

Health, Wellbeing & Local Government Committee 22 September 2010 HWLG(3)-14-10-paper 8

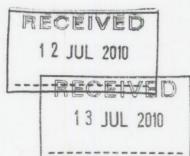
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Date: 08 July 2010

Dear Mr Millar

Thank you for your letter dated 17 June regarding the UK Border Agency's engagement with Local Safeguarding Children Boards in Wales.

To ensure that all staff are aware of the requirement to promote and safeguard the welfare of children the UK Border Agency has developed a series of training modules dedicated to "Keeping Children Safe". This training follows a three tier structure depending on the degree of contact with children and young people that is involved in the member of staff's role.

Tier 1 is a mandatory e-learning package which aims to provide a general awareness of safeguarding children and must be completed by all UK Border Agency staff. Staff are required to complete a core module and, depending on their particular role they must complete an additional module which applies to their own area of work.

Tier 2 is a two day course for staff that have regular contact with children during their work whether face to face or through case files. The course provides staff with an overview of how to deal with children in a variety of situations, highlight warning signs to look out for and provide in-depth information about the different child protection agencies the UK Border Agency works with and how to liaise effectively with them.

Tier 3 is tailored job specific training designed by each business area with support from the Office of the Children's Champion which is part of the UK Border Agency's Policy and Strategy Group. The course is available to UK Border Agency staff that have regular direct contact with children, for example, those who interview children.

Each module includes reference to situations in which a member of staff may be dealing with a child who is at risk of harm, the indicators that might be present in such situations, and how to make an appropriate response including referring to statutory child protection agencies.

The UK Border Agency has produced comprehensive guidance on when and how to refer a child or young person to child welfare agencies or the police. I am enclosing a copy of this referrals guidance with this reply.

Yours sincerely

Jane Farleigh

Regional Director

Wales and the South West of England