

Sarah Parker, Interim Director of Children's Services at Bristol City Council, said she welcomes the report from the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse (IICSA) at residential schools, and the opportunity for local authorities, including Bristol, to learn from the Inquiry's findings.

She said: "Children and young people, and their parents and carers, have the right to expect that education settings are a place of safety. My thoughts are with the young people and their families who were affected by the events covered in this Inquiry. The findings will help inform our work, and the work of other local authorities and national government, to help protect children and young people, and keep them safe.

"The report reflects that our Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) provided a robust response when concerns were first identified at Clifton College by Avon and Somerset Police. The Local Authority Designated Officer is an experienced social worker in Bristol who is responsible for overseeing allegations in respect of people who work or volunteer with children. Their role is to ensure these allegations are investigated robustly so that children are safe from harm.

"It also shows that Bristol City Council has played an important role in working with the Clifton College since, in supporting school leaders to make the changes needed to strengthen both their safeguarding protocols and the school culture.

"In Bristol we established the Safeguarding Education Team in 2014. This team has worked to develop a network of Designated Safeguarding Leads for every school in Bristol. They support schools to develop the culture, policies and practices which contribute to keeping children and young people safe from harm.

"However, we can only safeguard children effectively by working collaboratively with parents, family members and the children themselves to make sure people feel confident to speak out if they see or experience behaviour which is abusive or inappropriate. We would encourage anyone who is concerned about a child or children who they think may be at risk of harm to inform the relevant service."

If you are concerned about the behaviour of a professional working with your child in a school, nursery or childminders you can report this to Ofsted by:

- Calling 0300 123 3155 (Monday to Friday from 8.00am to 6.00pm)
- Email at [whistleblowing@ofsted.gov.uk](mailto:whistleblowing@ofsted.gov.uk)

If you believe a child is being abused or harmed by a professional or volunteer, you should report it to the police on 101.

If you have experienced sexual abuse or exploitation there are services in Bristol who can support you, whether it's recent or some time ago. You can find out more about services on offer in the city and surrounding areas at [www.survivorpathway.org.uk](http://www.survivorpathway.org.uk) or at [www.bristolsafeguarding.org/saferoptions](http://www.bristolsafeguarding.org/saferoptions)

To find out more information about the LADO or how to make a referral go to [LADO Concerns Professionals Bristol Referral Form \(bristolsafeguarding.org\)](http://www.bristolsafeguarding.org/LADO-Concerns-Professionals-Bristol-Referral-Form)

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