

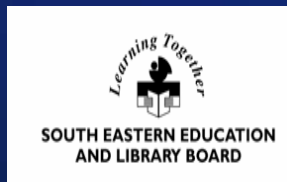
CPSSS

Child Protection Support Service for Schools



Child Protection Strand 2

The Safeguarding Role of School Governors



Objectives

- Demonstrate a knowledge of the impact of legislation and government policy in relation to safeguarding and child protection
- Recognise the signs and symptoms of possible abuse
- Understand the role of the Chair in relation to their statutory duties
- Identify the quality assurance role of a Board of Governors in overseeing the safeguarding and welfare of all pupils enrolled in a school

Context in Northern Ireland – Facts and Figures

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- **Insert Number** children and Young People in Northern Ireland
- **Insert Number** Children on the Child Protection Register
- 5732 recorded offences involved victims under 18 (at March 2007 PSNI Stats)

Context in Northern Ireland – Facts and Figures

- 855 recorded sexual offences involved victims under 18 (at March 2007 PSNI Stats)
- 90% of abused children know their abuser (Co-operating to Safeguard 2003)
- 1/3 children do not report abuse at the time, 1/3 never will (NSPCC 2006)

The Legal Context

- **United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child 1991**
- **The Children (NI) Order 1995**
- **Education & Libraries Order 2003 – Welfare and Protection of Pupils**
- **Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups (NI) Order 2007**
- **The Sexual Offences Order 2008**

UN Convention of the Rights of the Child

Article 3

- Right to have his/her welfare considered paramount in all decisions taken about him/her

