



# 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 15: December 2017

### In brief

Northumberland has a new **Executive Director of Children's Services**. **Cath McEvoy** took up the post on 1<sup>st</sup> December 2017 having formerly been our Service Director for Children's Social Care. Cath has been with us for over a year now and met many of you at an Education Reference sub-group meeting earlier in 2017. As the DCS role has an oversight of education and children's social care there will be opportunities to meet with Cath in 2018.

Northumberland's multi-agency Neglect Strategy has been reviewed and will be published soon. A **7 minute briefing** about neglect can be viewed and downloaded from the NSCB webpages [here](#).



HM Government

The DfE is currently consulting over revisions to statutory guidance **Working Together to Safeguard Children**. The consultation can be accessed online [here](#) and will close on 31<sup>st</sup> December 2017. When the revised guidance is published the key changes will be communicated through Safe to Learn and the NSCB Education Reference sub-group.

The DfE is also consulting on draft guidance for **restraint and restrictive intervention**. The consultation can be accessed on line [here](#) and will close on 24<sup>th</sup> January 2018.



Recent media reports have drawn attention to sex offenders who target children through streaming programmes. For advice and information about the research behind the news headlines please follow this link to Get Safe Online:

**<https://www.getsafeonline.org/news/nca-warning-about-sex-offenders-use-of-live-streaming-platforms/>**

A reminder that the next **Education Reference sub-group meeting** is on **Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> February from 9.00 until 11.00am in room CR1 at County Hall**. All Designated Safeguarding Leads are invited to attend this meeting, but can you please let Karen Davison ([karen.davison01@northumberland.gov.uk](mailto:karen.davison01@northumberland.gov.uk)) know if you are coming so that we can accommodate you all on the day.

## Get safe online: advice from the Police and Crime Commissioner

Mobile devices, game consoles and wearables make great presents... are you buying one this Christmas? In all the excitement it can be easy to forget to make sure it's set up and used safely and securely, so we've brought you some expert, practical tips to help.

We also recommend the [getsafe online](https://www.getsafeonline.org/christmasdevices/) webpage <https://www.getsafeonline.org/christmasdevices/>



- **Download an internet security app on mobile devices** – including Apple – and ensure you keep it updated. There's a wide choice available, some cover several devices, and some have advanced security features to reduce the impact of loss or theft.
- **Download app updates when prompted**, as they frequently contain security updates.
- **Update operating systems when prompted**, as this will also ensure you benefit from the latest online security.
- **Download apps only from official sources** such as App Store, Google Play or Microsoft Store.
- **Protect all mobile devices with a PIN or password**, even if they feature biometric protection.
- **Keep devices secure and out of harm's way**, as the information on them – and accessed from them – could be worth a lot more than the device itself in the wrong hands.
- **If you've bought a second-hand mobile device**, remove the previous owner's settings and data if this hasn't already been done. If you're selling, carry out a reset. Find out how by reading the manufacturer's website. Ensure the device is running the most up-to-date version of the operating system and apps before using it.
- **Change factory-set passwords** to your own secure passwords as soon as you connect the device to your Wi-Fi.
- **Never leave mobile devices or wearables unattended in vehicles, cafés, the gym or other public places.** Take advantage of the safe in hotel rooms.
- **Keep phones, tablets and wearables protected when out and about in crowded areas.** They make attractive targets for pickpockets and ride-by thieves.
- Remember that clicking on email attachments or links in emails, text messages and social media posts could infect your device with malware, including ransomware and spyware. **Think before you click.**
- **Back up all your devices regularly** so that your data, photos and music will be protected in the case of theft, loss or damage.
- **If the device is for a child or young person**, sit down and speak to them about safe and responsible use of the internet, including what they say and who they communicate with. You could also download a respected parental control app to block unsuitable content. And make sure that bills aren't being run up for in-game purchases.



