



Safe to Learn



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 19: September 2018

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 *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.

MASH Education Liaison Officer

Welcome to our new Schools' Safeguarding and Wellbeing team member Victoria Kinneavy. Victoria is the MASH Liaison Officer and will be working with colleagues in Children's Services to ensure communication between them and schools is effective, developing examples of good referrals and contributing to the training for DSLs.

Victoria works in the MASH to support the information gathering process when there is a need for a statutory assessment, ensuring the information from teams in the Education & Skills Service and from schools is received in a timely way and contributes effectively to the assessment process. Victoria will also be the lead within the team for Operation Encompass.

Keeping Children Safe in Education September 2018

The revised version has now been published and all education settings must ensure **all staff** have read and understood **Part 1**. **Please ensure you shared the most up to date version – [which you can find here](#) - and keep a record that all staff have received, read and understood it.**



LSCB Resources: Sexual Exploitation and Neglect

The Local Safeguarding Children's Board regularly updates resources on their website and recent additional resources have been published in relation to:

- [sexual exploitation](#) and
- [neglect](#).

You can use these resources to keep all staff updated.

These resources supplement all of the information available on [the Safeguarding Children Information for Professionals page](#) and the [Safeguarding Children Information for Schools page](#).

Harmful sexual behaviour: learning from case reviews

Summary of risk factors and learning for improved practice around harmful sexual behaviour

Harmful sexual behaviour (HSB) can be a challenging issue for professionals to manage. A child who displays HSB can have a range of behaviours, which need a safeguarding response. HSB has been identified as a significant risk factor in some serious case reviews.

Published case reviews show that professionals can find it difficult to respond to the safeguarding implications of HSB. There may be several children involved, each of whom will have different needs, and minimising the immediate effects of an incident can become a priority. Because of this professionals can find themselves managing individual episodes rather than looking at the bigger picture.

The learning from these reviews highlights that children who display HSB need support and understanding. HSB should be recognised as a potential indicator of abuse and professionals should work together to look for the reasons behind a child's behaviour and consider appropriate safeguarding responses.

The NSPCC's has published a useful briefing on the subject: [Harmful Sexual Behaviour](#). There is also an area on the NSPCC website detailing [learning from case reviews](#) involving harmful sexual behaviour.

Responding to threats to the safety of your school

Northumberland's Community Safety team and the Education & Skills Service have collaborated to publish a 10 step response to follow in the event of receiving a threat to the safety of your school.

The guide is accepted procedure for Northumberland and must be followed. You can download it by visiting the [NSCB web page](#) under 'Documents available to download and print'.



Training 2018-19

To ensure your continued engagement with the LSCB we will be holding termly locality meetings for DSLs to brief you about the LSCB – news, developments, training, anything else you need to know about the safeguarding agenda. The dates, times and locations of the briefings are listed below. The same briefing will be delivered 3 times each term but in different locations and there is an open invitation to all DSLs. **There is no cost for attendance at these sessions.**

Autumn Briefing:

- 11th December 2018, West Hartford Fire Station 15:30 – 17:00
- 12th December 2018, North location (tbc) 09:30 – 11:00
- 13th December 2018, West location(tbc) 15:30 – 17:00

Spring Briefing:

- 12th March 2019, West Hartford Fire Station 09:30 – 11:00
- 13th March 2019, north location (tbc) 15:30 – 17:00
- 15th March 2019, West location (tbc) 09:30 – 11: 00

Summer Briefing:

- 2nd July 2019, twilight session, South East location (tbc)
- 3rd July 2019 , morning session, North location (tbc)
- 4TH July 2019, twilight session, West Location (tbc)

Designated Safeguarding Lead Training

This full day session is one of two days required for **new DSL's** in Northumberland to fulfill their role in an education setting. The session is based around the National Guidance 'Keeping children Safe in Education' and it looks at the processes used in Northumberland from Early Help to Child Protection.

