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| Committee(s): | Date(s): |
| Board of Governors of the Guildhall School of Music & Drama | 18 September 2013 |
| Subject: Children and Young People Safeguarding policy | Public |
| Joint report of: Principal of the Guildhall School and the Town Clerk | For Decision |
| Summary | |
| <p>Following a review of the School's existing safeguarding policies, it was recommended that a single overarching policy for the School be developed. A single policy for the School has now been produced in line with best practice, and it is recommended that this be approved.</p> <p>It is further recommended that a lead Governor be appointed to champion safeguarding issues at Board level.</p> <p>Recommendations</p> <p>It is recommended that:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Child Safeguarding policy be approved • That a Governor be appointed to serve as lead Governor for safeguarding • It be noted that training will be made available to all governors on safeguarding | |

Main Report

Background

1. The Guildhall School currently operates a number of child protection policies for each of the different areas – Junior Guildhall, Centre for Young Musicians and Creative Learning.
2. These policies were reviewed by a specialist consultant in January 2013. One of the key recommendations arising out of the review was that a single overarching policy should be developed for the Guildhall School.

Current Position

3. Work has now been undertaken to draft a single safeguarding policy for the Guildhall School which takes best practice, government guidance, City and London wide policies into account. This new policy is attached at appendix 1 for your approval.

The Safeguarding Policy

4. The new School wide policy applies to all activities provided by or within the Guildhall School, and all staff, volunteers, contractors and freelance artists.
5. The key principle is that in the event a child makes a disclosure to a member of staff, or a staff member has reason to be concerned about the welfare of a child, then that staff member must report the incident to the lead safeguarding contact.
6. In cases of professional allegations, the Lead Safeguarding Contact will consult the Local Authority Designated Officer for the Local Authority in which the disclosure occurred, and the City LADO. Where a disclosure is made in respect of a family member or another individual outside the School, the Lead Safeguarding Contact will inform the Police and/or Local Children's Services. In all cases the Lead Safeguarding Contact will also inform the Principal.
7. The Principal has appointed Alison Mears to serve as the lead safeguarding contact.

The role of Board of Governors

8. The Board of Governors is responsible for ensuring that appropriate procedures for safeguarding are in place. To ensure that the Board of Governors is able to satisfy itself that this is the case:-
 - a. An annual report on Safeguarding will be submitted to the Board
 - b. Training on safeguarding is made available to all Governors
 - c. A lead governor should be appointed
 - d. The Principal will undertake quality assurance measures including arranging for an internal audit on child protection, spot checks on recruitment practices, school walkabouts and seek support from the City's Local Authority Designated Officer in undertaking assessments of the School's child protection arrangements.

Corporate & Strategic Implications

9. Implementation of the Safeguarding Policy will ensure that the Guildhall School is compliant with its safeguarding obligations under national legislation and guidance, and the City and Hackney Child Protection Guidelines.

Implications

10. The Community and Children's Services Department has agreed to fund the cost of child protection training for Guildhall School staff this year. Going forward, the School will be able to access free multi agency training through the City and Hackney Safeguarding Children Board. The Local Authority Designated Officer within the City will also be available to provide support.
11. All Staff who regularly come into contact with pupils, including contracted support staff such as cleaners and caterers, will be required to have an appropriate Disclosure Barring check on appointment and then every three years following.

Conclusion

12. The Guildhall School has a responsibility to provide a safe environment, protect children from any form of abuse and to be aware of signs of abuse, and to ensure that concerns are appropriately reported through the lead safeguarding contact to the Local Authority Designated Officer. In order to support this, a child safeguarding policy has been developed, and steps will be taken through its implementation to raise the awareness of staff, governors and students to child protection matters.

Appendices

- Appendix 1 – The Guildhall School Safeguarding Policy

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