## STOP, SPEAK, SUPPORT

### Royal Foundation's Cyberbullying Taskforce campaign launches – STOP, SPEAK, SUPPORT

The Royal Foundation's Cyberbullying Taskforce campaign – **Stop, Speak, Support** – was launched on Thursday 16 November. The NSPCC is pleased to support this campaign which is led by the Royal Foundation with support from partners including NSPCC, Google, Facebook, Snapchat and the Diana Awards,

The campaign has been designed by young people for young people and it aims to help young people stop cyberbullying, know what steps they can take to stop it happening, and provide support to the person being bullied. It is aimed at 11 – 18 year old bystanders in online bullying situations, with a supporting campaign for parents. The campaign highlights three simple steps that bystanders can take if they witness bullying – Stop, Speak, Support. The three steps have been created in response to young people saying that it is the only area of their lives that's missing clear expectations and regular reminders on how to behave.

Content for young people, schools and parents is below for you to share. For images to share on social media, please download using this link <https://we.tl/MYk4uR15JR>. If you have any questions or would like more images, GIFS or banners please contact [Hattie.fitzgerald@nspcc.org.uk](mailto:Hattie.fitzgerald@nspcc.org.uk)

The main campaign website can be viewed [here](#), and the campaign animation can be found and embedded from [here](#).

**The key message for young people of *Stop, Speak, Support* is that when the banter turns bad there are three things you can do to help:**

- **Stop and pause before reacting**
- **Speak to a trusted adult or friend, and**
- **Support anyone being bullied online.**

For schools, teaching materials to support the campaign as part of Anti-Bullying Week, have been developed and can be found [here](#) on the Anti Bullying Alliance website.

There is also advice for parents who seek to reinforce the code's message and discuss how to talk about cyberbullying. This advice is on the NSPCC website and can be found [here](#). The advice encourages parents to help your child to be an upstander not a bystander when they witness cyberbullying by using the *Stop, Speak, Support*. code for online life.

## HOLD the DATE: learning lessons from serious case reviews

**The NSCB will shortly be inviting colleagues to attend events based on the learning from recent serious case reviews.** The half day event will focus on recent local serious case reviews and consider the learning from these for all professionals working with children and families in Northumberland. It will also provide an opportunity to reflect on the lived experiences of the children involved.

### Dates and venues

There are 2 sessions on each date, starting times 9.15 and 13.30 respectively:

- 8th February - West Hartford Fire Station, Cramlington
- 16th February - Lindisfarne Centre, Alnwick (NB this is half term)
- 23rd February - Fuse Centre, Prudhoe
- 8th March - West Hartford Fire Station, Cramlington

## Lesson plans to support Run, Hide, Tell

Advice for pupils on how to survive terrorist gun and knife attacks is to be made available to schools across the country for the first time. **Counter-terror experts say pupils should respond to terror attacks 'like a fire drill'.**

The lesson plans for key stage 3 and 4 pupils have been produced by the [National Counter Terrorism Security Office](#) (NaCTSO) and the [PSHE Association](#), and are backed by the Department for Education.



The materials are an extension of the government's Run, Hide, Tell campaign and address the threat of terrorist attacks in crowded places.

They are based around a six-minute film called Run, Hide, Tell - The Story Of Nur, Edih and Llet. The film follows the story of three young people reflecting on how they managed to survive an attack on a shopping centre.

The teaching materials are available to download via the [National Police Chiefs' Council website](#).

## Was not brought



Recent learning from serious case reviews has led professionals to rethink how to record when a child is not presented at medical appointments. Failure to present is often a key indication of disengagement by parents and can imply neglect. The advice to professionals is to record such absences as **Was Not Brought** instead of Did Not Attend. This YouTube link will take you to a helpful animation to explain why this practice should be adopted by professionals working with children.

<https://youtu.be/DPqw28DSqNA>

## Domestic Abuse

Northumberland Safeguarding Children Board working with Northumberland Safeguarding Adults Board and Safer Northumberland Partnership have developed a **Domestic Abuse Toolkit** which can be viewed and downloaded from the NSCB webpages [here](#).

The toolkit is designed to support front line practitioners in NSCB partner organisations who come into contact with and support families who experience domestic abuse. The documents have been collated from a variety of services/organisations, both national and local and embedded with direct web links that offers up to date information. It also provides links to download information and posters for waiting areas and staff rooms.

