

## Northumberland Strategic Safeguarding Partnership with Northumberland Virtual school

Half termly bulletin for Governors, Headteachers/Principals and Designated Safeguarding Leads in Schools, Academies and Alternative Providers

Issue 49: 22/10/2020



### Internet Safety

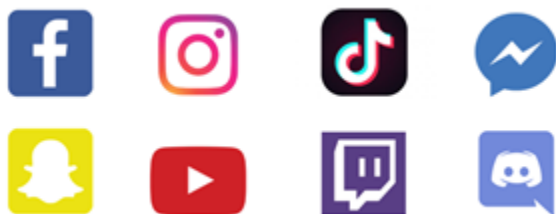
As

we are coming towards the half term holiday, we thought it would be a good time to remind you of the support available from the UK Safer Internet Centre. Children and young people will be spending more time online during the holiday and it might be helpful to remind parents and carers of the resources available to them. There is advice aimed at young people in primary and secondary schools, as well as for parents and carers and there are also areas of support for teachers and governors, social workers, residential care settings and other professionals.

<https://www.saferinternet.org.uk/advice-centre>

### Websites and Apps Posing Risks to Children and Young People

**Do you know what sites present the greatest risks to young people? Do you know which websites are the most popular? Do you recognise all these symbols?**



If not, how do you find out this information quickly and easily? How do you stay up to date when you are so busy?

**John Devlin Northumberland Learning Consultant**

has offered some websites to support professionals and parents to keep children and young people safe from accessing inappropriate materials online. The easy to access quick sources of support are listed here:

**Sign up to the NetAware newsletter:** [net-aware.org.uk/newsletter/](http://net-aware.org.uk/newsletter/)

Net Aware brings together the NSPCC's expertise in protecting children and O2's tech know-how, they've got everything you need to help you keep young people safe online. Whether you're an online expert or you're unsure of where to start, they're there to help.

**Sign up to the Childnet blog:** [childnet.com](http://childnet.com)

ChildNet is a non-profit organisation working with others to help make the internet a great and safe place for young people.

**Visit and register on the Thinkuknow site:** <https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/account/register>

Thinkuknow is the online safety education programme from the National Crime Agency's CEOP command. Thinkuknow aims to empower children and young people aged 4-18 to identify the risks they may face online and know where they can go for support.

**Visit the UK Safer Internet Centre:** [saferinternet.org.uk](http://saferinternet.org.uk)

UK Safer Internet Centre is a partnership of three leading charities with a mission to make the internet a better place for children and young people.

## Operation Encompass

If you have recently received an Operation Encompass call about a child in your school, you can access free advice from an Educational Psychologist. The advice will help you support the child in the best way possible. The Operation Encompass Teachers' National Helpline is available on 0204 513 9990. The helpline is open Monday to Friday from 8.00 am - 11.00am



The call will be answered by an experienced educational psychologist, who will have extensive experience of providing consultation and support to staff working in schools and education settings. The Educational Psychologist will know and understand Operation Encompass.

This unique helpline provides school staff with the opportunity to engage in an immediate consultation that is easily accessible, with no threshold other than the involvement of domestic abuse. The service ensures a reflective space to seek guidance and discuss any worries, concerns or queries you may have following an Operation Encompass call and in preparation for a child coming into school following a reported incident of domestic abuse. This aims to build ongoing capacity within school systems and to ensure staff members are confident and supported in how they respond and support children in what may often be unusual and unfamiliar circumstances.



## Operation Encompass Reminder to Schools

Please remember that if your school receives an Operation Encompass notification about a child or young person on roll at your school, but who is working with an alternative provider, it is your responsibility to pass that information onto the appropriate person within that organisation. This is particularly important where alternative providers might be working with children and young people in their home setting, for example the EOTAS teachers. The EOTAS Learning Manager or Lead Teacher for your school would need to be notified.

## Virtual School Training Programme – update



The latest training programme from the Virtual School is now ready to take your bookings through Microsoft! Using the link below you can book on your DSL refresher, training for new DSLs and also training for Designated Teacher's for Looked after Children. All training will take place 'virtually' until we are notified that we can deliver face to face. You will receive a confirmation and log in details when your booking is confirmed.