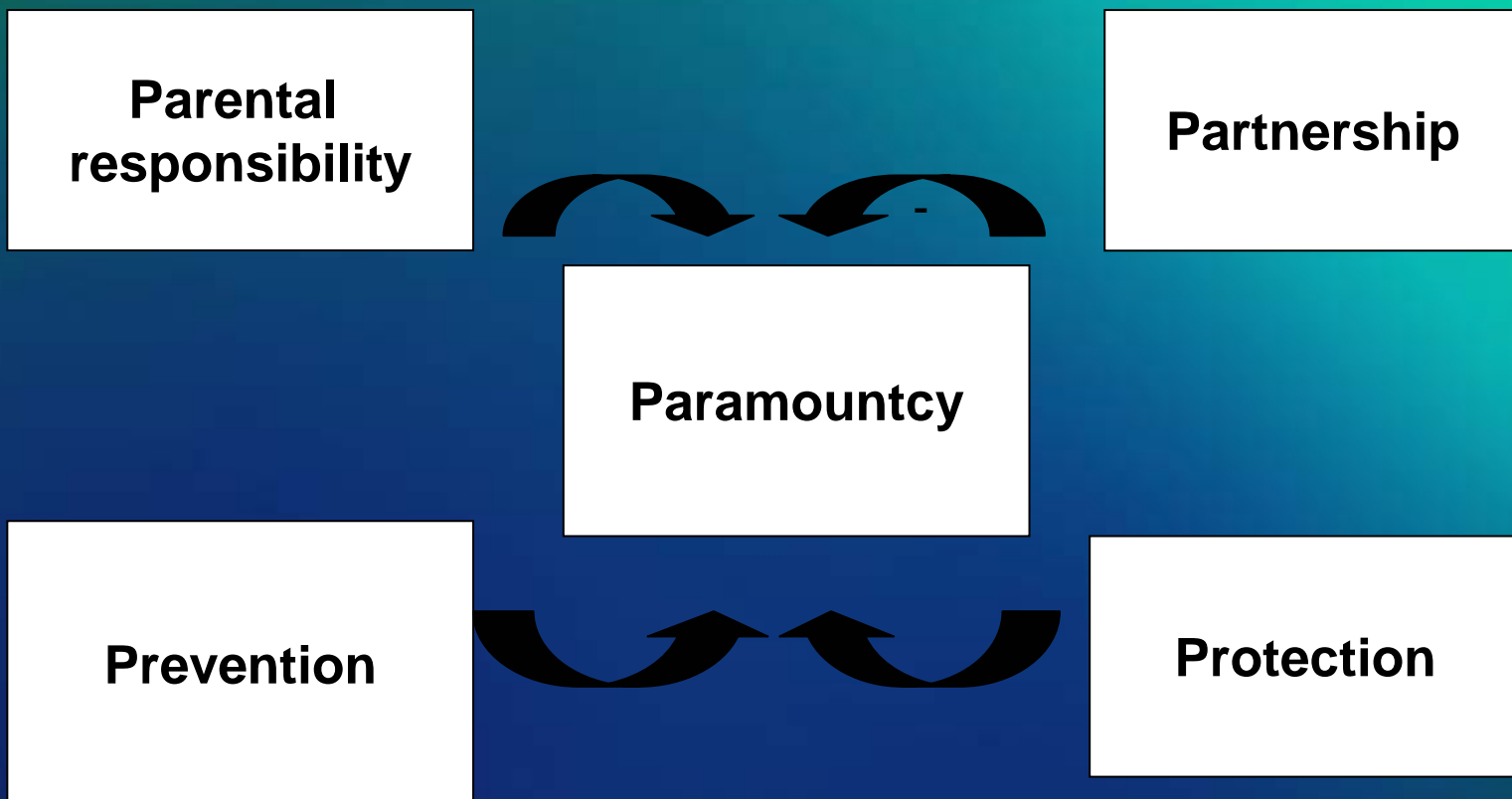
Article 12

- Right to be heard

Article 19

- Right to be protected from abuse and neglect

Children (NI) Order 1995



Statutory Duties Of School Governors in relation to safeguarding

Welfare and Protection of Pupils - Education and Libraries (NI) Order 2003

- A duty on the BOG to safeguard and promote the welfare of all children in the care of their school
- A duty on the BOG to ensure there is a child protection policy at their school and that it is implemented

The Sexual Offences Order 2008

– Key Messages

- It is illegal to have any form of sexual activity with a child under 13 years of age
- The age of consent changes from 17 years to 16 years
- Sexual activity includes all sexual contact not just sexual intercourse
- Sexual activity involving a child between the ages of 13 and 16 is illegal even when consensual
- It is an offence to take indecent pictures of children under 18 years

Statutory Duties Of School Governors in relation to safeguarding

- A duty to consult with pupils and parents
- A duty on all schools to address the issue of bullying through their discipline policies

Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups (NI) Order 2007

- Defines 2 categories of work – ‘Regulated’ and ‘Controlled’ Activities
- Creation of the Independent Safeguarding Authority (ISA)
- Creates 2 Barring Lists
- Access NI

DE Circulars in relation to safeguarding

Circular 99/10

- Guidance for schools on child protection policy and procedures

Circular 03/13

- Guidance for schools on the Welfare and Protection of Pupils Education and Libraries (NI) Order 2003

Circular 06/06

- Guidance on safer recruitment practices for education authorities

DE Circulars in relation to safeguarding

Circular 06/07

- Guidance for schools on the employment of substitute teachers

Circular 06/08

- Guidance for schools on the requirement for child protection training in relation to interviewing and selection panels

Circular 06/09

- Guidance on the vetting of paid and unpaid staff

DE Circulars in relation to safeguarding

Circular 06/25

Guidance on the requirement for vetting of school governors

Circular 07/01

Internet and digital technology

Circular 2008/03

Responsibility for undertaking criminal background checks belongs to Access NI

Circular 2008/10

Substitute Teachers must be booked online via NISTR

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Signs and Symptoms

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Tuning in to Child Protection