A new training module which explores domestic abuse and the impact on children – **Domestic Abuse and Safeguarding Children** – is now available on [Learning Together](#).





## Safeguarding and Radicalisation

In August the DfE published a report into **Safeguarding and Radicalisation**. The Executive Summary draws attention to 4 key themes which emerged and which are significant for schools when discharging their Prevent duty.

1. **The degree of internal consensus about how an authority should respond to radicalisation has an impact on staff confidence and capability to handle these cases:** Where there was no internal consensus within an authority about how the threat of radicalisation should be responded to, this led to a range of barriers and challenges for staff.
2. **Engaging with families and communities around this issue is a key challenge, with some indications of emerging good practice:** Staff reported different kinds of barriers that arose in relation to engaging with families and communities as part of the safeguarding response to radicalisation. Some staff had encountered direct barriers, where family members sought to directly restrict the access of safeguarding professionals to their children; for example, by refusing a safeguarding assessment.
3. **Working effectively with partner agencies, including the police, schools and healthcare professionals is central to the response to radicalisation across many local authorities – and a source of key challenges:** Further barriers arose in relation to partnership working. In particular, radicalisation cases often presented issues relating to information sharing with the police. Police were sometimes perceived to be limited in terms of the information they were able to share about ongoing criminal investigations, even if this was the cause of a referral to safeguarding professionals.
4. **Where the perceived legitimacy of interventions is questioned, this presents challenges to staff confidence:** Finally, barriers also arose where the legitimacy of safeguarding or child protection interventions was challenged. In some instances, this was external challenge (for instance a court refusing to grant permission to assess a child). Staff also reported internal anxieties about the appropriateness of interventions, with staff in areas with less experience of working on radicalisation cases often less confident about how they should best respond.

The full report can be viewed and downloaded [here](#).

## Neglect

The National Institute for Health and Care Excellence – NICE – has recently published guidance which covers **recognising and responding to abuse and neglect in children and young people aged under 18**. It covers

physical, sexual and emotional abuse, and neglect. The guideline aims to help anyone whose work brings them into contact with children and young people to spot signs of abuse and neglect and to know how to respond. It also supports practitioners who carry out assessments and provide early help and interventions to children, young people, parents and carers. The guidance can be viewed and downloaded from the NICE website [here](#)



## DSL training

There are still a few spaces left on Designated Safeguarding Lead training in January. The venue is West Hartford Fire Station. To book a place please contact Carol Leckie.

Dates:

- Refresher training 9<sup>th</sup> January, 09:00 - 12:30 and
- Roles and Responsibilities for new DSLs, 10<sup>th</sup> January, 09.00-16.00

## First Contact

In June 2017 the NSCB introduced a new Threshold Document to be used when making referrals to **First Contact**, which is Northumberland's children's social care single point of contact based at Foundry House Bedlington.

As part of the NSCB's role in scrutinising and monitoring services we are requesting that professionals who have used First Contact to share concerns about a child or to make a referrals complete an audit by following this link:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdmSRJeBzC8pdq89ptlWBkdPNeapMoFN2iS-fx5qQaKYpuTZA/viewform>.

The audit should take between 3 to 5 minutes to complete and please don't forget to press submit at the end.

**Schools who have not yet received their A2 copy of the new thresholds document should contact Carol Leckie.**

## School Zone

**Teaching resources** produced by Public Health England, including links to all of the Change4Life resources for primary schools and new Rise Above resources for secondary schools on topics such as bullying and cyberbullying, smoking, online stress and FOMO, alcohol, exam stress, body image and forming positive relationships can be accessed on the campaigning resources government website [here](#).

## Advice and Guidance

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

Carol Leckie, Schools' Safeguarding and Wellbeing Team Manager, 01670 622720  
[Carol.Leckie@northumberland.gov.uk](mailto:Carol.Leckie@northumberland.gov.uk)

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 *Inclusion and the Virtual School* webpage.

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](#) 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.**

Happy  
Holidays!