

Record of Activity:

Date	5th September 2024
Activity	CONFIDENTIAL Briefing concerning multi-agency meeting convened by Lancashire CC regarding the case of AR. Provided by the HT.
Notes	1. This pertains to the tragic events of August where AR, a former student of Presfield, attacked several children and adults killing three little girls. He is committed for trial early in 2025. 2. Other notes describe AR's involvement with Presfield as I know it at this time. This note relates to a meeting of agencies convened by Lancashire CC as his home LA, to bring together all agencies with an involvement with AR to construct a joint chronology. 3. The school had been invited but was not able to be directly represented at the meeting. Presfield was represented by Tracey McKeating of Sefton LA. Tracey has provided initial verbal feedback and will provide more detail next week. 4. The HT did not provide me with any information about the case not directly relevant to the leadership of Presfield HS. However, several issues have come to her attention that require action. These revolve around the information passed by AR's previous school, Acorn, to Presfield at the point of his transfer and what was or was not done at the time in 2022. 5. At the time in question, TF was headteacher and had recently been DDSL; LM, currently headteacher, was deputy headteacher; CS, currently deputy headteacher and DSL, was DSL; HC was and remains chair of governors and safeguarding governor; The DDSL was recently appointed and has since left. 6. It appears that Acorn transmitted records for AR electronically but these were not accessed, opened or incorporated into Presfield's system. 7. It appears that Acorn repeated the transfer using a second, encrypted system but the file was not accessed or opened. 8. It appears that on a third occasion Acorn sent a summary Risk Assessment. This was opened and read. It gave the view that AR had behaved without incident during the previous 12 months and now presented low risk. However, the full implications of his previous history may not have been fully appreciated at Presfield. 9. The DSL was absent due to illness during this critical time.

	10. Presfield's actions focussed on the risks to AR rather than any posed by him, on getting him to engage and on meeting his needs. Nevertheless, the then HT and DSL repeatedly and vociferously raised their concerns with Lancashire CC, Lancashire Police, Sefton Council and Merseyside Police. 11. There will no doubt be many issues arising for Presfield as the background to the events emerges in a Serious Case Review. Two are of immediate concern. 12. The first relates to the security of our systems for information handling, particularly on student transfer. - The HT assured me that since her appointment the systems for email handling during staff absence had changed. All DSL emails are redirected to the HT, the Director of Studies and the DDSL. They are acted on promptly. - All transfer records on all students (in and out) have been checked for completeness. Where any gaps have been found they have been followed up. - Systems have been modified to improve risk assessment of students on transfer. For example, where there has been any instance of violent behaviour towards school staff, single visits will never be allowed. As a note, this would have made the support that we gave to families during lockdown impossible to achieve. 13. The second relates to a judgement as to whether a breach of staff discipline might have occurred. The HT has followed the guidance in Annex G of the Guide to Managers. - She was informed of the events outlined above on the 4th September. This information came from the DSL and Tracey McKeating. (Day 1) - The DSL is aware that there could be disciplinary implications. - The HT informed the Chair on the 5th September (Day 2). - The HT considered whether any issue might relate to Conduct or to Capability. She considered that, on the evidence so far available there was no clear link to Conduct. Any link to Capability is also unclear at this stage. More will emerge as the CSR proceeds that will enable a decision to be taken. - The HT considered whether there might be an issue of negligence or whether the events are better seen as an instance of systems being inadequately devised or followed. Again, further evidence is needed to make this judgement. - The HT considered whether suspension as a neutral act was required. Her judgement, supported by HC, was that it was not. - Having registered these concerns, the HT's view, supported by HC, is that no further progress can be made at this time
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	on any individual HR concerns. They remain on the table but proceedings concerning AR and a SCR take precedence. Information at this stage is held in confidence.
Further Actions	1. HC to meet LM and CS as Safeguarding Governor within the next two weeks. During this meeting, colleagues will brief HC (and AM) - on the new systems to ensure that transfer documentation is properly handled (HC will choose some students at random to scrutinise) - on the arrangements to cover absence in this area 2. HT will brief HC following her meeting with TMc on any further issues that have emerged for Presfield 3. CS will brief on how messaging and training is to be done with staff 4. HT and CS will brief on the students who pose the highest levels of concern TO other people in and out of school as well as FROM other people. 5. We will establish what we can and should share with other governors and what we must not.