



Happy New Year from all at AEGIS!

The AEGIS office had a very busy start to the 2016/17 academic year.

Safeguarding Training

AEGIS is pleased to be able to offer our members and those currently going through accreditation with us, general Safeguarding training in February 2017 (as detailed below). This training will lead on to a higher level Safeguarding course to be provided later in the year. We are pleased to have **Ann Marie Christian** delivering the training, a Department for Education Trainer with over 20 years of experience in child protection. She is an accredited NSPCC Child Protection Trainer and an accredited Safer Recruitment Trainer. Since 2010 she has been working independently as a safeguarding consultant and currently works with various bodies including ISI (Independent School Inspectorate) Consultancy, BSA (Boarding School Association), CCPAS (Church Child Protection Advisory Service), NSPCC, COIS (Council of International Schools), various schools, Academy Trusts and Local Authorities.

The **General Safeguarding Awareness** course will cover the following:

- Definitions of abuse
- Child development and the quality of care they should be receiving
- Signs and symptoms of abuse
- Organisational procedures
- Who to contact in your organisation
- Early help
- Information sharing

Monday 27th February 2017 – LONDON

ISC First Floor, 27 Queen Anne's Gate, London, SW1H 9BU

09.45 registration, 10.00 – 16.30

Limited numbers, 15 maximum

Tea, coffee and sandwich lunch provided

£220 plus VAT

Early booking is advised as places are limited. Please contact Elaine to register elaine@aegisuk.net

AEGIS Conference

We hope to see you at our forthcoming AEGIS Spring Conference on Thursday 23rd March 2017 at the Grand Connaught Rooms, London. Speakers include:

- Marilyn Hawes, Founder and CEO of Enough Abuse UK - Spot Grooming. Stop Child Abuse
- Mark Taylor, Director, The Taylor Partnership - UKVI and Tier 4
- Nicola Lutz, Director, Study Travel - Agents and Guardianship
- Louise Tickle, Freelance Journalist - Children's issues in the media: working with journalists, and how to shape a story
- James Davies, Director of Education, Taylor Education - AEGIS Inspection Process followed by Q&As

Past Conferences have been well attended by school and guardianship staff and offer a good networking opportunity.

Early booking advisable, please contact Elaine to register elaine@aegisuk.net



Government to consult on potential restriction of international student numbers

As many of you will already know, the Government is expected to consult on potentially restricting the number of international students studying in the UK as part of measures to control immigration. We would urge all those involved in international education to write to their local MPs, and any other contacts in influential positions, highlighting the crucial importance of international students to the UK. Here are some main points to include (some wording has been kindly provided by the Boarding Schools' Association):

- 27,633 (ISC census) international students whose parents were overseas were studying in the UK in 2016.
- British education is highly regarded throughout the world and sought after by many overseas parents. International students enrich UK school/college communities and enable students to develop lifelong links between the UK and other countries.
- According to the Oxford Economics 2014 report for the Independent Schools Council, overseas boarders generate an estimated gross value added contribution of £713 million to GDP support 17,300 jobs and generate tax revenues of £278 million. The UK has more than 450 boarding schools, the largest market in the world. Boarding school places are highly prized by parents overseas who recognise the quality, reputation and value of a British education.
- Many schools/colleges are key employers in small local communities and a loss of overseas students could have a direct and damaging effect.
- To accept overseas students, schools/colleges have to achieve trusted sponsor status from the Home Office and meet stringent visa requirements. This involves control measures such as ensuring students have a named guardian in the UK and taking responsibility for them returning home at the end of term. Schools/colleges and Guardianship Organisations work extremely hard to ensure all arrangements for overseas students are managed professionally and responsibly and eliminate any risk of a student under the age of 18 entering or remaining in the UK illegally as a migrant.
- We hope you will support us in resisting any restriction in this important area for UK schools/colleges. The UK benefits from the contribution made by overseas students and their presence does not in any way constitute an immigration issue or risk.

AEGIS will be meeting with Neil Carmichael, Chair of the Education Select Committee and Conservative MP for Stroud, to put forward these views.

New Academic Year – New Start!

Taylor Education is now managing the AEGIS Inspection regime

James Taylor, Director of Education at Taylor Education, took over the AEGIS inspection management in September 2016 – no small feat! Re-inspections and inspections of new Guardianship Organisations were off to a flying start with over 8 completed already and many more underway – well done to James and his team.

College Guardians is a current member organisation which has been re-inspected and gained re-accreditation. Jane Eldridge, Director of Guardianship Services, gave the following feedback:

“We recently underwent our AEGIS re-inspection under the new management of Taylor Education, James Davies undertook the re-inspection. The whole process was extremely professional and very thorough. We were given great feedback from the hosts, children and schools that were visited, commenting on how professional and detailed the process was.

From our perspective as a Guardianship Organisation, we found James to be exceptionally helpful. Any comments raised were done so in a supportive and caring manner, generally as points of discussion with a view to how our service could be improved, not looking for points of fault. It was a pleasurable experience, the team felt well supported, with James offering excellent advice from his background of ISI inspector. We were left feeling motivated, and that if we needed help and support going forward we could ask.

I feel that our AEGIS accreditation now really means something - what a great experience.”

Congratulations to the following Guardianship Organisations who also gained re-accreditation:

Quest Guardians, Guardians UK, Abacus Guardians, Mission Links, and Study Links.

We also welcomed three new Guardianship Organisations who recently gained full AEGIS accreditation:

Academic Families, British Guardianship Ltd, and Oxford Guardians.

AEGIS has advertised for Supporting and Reporting Inspectors to increase our pool of independent Inspectors. For further information please visit www.aegisuk.net/news or contact Yasemin for details yasemin@aegisuk.net



All AEGIS members are invited to our Annual General Meeting (AGM)

Wednesday 5th April 2017

Grand Connaught Rooms, 61-65 Great Queen Street, London, WC2B 5DA

AGM 12.00 – 13.30

Sandwich buffet lunch 13.30 – 14.30

£15 plus VAT

Again, limited spaces available so early booking advisable – please contact Elaine to register elaine@aegisuk.net

If you would like to contribute to our next Newsletter, please contact Elaine with articles elaine@aegisuk.net

Thank you to all our member Schools and
Guardianship Organisations for your continued support.

 Follow us on Twitter @ukaegis

The Wheelhouse, Bond's Mill Estate,
Stonehouse, Gloucestershire, GL10 3RF
+ 44 (0)1453 821293