



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 17: March 2018

KEEP THE CHILD IN FOCUS



ONECALL

Onecall is the enquiry and referral line for Northumberland Council's Children's Services. It is one number for adult social care, children's services and community health enquiries and referrals in Northumberland, including children and adults safeguarding referrals.

The priority is to provide help at the earliest opportunity to prevent a crisis and to help the most vulnerable people keep safe and well 24-7.

Onecall : 01670 536400

Resources are available on the NSCB webpages and posters and information booklets will be delivered to each school shortly.

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

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 2018.

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

SERIOUS CASE REVIEWS

Learning from recent Northumberland serious case reviews – MOLLY, OLIVIA and KIRSTY - can be found on the [NSCB website](#) as 7 minute briefings.

In summary the learning covers:

- vulnerability of young people with disabilities
- the role of adult males in the household
- chronologies
- recording the facts
- face to Face strategy meetings for sexual abuse cases
- domestic abuse

Key skills needed by staff:

- Understanding the threshold guidance
- Conversations with parents
- Professional curiosity
- Professional challenge
- The impact of neglect
- Recording incidents, including chronologies
- Accurate recording
- Role of the Designated Officer
- Understanding the impact of domestic abuse

EDUCATION REFERENCE SUB-GROUP

The next meeting of the NSCB's Education Reference Sub-Group is on:

Wednesday 6th June 9.00-11.00am in Room CR1 at County Hall

This group is your chance to be involved in the decision making of the NSCB and to influence policy and procedure in Northumberland. Please try to attend, and if you are unable to the nominate a colleague from your partnership to attend in your place. Hopefully we'll see you in June.

Indecent images of children Campaign (HM Govt.)

Eleven percent of 18-24yr olds don't think it is illegal to download, view or share indecent images of a child when they are under 18.

Twenty-two percent of men aged 18-24 do not agree that the children in indecent images are harmed by the experience.

The Home Office has launched a campaign to inform young men that viewing abusive images of children is illegal. Awareness needs to improve in order to protect children and prevent the criminalisation of young men. Key messages of the campaign are:

- viewing sexual images of children under 18 is illegal;
- the age of consent (16) is different to the legal age to feature in a sexual image (18);
- there is a victim behind every underage sexualised image;
- what you should do if you come across indecent images.

Campaign resources include posters and videos. Further information can be found in the supporters' pack here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/indecent-images-of-children-campaign-supporter-pack>
Website: <https://stoponlinechildsexualabuse.campaign.gov.uk/>

DOMESTIC HOMICIDE REVIEW

A domestic homicide review (DHR) – **SARAH** - was published last month involving a Northumberland woman who was murdered by her teenage son. There will be training sessions arranged for multi-agency partners and it is strongly recommended that schools attend. The learning is summarised as:

- inadequate assessment and treatment of Michael's mental health;
- failure to identify domestic abuse, specifically Adolescent to Parent Violence and Abuse, and to fully recognise the risk posed by Michael;
- lack of care co-ordination, full information sharing and a robust multi agency approach to risk management;
- lack of full exploration of concerns being raised by the family, and lack of consideration given to further support that they may have needed;
- Michael's 'invisibility';
- lack of consideration given to the interplay between Michael's behaviour and his internet use.

REVIEW OF OPERATION SANCTUARY

The findings of a Serious Case Review (SCR) into Operation Sanctuary were released this month. A total of 18 people were jailed as a result of Northumbria Police's investigation into a network of predators who targeted vulnerable females by plying them with drugs and alcohol before using them for sex.

The SCR report details how agencies responded to the exploitation and what lessons need to be learned for the future.

Despite the long prison sentences handed to the Sanctuary perpetrators and national publicity about the operation, similar abuse is still going on in Newcastle.

The key learning includes:

- effectiveness of arrangements following a period of missing;
- ensuring statutory guidance for pupils who change educational settings are consistently followed;
- implications for children educated otherwise than at school having regard particularly to the body of knowledge about sexual exploitation;
- consider pupils educated otherwise than at school and consider the need for legislation to more effectively regulate this provision.

TOGETHER WE CAN TACKLE CHILD ABUSE CAMPAIGN

Two new animated GIFs to are now available to help you support the Together We Can Tackle Child Abuse Campaign. You can download these [here](#).

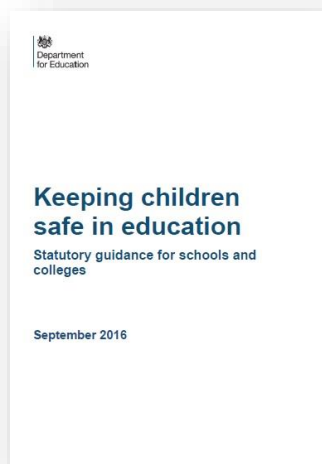
Printable assets –designs for A3 posters and A5 leaflets showing the signs to spot and the different types of abuse and neglect are also available, and there is an option to co-brand with your logo. You can download these [here](#).

The key call-to-action for the campaign is www.gov.uk/tacklechildabuse, where members of the public can enter their postcode to contact their local council and report any concerns.

Guidance on how to use the material is available here: www.dfecildprotection-munroforster.com
Get in touch with the team with any queries at dfecildprotectioncampaign@munroforster.com

KEEPING CHILDREN SAFE IN EDUCATION

This statutory guidance is being revised for September 2018. Until then you should still use the September 2016 version. Some of the proposed changes are summarised here.



- reference to local multi-agency safeguarding arrangements which reflect forthcoming changes in **Working Together to Safeguard Children**;
 - provided additional information on children who may especially benefit from **early help**;
 - additional links added for domestic abuse, county lines and **sexual violence and sexual harassment**;
 - updated to make clear that all schools and colleges should have their own **individual child protection policy**. This is important as it will reflect local circumstances. This does not stop a proprietor of multiple schools from having an overarching child protection policy;
 - added additional information about **children missing education**;
 - where reasonably possible schools and colleges should hold **more than one emergency contact** number for their pupils;
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- the designated safeguarding lead is from the school or college's **senior leadership team**;
 - importance of school and college child protection policies reflecting **peer on peer abuse**;
 - new requirements regarding **previously looked after children and care leavers**;
 - importance of considering safeguarding in the context of **using restraint**;
 - flowchart of **Disclosure and Barring service Criminal Record Checks and Barred List Checks** - revised;
 - **Single Central Record (SCR)** - the minimum information that must be recorded;
 - reminder to schools to record **risk assessments**;
 - revised text to signpost to guidance to be used by schools and colleges when determining **when a volunteer should be supervised**;
 - new information clarifying the responsibility of schools when working with **alternative providers**;
 - reminder about **private fostering requirements**;
 - clearer guidance for the DSL on dealing with **allegations against staff**;
 - more information in the appendices on **CME, County Lines, Domestic abuse, HBV, Preventing radicalisation- information regarding extremism, Peer on peer abuse and host families**.

It is expected the new guidance will be published Summer 2018 although there is a September version online. Please wait till the version is confirmed post consultation.

Make sure you display the most up to date version.



Click on the image to visit the NSCB webpages