

Temporary Guidance policy for organisations and settings on Oxfordshire Safeguarding Children Board training requirements

This policy is a temporary document to cover the period during which the OSCB is not able to deliver face to face training and as such, will be reviewed and revised on a regular basis. It provides a guidance policy for organisations and settings during temporary limitations of training delivery methods due to COVID-19 restrictions.

The Oxfordshire Safeguarding Children Board have now postponed all face to face training courses due to the current Coronavirus situation.

As a Board, we understand that this may lead to a situation where practitioners, paid or unpaid, working with children and young people are without the necessary training that is needed to adhere to national and local requirements to continue to have face to face contact with children and young people.

The OSCB is therefore providing the following guidance as a **temporary** measure in these extra ordinary circumstances. This guidance will be in place for the Generalist, Advanced and Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) **courses only** until face to face core safeguarding training is again being provided.

These core temporary eLearning courses are relevant for any practitioner who is new to their role and who have not attended safeguarding training before AND also those practitioners whose training becomes out of date before face to face training becomes available again.

‘Level 1: Introduction to Safeguarding (recommended course for Volunteers) eLearning course

This e-learning course is aimed at any individual who may come into contact with children, young people and/or their families for short periods of time during the course of their work. It introduces key principles and responsibilities that practitioners may have in work with children, young people and their families. The course content will be updated every three years and it is recommended that practitioners refresh their training within the same time frame.

‘Level 2: Awareness of Child Abuse and Neglect 2020’ eLearning course

This course is for practitioners who have contact with children for 3 hours or more a month, including those practitioners who work in an Early Years Setting.

This eLearning course is for those practitioners who have not undertaken the face to face ‘Level 2 - Generalist course previously **and** also for those who need to refresh their generalist training.

- **New Practitioners** - once completed, this course certificate will be valid for **1 year only** and the next course attended must be face to face training or the OSCB **‘Webinar: Generalist’** live online course
- **Practitioners completing eLearning course as a refresher**, as they have previously attended face to face Generalist training, this course certificate will be valid for **2 years only** and the next course attended must either be face to face training or the OSCB **‘Webinar: Generalist’** live online course

- Any practitioner who has completed either ‘**Level 2: Awareness of Child Abuse and Neglect – COVID-19 package**’ **OR** ‘**Level 2: Awareness of Child Abuse and Neglect 2020**’ **AND** the OSCB ‘**Level 2: Webinar: Generalist**’ course will have a certificate which will be valid for 3 years
(Please refer to flowchart below)

It will remain the responsibility of both practitioners and their managers to ensure that training is undertaken in a timely manner and at the appropriate level.



‘**Level 3: Advanced / Designated Safeguarding Lead (Covid- 19 package) eLearning course**’

This course is currently a combined course for both those practitioners who regularly work with any children and young people on a one-to-one basis (Advanced level), **and** for those practitioners with leadership or management responsibilities (DSL level) for safeguarding children and young people within their role and/or are the named lead or designated safeguarding leads for their organisation or setting, including those practitioners who work in an Early Years Setting.