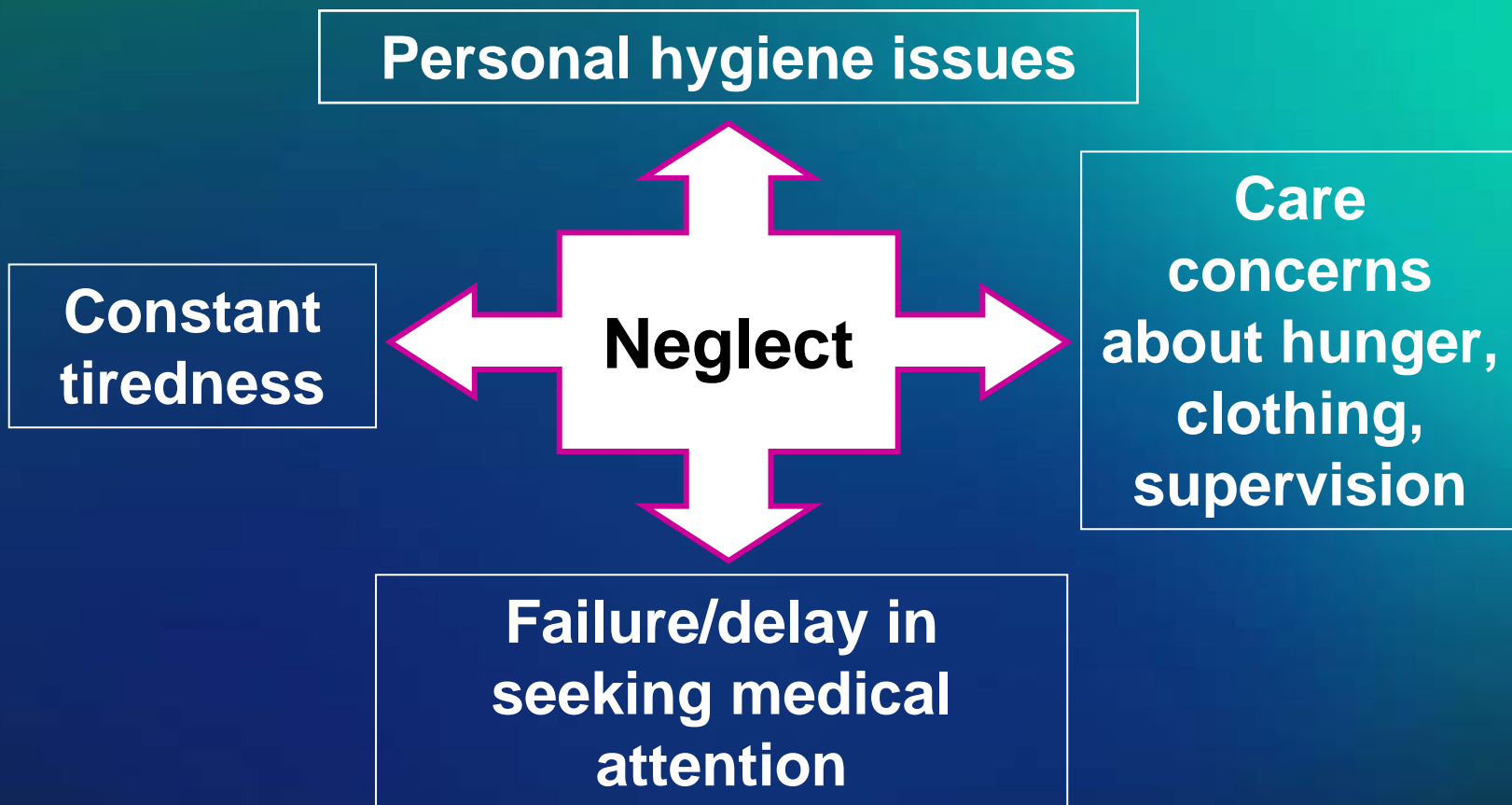
Myths and Realities DVD Clip

[Myths and Realities.wmv](#)