Cost £100

Tuesday 11th September 2018

Tuesday 15th January 2019

Thursday 9th May 2019

1/2 day Designated Safeguarding Lead Refresher Training

This 1/2 day sessions supports DSL's to meet the statutory training requirement outlined in 'Keeping Children Safe in Education'. The content includes information on local and national priorities and refreshes DSL's on the current processes in place when they need to refer children.

Cost £50.00

Friday 14th September 2018 PM

Thursday 22nd November 2018 AM

Friday 11th January 2019 AM

Thursday 28th February 2019 AM

Tuesday 2nd April 2019 AM

Wednesday 8th May 2019 AM

All refresher courses are held at West Hartford Fire Station and charges will be made after the sessions.

To book, please follow this link to the [online booking form](#).

Disqualification by Association

Schools are no longer required to ask about the cautions or convictions of someone living or working in their household.

It should be noted that other statutory guidance may be relevant where the third party lives on the school premises, such as in boarding schools.

Main Points

- Disqualification by Association now only applies in domestic settings, not schools.
- Disqualification under the Child Care Act still applies to staff themselves who work in a child care capacity, whether paid, volunteer or are on work placements.
- Relevant staff are those working in child care, or in a management role because they are: working with reception age children at any time; or working with children older than reception until age eight, outside school hours.
- Keeping Children Safe in Education (DfE, 2018) paragraph 116 also refers to disqualification: "For staff who work in childcare provision or who are directly concerned with the management of such provision, the school needs to ensure that appropriate checks are carried out to ensure that individuals are not disqualified under the Childcare (Disqualification) Regulations 2009".
- Schools are free to decide how to bring these requirements to the attention of their staff. As a means of making staff aware of their duty to provide such information, they may, for example, choose to include a section in the school's safeguarding policy, or another policy document, or by means of an addition to new staff members' contracts of employment.
- Schools should draw this guidance to the attention of their staff and the information provided by Ofsted referenced in this guidance.
- Schools will need to review any historic data collected and destroy any information which is no longer required.

Ofsted and the Independent School Inspectorates will check the management of Disqualification under the Childcare Act as part of their routine school inspection process.

What should schools do

Inform staff of the changes, and record the date that they were informed- a letter, or email might be best.

1. Ensure that this information is included in the Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy; and in the Safer Recruitment Policy.
2. Identify and record which staff are covered by Disqualification under the Childcare Act 2006 (including volunteers and people on work placements).
3. Ask relevant staff to self-declare that they are not Disqualified under the Childcare Act 2006. (A form is not necessary). [An Enhanced DBS Certificate will confirm this for new staff; for existing employees schools could consider using the DBS Update Service to supplement any employee self-declaration.]
4. Remind all staff about the expectation to inform the school where their relationships and associations, both within and outside of the workplace (including online), may have implications for the safeguarding of children in the school.
5. Remind all staff that if their circumstances change they must inform the school. (Decide where to put this in writing: Staff Code of Conduct and/or in staff contracts).
6. Decide whether these self-declarations will be kept on the Single Central Register, or elsewhere.
7. Review any historic data collected and destroy any information which is no longer required.

The government guidance can be found [here](#).

e-safety and on-line games

You may have been made aware of a free online game called Doki Doki with themes related to suicide and self-harm. Professionals were made aware of the game following the death of a teenage boy who it appears had played the game. The inquest in another Local Authority area is ongoing.

It is important to remember that suicide is complex and rarely the result of one thing.

The game, released in late 2017, is initially presented as a dating game but is described by its creators as a 'psychological horror' and is intended for an adult audience. Public Health England, Samaritans and the NSPCC Online Safety team are aware of the game and work is being carried out, behind the scenes, to address concerns around any risk posed, particularly to young people.

