
9 January 2025

Dear Councillor Conway and Councillor Gordon,

Thank you for your letter of 22 December and for setting out the purpose and context of the Children and Young People Scrutiny Commission's meeting on 12 January.

We recognise the importance of public accountability and transparency, and we understand the Commission's intention to focus on the strategic and system-wide implications of the Local Child Safeguarding Practice Review for statutory and regulatory partners.

I would, however, like to set out some important considerations at this stage.

The Local Child Safeguarding Practice Review was formally published on 9 December 2025. As at the date of your letter, the academy and Federation had therefore been in receipt of the published Review for fewer than two school weeks. We are accordingly still within an early period of careful and responsible consideration. As you would expect, we are taking the time required to read the report in full, test its conclusions against the evidence available to us, and consider its implications in a measured and structured way. This work is ongoing.

It is also important to note the safeguarding context within which this work is taking place. Neither the Local Child Safeguarding Practice Review nor the independent review led by Anne Whyte KC (commissioned upon the recommendation of Department for Education) identified evidence that any child was at risk of significant harm, nor that immediate action was required in respect of any member of staff. In addition, the Anne Whyte KC Review concluded that the Federation's policies were compliant with statutory and regulatory requirements. These findings are not an end point, but they form an important part of the context for any proportionate discussion about learning, improvement and system response.

Alongside this, the Federation has already committed to implementing in full all of the recommendations of the Anne Whyte KC Review. That review was commissioned by the Members of The Mossbourne Federation, was independent and evidence-based, and focused squarely on how we listen, communicate and respond to concerns. Every recommendation was accepted in full and implementation is already underway.

As part of this work, Daniel Fitterman, writing on behalf of the Members of the Federation, has encouraged anyone with questions or concerns to contact us directly at review@mossbourne.org. We echo that invitation wholeheartedly. Every concern shared is listened to, fully considered and responded to. No issue is too small; if it matters to a child or their family, it matters to us.

For completeness, I am enclosing a copy of the Anne Whyte KC Review with this correspondence. Its recommendations include, in particular:

- Making complaints and safeguarding processes clearer, more accessible and more transparent to parents, pupils and staff.

- Strengthening the recording, tracking and oversight of complaints and low-level concerns through a central digital system, with appropriate governance scrutiny.
- Improving staff training and expectations around communication with parents and carers.
- Enhancing communication channels so that parents understand how to raise concerns and who to contact.
- Ensuring that public messaging reflects openness and fairness, while maintaining high standards and expectations for pupils.

These actions are already underway and represent a tangible programme of improvement that is being embedded across the Federation and its schools.

Given the short timeframe since publication of the Local Child Safeguarding Practice Review, the absence of findings of significant harm or immediate safeguarding risk, the confirmation of policy compliance, and the scale of work already in progress following the Whyte Review, we do not believe that a verbal account at this stage would add anything further to the written record or assist the Commission's work.

For that reason, we will not be attending the meeting on 12 January. We would ask that this letter, together with the enclosed Anne Whyte KC Review, is added to the Commission's formal record as our written response to your request.

We remain committed to constructive engagement with partners and scrutiny bodies and would be pleased to attend the Commission at an appropriate point in the future, once our formal consideration of the Review has been completed and we are in a position to contribute in a way that is accurate, responsible and properly evidenced.

Thank you again for informing us of the Commission's work.

Yours sincerely,



Peter Hughes
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The Mossbourne Federation
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Enclosed:

- Anne Whyte KC Review