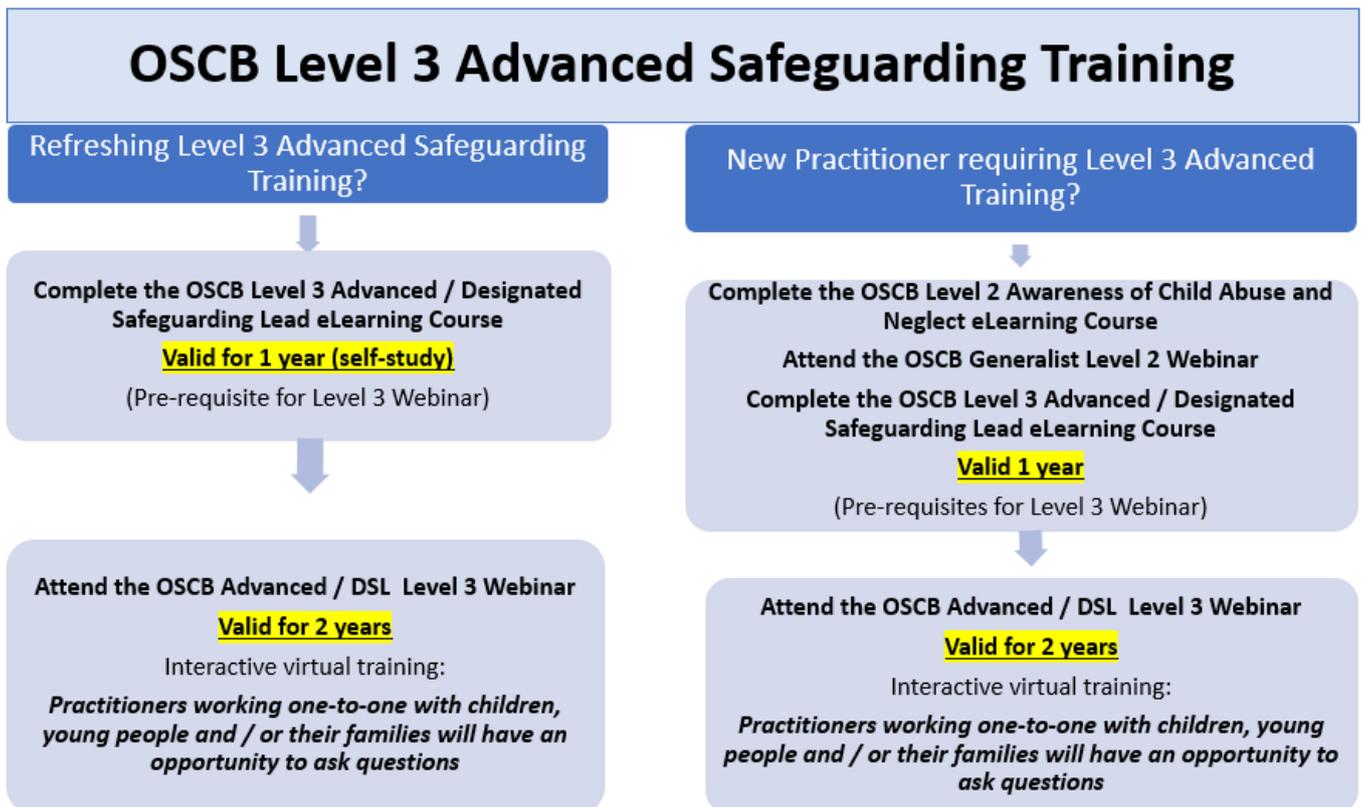
For those practitioners who have **not undertaken** the course previously **and** for those who need to **refresh** their advanced/DSL training, the OSCB recommends that you complete the OSCB eLearning course ‘**Advanced / DSL Level 3 training (Covid-19 package)**’

Advanced training:

- New Practitioners** undertaking ‘**Advanced**’ training for the first time must first complete the ‘Level 2: Awareness of Abuse and Neglect’ eLearning course and the ‘Level 2: Generalist WEBINAR’. Completion of the ‘**Advanced / DSL Level 3 eLearning training (Covid-19 package)**’ will then

provide the practitioner with a certificate which will be valid for **1 year only** and the next course attended must be face to face or webinar training

- **Practitioners completing eLearning course as an ‘Advanced course’ refresher** as they have previously attended face to face ‘Advanced’ training, this course certificate will be valid for **1 year** and the next course attended must be face to face training.
- **Practitioners completing eLearning course as an ‘Advanced course’ refresher** as they have previously attended face to face ‘Advanced’ training and who also complete the ‘Level 3: Advanced / DSL WEBINAR’ will have the certificate validity extended to 2 years