While it is important to promote online safety to young audiences, parents and adults who work with children and young people, **it is safer to approach this with general messages about online safety, without naming specific websites or games.** Responding to specific online games is likely to draw further attention to these, as we saw with the 'Blue Whale Challenge' online game last year. If you are forwarded warnings about this or other games please think carefully about what you share. It is worth reminding people of the importance of avoiding drawing attention to it and inadvertently advertising it to young people.

Further advice:

- encourage parents and adults who work with young people to talk to them about their online activity. Let them share what they're playing or looking at, rather than asking them whether they are playing a specific game, which may draw their interest to it;
- encourage extreme caution on sharing online content with young people that may be distressing or upsetting. If young people express any concerns or worries over material they have seen online, or posts or comments that friends or others have made, it is important to listen to them and offer support. Providing information and signposting to sources of support for all young people;
- increasingly people use the internet to express themselves and share their thoughts and feelings, or to participate in online activities. Sometimes online material and activities can be harmful and upsetting and it's important to let people know what to do if this happens, so they can look after themselves;
- if you have concerns that someone who is suicidal, useful information can be found on the Samaritans' website at the link [here](#).

The GDPR and how to share information to keep children safe

Since the introduction of the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) there have been concerns that this may impact on Information Sharing which is essential to keep children safe. The Government has therefore updated its guidance on [information sharing for practitioners providing safeguarding services to children, young people, parents and carers](#)

The guidance has been updated to reflect the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and Data Protection 2018, and it supersedes the 2015 version of the guidance. Information sharing is essential for effective safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people.

It is a key factor identified in many serious case reviews (SCRs), where poor information sharing has resulted in missed opportunities to take action that keeps children and young people safe.

Sharing of information between practitioners and organisations is essential for effective identification, assessment, risk management and service provision. Fears about sharing information cannot be allowed to stand in the way of the need to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and young people at risk of abuse or neglect.

Private Fostering

The Northumberland Safeguarding Children Board is concerned about the low numbers of private fostering arrangements that are notified, under statutory requirements, to the local authority.

Private Fostering remains one of our key targets in 2018/19 to develop and implement a robust multi-agency action plan to substantially increase private fostering notifications.

While there is no reason to suppose that the majority of children and young people in private fostering arrangements are not well cared for and safeguarded, all children being brought up under these arrangements are entitled to the protection and oversight that the private fostering legislation is intended to provide. We must never forget that Victoria Climbié was a privately fostered child.

At the point of writing there is a low reported number of Private Fostering Cases. We are aware that this is far from being the true picture of the number actually in place in the County.

We have identified that, nationally, regionally and locally, the number of arrangements notified to local authorities is low compared to other evidence of the widespread scale of private fostering arrangements.

The aim of the new **Private Fostering Seven Minute Guide** is to provide staff and volunteers in partner agencies delivering services to children, young people and families with the information and guidance that they need in order to identify any private fostering arrangements that come to their attention. It includes information on the legal responsibilities relating to these arrangements and how to make a notification to the **Children's Service's OneCall number on 01670 536400**, all with a view to ensuring that any child placed into a private fostering arrangement receives appropriate care that ensures their safeguarding.

For further information please visit the [LSCB webpage](#).

This plea is part of the ongoing national campaign **Somebody Else's Child**, which is run by the British Association for Adoption and Fostering corambaaf.org.uk. The campaign aims to raise awareness of private fostering.

A short film about private fostering which was produced by the national campaign can be viewed here - [Somebody Else's Child](#).

Examples of situations when children become privately fostered:

- children sent to this country for education or health care by birth parents from overseas
- children living with a friend's family as a result of a parental separation, divorce or arguments at home
- a teenager living with the family of a boyfriend or girlfriend,
- children living with host families for any number of reasons
- people who come to this country to study or work, but antisocial hours make it difficult for them to use ordinary day care.
- children and young people living apart from their families
- minority ethnic children with parents working or studying in the UK
- children with parents overseas.

Modern Slavery

Please find here a link to the [Home Office Modern Slavery Training Resource Page](#) which includes links to some useful videos, leaflets and an e-learning package.