



Safe to Learn

NORTHUMBERLAND
Northumberland County Council

Northumberland Education and Skills Service Northumberland Safeguarding Children Board

Half termly bulletin for Governors, Headteachers and Designated Safeguarding Leads
in Schools, Academies and Alternative Providers

Issue 1: July/September 2015

Welcome to the first half termly bulletin for Governors, Headteachers and Designated Safeguarding Leads (DSLs) in Northumberland schools, academies and alternative providers. The aim of the bulletin is to provide you with regular updates on statutory requirements, Ofsted requirements, safeguarding standards and the work of the Northumberland Children's Safeguarding Board (NSCB) to keep children and young people safe from harm, abuse and neglect and therefore safe to learn.

Advice and guidance is available from the Education and Skills Service and the Safeguarding Board:

Carol Leckie, Health and Wellbeing Team Manager, 01670 622720,

Carol.Leckie@northumberland.gcsx.gov.uk

Saira Park, Safeguarding and LAC Quality Assurance Officer and NSCB Development Officer, 01670 623980,

Saira.Park@northumberland.gcsx.gov.uk

Please note however, that it is the responsibility of each school/academy/alternative provider to ensure that safeguarding practice in their own organisation is compliant.

The minimum safeguarding requirements you should to have in place by law can be found in:

the DfE's statutory guidance [Keeping Children Safe in Education](#) March 2015

and on Northumberland's LSCB website under the [Information for Schools](#) section.

Ofsted: Inspecting safeguarding

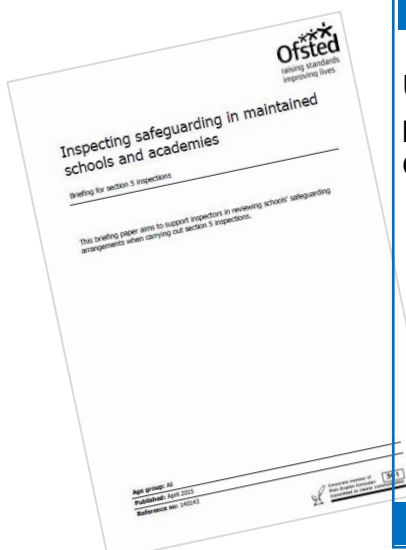
Updated in June 2015 to align with the new OFSTED framework which will be in place from September, this guidance provides important information about OFSTED's expectations during a section 5 inspection. Key points include:

- Clarification of what is considered the signs of **successful safeguarding arrangements**
- The evidence the inspectors will look for during an inspection, including what they will look for when considering how leaders and governors create a **safeguarding culture**

AND

- A full list of what is required on the **schools single central record**

Click on the cover of the document to view and download





What is the Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB)?

... a **statutory** body made up of agencies which work with children and young people and which agree how they will cooperate to safeguard and promote the welfare of children. The agencies are:

- Local Authority:
 - Children's Social Care Services
 - Education Services
 - Housing
 - Legal
 - Adult Safeguarding
 - Public Health
 - Public Protection
- Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG)
- Northumbria Healthcare HS Foundation Trust
- NHS England
- Northumberland, Tyne & Wear Trust (NTW)
- Schools/academies
- Northumbria Police
- CAF/CASS
- Northumberland Fire & Rescue Service
- Northumberland Probation Service
- Voluntary sector
- Lay Members

What are the priorities of the LSCB?

- co-ordinating the activities of all agencies concerned with the protection of children;
- developing and agreeing local policies and procedures;
- assuring the quality of child protection services;
- raising awareness in the wider community of the need to safeguard children.

How does the LSCB carry out its work?

There are currently 8 sub-committees of the LSCB with representation from all partner agencies and which deliver on locally agreed actions to safeguard children:

1. Business sub-committee
2. Communication and engagement sub-committee
3. Serious case review sub-committee
4. Learning and development sub-committee

5. Performance and quality assurance sub-committee
6. Think family sub-committee
7. Vulnerable adolescents sub-committee
8. Early help and early intervention sub-committee

How can education settings get involved?

The LSCB is in the process of creating a new sub-committee for education to involve schools, academies and alternative providers more effectively with the work of the Board and its multi-agency partners.

Priorities for the work of this sub-group will include:

- Assessing the effectiveness of help provided to children and young people, including early help
- Assessing whether NSCB agencies are fulfilling statutory obligations
- Quality assuring practice through audits, including the S11
- Developing and agreeing local policies and procedures

The LSCB would like one Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) from each Education Partnership to be a sub-committee member. Invitations to the first meeting in September will be e-mailed to identified DSLs in July.

Who are the key people we need to know about?