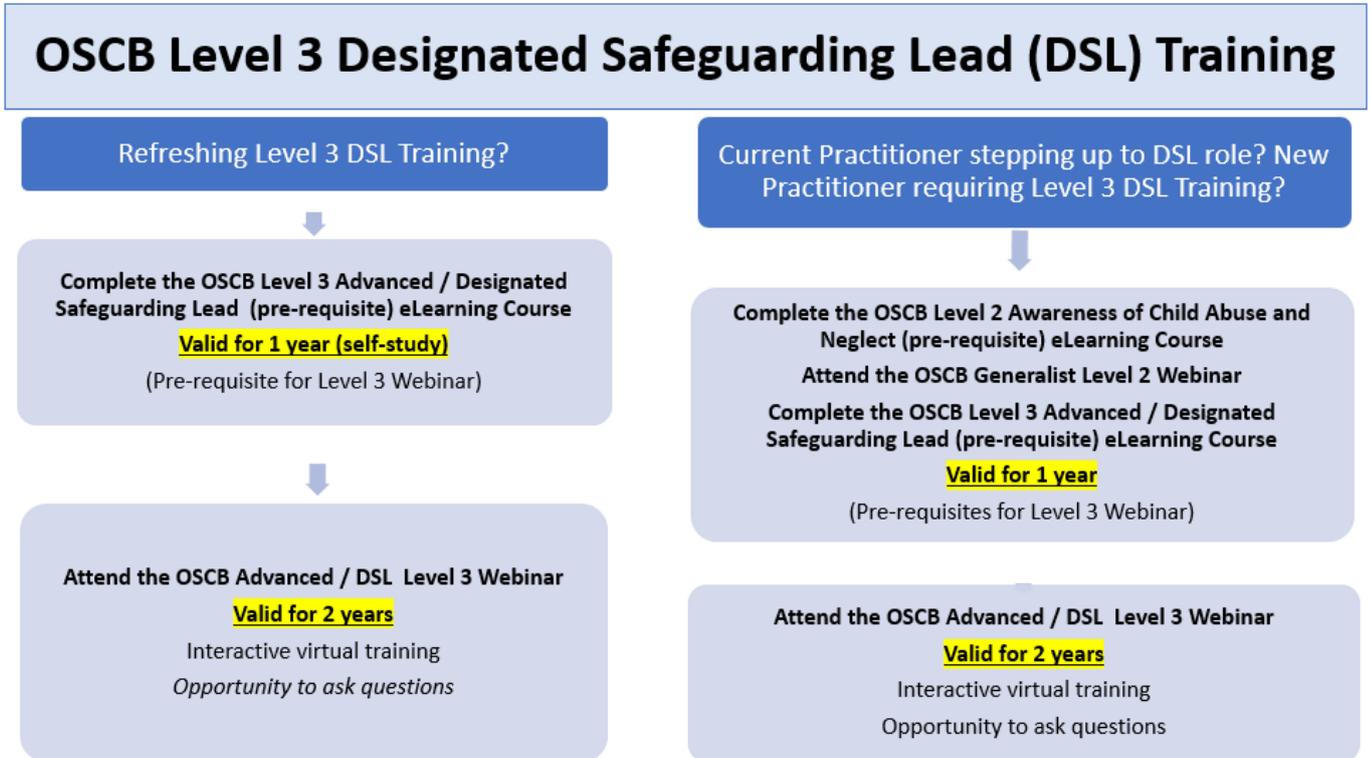


Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) training:

- In the unlikely event that a practitioner is asked to step up to cover a designated safeguarding lead role with no previous safeguarding training, **New Practitioners** undertaking ‘DSL’ training for the first time must complete the ‘Level 2: Awareness of Abuse and Neglect’ eLearning course and the ‘Level 2: Generalist WEBINAR’.
Completion of the ‘Advanced / DSL Level 3 eLearning training (Covid-19 package)’ will then provide the practitioner with a certificate which will be valid for **1 year only** and the next course attended must be face to face or webinar training
- **Practitioners completing eLearning course as a ‘DSL course’ refresher** as they have previously attended face to face ‘DSL’ training, this course certificate will be valid for **1 year** and the next course attended must be face to face training.
- **Practitioners completing eLearning course as a ‘DSL course’ refresher** as they have previously attended face to face ‘DSL’ training and who also complete the ‘Level 3: Advanced / DSL WEBINAR’ will have their certificate validity extended to 2 years

(Please refer to flowchart below)

It will remain the responsibility of both practitioners and their managers to ensure that training is undertaken in a timely manner and at the appropriate level.



New DfE Covid-19 guidance 2020

The DfE has released guidance for educational settings which states:

“It is acknowledged that DSL training is very unlikely to take place during this period (although the option of online training can be explored). For the period COVID-19 measures are in place, a DSL (or deputy) who has been trained will continue to be classed as a trained DSL (or deputy) even if they miss their refresher training”

The OSCB acknowledges the above guidance but would like to propose that it would continue to be best practice for trained DSLs in schools to complete the eLearning ‘DSL/ADVANCED (Covid-19)’ training as a refresher even though the DfE have given them an exemption at this time.

We are recommending this for the following reasons:

- It is good practice to stay up to date
- The online course can be completed in approximately 90 mins
- There will be an increased need for face to face training once this facility is up and running again. It is anticipated that all courses will be heavily oversubscribed, especially as trainers are all front-line

practitioners who will probably be less available due to their own practice priorities, so waiting lists for attendance will be in use

- The OSCB is proud of safeguarding practice in Oxfordshire's schools and would want the level of training maintained throughout the current difficulties

It would still be an expectation that practitioners new to the role of DSL would complete the eLearning package.

The OSCB is aware that the following documents - 'Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018', 'Keeping Children Safe in Education 2019' and the 'Early Years Foundation Stage 2017' all set out the requirement that DSL training should be delivered via a face to face course to a multi-agency audience.

However, the OSCB recognises that this requirement is currently not possible to achieve and has agreed that the advice in this policy will be introduced as a temporary measure to ensure that both children and practitioners remain safeguarded.

Despite the current national situation, and the temporary postponement of face to face local training, the core safeguarding Generalist and Advanced (if this is the only safeguarding course undertaken) courses remain a **mandatory requirement**.

The Designated Safeguarding Lead course remains a **mandatory requirement** for those practitioners new to the role and is seen as a best practice requirement for trained DSLs to complete as a refresher.

The Board will not recognise online courses from other providers as these courses do not contain local information, reporting procedures or contact details and it will not be possible to quality assure the content.

So, to repeat, this policy is a temporary document to cover the period during which the OSCB is not able to deliver face to face training and as such, will be reviewed and revised on a regular basis.

To access the OSCB's training portal on their website, please follow the link below for instructions as to how to create a user profile (if you don't already have one) which you will need to access eLearning courses.

All OSCB eLearning courses are offered free of charge.

<https://training.oscb.org.uk/elearning-list>