Recognition of Child Abuse

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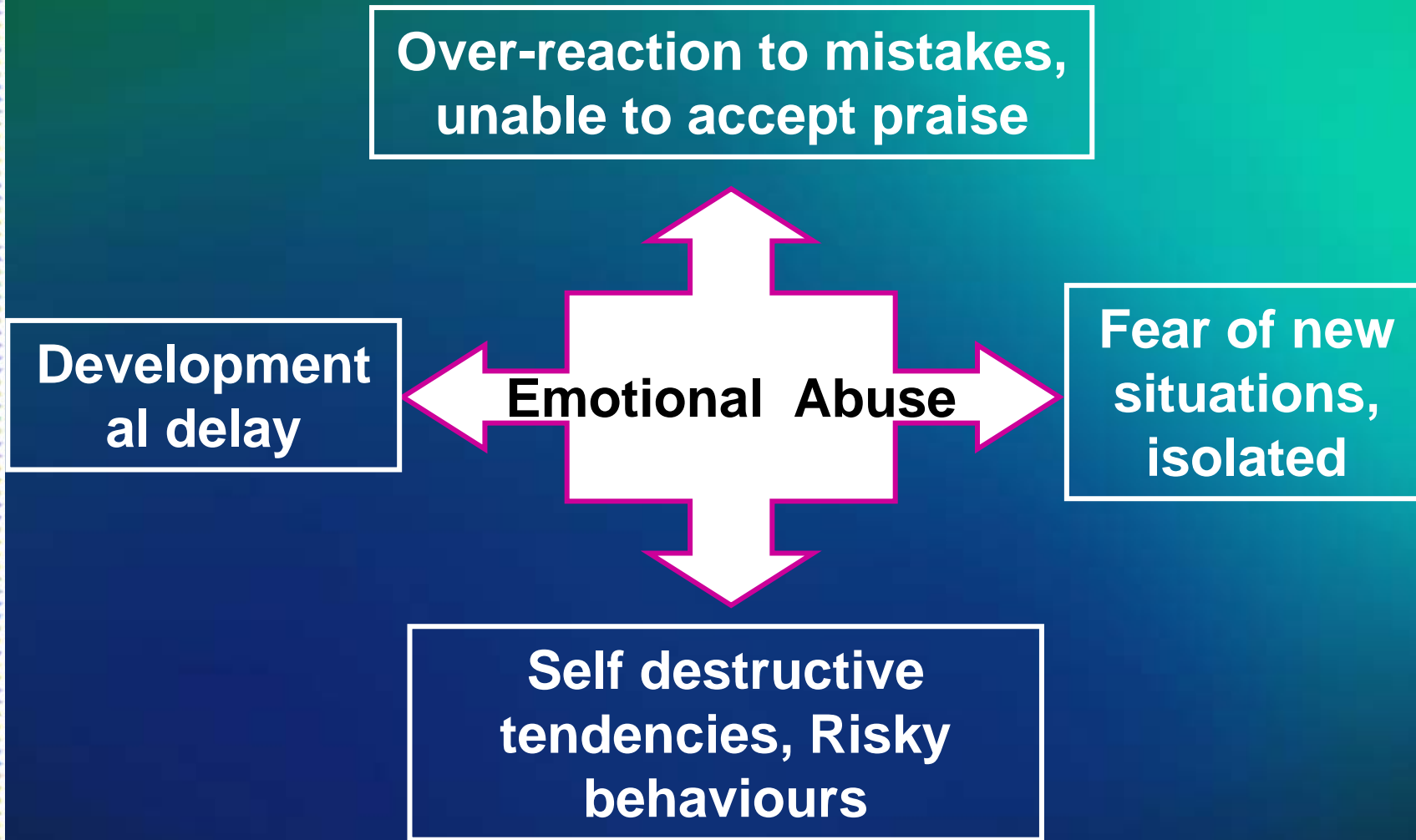
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Recognition of Child Abuse

