

Exchange	Safeguarding
Date of Meeting	29/01/2026
Location	Microsoft Teams
GMLPN Staff	Charlotte Jones, Hannah Bolsher
Chair	Anthony Turner – Manchester City Council - Apologies recorded
Speakers:	Rachel Bishop - RLB Safeguarding
Attendees:	Hannah Eyre – University of Salford, Suzanne Stewart – GMP, Michelle Edwards – 1st2Achieve, Hazel Goudie – Future Fit Group, Anita Lee – Wigan & Leigh College, Gill Mason – Kids Planet Day Nurseries, Julia Goode – 1st2Achieve, Lyn Kennerson – Pareto, Kathryn Taylor – Wigan, Anthony Jackson – Rochdale Training, Kim Pulman – The Manchester College, Joann Percy – Acorn Training, David Morley – Damar Training
Key Themes / Discussion Points	
GM Skills Awards 2026 - Nominations close: 13 February 2026 - Nominate Here GM Skills Awards - We'd like to highlight the following categories as DSLs / safeguarding staff and teams often don't get the recognition! Unsung hero of the Year / Team of the Year category - Awards evening: 2 July 2026 – ticket sales open w/c 30th March 2026 Safeguarding Context - Mental health pressures (incl. bereavement, anxiety, “COVID generation” legacy), rising referrals etc - Homelessness (often linked to domestic abuse). - Criminal & sexual exploitation, county lines, gang-related harm. - Online harms: AI/misinformation, sextortion; broadening digital risks. - Extremism/mixed ideologies, anti-Semitism/right-wing content (Prevent relevance). - Gambling harms increasing. - Harassment/sexual harassment at work (Worker Protection Act context). - People in Positions of Trust (PiPoT); safer recruitment & low-level concerns. - SEND & AP complexity: info-sharing gaps with schools/LAs; attendance rigidity; safeguarding oversight when dual-registered. Culture, compliance & inspection	

- Safeguarding judged as met/not met; focus beyond compliance on culture, lived experience of safety, incident management, leadership/governance, inclusion.
- KCSIE/online safety: strengthen AI/misinformation, online risk definitions, learner engagement/absence, signposting.
- DBS: ongoing changes; ensure clear policy on online checks, self-declarations, update service/renewal cadence.

Operational realities

- Staff wellbeing & vicarious trauma—tutors/assessors holding complex disclosures.
- CPD impact evidence needed
- Tutors want sector-specific Level 2 safeguarding training (apprentices/workplace-aligned vs generic).

AP example (14–16, dual-reg):

- Providers need adequate risk info pre-enrolment/ to support transition (triggers, history, safety measures).
- If information is withheld, providers should escalate (school DSL → manager → LA children's services/partnership), document challenge, and only proceed when safe and proportionate.

What's Working Well (best practice shared)

- Dedicated DSL capacity; safeguarding as a standing agenda item in all meetings.
- Employer & learner drop-ins, Wellbeing Wednesdays, monthly safeguarding quizzes.
- Age-appropriate resources
- Short, high-impact inductions for short courses; case studies (anonymised) to evidence impact.
- Employer engagement (regular drop-ins, audits, guidance sharing).

Resources / Links Shared

RLB Safeguarding live update feed (QR shared in session) – collates guidance/alerts

x.com/RLBsafeguarding

[RLB Safeguarding Ltd: Posts | LinkedIn](#)

[Safeguarding consultancy, training, and auditing services - RLB Safeguarding](#)

Employer Guide to Safeguarding (free, from RLB) – to brief/educate workplaces;

[Your Business With Deborah Meaden Winter 2025/2026 \[256 - 257\]](#)

- 19 Feb, 12:00–13:00 – Safeguarding at events (Chris Hawkins) - [FEBRUARY- The Safeguarding Spotlight Series- From Planning to Practice: Safeguarding Essentials for...](#)
- All events: [Events | Join Our Events Now — RLB Safeguarding](#)

Designated Safeguarding Lead (post-16 tailored) – 1-day with GMLPN discount

- 3 Mar & 16 Apr (refresher/condensed; brand-new DSLs may prefer the 2-day).
<https://mailchi.mp/70f7127d0b86/gmlpn25a7879049dvancedslpractice>

Prevent series with NW Prevent Coordinator Claire Little-Lewis (you can find them in Next Steps below)

Actions

For GMLPN & RLB Safeguarding

- Members hub: host slides/resources and running notes for easy access.
- Scope a tutor/assessor-focused safeguarding course (workplace/apprenticeship aligned, Level 2 option) with RLB; bring a proposal & dates.

For Providers

1. Map your Top 5 risks (rag-rate; set mitigations; review quarterly).
2. Evidence CPD impact: pre/post self-assessment, action logs, policy updates, case reflection.
3. Review safer recruitment: online checks policy (bias/consistency), DBS cadence (basic annually + self-declarations; consider update service), PiPoT & low-level concerns routes.
4. Tighten incident logging: avoid informal “lost” cases; ensure trend reporting for inspection.
5. Staff wellbeing: vicarious trauma support, MHFA governance, supervision/reflective practice.
6. Employer engagement: run drop-ins; share the Employer Guide; clarify safeguarding roles.
7. AP/SEND info-sharing require risk-relevant info pre-start; use professional challenge and escalation; cite Information Sharing guidance; document decisions & rationale.

Next Steps

Next Safeguarding Exchange

 30 April 2026 (Online)

Agenda suggestions welcome!

Other Exchanges, prevent sessions and events coming up:

- [GMLPN CEIAG Exchange Tickets, Fri, Feb 13, 2026 at 10:00 AM | Eventbrite](#)
- [GMLPN Audit Exchange Tickets, Thu, Feb 26, 2026 at 1:00 PM | Eventbrite](#)
- [GMLPN Business Development Exchange Tickets, Thu, Mar 5, 2026 at 10:00 AM | Eventbrite](#)
- [GMLPN Apprenticeship Assessment Exchange Tickets, Mon, Mar 9, 2026 at 2:30 PM | Eventbrite](#)

- Extreme Right-Wing Ideology – [Prevent in Education: Extreme Right Wing Ideology Tickets, Wed, Feb 4, 2026 at 10:00 AM | Eventbrite](#)
- Emerging Ideologies - [Prevent in Education: Emerging ideologies Tickets, Wed, Mar 4, 2026 at 10:00 AM | Eventbrite](#)
- Antisemitism - [Prevent in Education: Antisemitism Tickets, Thu, Mar 19, 2026 at 2:00 PM | Eventbrite](#)
- Signs and Symbols - [Prevent in Education: Signs & Symbols Tickets, Tue, Apr 14, 2026 at 10:00 AM | Eventbrite](#)
- **How to Prepare for and Manage Inspection Effectively** | [Fri, Mar 6, 2026 at 1:00 PM | Eventbrite](#)
- **GMLPN Network Meeting** | [Wed, Feb 25, 2026 at 9:30 AM | Eventbrite](#) (Ofsted input)
- **Emerging Findings & Lessons Learned from the First Inspections** | [Wed, Mar 11, 2026 at 2:00 PM | Eventbrite](#)
- **Powerful Pedagogy in Practice: Turning Evidence into Inclusive Learning** | [Fri, Mar 27, 2026 at 10:00 AM | Eventbrite](#)