with Havering Council recently who wanted SHS to take a year 11 LAC student who had an EHCP in place and who had been taken off roll in Havering. We did not dismiss the request out of hand but asked to see the evidence first. The files revealed a student who had a long history of serious behavioural issues. The school refused and were threatened by Havering with a tribunal. However, they have not yet taken matters further.

**Safeguarding Overview**

During the visit when OFSTED were reviewing the school’s safeguarding provision the inspectors asked for the monitoring list. This is very much a working document as it changes daily. JC observed that schools now have a better understanding of safeguarding issues so more information is being passed on from primary schools. This academic year 40 confidential files were passed on but none were open cases. The files are categorised as green meaning no current CP issue, amber were there is a former high risk or the potential for one so such cases require carefully monitoring and red which denotes high risk and would therefore be closely monitored. SHS has no open CP cases at present. There are 5 CIN and 2 LAC. There is one additional child in a long term secure hospital who was a mid term entrant. An assessment is currently being undertaken in respect of a year 12 student who transferred from another school and may result in a LA plan for this student. The SHS approach is to respond to each child individually, assess them and then put early help in place. Our current year 11 have a relatively high CP background.

Essex has recommended that schools should consider the SHEU survey which SHS has completed twice. This involves sending students to complete a questionnaire on a computer. The results are then sent off to be analysed. It provides details on the % who admit to drinking alcohol, the % who say they are bullied etc. JC does not find such surveys to be particularly useful or reflective of the issues that students maybe experiencing.

JS was shown the refined staff CPD safeguarding portfolio which has been taken from Andrew Hall. It details all the various safeguarding issues that staff have to confirm they have satisfactory knowledge of. Staff have the opportunity to confirm that they have read the relevant documentation and confirm that their understanding is complete or if they require more information.

JC’s next safeguarding newsletter will be on criminal exploitation/child witnesses in court and a child who has a parent in prison.

**OFSTED**

During the OFSTED visit JC ran through the safeguarding power point with inspectors that had formed the basis of staff and governor safeguarding training and showed them the safeguarding newsletters. JC also went through with OFSTED the additional training tutors receive on issues such as e-safety and PREVENT. During the OFSTED visit the inspectors went to OASIS and Julie Pitkin (JP) went through three case studies involving three year 11 students. JP and Susan Lilley have devised a method of showing in graph form how patterns change regarding each individual student who attends OASIS. For example, the graph will show spikes or troughs in various issues that OASIS students experience such as depression, anxiety, sexual assault, bullying etc. Some students have multiple issues. These graphs are a good way of showing immediately which students have the highest need. They also show impact. For example, a student in year 7 who regularly attended OASIS now no longer attends since she has been in year 8. There are also graphs showing a general overview of the issues tackled by OASIS. For example, this showed a spike in bullying in January 2018 which had significantly reduced as an issue by November 2018.

**Safeguarding for students**

There are planned safeguarding assemblies for years 7-12 delivered by JC. DJB is going to deliver e-safety assemblies for years 7-11. In addition, there will be attendance assemblies for years 7-10. Tutors do additional work with students outside assemblies.

**SCR**

JS inspected the SCR. Two files were examined one relating to a new teacher appointee and the second to a non teaching staff member who had been employed for some years. All were found to be in order and there were no gaps on the SCR itself. JS completed and signed the relevant proforma.

**Governors Monitoring Visit 11th June 2019**

Governors conducted a comprehensive monitoring visit into safeguarding on 11th June. I will summarise here the main points of the visit. A detailed monitoring report of the visit is available.

**Meeting of Safeguarding Board**

Julian Beard (JB) and JS attended the weekly Safeguarding Board meeting led by JC. This enabled us to see first hand how the safeguarding team at the school work together closely to safeguard students. The importance of communication, exchanging information and ideas was clearly evident as was the depth of knowledge of staff present.

