



Louis Donald

Principal Safeguarding Partner

Louis is a former Executive Education Director and now Founder & Principal Safeguarding Partner of EduShield. Renowned for influencing national policy, he is the trusted expert in complex trust-wide safeguarding, school improvement, inspection readiness, and crisis management.

About Louis

Louis is the Founder and Principal Safeguarding Partner at EduShield.

Previously, Louis was the Executive Education Director at Creative Education Trust, responsible for Safeguarding, Child Protection, Personal Development, Corporate Communications and Marketing, and line managed Principals and Headteachers as a de facto Executive Principal. Louis continues to support the Trust in its safeguarding work through EduShield.

With extensive leadership experience, Louis has built a reputation as a specialist in safeguarding, school improvement and preparing leaders for inspections and wider strategic development. After serving in Policing, he moved into school leadership before becoming Safeguarding Director at a regional Multi-Academy Trust, overseeing SEND and Attendance. He has also held a number of school leadership roles: Designated Safeguarding Lead and Vice Principal.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, Louis supported the Department for Education by advising civil servants and contributing to ministerial briefings, including direct input to the Prime Minister, on the government's safeguarding strategy. His work focused on attendance, children in need and the safe reopening of schools.

Louis is the first educationalist to qualify as a strategic commander for major and critical incidents and civil emergencies.

Louis has served as a non-executive Director for a large multi-academy trust, chaired the Queen Street Group Safeguarding Directors group, and is a member of the British Army's Independent Advisory Group. He is also the founder and a board member of the National Association of Safeguarding Directors in Academies (NASSA).

Experience

Executive Education Director (Safeguarding)

Creative Education Trust **2021-2025**

Executive lead for safeguarding, communications, professional standards, and business continuity; line managing academy principals, driving school improvement, and shaping policy design and quality assurance at board level.

Safeguarding Director

Trust Safeguarding Manager

Vice Principal

Stowe Valley Multi-Academy Trust **2019-2021**

Joined as Trust Safeguarding Manager overseeing operational safeguarding; seconded to an Ofsted Inadequate school, improving behaviour to Good. Promoted to Safeguarding Director, leading safeguarding, attendance, and SEND.

School Leader and Police Officer

Nottinghamshire, United Kingdom **pre - 2019**

After leaving Nottinghamshire Police, where I gained valuable experience in safeguarding, response policing, and community engagement, I moved to Nottingham Academy as a pastoral leader. After completing an aspirant senior leadership programme that exposed me to all areas of school leadership, I was promoted to the senior leadership team.

Licences and Qualifications

College of Policing 2025

Multi-Agency Major Incident Gold (strategic) Command Course

NSPCC 2019 -

Accredited Child Protection Trainer

Mentor Media 2024 -

Media/Crisis Communications Trainer

Headlines

- Supported schools through 50+ Ofsted inspections, including leading improvement from Inadequate to Good and securing positive judgments.
- Delivered national training on Safer Recruitment to Ofsted inspectors and on behalf of the DfE
- Appointed to the DfE's DSL Advisory Group, shaping national safeguarding policy
- Founded the National Association of Safeguarding Directors in Academies (NASSA)
- Designed and embedded safeguarding systems for case management, SCR compliance, and quality assurance
- Regular speaker at national and international conferences
- Led numerous multi-academy trust safeguarding reviews evaluating the effectiveness of Trust-level safeguarding models.
- Led a number of high profile and complex major and critical incidents and contributed as a member of multi-agency gold groups supporting with child deaths and complex enquiries.

Experience

Major & Critical Incident Preparedness

- Qualified Gold Multi-Agency Strategic Commander (College of Policing)
- Designer and facilitator of major incident tabletop exercises and SCG/TCG training
- Trusted advisor on crisis planning, resilience, and continuity in schools and trusts

Safeguarding Leadership

- Extensive experience as Trust Safeguarding Director and Executive Director
- Specialist in complex case management, safer recruitment, and SCR compliance
- National trainer (Ofsted, DfE, NSPCC) on safeguarding policy and practice


School Improvement & Leadership

- Line management of principals and headteachers across multiple academies
- Track record of driving Ofsted improvement from Inadequate to Good
- Strategic experience in SEND, attendance, and personal development

Policy & National Influence


- Advised the DfE during COVID-19, with direct input to the Prime Minister.
- Member of the DfE DSL Advisory Group shaping national policy.
- Founder of UK National Association of Academy Safeguarding Advisors and member of the British Army Independent Advisory Group.

Get In Touch

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