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=3qkTu5CC8EKpgNw73-cPQOmyLnPOyglHpgllw8SoF99UMzc0WFA3TIU4SFJUSEJMS0tBT1ZQWTdYMi4u>

[cPQOmyLnPOyglHpgllw8SoF99UMzc0WFA3TIU4SFJUSEJMS0tBT1ZQWTdYMi4u](https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=3qkTu5CC8EKpgNw73-cPQOmyLnPOyglHpgllw8SoF99UMzc0WFA3TIU4SFJUSEJMS0tBT1ZQWTdYMi4u)

## Wellbeing for Education Return in Northumberland

As you will be aware, the Wellbeing for Education Return programme is funded by the Department for Education and has been launched this Autumn. It aims to provide support to staff working in schools and colleges to help them respond to the additional pressures some children and young people may be feeling as a direct result of the pandemic, as well as to any emotional response they or their teachers may still be experiencing from bereavement, stress, trauma or anxiety over the past months.

The training put together for the Wellbeing for Education Return project has been created nationally with input from health partners, mental health experts, local authorities, and schools and colleges. Funds have been provided to Local Authorities in order to implement the programme in a way that suits their local area. In Northumberland, we have recruited a project lead who is working very closely with the Senior Mental Health coordinator who is already in post. These two members of staff sit within the Educational Psychology team. Between them, but working with our partners in Health teams, they are organising delivery of the training programme to nominated staff in schools and colleges and will be available to provide advice to school leaders through to March 2021.

**In Northumberland, the first step is delivery of the training package to as many schools/colleges as possible this term. The opportunity to attend this is delivered via the virtual Senior Mental Health Leads Conference being held on Thursday 5th November.** There is an expectation that staff who receive the training then cascade it to all staff within their school/setting. More detail will be provided at the conference.

The three main sessions will cover:

- Whole school implementation, looking at both the neuroscience as well as strategies to build resilience and wellbeing
- Understanding some specific presentations, including anxiety, bereavement and loss, stress and trauma
- Staff wellbeing

We will be following an interactive workshop format for these sessions with opportunities to discuss, with colleagues from other settings, the content delivered. There will be some additional pre-recorded resources to further support staff. To book a place on the Conference please use this form.

If your setting is unable to attend the conference and/or you would like to discuss further support in cascading the training to staff in your setting, please contact [nell.gair@northumberland.gov.uk](mailto:nell.gair@northumberland.gov.uk)

## Safeguarding Children with Communication Needs

The following information was taken from Communication Tuesday produced by Ian Marks; Speech and Language Therapist: Research demonstrates that children and young people with Speech, Language and Communication Needs are at higher risk of experiencing abuse and neglect. A briefing from the Royal College of Speech and Language Therapists illustrates and explains some of the links between Speech, Language and Communication Needs (SLCN) and safeguarding, and includes some ideas about how identification and support for SLCN can help children and young people.



Neglected children may experience a lack of stimulation in childhood, resulting in communication and interaction needs. SLCNs are one of the most obvious indicators of abuse and neglect. However, neglect can often prove difficult to identify because it involves acts of omission. The link between safeguarding and

communication difficulties also works in the opposite direction: children who have complex needs are at greater risk of abuse and this is in part because of their communication difficulties. The Royal College of Speech and Language Therapists briefing is available in the Information for DSLs Folder: <https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1xAjxp8BtTbFFNh8ZqC2yDcXP4I-d8pMC>

## The Education of Looked After and Previously Looked After Children

A training course has recently been added to Learning Together on the Education of Looked After and Previously Looked After Children. This course is free of charge and is available to anyone working with children and young people. The e-learning module, which should take no more than 30 minutes to complete, is for any professionals with an interest in the education of looked after and previously looked after children. The course develops important learning about statutory requirements as well as giving information about how the Virtual School in Northumberland can support you in your role to improve education outcomes for children in care.



The module is based on statutory guidance for Virtual Schools and Designated Teachers published by the DfE in March 2018.

This course will be helpful to:

- Anyone who teaches a looked after child
- The designated governor
- Social workers, IROs and other professionals who want to know more about education and the Virtual School.

If anyone would like further information on this course, or support in relation to LAC, please contact Tara Prescott, Deputy Virtual School Headteacher (Acting) [tara.prescott@northumberland.gov.uk](mailto:tara.prescott@northumberland.gov.uk)

## Acorns Domestic Abuse Recovery Service for Children and Young People



Acorns have recently received funding from the Scottish Power Foundation, which means they have been able to recruit an Outreach Counsellor. Acorns will continue to provide counselling for children aged 4-18 in Northumberland who have experienced domestic violence and abuse. Post lockdown, the Acorns waiting list is currently over six months, but as they begin to see children face to face again, they are trying to reduce the wait whilst ensuring every child gets the support they need. So the earlier you refer, the better!