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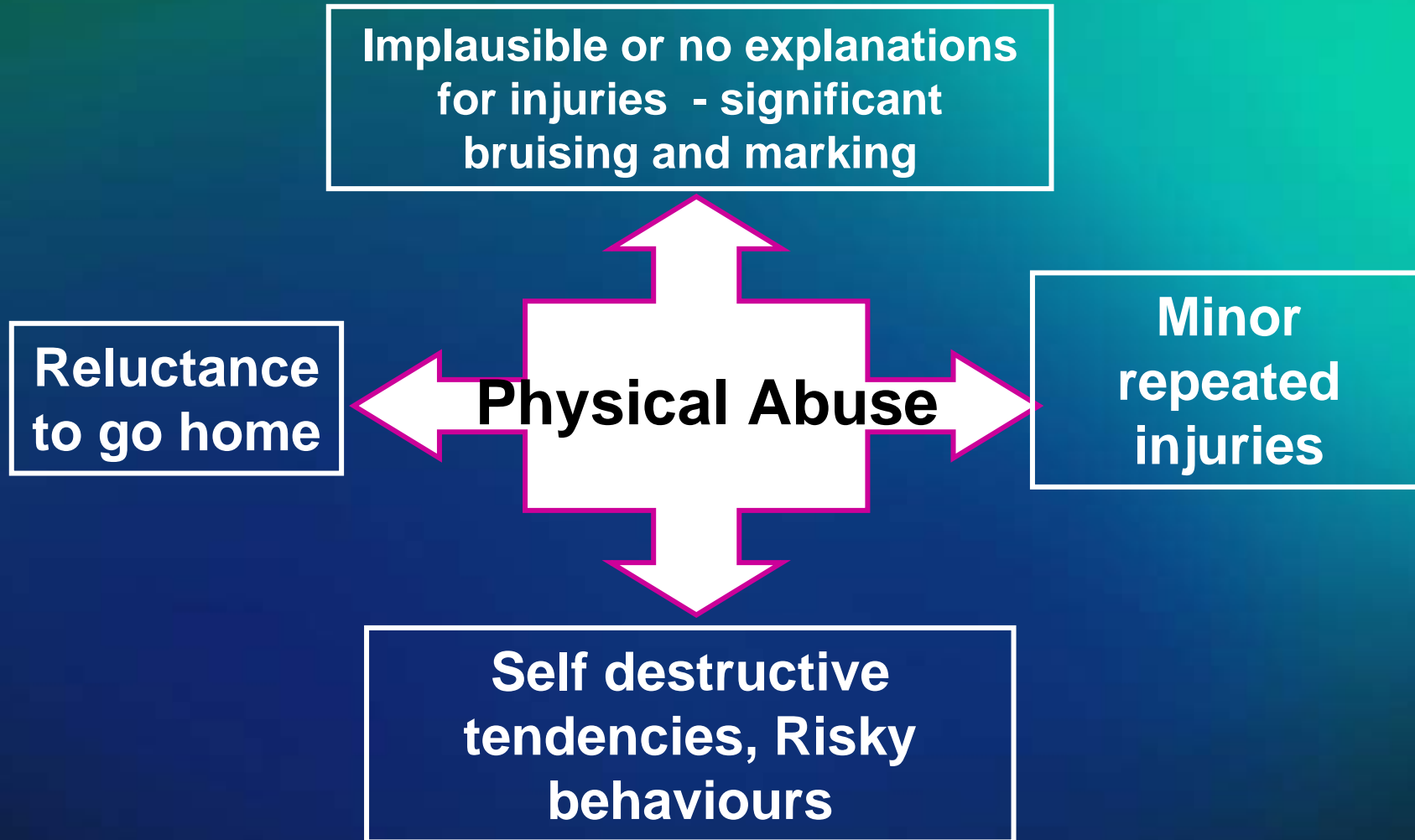
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Recognition of Child Abuse

