



Safe to Learn

Northumberland
Northumberland County Council

Northumberland Safeguarding Children Board

Northumberland Education and Skills Service

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

Issue 10: February 2017

Advice and Guidance

Advice and guidance is available from the Education and Skills Service and the Northumberland Local Children's Safeguarding Board (NSCB):

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All schools/academies/alternative providers need to know about safeguarding is ON ONE PAGE of the NCC website entitled [Information for Schools](#) and the [Safeguarding and Schools section](#) of the Virtual School webpage.

The minimum safeguarding requirements you should have in place by law can be found in the DfE's statutory guidance [Keeping Children Safe in Education](#) September 2016.

Make sure you and your staff have access to the most up to date version. The initial draft which was published in July 2016 was refreshed and schools must use the September 2016.

Please remember that it is your responsibility to ensure that safeguarding practice in your own organisation meets required standards and is compliant.

Operation Encompass



It is hoped that Operation Encompass will be live from the end of March 2017, now that the issues regarding secure email boxes have been resolved.

Schools will be contacted shortly to provide two names and email addresses for the key adults who will receive the reports from social care.

Please remember that schools are expected to provide a briefing for all staff to ensure they are aware of this operation. A short powerpoint, which can be used for staff briefings is available from Carol Leckie.

Operation Encompass is a new innovative project which Northumbria Police is running in partnership with schools. The project aims to safeguard and support children and young people who are involved in or affected by incidents involving domestic abuse.

Following such an incident, children will often arrive at school upset and unprepared. Operation Encompass aims to ensure that appropriate school staff are made aware early enough to support children in the best way possible.

Emotional abuse in teenage relationships

Northumberland Domestic Abuse Services (NDAS), a Northumberland based independent charity, has been working with London based media organisation Raw Productions to produce a powerful and emotive brand new film that focuses on young people's struggles with coercive and controlling relationships. These behaviours are not currently as widely understood or discussed in the public sphere as physically violent relationships.

The video is now on the NDAS website ready for viewing at:

<http://www.nda.services/control>

It is also available on Youtube for quick linking to your own website:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=52&v=qQoTf-5ug68

The film highlights the dangers of emotional abuse in teenage relationships. Too many young people are coerced into controlling relationships by their partners, who use their power to emotionally control every aspect of their lives. Stories like 50 Shades of Grey and Twilight confuse uncontrollable passion and love with emotional coerciveness and control, embedding an unhealthy picture of relationships into our culture.

More about the film

In order to have a broad reach, the film focused on the general issue rather than the specifics of the work that NDAS carries out. To suit social platforms, the film is short and no more than 90 seconds long with an attention grabbing opening, a complex emotional journey and a hard-hitting ending.

The main objectives for the drama and film are to:

- open up the conversation about psychologically damaging relationships;
- speak to young audiences by focussing on your young person's service, in schools or youth/community settings;
- highlight the difficulties of living in a remote area;
- prevent young people engaging in unhealthy relationships/sexual exploitation.

This can be used to provide basic awareness or to initiate discussion with young people about domestic abuse and abusive relationships.

Moving forward

In 2015 a Northumberland planning group was formed in response to the North East Violence against Women and Girls Strategy to develop lessons based on raising awareness of domestic abuse, child sexual exploitation, rape and consent. The planning group consisted of the **Northumberland County Council Health and Well-Being Team**, Northumbria Police, Northumberland Domestic Abuse Service (NDAS) and Northumbria Health Trust and focused on strengthening learning for year 11 students. The work received a positive response from Dame Vera Baird who spoke at the initial teacher training event.. The work was also recognised by Northumbria Healthcare, winning the **Northumbria Health Partnership Award 2016** for this work.

A sexual exploitation drama project for year 9 students has developed from this work and the Northumberland Planning team will work together with young people to develop the drama performed at the event, create peer educator workshops and training which will follow each performance. The performances are to be delivered in every high school and a range of community venues in Northumberland. **A total of 37 performances and workshops will take place to ensure an equal chance for wider community to access the drama and workshops.**

Disrespect Nobody

The second phase of the Home Office Disrespect Nobody campaign will run until the end of March 2017. The aim of the Disrespect NoBody campaign is to prevent young people, both boys and girls aged 12 to 18 years old from becoming perpetrators and victims of abusive relationships.