Just to remind you that Acorns work with children who:

- Live or go to school / college in Northumberland
- Have experienced domestic violence and / or abuse

- Are displaying potentially related difficulties - this could be anger, withdrawal, anxiety, difficulty controlling their emotions, relational issues etc.
- **Are currently safe and stable**

Acorns would like to reassure you that they are making every effort to maintain the health and safety of the families they work with, carrying out full risk assessments, using appropriate PPE, maintaining strict handwashing, being thoughtful about the equipment they use and ensuring they separate and / or sanitise all equipment between clients.

As Acorns try to make the service as accessible as possible, they often need to hold sessions in schools - this is especially important in rural areas, and / or where carers or parents may have difficulties picking children up from school to bring them to their appointments due to commitments of work, younger children, health issues etc. School is also a familiar place for the child and has the benefit of minimising the time children are kept out of lessons, which they recognise is especially crucial, given months of limited learning.

Many Northumberland schools value Acorns as an essential service and are happy to provide a confidential room to facilitate the counselling sessions. Acorns would like to thank all the schools they work with, and, particularly given the lack of alternative options, ask that you continue this crucial support. They never fail to be impressed by the care and understanding shown by school staff, and your facilitation of their work is hugely appreciated by the Acorns staff and the families they work with.

If you would like a referral pack, further information or to discuss a referral, please contact Julia Parkinson; Acorns Counsellor/Psychotherapist and Recovery Team Co-ordinator on 07521514456.

### Harmful Sexual Behaviour Toolkit



The Lucy Faithfull Foundation, a child protection charity dedicated to preventing child sexual abuse, has recently launched a toolkit designed for parents, carers, family members and professionals, to help everyone play their part in keeping children safe. The foundation works closely with frontline workers such as police officers, social workers and education staff to ensure that children are as safe as they can be. The foundation run the confidential **Stop It Now! Helpline: 0808 1000 900**, which is a safe space for anyone with concerns about child sexual abuse and its prevention.

They also provide a range of services for organisations, professionals and the public, including risk assessments and interventions, expert training, specialist consultancy and public education.

The toolkit has links to useful information, resources and support as well as practical tips to prevent harmful sexual behaviour and provide safe environments for families. For more information visit: [stopitnow.org.uk](http://stopitnow.org.uk)



The  
Marie Collins  
Foundation

## Exploitation: Support for Parents/Carers and Professionals

With the speed of technology and the development of apps and trends online, parents, carers and professionals working with young people can find themselves confused and at a loss to know how to keep up.

Whilst lots of useful information exists to support them in trying to keep children safe, teenagers enjoy their independence online and the 'private' world the internet offers them. Most of the time this is fun and helps them stay in touch. Occasionally, however, this may not be the case. Young people can fall victim to the skilled techniques employed by those who are intent on doing them harm. NWG Network and Marie Collins

Foundation (MCF) have worked together to support professionals and parents in what to do when things go wrong.

They identified that easily accessible information outlining the main considerations when it is discovered a child has been harmed online would be a valuable resource. Working together, they have created new resources for parents and carers, and professionals. Importantly, the experience of survivors of online abuse has been shared to inform the information provided.

The **Online Sexual Harm Reduction Guide** is aimed at professionals; **How Can I Help My Child?** Is aimed at parents and carers. Both resources can be found in the Information for DSLs folder, in the exploitation folder.

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1xAjxp8BtTbFFNh8ZqC2yDcXP4I-d8pMC>

## Contact Us

Please contact us with any safeguarding queries you might have, by telephone or by email.

**Carol Leckie; Schools' Safeguarding Team Manager: 01670 622720,**

[carol.leckie@northumberland.gov.uk](mailto:carol.leckie@northumberland.gov.uk)

**Victoria Kinneavy; MASH Education Liason Officer: 01670 536381,**

[victoria.kinneavy@northumberland.gov.uk](mailto:victoria.kinneavy@northumberland.gov.uk)

**Justine Clephane; Safeguarding Consultant: 01670 622738,**

[justine.clephane@northumberland.gov.uk](mailto:justine.clephane@northumberland.gov.uk)

If you cannot contact a member of staff directly, please use these generic details. Your query will be logged, and you will receive a response by the end of the working day or within 24 hours.

- If you have a query for the Education Welfare team please email – [educationwelfare@northumberland.gov.uk](mailto:educationwelfare@northumberland.gov.uk)
- If you have a query for the Looked After Children's team, please email – [eslac.info@northumberland.gov.uk](mailto:eslac.info@northumberland.gov.uk)
- If you have a query for the Safeguarding Team or for the Education Other Than At School (EOTAS) team, please email – [eotashealth@northumberland.gov.uk](mailto:eotashealth@northumberland.gov.uk)