



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 3: December 2015

Welcome to our half termly bulletin for Governors, Headteachers and Designated Safeguarding Leads (DSLs) in Northumberland schools, academies and alternative providers.

A reminder that advice and guidance is available from the Education and Skills Service and Northumberland Local Children's Safeguarding Board (NSCB), but it is your responsibility to ensure that safeguarding practice in your own organisation meets required standards and is compliant:

Carol Leckie, Schools' 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
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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](#) July 2015
- and on the NSCB website under the [Information for Schools](#) section.

Statutory guidance

[Keeping Children Safe in Education](#) July 2015 is statutory guidance from the Department for Education. Schools and colleges must have regard to it when carrying out their duties to safeguard and promote the welfare of children.

It contains information on what schools and colleges **should** do and sets out the legal duties with which schools and colleges **must** comply. It should be read alongside statutory guidance [Working Together to Safeguard Children 2015](#) which applies to all the schools referred to above, and departmental advice [What to do if you are worried a child is being abused 2015- Advice for practitioners](#).

Please note:

- **Governors and Headteachers are responsible for ensuring that ALL staff read at least Part One of this guidance;**
- **The requirements of a Single Central Record are clearly outlined from page 31. Please ensure you have read, understood and implemented the requirements and that all column headings are clearly labelled and completed.**

10 things you need to know about Child Sexual Exploitation

Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) is not something that happens in other parts of the country.

Everyone needs to be vigilant. Don't think *it couldn't happen here!*

1. Current national data tells us that:

- 25% of girls and 18% of boys will be physically abused by a partner by the age of 16
- 31% of girls will be sexually abused by a boyfriend by the age of 16
- 72% of girls will be emotionally abused by a boyfriend by the age of 16.

Although the statistics relate to girls as victims, CSE isn't gender specific. Victims and perpetrators are both male and female.

2. Northumberland Safeguarding Children Board expects that at least one member of staff in school will have completed on line CSE training at

<https://northumberlandiscb.safeguardingchildren.co.uk>

It is recommended for schools with secondary aged pupils that at least one member of staff attends the face to face CSE training. Dates for this can be found on the Learning Together pages on the [Northumberland County Council](#) website.

3. The delivery of high quality PSHE in schools is recognised as a protective factor. Teaching young people about healthy relationships will help them to understand what is acceptable and what is not acceptable in a relationship.

4. Your school child protection policy should make reference to CSE, recognising that your school acknowledges that CSE is a safeguarding issue and that staff have received training.

5. Non-attendance is one of the key risk indicators for pupils who might be victims of CSE. Make sure your recording systems are robust and non-attendance and punctuality are followed up. If young people are in alternative provision ensure that contact is maintained and you are notified of absences.

6. If you have any concerns about a young person make your Designated Safeguarding Lead aware of your concern and use your school recording system to put your concerns in writing.

7. All concerns involving sexual exploitation should be raised with you locality social care team. You can also seek advice from the social worker for missing children – Lorraine Topping 01670 629200.

8. Resources providing more information for schools are available at this link on the [NSCB website](#) and www.nspcc.org.uk and www.barnados.org.uk

9. Social media is often a characteristic of CSE cases. Please ensure that you use the [NSCB e-safety incident flowchart](#) when concerns arise.

10. If in doubt call the Schools' Health and Wellbeing team on 01670 622720.

10 things you need to know about the Prevent Duty

1. **Prevent** is a government strategy which safeguards people and communities from the threat of terrorism. It aims to stop people from becoming radicalised as terrorists or supporters of terrorism.
2. The Prevent Duty applies to schools and education settings and means you have a **legal duty** to prevent people being drawn into terrorism or extremist activity. This duty is described in '[The Prevent duty; Departmental advice for schools and childcare providers June 2015](#)'
3. All school staff must be aware of the content of the **Prevent** departmental advice and the references made to **Prevent** in '*Keeping Children Safe in Education (July 2015)*'
4. All schools must have a policy outlining the school's approach to meeting the new Prevent duty. This can be based on the Northumberland template: [Prevent model policy for schools, academies and alternative providers to adopt and adapt](#)
5. The school's Child Protection Policy must also make reference to the Prevent duty, recognising that the school sees this as a safeguarding issue.
6. All schools must have completed a Prevent self-assessment audit and returned this to either Gill Finch (Gill.Finch@northumberland.gov.uk) or Carol Leckie (Carol.Leckie@northumberland.gov.uk)
 - [Prevent self-assessment tool for schools, academies and alternative providers.](#)

The self-assessment should provide the school with priorities for an action plan which they need to complete to ensure they are meeting the **Prevent** duty.

7. Schools may be addressing Prevent through the curriculum and the organisation of the school day. Curriculum delivery could include PSHE, citizenship, religious education, SMSC and how **fundamental British values** are promoted.
8. Any concerns school staff have should be reported to their Designated Safeguarding Lead. If we spot the signs, we have to report them. All information should be recorded using the schools recording systems.
9. The people who are most at risk from being drawn into terrorism can be helped. They can be offered support through a programme called **Channel**. If you see or hear anything worrying that you need to report when away from the school setting, including if you think that someone is trying to radicalise you, there is the confidential **UK Anti-Terrorist Hotline 0800 789 321**.
10. To make a Prevent referral the Designated Safeguarding Lead (or any member of staff) should contact:
 - the locality social care team
 - the Local Authority's Community Intelligence Officer - Steve Fear 01670 623735 – stating clearly that it is a Prevent referral.
 - or e-mail : specialbranch@northumbria.pnn.police.uk, telephone 101 extension 63854

Female Genital Mutilation

Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) or female circumcision, refers to any procedure that alters or injures the female genital organs for non-medical reasons.

With effect from 31st October 2015 teachers are legally required to report cases of female genital mutilation to the police. According to the new duty, failure to do so will result in disciplinary measures and could ultimately lead to being barred from working. The rules apply in England and Wales when a girl under 18 discloses or staff recognise the signs. FGM has been illegal in the UK since 1985.

Procedural guidance from the Home Office on the mandatory reporting of FGM can be downloaded [here](#).

Advice and guidance from the NSCB regarding FGM can be accessed on the website [here](#).

On-line training

The Education and Skills Service and NSCB provide safeguarding training to schools, academies and alternative providers through two on-line platforms:

- **Virtual College**

Access at

<https://northumberlandscb.safeguardingchildren.ea.co.uk/> and follow the instructions to register

- **Learning Together**

Access by creating a Learning Together account (if you do not already have one). To do this click on the following link:

<http://ncc.learningpool.com/> and then click on 'Create Account (External Users Only)'.



News in brief

The [NSCB's Annual Report 2014-2015](#) has now been published.

The DfE's Safer Recruitment Consortium has now updated the guidance on safer recruitment in education. It is recommended that schools/colleges use it in conjunction with DfE statutory guidance- *Keeping children safe in education* - when devising and implementing their safeguarding and child protection policies and training plans.

[Guidance for safer working practice for those working with children and young people in education settings October 2015](#) can be downloaded to print here.

The NSCB's Education Reference Group will meet for the second time in January 2016. Membership includes a representative from every education partnership in the County. Priorities for the group's workplan include:

- Review of the Safeguarding Standards audit tool (section 175/11)
- Information about NSCB procedures eg the Suicide and Self Harm Pathway
- Review of thresholds
- Early Help
- Linking safeguarding requirements to section 5 Ofsted inspections

To contribute please contact your education partnership's DSL.