



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 4: February 2016

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
01670 623980, Saira.Park@northumberland.gcsx.gov.uk

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.

Safeguarding Standards in Schools: Audit Tool

The Safeguarding Standards in Schools audit tool (previously Section 11 audit, now Section 175) has been refreshed for 2016 and will be available to complete on-line. Briefings are currently being held to introduce you to the new format. Places at each session are limited and further sessions will be offered shortly. Any school willing to hold a session in their locality for partnership schools can contact Carol Leckie directly (01670 622391). Sessions currently available are:

22/02/2016	16:00-17:30	Queen Elizabeth High School
01/03/2016	10:00-11:00	County Hall
04/03/2016	09:30-11:30	County Hall
08/03/2016	09:30-11:00	County Hall
10/03/2016	09:30-11:00	County Hall
10/03/2016	13:30-15:00	County Hall

To book please e-mail childrensservices@northumberland.gov.uk .

You **must** supply the e-mail address of the member of staff who will maintain the audit on behalf of the school as this will be used as your log-in.

Education Reference Group: LSCB

Education is currently one of the priorities of Northumberland's Local Safeguarding Children's Board (LSCB). An Education Reference sub-group has therefore been convened with representation from all learning partnerships across all phases. The group has now met twice and has agreed Terms of Reference and an initial workplan.

The purpose of the Education Reference Group is:

- to develop a framework to support a new relationship between education settings and the LSCB;
- for education settings to use that framework to support each other as peers;
- to develop and implement a safeguarding assurance and improvement framework for education settings in order to:
 - improve the welfare and safety of children and young people (through the delivery of training audit processes and education improvement offer)
 - provide assurance for establishments and the LSCB of the effectiveness of safeguarding arrangements and practice (through the s175, s157 audit process, external inspections and reviews)
- provide peer support to Headteachers and Further Education representatives on the LSCB to ensure that:
 - the LSCB is aware of key safeguarding issues and challenges faced by educational establishments
 - emerging safeguarding issues are communicated effectively to all educational establishments
 - the representatives challenge the LSCB and vice versa.

The aims of the agreed work plan, which is still in draft form, are to:

- consider, scope, and further research key issues and developments relating to safeguarding standards in schools;
- prepare schools for external scrutiny, including from Ofsted;
- effectively disseminate to education settings learning which emerges from management and serious case reviews;
- provide the Board with a rigorous and effective review of safeguarding practice in education settings;
- maintain, review and produce up to date policies and procedures for education settings;
- promote accessibility to and awareness of information and resources that help to keep children safe and protected in education settings;
- provide a forum where professionals from across agencies and education settings can coordinate and collaborate on strategic plans designed to keep children safe;
- in conjunction with the Business Sub-Committee and other sub committees ensure that activity and outcomes cross reference and complement each other.

Actions will involve developing a local model policy with good practice guidance for the use of physical restraint in education settings, improve understanding of the interface between the Early Help offer and social care services, support the implementation of Early Help hubs in each locality, improve awareness of the Self Harm and Suicide Pathway, and developing the role of the Designated Safeguarding Lead.

This is not a definitive list and the group welcomes contributions from all professionals involved in education across the County. If you want to get involved then please contact your partnership representative or Carol Leckie.

10 things you need to know about Safeguarding

1. The Ofsted definition for safeguarding is:
 - protecting children from maltreatment
 - preventing impairment of children's health or development
 - ensuring that children are growing up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care
 - taking action to enable all children to have the best outcomes.
2. Make sure you have read ***Keeping Children Safe in Education, July 2015***. Reading part one is a statutory requirement for all school staff. The full document will keep your knowledge up to date.

This document will be updated annually (for the start of each academic year) and we will keep you informed of changes.
3. Ensure you are clear about procedures for referrals. If you have any concerns about a young person then: **RESPOND – REPORT – RECORD**
4. If you have any safeguarding concerns **you must also report** them to your DSL who will advise you on the appropriate course of action. And you should ask your DSL for a progress update to ensure your concerns have been actioned.
5. Use the link below to add a shortcut to your desktop which will take you directly to Children's Social Care procedures and LSCB Multi-agency Procedures and Practice Guidance:
<http://northumberlandscb.proceduresonline.com/chapters/contents.html>
6. Following a series of malicious hoax communications to schools across the UK it is important that you are alert, but not alarmed. The National Counter Terrorism Security Office has issued guidance for schools as an opportunity for you to review your security plans to confirm that the arrangements you should already have in place are still current and have been tested to ensure staff and students are prepared and confident. The guidance can be viewed [here](#).
7. If you have any concerns about the behaviour of an adult in school you must contact the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO).
Her name is Chris O'Reilly and you can call her on 01670 623979.
8. The new OFSTED safeguarding guidance [*Inspecting Safeguarding in Early Years, Education and Skills Settings. Guidance for inspectors undertaking inspection under the common inspection framework, August 2015*](#) gives schools clear guidance on what the inspectors will look for - they want to know a school's safeguarding practice is effective and that they are providing a safe learning environment.
9. Ensure the your safeguarding training is up to date, not just the basic awareness of what abuse looks like but an understanding of current agendas such as Prevent, Child Sexual Exploitation, Female Genital Mutilation.
10. The LSCB's Suicide and Self Harm Pathway and Thresholds documents have both recently been updated and can be viewed at the link at number 5. Further consultation will be taking place with partner agencies, including schools and education settings, through the Education Reference sub-group.

Operation Encompass



In brief, Operation Encompass is a protocol whereby the Police inform schools when they have been to a home when there has been a call regarding domestic abuse. The pilot has been very successful in other Northumbria area commands and there is now a plan to extend this into the Northumberland Area Command.

A booklet explaining the project can be downloaded here, and further information about the roll out in our own schools/academies/education settings will follow in due course:

Many thanks to those of you who contributed and participated in any way to our recent Ofsted inspection. We are now waiting for the report which has to go through a quality assurance process at Ofsted, hopefully it will be with us in about 6 weeks' time.

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://northumberlandlscb.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)'.

Your school will have already been offered a place for a representative from your senior leadership team to attend a **conference** hosted by the Education and Skills Service on Tuesday 26th April at Choppington Welfare. The morning session is devoted to Safeguarding in Schools and the afternoon session will look at the Local Authority's role and strategy in relation to pupils with special educational needs and disabilities. Please contact Deborah Anderson if your school has not already accepted the place (Deborah.Anderson01@northumberland.gcsx.gov.uk)

Early Help

Your school partnership locality now has an **Early Help Co-ordinator**. For Central and North your Co-ordinator is Vanessa Easton (01670 629400), for South East and West your Co-ordinator is Christine Wilson (01670 629278).

Follow this link to information leaflets regarding [Early help hubs](#) .

If you want to refer to the early help hubs, click on the links below to access the referral forms and leaflets or contact:

earlyinterventionhub@northumberland.gcsx.gov.uk;

- [central locality hub referral form](#)
- [north locality hub referral form](#)
- [southeast locality hub referral form](#)
- [west locality hub referral form](#)
- [central hub leaflet](#)
- [north hub leaflet](#)
- [southeast hub leaflet](#)
- [west hub leaflet](#)

If you know a family who you feel meet the **supporting families** criteria and they would like to access support from our employment advisors or you are a school who would like to tell us about a family you know who meet the criteria, please complete [this supporting families identification form](#).