- LSCB Independent Chair - **Paula Mead**
- Head of Children's Social Care – **Rachel Farnham**
- Schools/academies representative – **John Barnes**, Headteacher Astley High School
- Education and Skills Service representative – **Jane Walker**, Senior Manager
- Safeguarding standards in schools representative – **Carol Leckie**, Health and Wellbeing Team Manager
- Safeguarding and LAC Quality Assurance Officer and NSCB Development Officer – **Saira Park**

[Click on this link to find the LSCB training programme for 2015-16](#)

Prevent Duty

The Prevent duty is the duty in the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015 on specified authorities, in the exercise of their functions, to have due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism.

Non-statutory advice is available in the Department for Education document [here](#).

Northumberland schools/academies/alternative providers are required to:

- complete a Prevent self assessment tool (return to [Gill Finch](#) by 23rd October 2015)
- adopt and adapt a Prevent model policy

which can be found on the LSCB webpage [here](#) under the heading *Advice from the Education and Skills Service and LSCB*.

Prevent guidance from the Education and Skills Service can be found [here](#) and [here](#).

Contacts for schools for Prevent are:

Michelle Redfern (4514)
Community Engagement Officer
Blyth Police Station
Northumberland Area Command
Tel: 101 Ext 61954
Mobile: 07747758181
<http://www.northumbria.police.uk>

DC Sharon Ross (8255)
Channel Co-ordinator
Prevent Team, Special Branch
Northumbria Police
Direct Line : 0191 2218957
Mobile: 07748 11 11 34
Tel: 101 - Ext 62957
sharon.ross.8255@northumbria.pnn.police.uk

3. **Gill Finch**
Equalities in Schools Co-ordinator
Health and Wellbeing Team
County Hall, Morpeth
Tel: 01670 622728
Gill.Finch@northumberland.gov.uk

4. preventmailbox@northumbria.pnn.police.uk

Details of a multi-agency PREVENT training programme for schools/academies/alternative providers will be published in September 2015

Ofsted whistleblowing

An increasing number of complaints from parents are received by the Education and Skills Service and LSCB via Ofsted's whistleblowing team. During this last academic year it was evident that section 5 inspectors were aware of these complaints when inspecting our schools. Ofsted's whistleblowing process and Northumberland's response to those complaints were published to schools in the guidance document:

[Ofsted whistleblowing: Safeguarding complaints about education settings](#) – available to view and download at this link under the sub-heading *Advice from the Education and Skills Service and LSCB*

Safeguarding Standards : Section 11

Arrangements for the quality assurance of safeguarding standards in Northumberland schools, academies, and alternative education providers have been developed in partnership with the LSCB and settings in response to local and national requirements for keeping children safe from harm.

The role of the Education and Skills Service is to act as a partner agency of the LSCB to quality assure the safeguarding standards in education settings. The safeguarding standards audit resource - **SECTION 11** - helps you to review and monitor current safeguarding arrangements and identify areas which might need strengthening. The resource corresponds to the safeguarding duty introduced in Section 11 of the Children Act 2004 and the section 5 inspection framework for schools (Education Act 2005).

Settings and the Education and Skills Service are required to report these standards to the LSCB on an annual basis. **You should return your completed annual audit to [Carol Leckie](#) by 17th July 2015.**

The Education Service uses the section 11 process as a vehicle to explore safeguarding issues which might arise in individual settings, for example complaints received through the Ofsted Whistleblowing team. A three tier level of response is outlined in the document **Safeguarding Standards in Schools, Academies and Alternative Education Providers** (available to view and download on the [Information for Schools](#) page of the LSCB webpages).

What to do if you are worried about a child

If you think a child or young person is being abused or mistreated or you have concerns about the safety or welfare of a child, you must speak to someone immediately.

You can call:

- the Safeguarding Team - **01670 623980 (office hours)**
- or **01670 822386 (out of hours)**
- your local [Children's Social Care Team](#) – find contact details by clicking on this link
- in an emergency phone the police 999
- for advice and guidance or to discuss a concern about a pupil please call **Carol Leckie 01670 622720**

Whatever you do, contact one of these numbers to share your concerns

Child Sexual Exploitation CSE

For every school/academy/alternative provider in Northumberland it is mandatory for at least one member of staff to have completed CSE training.

In March 2015 the Director of Education and Skills wrote to you via the e-courier to communicate this expectation with a deadline of 31st May 2015 for completion of the training.

The training has been made available on line through the Virtual College at this link – <https://northumberlandlscb.safeguardingchildren.ea.co.uk>

In June 2015 you received an e-mail link to a short surveymonkey questionnaire asking for confirmation that the training had been completed with the name of your trained member of staff.

PLEASE COMPLETE AND RETURN THE SURVEYMONKEY CONFIRMATION TO CAROL LECKIE BY 17TH JULY 2015