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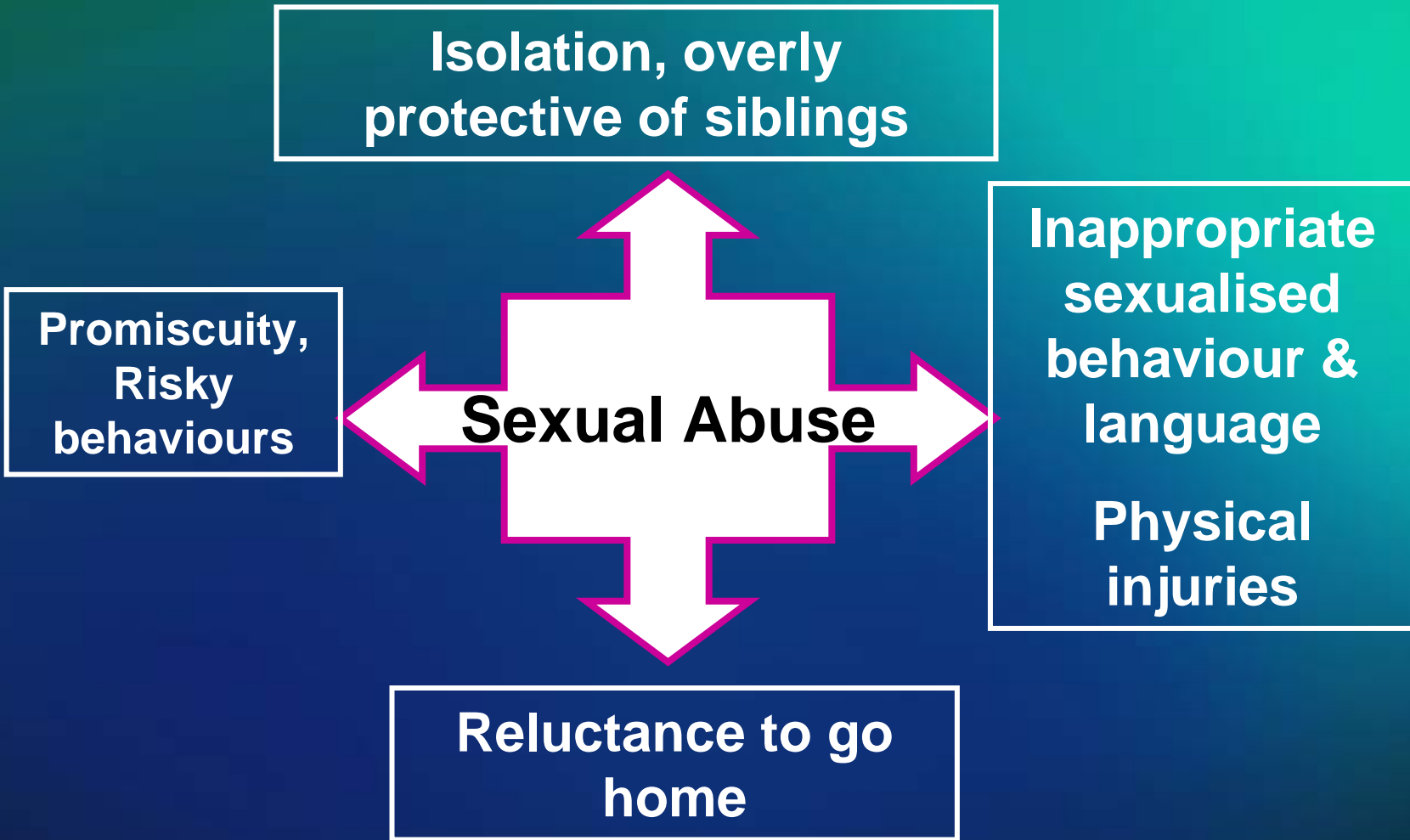
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Recognition of Child Abuse

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School Governors – Safeguarding Role

- The best interests of children are of primary consideration and you should ensure that the necessary safeguarding measures are in place to make all pupils feel safe and protected in your school environment
- The safeguarding role must be integrated into other areas of responsibility; Pastoral Care Policies, Staff Training, Recruitment and Selection requirements

School Governors – Safeguarding Responsibilities

- Create a safeguarding ethos
- Participate in Safeguarding team as a shared responsibility of the Governors, Principal, Designated and Deputy Designated Teacher
- Ensure there is a current Child Protection Policy that is reviewed annually

