Ting Plaskett

From: Michelle Russell
Sent: 09 January 2007 18:51
To: Geoff Eales
Subject: RE: Requirement for notification from child abuse

Geoff

We must discuss this asap before further action. Pls can diarise a time for us to speak about this. if it can wait, ideally not before next Tuesday (what registration are you referring to?) .

Monday is out as is tomorrow and I am pretty full Thursday and Friday.

Michelle

From: Geoff Eales
Sent: Tuesday, January 09, 2007 12:23 PM
To: Michelle Russell
Subject: RE: Requirement for notification from child abuse

Michelle

I will update you.

[DFES have since voiced concern that they should have , but do not appear to have, been notified by the school of the allegations against the Priest currently awaiting criminal trial as, notwithstanding he was not a teacher at the time, he was a trustee. I am awaiting advice of any action DFES propose to take -------- its may be a failure to meet thier registration requirements and ground for de registration. I will then revert to the trustees.]

Geoff

From: Michelle Russell
Sent: Friday, January 05, 2007 4:46 PM
To: Geoff Eales
Subject: RE: Requirement for notification from child abuse

Geoff - can we discuss at some point next week.
Michelle

From: Geoff Eales
Sent: Thursday, January 04, 2007 1:08 PM
To: Michelle Russell
Subject: FW: Requirement for notification from child abuse

Michelle

FYI

re present position in clarifying whether trustees should have notified DFES in the circumstances. I think they should because potentially the Father's could have come back into a teaching or ancillary role notwithstaning that they had retired and if so DFES would not be on notise of the incidents.

Geoff

From: Geoff Eales
Sent: Thursday, January 04, 2007 1:01 PM
To: DPA
Subject: RE: Requirement for notification from child abuse

Elaine

Many thanks for the clarification and the copy of the new Safeguarding guidance.

On the facts present , Father A ceased to work as a teacher in DPA and as Bursar in DPA when he retired. Father B had no role in the school from 1989 and retired as a Parish Priest in DPA and ceased to be a Trustee in DPA. The incidents ocurred many years ago but only came to light in 2001 and and 2005. Father A had an order for civil damages awarded against him in DPA as a result of an action brought by the victim of the alleged sexual abuse. Father B is currently awaiting trial on criminal charges.

It may be that as both had retired at the time the allegations came to light and no longer had access to children in their roles within the Religious Community at the time and the events ocurred man y years ago , the school may have considered it uneccessary to notify DFES. However, I note from APPENDIX 10 page 98 of Safeguarding Children and Safer Recruitment in Education effective 1st January 2007 that:

"[Employers] are also required to provide information where they would have ceased to use the person's services on these grounds [inter alia unsuitability to work with children] if the person had not ceased to provide them , or might have refrained from making new arrangemenst for a person on these grounds if the person ahd had not ceased to make themselves available for work, for example if the person resigned, where ethe disciplinary process would have been considered had they not done so"

I would be grateful for your further clarification of whether this requirement operated in 2001 and 2005 and if so whether it should have led the employer to consider making reports to you and whether in the circumstances you would expect to have received reports? If so, is it a matter that you would need to raise with the school now and if necessary inform the Inpectorate? I will of course provide full details if you require them. Following your request in our conversation , I have not included

the names of the Fathers in this email.

Thank you for your guidance in this matter.

Geoff Eales
Charity Commission
Senior Manager
Compliance and Support

From: DPA [mailto: DPA]
Sent: Friday, December 15, 2006 2:58 PM
To: Geoff Eales
Cc: DPA
Subject: Requirement for notification from child abuse

Geoff

You spoke to my colleague Paul Lavery yesterday about St Benedict's School in Ealing. I am responding to your enquiry as I have responsibility for independent schools in Ealing.

St Benedict's was formerly registered as two separate junior and senior schools until they amalgamated in March this year. I have checked the school files and can report that the inspection reports (from May 03 and Jan 04) did not indicate any concerns as regards safeguarding of pupils. Nor are there any papers on file to indicate our team had been made aware of any safeguarding issues.

As Paul may have told you, independent schools are required to report individuals to our Children's Safeguarding Operations Unit (CSOU). This requirement is included in our information pack to independent schools (see attached extract) and applies to all staff who have regular contact with children, not just teachers.

Current internal procedure, since April 2005, is for CSOU to inform us of any referrals. We then write to our inspectors so they can check the school has the appropriate child protection procedures in place when they next inspect. Depending on the individual circumstances of each case, inspectors they may decide to arrange an early unscheduled inspection.

New safeguarding guidance comes into effect from 1 Jan 2007. This can be downloaded following the link below. This replaces previous documents listed at Page 1 of the Executive Summary.

http://www.everychildmatters.gov.uk/resources-and-practice/IG00175/

I hope this is helpful. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you wish to discuss further

Elaine Haste
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