





# Supervision Policy

North East Futures UTC has been established to change the education, skills and employment paradigm in our IT and Healthcare Science sectors in the North East. It provides the opportunity for young people from all the communities in this region to benefit from its specialist provision.

Reviewed by:	Principal and LGB
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Last Reviewed:	September 2023
By Dan Sydes	
Ratified by Local Board of Governors on:	4th October 2023
By Derek Marshall	
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**Introduction:**

Nothing is more important than children's welfare. Children who need help and protection deserve high quality and effective support as soon as a need is identified. Everyone who comes into contact with children and families has a role to play.

Effective safeguarding is achieved by putting children at the centre of the system and by every individual and agency playing their full part. (Working Together 2018)

Working Together 2018, advises all professionals of following a child centred approach to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of every child. A child centred approach means keeping the child in focus when making decisions about their lives and working in partnership with them and their families.

All practitioners should follow the principles of the Children Acts 1989 and 2004 – where it states that the welfare of children is paramount and that they are best looked after within their families, with their parents playing a full part in their lives, unless compulsory intervention in family life is necessary.

Children may be vulnerable to neglect and abuse or exploitation from within their family and from individuals they come across in their day-to-day lives. These threats can take a variety of different forms, including sexual, physical, and emotional abuse; neglect; exploitation by criminal gangs and organised crime groups; trafficking; online abuse; sexual exploitation and the influences of extremism leading to radicalisation. Whatever the form of abuse or neglect, practitioners should put the needs of children first when determining what action to take.

A number of Serious Case Reviews, involving the death and serious injuries of children have continually made the recommendation that all agencies have in place effective and purposeful supervision to ensure the safety and well-being of all vulnerable children. This includes effective discussion, decision making, recording and demonstration of the achievement of positive outcomes for those children who are vulnerable or who are accessing services.

**Purpose and Aim:**

North East Futures UTC's whole school/setting Supervision Policy aims to provide clear direction and guidance for those who hold responsibility as Designated Safeguarding Leads or Nominated Deputies in child protection in receiving appropriate one to one supervision in the area of vulnerable children.

Supervision is required in the area of child protection to allow staff dealing with our most vulnerable and at risk children the opportunity to reflect on the progress of the case, the individual needs of the child and to seek support and direction in ensuring that there is no drift or delay in meeting agreed outcomes for the child or family in relation to the child protection process. Although child protection cases should be given the highest priority, best practice includes the discussion and recording of all cases where children are vulnerable.

Supervision can be set up as one to one, peer support or group supervision, dependent on the number of professionals who hold responsibility for child protection.

Supervision is not solely for the purpose of individual case discussion and is not task and action led. It allows individuals working with highly complex and often heavy caseloads in the area of child protection an opportunity to reflect on their individual practice and be critical of the effect the child protection system is having on the child and family. Ultimately it allows the professional 'time-out' to consider, with either a colleague/supervisor, whether the outcomes set out for the child in the child protection process are being met and that the individual needs of the child are considered at every opportunity.

### **Types of Supervision**

At North East Futures UTC we undertake group supervision.

This type of supervision is shared between a number of members of staff of the same designation. The purpose of this supervision is to discuss individual cases and common themes/issues that may arise within the UTC or with particular families or areas of vulnerability, and to use case studies to review and discuss generic safeguarding issues.

This Supervision is held between John Pattison, whose role in school is Director of Pastoral Care and Designated Safeguarding Lead, and Safeguarding Deputies: Daniel Sydes whose role in school is Principal. In these Supervision sessions John Pattison has the role of Supervisor and the Safeguarding Deputies are Supervisees.

At North East Futures UTC we ensure appropriate guidelines on confidentiality are followed and individual information regarding children is not taken outside of school.

This follows the expectations of the Data Protection Act and the General Data Protection Regulations 2018.

### **Standards of Supervision**

Supervision at North East Futures UTC is managed within a clear set of minimum standards and recorded appropriately. Supervision records are maintained confidentially and kept within the individual child's records.