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School Governors – Safeguarding Responsibilities

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- Parents and pupils should receive a copy of child protection policy and complaints procedures every two years
- Ensure that the prevention of bullying is specifically addressed

School Governors Safeguarding Responsibilities

Ensure that

- Governors have undertaken the appropriate Strand 1,2,or 3 training in relation to child protection
- The Board of governors receive an annual Child Protection report
- Procedures relating to recruitment, selection and vetting are being followed

School Governors Safeguarding Responsibilities

Ensure that

- There is a confidential child protection recording and storage system in place
- There is a robust Code of Conduct for all adults working within the school – this must include volunteers, sport coaches, extended school personnel, etc

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Role of the Chairperson of Governors

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Complaints and allegations

Where a complaint is made against the Principal the Chair of Governors assumes responsibility for managing the complaint/allegation

Role of Chairperson – Handling Complaints or allegations against the Principal

- Establish the facts – this clarification process will include liaison with the designated teacher, reviewing written records and meeting with the complainant.
- The designated teacher will seek advice from the ELB Designated Officer and refer to Social Services under child protection procedures if appropriate

Role of Chairperson – Handling Complaints or allegations

- Seek advice from the Human Resources Manager and consider if disciplinary procedures are required
- Assess appropriateness of precautionary suspension and or removal of direct contact duties

Role of Designated Governor – take lead on child protection issues

Provide advice to the governors about:

- The role of the Designated Teachers
- The content of the child protection policy
- The content of the code of practice for adults within the school
- The content of the termly updates and the full annual Designated Teachers report
- Recruitment, selection and vetting of staff, including sitting on the selection panel

Role of School Principal

- To ensure there is a Designated and Deputy Designated Teachers for Child Protection and they attend training
- To ensure that parents and pupils receive a copy of the schools Child Protection policy and complaints procedure every 2 years
- As secretary to the Governors, to ensure Child Protection is on the agenda for Board of Governor meetings at least once annually

Role of School Principal

- To take the lead in following procedures in relation to a complaint against a member of staff
- To keep the governors informed of any changes in guidance, procedure or legislation
- To take the lead in the Safeguarding Team in the School
- To ensure that all paid and voluntary staff are vetted

Role of the Designated Teacher – to be responsible for

- Raising awareness of child protection policy and procedures with teaching and support staff
- Managing the Child Protection concerns of any member of teaching and support staff including all record keeping.
- Collaborating with the school principal in making referrals to Social Services or Public Protection Unit
- Liaising with the Designated Officers

Role of the Designated Teacher - to be responsible for

- Reporting to the Board Of Governors
- Promoting a Safeguarding Ethos within the school
- Taking the lead in the development of the schools Child Protection Policy
- Participate in the school's Safeguarding Team

A Child Protection Policy – should cover:

- School safeguarding ethos
- Definitions of abuse and signs and symptoms
- Confidentiality
- Name of Designated and Deputy Designated Teachers
- Role of Designated Teacher
- Child Protection Procedures and flowcharts
- Code of conduct
- Recording and reporting procedures
- ICT
- Intimate Care

Role of the CPSSS

Designated Officers will provide;

- Advice, guidance and support to Designated Teachers with all aspects of their role
- A telephone Help Line
- Training to all Designated Teachers, Governors, Principals and other Board Services
- Support for Human Resource regarding Child Protection complaints against Education & Library Board employees

Role of the ETI

- All school inspections will have an element of pastoral care
- The Chairperson will be notified when an inspection is to take place
- Governors will meet with ETI on the first day of inspection
- ETI will discuss the schools systems and processes relating to child protection

Quality Assurance

Governors Checklist

This provides a sound basis for auditing your schools safeguarding arrangements and it can be used on an annual basis as part of the schools development plan

Resources for School Governors in relation to safeguarding

The Child Protection Support Service for Schools (CPSSS) has developed a specific Handbook for all School Governors in relation to their safeguarding role

www.deni.gov.uk

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Plenary

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Thank You for Listening

