



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 5: April 2016

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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01670 622720

Carol.Leckie@northumberland.qcsx.gov.uk

All schools/academies/alternative providers need to know about safeguarding is ON ONE PAGE entitled [Information for Schools](#).

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](#) March 2015.

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

e-safety

Northumberland ICT consultant John Devlin has recommended the following link to schools who are reviewing their e-safety policies:

<http://swgfl.org.uk/products-services/esafety/resources/creating-an-esafety-policy>

Governors: Mandatory DBS checks

The government has published amended legislation which comes into force on the **18th March 2016** to make Enhanced DBS checks mandatory for governors in maintained schools.

This is retrospective, so governors without DBS certificates appointed prior to 1st April 2016 must obtain one by 1st September 2016. Those appointed after April 1st 2016, must apply for one within 21 days.

This now means that all governors in whatever kind of school - maintained, independent, academy or free school - must have an enhanced DBS certificate.

Sexting

In September 2015 the National Police Chief Council's lead on children and young people said, "if a school chose to take an [sexting] incident to the police, then officers must record the crime". Consequently Safer Internet have updated their advice on how schools should manage incidents of sexting.

The flier is embedded here and also available online at <http://www.saferinternet.org.uk/>



Responding to
sexting.pdf



Safeguarding pupils with SEND

source: Andrew Hall, www.successinschools.co.uk

Working Together to Safeguard Children (2015) identifies two clear groups of pupils with a disability, SEN or specific additional need as being at greatest risk of harm: children with physical disabilities, particularly those who are non-verbal, and young people with social or emotional difficulties, especially those with complex challenging behaviour.

[Safeguarding Disabled Children \(2009\)](#) tells us that children with disabilities were around three to four times more likely to be victims of abuse than other groups of children (9% of victims, non-disabled, 31% of victims with disabilities).

Children with disabilities and SEN have an increased vulnerability to abusive situations because they may need intimate care and may have cognitive impairments that prevent an understanding of appropriate adult behaviour. A lack of effective communication skills to share concerns and a reliance on adults can also be important factors. Even children with mild communication difficulties may not taught a sign or symbol vocabulary to allow them to make complaints or describe how injuries occurred. The challenge for schools and care providers is to ensure that the need for privacy and dignity is balanced by protection from harm.

Children with behavioural, emotional and social difficulties (BESD) are particularly at risk of harm from both internal and external stressors. Internal drivers that may lead to harm include a greater likelihood of risk-taking behaviours, poorer impulse control and angry or violent outbursts. External factors could arise, for example, from the characteristics of the family and the environment that the child experiences. Managing young people with (BESD) can be very challenging for staff who need to ensure that they deal with aggressive or violent incidents in a way that is in-line with high-quality safeguarding practice, and not overly dependent upon physical restraint or inappropriate verbal attacks.

High standards of quality control, mentoring and supervision are important in maintaining safety. Without such safeguards, over-use of restraint, restriction of liberty and abusive punishment regimes are possible. In such settings, dangers might not only come from staff but also from other young people, and risk assessing the mix of pupils and adults is crucial.

Safeguarding children and young people with SEN requires understanding, foresight and reflection. Keeping children safe from harm in schools relies on all staff being able to recognise the raised risk factors, identify young people with the greatest levels of risk and create focussed action plans that sufficiently respond to their needs. Keeping open dialogue between staff and raising the importance of safeguarding across the school is essential.

From May 2016 (CQC) will assess through inspection how well local authorities, schools, nurseries and health services are providing services to meet the needs of children and young people with SEND. The overall aim is to see all children and young people with special educational needs do well in education, be more independent, find employment and be an increasing part of their local communities. The inspection reports will also highlight good practice in local areas, which Ofsted says will encourage other areas to adopt similar models. **In Northumberland further information about the inspection will be shared with schools, academies and alternative providers during the summer term.**

Use of cameras on your schools site

Ofsted has downgraded a nursery in Kent from 'outstanding' (in 2009) to 'inadequate' (Oct 2015) partly because staff were using their own phones to take photos of children and sending them to their parents.

The Ofsted judgement in Leadership and Management said, 'Children are not safeguarded effectively. Staff use personal mobile phones to photograph children at the setting. The provider/manager lacks understanding of the risks this presents to children and does not monitor the use of mobile phones effectively to ensure children's safety'.

