

## ACC Safeguarding Champion Role Description

### The role of the ACC Safeguarding Champion

At Anthem our aim is to demonstrate safeguarding excellence in all our schools and across the Trust. We have a strategic approach underpinned by national policy and best practice procedures for keeping children safe.

Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility. Anthem is committed to raising awareness and promoting the responsibility of ALL members of the community to help protect and safeguard children and vulnerable adults from abuse, neglect and harm. To that end, each Anthem Community Council (ACC) will have a designated Safeguarding Champion, tasked with ensuring that safeguarding and child protection always remains at the forefront of everyone's minds in all of the work that the ACCs do.

Within the Executive, our Director of Governance – General Council, Claire Pannell, has responsibility for safeguarding. Reporting to Claire is our Trust Safeguarding Manager, Owen Walters. Owen supports a network of Designated Safeguarding Leads (DSLs) and Deputy DSLs in every Anthem school. We also have a Safeguarding Trustee, Mark Kamlow.

For safeguarding, Anthem aims to have:

- Robust, clear, and compliant policies and procedures, consistent across the Trust.
- Well trained, confident, and supported staff.
- Excellent monitoring and reporting at all levels, from students up to Trustees.
- A 'one team' approach to safeguarding.
- All staff and volunteers understanding that safeguarding is everyone's responsibility.
- Students who are protected and cared for whilst at our Trust schools with a safe place to learn and safe people from whom they can seek support.

We have in place a 2023-2025 Safeguarding Strategy which includes:

- A termly internal Deep Dive at every school, carried out by the Safeguarding Manager.
- A biannual external safeguarding audit, currently outsourced to Judicium Education.
- A termly DSL online forum for training and sharing of best practice and lessons learned.
- An Anthem wide Safeguarding Dashboard, completed by the Trust Safeguarding Manager and used for Trust-wide monitoring and to report to the Executive and Trustees.
- A safeguarding action plan for strengthening and improving safeguarding systems and procedures across the Trust.

### Who can be an ACC Safeguarding Champion?

Any community or parent/carer ACC member who is passionate about ensuring the safety, mental health and wellbeing of all members of the school community. The Safeguarding Champion will also be interested in further enhancing safeguarding practice and will work collaboratively with the school's Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) and Anthem's Safeguarding Manager to think about ways to improve the school's practice. Initial and ongoing training will be provided by direction of Anthem's Safeguarding Manager.

As ACC Safeguarding Champion, you will:

- Be familiar with the school's policy, procedures and reported data in relation to child protection, safeguarding and wellbeing.

- Meet with the DSL once a term to check in, support with the Anthem Safeguarding Deep Dive actions and act as a sounding board.
- Act as a link between the DSL and the ACC.
- At ACC meetings, keep safeguarding at the forefront of your mind as matters are discussed and remind others of how those matters might impact the safety and wellbeing of students.
- Ask the DSL, HT and Safeguarding Manager questions about the status of actions arising from the internal safeguarding deep dives and external audits of safeguarding at your school.
- Raise any concerns you may have about safeguarding in line with the school's Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy as appropriate. Refer other people to this policy as appropriate.
- Encourage colleagues to recognise and be aware of safeguarding issues at all times. Suggest further advice is sought from the DSL or Safeguarding Manager where appropriate.

### What you are not responsible for

Safeguarding Champions are not expected to be experts in safeguarding, nor do they hold any formal or legal responsibility for safeguarding practice in the school. Specifically, they are not responsible for the following:

- Responding to queries about safeguarding at the school.
- Directly investigating or making enquiries into safeguarding matters.
- Checking the Single Central Register.
- Conducting safeguarding audits at the school.
- Signing off any safeguarding-related policies or documents.
- Representing the school or the Trust during an Ofsted inspection.

### What should the Safeguarding Champion capture and how?

The Safeguarding Champion will focus on safeguarding processes and procedures at the school, and this may include reviewing the school's progress in addressing the actions identified from their recent Deep Dive visit and/or external safeguarding audit, reviewing with the DSL how many instances and the type of child-on-child abuse have taken place this academic year to date, looking at how the schools are monitoring and supporting their vulnerable students including Children in Care, staff training records, and how the school are monitoring low-level concerns. It is important that the feedback from the Safeguarding Champion to the ACC is impartial, fair and includes areas of concern and areas to celebrate. There are many methods by which this information can be captured:

- Information provided to the Safeguarding Champion from the DSL by email, the phone or in person.
- Termly face-to-face/virtual meetings with the DSL.
- Linking in with local safeguarding networks, charities or groups.
- Reviewing the action plan from the most recent Deep Dive and/or external safeguarding review.
- Attending Deep Dive visits conducted by the Anthem's Safeguarding Manager, if agreed by all this would be beneficial.
- Keeping up to date with safeguarding updates, guidance and policies in the education sector, particularly Keeping Children Safe in Education (KCSIE).
- Attending Anthem's Safeguarding Champion Forums termly, which connect Safeguarding Champions across all Anthem's 16 schools and the National Team (including Anthem's Safeguarding Manager) to receive training and support, and to share ideas and lessons learned.

### The Safeguarding Champion Summary Report

**Prior to each ACC meeting** the Safeguarding Champion will complete the Safeguarding Champion Summary Report. This report is a simple one-page summary, RAG rating the Safeguarding Champion perception of safeguarding in the school. This report will also include some key findings and evidence, along with areas to celebrate and lessons learned.

**During the ACC meeting** the ACC members as a collective will discuss and decide a final RAG rating for the ACC Dashboard. The Clerk will also record any actions to be taken between meetings on the Support and Challenge Log (SCL). Both the ACC Dashboard and SCL will be finalised at the ACC meeting and then shared with the school's Associate Director of Education to feed into the next Collaborative Review Day.

**After the ACC meeting** the Safeguarding Champion works with fellow ACC members and the Headteacher on any actions agreed during the ACC meeting.