

Safeguarding scenario: What should you do?

As a former Headteacher and now Safeguarding Consultant, here's a question I often ask during safeguarding audits:

What would you do if a colleague regularly dismissed low-level safeguarding concerns?

Comments such as:

- ◆ "It's probably nothing."
- ◆ "They're always like that."
- ◆ "I don't think it's worth recording."

may seem harmless, but they can have serious consequences.

One low-level concern on its own may not appear significant

However, when concerns are recorded and viewed as part of a chronology, they can reveal patterns, escalating risks and vulnerabilities that may otherwise be missed.

So what should you do?

Start with a respectful conversation

Take time to understand their perspective. If they are new to safeguarding, they may not yet appreciate the importance of recording and sharing low-level concerns.

Explain why every concern matters

Help them understand that safeguarding is often about connecting the dots. What appears insignificant today may become crucial tomorrow.

Be professionally direct when necessary

If the colleague is experienced, it may be appropriate to remind them of their professional responsibilities and duty to safeguard children.

Inform the DSL

Do not wait to see if things improve. Share your concerns with the Designated Safeguarding Lead so that no information is lost.

Check for gaps in reporting

Consider whether concerns may have gone unrecorded and whether safeguarding records need updating to ensure an accurate chronology.

Identify wider training needs

If there appears to be uncertainty amongst several staff members, this may indicate a need for additional safeguarding training or clarification.



♥ Remember...

This isn't about criticism or blame. It's about creating a safeguarding culture where everyone understands that small pieces of information can make a big difference to a child's safety and wellbeing.

- 🔍 Professional curiosity.
- 📄 Accurate recording.
- 🤝 Shared responsibility.

These are the foundations of effective safeguarding.