

Budget Cuts in UK Schools Will Put Children at Risk of Harm

Punishing budget cuts across key organisations charged with child safeguarding including schools, police and local authorities will put vulnerable kids at risk.

GUILDFORD, HAMPSHIRE, UK, June 3, 2017

/EINPresswire.com/ -- With punishing budget cuts and under-funding expected across key organisations charged with [safeguarding](#) and protection of vulnerable children including [schools](#), police and local authorities, safeguarding experts at [Ethica Solutions](#) believe a perfect storm is brewing. Services that are already stretched because of inadequate funding or failure, will leave children being harmed, or at risk of harm.

There is a rising demand to help and protect children. CSE, radicalisation and gang culture is a major cause for concern. In 2015, the total number of children assessed as being in need of help or protection across the year, rose 13% between 2009-10 to 2014-15, from just under 695,000 to over 780,000. 30% were aged between 10 to 15 years (the largest age group).

In 2010, the Department for Education (DfE) commissioned the Munro review because it considered children's services were significantly below par. The DfE, which is responsible for child protection, and setting out policy, legislation and statutory guidance on how the system should work in England, then committed to transform the quality of the system by 2020. According to the 2016 National Audit Office report, progress has been poor. Today, the quality of many children's services does not correlate with

spending levels. Access to help or support is not equal across the country, and interventions to improve failed services have been ad hoc. The DfE has yet to demonstrate how it will transform for the better by 2020. Its 2016 Statutory Guidance for Schools Keeping Children Safe in Education asks that "designated safeguarding lead and any deputies should undergo training to provide them with the knowledge and skills required to carry out the role." The question of what the instruction should consist of and how it should be funded and monitored is unclear.

“

Training and education are at the heart of child safeguarding. Budget cuts will negatively impact the service provision in schools and those most affected will be our most vulnerable children.”

Dr. Richard John, Former Senior Police Officer

The National Union of Teachers believe that £3 billion education budget cuts in schools will make budgets untenable

by 2018/19. Teacher shortages are worsening and there is little focus on retaining teachers with the



skills and expertise, also essential to solve shortages. A recent Commons Education Select Committee report evidenced how Government has missed recruitment targets for five consecutive years. It further suggested that recruitment of new teachers to address shortages will not satisfy the need for improvement in service delivery.

Education, experience and skills are critical in the vast and complex area of child safeguarding. Supporting the retention of experienced teachers who can use and extend their safeguarding expertise with CPD training and succession planning requires policy and a budget to be ring-fenced. A recent freedom of information request by the children's charity NSPCC found that trainee teachers are receiving inadequate safeguarding training. Students on undergraduate courses received only an average of 10.5 hours of safeguarding training over a three-year or four-year course. Postgraduate trainees, receive even fewer hours of safeguarding tuition.

Ofsted's 2016 report found safeguarding arrangements were not effective in 15% of independent schools, 2% of maintained schools and 3% of providers in Further Education. In cases where incidents of safeguarding were found inadequate, "it was because leaders and managers were ignorant of what was required." A recent report of the Education and Health Committee also found that insufficient prominence is also being given by Ofsted inspectors to children and young people's mental health and well-being.

Commenting, former Senior Police Officer Dr. Richard John said: "An holistic 360 approach that supports and protects is vital in safeguarding but education of both professionals and youngsters, is at its heart. More safeguarding education is needed but there are funding pressures in all our safeguarding organisations. Staff are stretched to capacity with increased workloads and this will result in some of them getting by with inadequate training and tick-box solutions and policies. This will negatively impact on the service provision and those most affected will be our most vulnerable children. We urge the UK Government not to de-value the importance of safeguarding and to ring-fence a budget for education, statutory training and CPD with succession planning. The DfE must go further to support our young people and educators by working with experts and practitioners to develop a detailed strategy and policy with an inspection framework that works and is properly funded for the benefit of all."

Pauline Christie
BxBy (PR)
+44 (0)207 917 6804
email us here

This press release can be viewed online at: <http://www.einpresswire.com>

Disclaimer: If you have any questions regarding information in this press release please contact the company listed in the press release. Please do not contact EIN Presswire. We will be unable to assist you with your inquiry. EIN Presswire disclaims any content contained in these releases.

© 1995-2018 IPD Group, Inc. All Right Reserved.