Since 2009 there have been a number of high profile cases involving staff in nurseries photographing their abuse of young children, most notable being the case of Vanessa George at a nursery in Plymouth.

Please ensure that the approach of your school/setting is clearly captured in your safeguarding policies and that staff have had training to support their understanding of acceptable practice.

Safeguarding audit Section 175

Having completed a number of briefings and taken feedback from those staff who were able to attend we have now gone live with the new online safeguarding audit which will be hosted by the Virtual College.

Schools will receive a registration email, prompting them to go on line and set up their account. This will allow each school to set up more than one member of staff, including the option of setting up your safeguarding governor read only access.

In terms of the practical side of logging on any queries should be directed to [Robin Harper Coulson](#), the NSCB business manager, who has responsibility for setting schools up on the system.

A small number of schools were unable to attend the briefings so for advice re completion of the audit please contact Carol Leckie (Carol.Leckie@northumberland.gov.uk). We will shortly be advertising training for alternative providers and once this is complete they will also be set up on the system.

Prevent duty reminder:

1. e-safety

Schools are reminded that as part of the Prevent Duty they are 'required to ensure children are safe from terrorist and extremist material when accessing the internet in school, including establishing appropriate levels of filters'. Any schools needing advice in relation to filtering should contact [John Devlin](#). To support schools there is recently produced guidance in relation to appropriate filtering along with a number of other useful resources at [Safer Internet Centre](#).

2. Visiting Speakers' Policy

Although it has always been helpful for a school to have clear guidance on the management of visiting speakers, the Prevent Duty has set out that this is now an expectation.

"Specified authorities will need to...[have] robust safeguarding policies in place to identify children at risk...These policies should set out clear protocols for ensuring that any visiting speakers – whether invited by staff or by children themselves – are suitable and appropriately supervised.

(Prevent Duty Guidance in England and Wales HM Government July 2015)

Child Sexual Exploitation

A key element of the NSCB sexual exploitation action plan is to ensure all settings working with children and young people have access to a range of resources keeping them fully informed of guidance and prevention strategies. One of the key sources of information is the NSPCC website which has recently produced a report *Getting Help: What Children tell us about accessing services after sexual abuse* and a guidance document *Someone to Lean On: Advice for professionals giving therapeutic support to children who have been sexually abused*. These resources provide useful background information and are available on the [NSPCC website](#).

For Northumberland schools, academies and alternative providers the minimum requirement in relation to sexual exploitation training is that at least one member of staff must attend face to face CSE training. The training is delivered by the NSCB and the next session will be held on **28th April 2016 at 09:30-12:30, West Hartford Fire Station, Cramlington**. All bookings must be made through Learning Together

Ofsted praises Local Safeguarding Children Board

Following an intensive four-week inspection, Ofsted have rated as **“good”** the effectiveness of the Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB), the body which coordinates local work to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and ensure the effectiveness of the member organisations’ work, individually and together.

The independent LSCB was described as playing *“an active and often dynamic leadership role’ in monitoring and shaping services for children while promoting a “joined up approach”* with partners and other local authorities.

Paula Mead, Independent Chair of the LSCB, said: *“We’re delighted that the work of the LSCB has received positive national recognition during this latest round of inspections. This is a complex and extremely challenging area of work, with the welfare of children at the heart of everything we do.*

Paula Mead added: *“I think the most heartening comment within the report was that we had ensured safeguarding is a priority for all its partners. That is exactly what we want to achieve and we will continue to build on this positive report.”*

The full report can be accessed by going to <http://reports.ofsted.gov.uk/local-authorities/northumberland>

What to do if you are worried about a child

If you think a child or young person is being abused or mistreated or you have concerns about the safety or welfare of a child, you must speak to someone immediately.

You can call:

- the Safeguarding Team - **01670 623980 (office hours)**
- or **01670 822386 (out of hours)**
- your local [Children’s Social Care Team](#) – find contact details by clicking on this link
- in an emergency phone the police 999
- for advice and guidance or to discuss a concern about a pupil please call **Carol Leckie 01670 622720**
- **Whatever you do, contact one of these numbers to share your concerns**