The following supervision standards are in place:

- 1) All supervisory relationships are declared in a written agreement: (See Appendix 1)  
For example: Clear roles of the Supervisor and Supervisee
  - The frequency of the Supervision
  - A standard agenda
  - The recording of supervision
  - Confidentiality
  - Handling issues of diversity
- 2) Supervision is planned and purposeful.
- 3) Supervision sessions are recorded promptly, competently and records are stored securely.
- 4) Supervisors and Supervisees are sufficiently skilled to carry out their role.
- 5) The Supervisor ensures the Supervisee is ensuring the safety and wellbeing of the child(ren) involved at all times.
- 6) The Supervisor ensures the safety and wellbeing of the Supervisee at all times.
- 7) Supervision ensures that all families regardless of age, background, ethnicity, religion, language, gender, disability, or sexual orientation are treated equally.

### **Regularity and Timing of Supervision:**

At North East Futures UTC Supervision is held half-termly for a period of 1- 2 hours. Within that time scale all "live" cases are reviewed. Live cases are where the student is under a Child Protection Plan, is under a Child in Need Plan and/or have been recently referred to Children's Social Care and their action on the case is not yet known. This is in line with our local safeguarding children board recommendations and local safeguarding children's procedures.

### **Training for Supervision:**

At North East Futures UTC our Designated Safeguarding Lead undertook training on Supervision on 12/07/19.

At North East Futures UTC our Designated Safeguarding Leads undertake statutory training including regular refreshers with an accredited external provider.

At North East Futures UTC our Designated Safeguarding Lead will undertake formal training every 2 years.

**Support for Supervision:**

At North East Futures UTC, Supervisors and Supervisees receive external support regarding all aspects of Supervision. Support and advice is offered from local services including Education Services, Social Care, the Police and the Local Safeguarding Partners. The Local Safeguarding Partners set out clear procedures for child protection including what to do in cases where there may be drift or delay or professional differences (see resolving professional differences - escalation protocol from the Local Safeguarding Partner Arrangements). Local Safeguarding Partners also set out standards of supervision for all agencies in line with recommendations from a number of serious case reviews.

At North East Futures UTC if there are any unresolved issues from supervision, external advice, and support is received immediately to prevent any further risk of significant harm to the child(ren), through local front door social care services. Supervisors do not delay in seeking advice at any stage when seeking to prevent further harm to children.

**Recording Supervision:**

At North East Futures UTC, record keeping is imperative for Supervision and any records made are an accurate reflection of the individual case and issues discussed, including any agreed actions to be taken by either the Supervisee or Supervisor. The record follows an agreed standard and is signed and dated by both the Supervisee and Supervisor as an accurate reflection of the case discussion. Therefore, both the Supervisee and Supervisor agree on the content of the record. The records kept indicate the regularity of supervision, the critical reflection of practice, the reviewing process of vulnerable children and any further or future actions taken in the protection and safeguarding of the child.

At North East Futures UTC we are clear that supervision records could, in the future, be used in court action to support social care decisions in safeguarding children and may also be used by our school when undertaking professional challenges.

Records are stored securely and confidentially on the individual child's case file (either written or electronic). This is only accessible by those professionals trained as Designated Safeguarding Leads or Nominated Deputies. This is in line with the Data Protection Act and General Data Protection Regulations, 2018.

At North East Futures UTC we use CPOMS and hold electronic records. The same security is required (e.g. password protected or only accessible to agreed members of staff who are involved in the role of child protection) so that confidentiality is not breached.

Any paper-based records are stored in secure and lockable filing cabinets.

**Professional Confidentiality:**

The confidential nature of child protection cases is clearly set out by Local Safeguarding Children Boards. In the process of supervision, confidentiality is maintained for the protection and safeguarding of the child.

At North East Futures UTC individual case discussion only occurs in agreed supervision sessions and between agreed members of staff. Supervisors and Supervisees do not have case discussion with other members of staff or family members/partners.

If either the Supervisor or Supervisee feels it is necessary and in the best interests of the child to seek further advice and support, then this is firstly sought by the child's social worker or the social worker's line manager (this is not a breach of confidentiality)

## **Appendix 1: Written Agreement of Supervision**

### **Purpose and Aim:**

The purpose and Aim of the written agreement for supervision is to set out clear roles, responsibilities and guidelines to ensure that supervision occurs in a safe and secure environment and the role of individual's is clearly defined. Supervision has the purpose of offering the Supervisor and Supervisee the opportunity to critically reflect on child protection cases and issues with a view to seeking further appropriate action, if necessary, in the best interests and safeguarding of any child discussed.

