



All Schools in North Yorkshire

Room SB216, South Block
County Hall, Northallerton
North Yorkshire, DL7 8AE

16 February 2021

Dear Headteacher/Chair of Governors/Management Committees/Proprietors,

Safeguarding Audit for Schools 2020-2021

I am writing further to my letter dated 12 November 2020 concerning the School Safeguarding Audit 2020/2021 which the North Yorkshire Safeguarding Children Partnership (NYSCP) is presently undertaking to assess the effectiveness of safeguarding arrangements.

In my letter it was requested that all schools complete an audit tool and return this to the NYSCP by Wednesday 31 March 2021. To date a limited number of schools have provided their responses to the safeguarding audit and I would like to thank them for their completion so quickly given the ongoing pandemic.

Feedback from schools has always indicated that the safeguarding audit is a robust self-evaluation tool that is helpful in ensuring that safeguarding arrangements are in place and that if not, actions are identified to address any deficiencies, as well as providing assurance to Boards of Governors, Trustees, Management Committees or Proprietors. Your feedback on the tool has been welcome, we have listened and made a number of updates to the tool to help you complete the audit much easier.

We are aware of the pressures currently being placed on schools in regards to the ongoing Coronavirus pandemic and how this is impacting the operation of schools. We do understand that the audit is an additional task for schools but I would like to emphasise the importance of the audit for both internal use and for the NYSCP.

The Coronavirus pandemic is having substantial influence on all partners and services. The School Safeguarding Audit is an important tool for the strategic assessment of the current safeguarding arrangements within schools across North Yorkshire which will inform a number of activities of the NYSCP. I would like to encourage and reinforce the need for all schools (whether maintained, academy, independent or special) to complete the audit and submit this by 31 March 2021.

Please submit your completed audit response in Excel format on the Safeguarding Audit for Schools 2020/2021 template which can be downloaded [here](#) (please do not

convert to PDF). Completed responses should be sent to nyscp@northyorks.gov.uk no later than Wednesday 31 March 2021.

If you have any queries regarding the audit you may contact Haydn Rees Jones, NYSCB Policy and Development Officer on (07929) 827355 by email at haydn.reesjones@northyorks.gov.uk.

Thank you for your understanding and assistance and I hope you stay safe.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M Atkinson', with a long, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

Dr. Maggie Atkinson
Independent Chair
North Yorkshire Safeguarding Children Board