For 2017 the focus of the campaign will be consent and sexting which are both issues where many young people need more education and information. The campaign advertising directs young people to the website www.disrespectnobody.co.uk where they can get further information and signposts them to organisations who can provide support.

We have produced a range of partner support materials to help you use the resources with the young people that you work with and promote the agenda within your local area. These include a teaching resource with lesson plans, posters, online adverts and social media assets. We also have materials developed specifically for LGBT young people.

Please click on the link below to download the partner brief and campaign materials.

https://s3-eu-west-1.amazonaws.com/assets.smartcdn.co.uk/docs/Campaign_materials_for_Disrespect_NoBody_2017.pdf.pdf

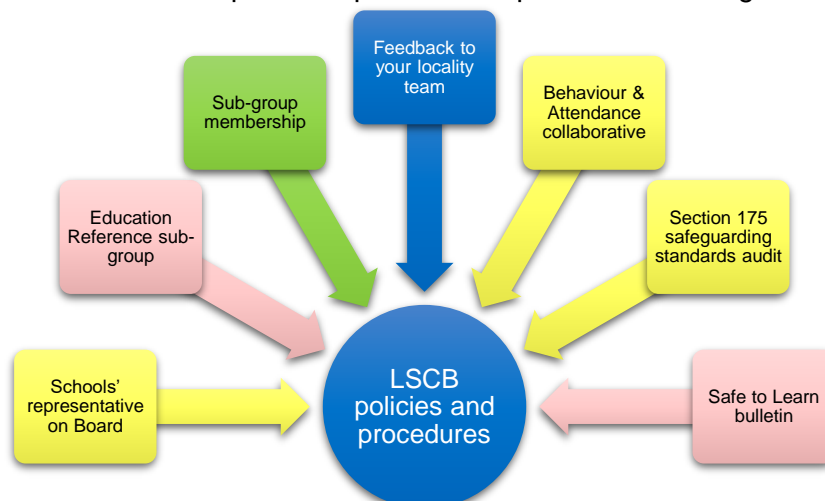
Education Reference Group

At the last LSCB Education Reference Group meeting it was agreed to refocus the activity of the group on priorities identified by the school representatives who are all Designated Safeguarding Leads. The group will look at developing guidance on physical restraint and implementation of the new *thresholds of need* document.

It was also agreed that the Local Authority's guidance on developing a child protection and safeguarding policy will be updated by the end of September each year, allowing time to reflect any changes in the DfE statutory guidance *Keeping Children Safe in Education* which is refreshed annually at this time of year.

Cath McEvoy, Service Director for Children's Social Care, met with the group in January and in addition to sharing updates on the developments occurring in her service area she listened to some of the concerns addressed by the group in relation to referrals, self harm and changes to the threshold document.

How schools can influence the development of policies and procedures through the LSCB:

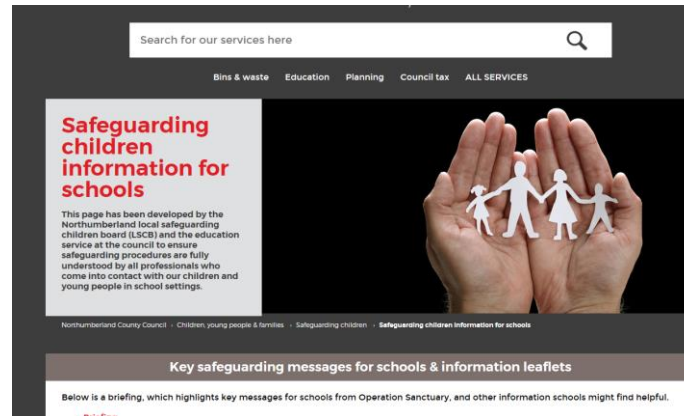


Safeguarding: key documents you should know about and use

- Multi Agency Thresholds Document
- Safeguarding Standards Audit Tool (section 175/11)
- LADO flowchart

Specific LSCB procedures, for example

- Self Harm and Suicide Pathway
- Neglect
- Assessment
- Working with Uncooperative Parents
- Child Sexual Exploitation
- Use of Social Media



<http://www.northumberland.gov.uk/Children/Safeguarding.aspx>

Referrals: how and when

You should make sure that you are **aware of** the signs of abuse and neglect.

You should make sure you know where to turn to if you need to **ask for help**, and that you **refer to children's social care or to the police**, if you suspect that a child is at risk of harm or is immediate danger.