### **The role of the Supervisor**

The role of the supervisor is to ensure that Supervision occurs regularly, is purposeful and is recorded and stored confidentially. The Supervisor is responsible for ensuring that any discussion and actions agreed, occurs within an agreed timescale and is the most senior person within the supervision, taking ultimate responsibility for any outlined or agreed tasks occurring. The Supervisor should have more experience and knowledge in the area of child protection and be able to support and advise the supervisee in clear direction on cases, e.g., where to go for additional advice and support and how to progress individual matters with key agencies. The Supervisor supports the Supervisee in critical thinking, reflection and challenge and is approachable and flexible to additional support that may be required for the Supervisee. The Supervisor ensures that the record made of the Supervision is an accurate reflection of the discussion before the meeting ends.

### **The Role of the Supervisee**

The role of the Supervisee is to ensure that Supervision is occurring regularly and to make any additional requests for support at any time when required in the protection of a child. The Supervisee is responsible for providing an up to date and accurate reflection of the current situation regarding individual cases so that discussion and decision making can occur with all of the most relevant factors considered.

The Supervisee brings to Supervision any other additional issues to be discussed for the Supervision Agenda, e.g., any personal conflict or time management issues. The Supervisee ensures that the record made of the Supervision is an accurate reflection of the discussion before the meeting ends.

### **The frequency of Supervision**

Frequency of Supervision should be set depending on the circumstances of the setting and the type of supervision. The minimum recommendation for Supervision for schools is at least once per half term so, in total six sessions per academic year. For Peer Supervision and Group Supervision it is recommended that this should occur at least once per term with a longer timescale permitted where individual cases are not being discussed (e.g., group supervision)

### **The Agenda:**

Both the Supervisor and Supervisee bring items to be discussed to the agenda including any personal issues, health and safety issues or generic child protection issues including policy and procedures. Supervision is not solely for the purpose of discussing individual cases but rather the opportunity to critically and personally reflect on any issues regarding child protection and the safety and well-being of young people.

**The Record-Keeping:**

As highlighted in the Supervision Policy by adhering to this written agreement/contract both the Supervisor and Supervisee agree to ensure that accurate record keeping is made and stored securely.

**Confidentiality:**

As highlighted in the Supervision Policy by adhering to this written agreement/contract both the Supervisor and Supervisee agree to ensure that confidentiality is maintained.

**Diversity and Equality:**

Both the Supervisor and Supervisee ensure that any issues regarding diversity and equality are embedded into the practice of Supervision, for example ethnicity, race, religion, vulnerability, gender and disability to name a few. Care is taken to discuss the impact of any diversity or equality issues regarding any child or adult in cases discussed and extra time and research is given to address any such issues which may further impact on the safety and protection of any child discussed.

**Resolving Individual Issues:**

For Supervision to work effectively both the Supervisor/Supervisee need to feel safe and confident within the structure and process. In the event that there may be a difference of opinion or challenge between either party it is important that an agreed contingency plan is in place. For example, this could be alternative arrangements between Supervisor or Supervisee or an external opinion may be sought to resolve any outstanding issues.

**Undertakings:**

I, John Pattison, agree to take on the role of Supervisor.  
My role/position in the school/setting is Director of Pastoral Care.

I, Daniel Sydes, agree to take on the role of Supervisee.  
My role/position in the School/Setting is Principal.

We have agreed to the following individual terms:

- Supervision to be held half-termly.
- Supervision to last a time period of approximately 60 minutes.

Supervision agenda will have the following standard items to be discussed:

- Overview of data related to referrals and child protection.
- Review of current cases
- Updated actions where necessary
- Review of relevant updates where appropriate (e.g., updated national guidance, review of guidance on issues that are relevant to specific cases)

Supervision to be attended by Dan Sydes and John Pattison and Deputy Safeguarding Leads

Supervision to be recorded by John Pattison

Supervision to be stored by John Pattison

In the event of any unresolved issues/changes to the contract the following contingency plan will be put in place:

The contract will be reviewed.

I have read and agreed to the above written contract including our individual terms of

agreement:

Signed..... Supervisor

Date.....

Signed..... Supervisee

Date.....