



Date 11/09/2020

Dear OSEF Members

It was great to have the opportunity to talk to you about our newly recruited Senior Safeguarding Leaders yesterday. They will form a network to provide support for all DWP customers, providing national coverage, whilst also concentrating on building relationships within their own dedicated geography.

The role of the Senior Safeguarding Leader is integral to our reach across local communities to underpin strong relationships with other organisations that provide support to our customers. These colleagues will broaden participation for the Department in forums such as Adult Safeguarding Review Boards, underlining our commitment to playing a key role locally. They will work together with partners in their geography to share information and establish clear escalation routes for customers most at risk. Escalation of safeguarding cases will follow a separate route to other third party escalations. If there is a serious risk identified and that **cannot be resolved** through usual escalation routes, cases should be referred directly to the Senior Safeguarding Leader for the relevant geographical area.

The work of the Senior Safeguarding Leaders will help us continue to learn from instances where things go wrong and put steps in place to reduce the risk of reoccurrence. This is even more important now in the times we find ourselves in with the impact Covid 19 is having on our communities.

As promised, I am really pleased to be sharing the names, contact details and geographical coverage of the Senior Safeguarding Leaders with you.



Regards

Jill



Jill Safeguarding Operational Delivery Lead Customer Experience Directorate