Date: 16 October 2023

My ref: Access for Social Worker

Dear Headteachers & Designated Safeguarding Leads,

I am writing to confirm that all employees of Wokingham Borough Council who work in school, or with children who attend the school, were appointed in accordance with safer recruitment procedures, namely that the required checks were successfully undertaken in respect of identity, employment history, references, qualifications, overseas check (where required), prohibition from teaching check (if undertaking teaching work and appointed on or since 1st April 2012), prohibition from management check (if applicable) and right to work in the UK. They have completed a declaration of medical fitness and DBS (or CRB) clearance, including a children's barred list check, has been received at enhanced level.

I also confirm that, in accordance with the Childcare (Disqualification) Regulations 2009, none of our employees to whom these regulations apply, who work for Wokingham Borough Council are disqualified from working with children under the terms of the regulations.

Additionally, in March 2023 Education News sent out the following statement:

Wokingham Director of Children's Services Helen Watson would like to assure schools that Social Care Practitioners employed by the Council have all been DBS cleared by the Council. Schools should accept Wokingham staff badge as a written confirmation that appropriate checks, including DBS checks have been carried out by Wokingham Borough Council to enable them to work in schools.

Therefore, can we ask that all members of staff on the reception desk or who may be responsible for welcoming visitors in your educational setting are made aware that '***a Wokingham Staff Badge is a written confirmation that appropriate checks have been made including a DBS by Wokingham Borough Council to enable them to work in schools'.***

Yours faithfully,

Ruth Blyth
Acting Deputy Headteacher
Virtual School Wokingham