**Meeting with JC**

JB and JS had a safeguarding review meeting with JC who explained to JB the school’s safeguarding procedures and the format of the safeguarding files. JC emphasised that the approach of the safeguarding team is to support each other. JC discussed the Essex Effective Support Windscreen. SHS has a universal offer. Safeguarding runs through the fabric of our school. All that SHS does is informed by the principle that considers the safety of the student first. To facilitate this there are 5 DSL in the school. JC allocates specific areas to staff who are best able to deal with certain issues as they arise. For example, DJ Barron oversees all aspects of e-safety. JC oversees all safeguarding arrangements as the lead DSL. JC takes care of all the safeguarding files and makes referrals. Julie Pitkin manages the Oasis and is the mental health expert. Jamie Rigg implements our behaviour systems and has expertise in behaviour related safeguarding. The pastoral team are a key part of safeguarding as they have the most contact with the students and their families. The Pastoral mangers are the first point of contact with the school. The pastoral team are often the first people JC will turn to when she needs information about a family. The attendance officers and the first aid officers are also a key part of the safeguarding team. The DSLs meet fortnightly to share training, and discuss planning which includes planning safeguarding assemblies and staff training. The wider team is the safeguarding board which includes the DSLs, the pastoral managers, first Aid, attendance officers and any other interested staff. Early intervention is key. There was discussion of the school’s retention policy and it was decided that the retention policy would be reviewed alongside the safeguarding policy in the context of retention and storage of CP files.

**Alternative Provision**

JB and JS visited an alternative curriculum group of five PP students. The curriculum had been devised to meet the needs of these students who were unlikely to have been able to access GCSE courses. They were completing ASDAN certificates in catering and different skills based lessons as well as receiving support in English and Maths from members of Tony Taylor’s team. We were impressed with how engaged the students were and recognised how important such provision is for students who would otherwise may not been in school. Rosie Lee who was running the Food Technology lesson we observed confirmed that in terms of measuring impact the student’s attendance had improved.

**SCR Inspection**

JB and JS inspected the SCR. Three files were checked and the information on those files accurately reflected the information recorded on the SCR. There were no gaps in the SCR. JB signed the appropriate form to confirm the SCR had been scrutinised and governors were satisfied.

**PHSE Provision**

JS and JB attended a meeting with staff to discuss current PHSE provision. Georgia Day plans the schedule for assemblies which deal with various PHSE topics. Knife crime is a recent topic. Form tutors are also actively involved in delivering the PHSE curriculum during form time and are provided with appropriate resources. The school considers through its safeguarding what are the current topics that they need to plan for. Workshops from outside providers are part of the provision. These maybe for whole year groups or designated groups. The school analyses the issues revealed during safeguarding forums and using that information brings in outside help to target these areas where children need more knowledge. Leslie who is head of Social Sciences discussed the changes to the PHSE curriculum and how the school had undertaken a curriculum review to meet those changes. For example, the First Aid course which is part of PHSE now includes CPR. Drugs education is important and encouraging students how to make good choices if offered alcohol or cigarettes if under age. PHSE is a wide area and topics covered have to be age specific. For year 10 for example topics would include abortion, miscarriage, euthanasia and mental health.

**SEND Presentation**

All governors attended a presentation given by Tony Taylor who is the SEND lead. He confirmed that in September we will have 13 students with EHCPs. Our Sen figure will be 17% compared to a National Average of 10.5 and 11% Essex average. This is a challenge financially and from a teaching perspective. There is concern that other schools in the area are not prepared to welcome such students and indeed in some cases actively discourage. TT explained how the significant changes to SEN provision in 2014 had necessitated a rewrite of the SEN policy and staff restructuring.

**Staff and Student Voice/ Review of school Visits and Trips**

Other governors looked at career provision with Ada Kadem, met the three new pastoral mangers and two form tutors. Governors conducted several student voices meetings with different groups of students including the 6th form student leadership, vulnerable students, discussed careers provision with students who had attended the Employer Engagement Day and those students who had attended the Auschwitz and Ypres trips. Governors also held discussions with DJ Barron concerning risk assessments and changes to procedures regarding trips and visits. The visit concluded with a feedback meeting with CH and JC.

In addition to the meetings outlined above JC and JS are in regular email contact about safeguarding matters including discussion of relevant policies.