

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 51 December 2020

MERRY CHRISTMAS

Welcome to the final edition of Safe to Learn for 2020



Updating the Schools' Safeguarding Team on Changes

Please remember to update the Schools' Safeguarding Team on any changes to the DSLs in your school. This will ensure the correct information is getting to the correct people as quickly as possible. This is particularly important when we need to speak to a DSL urgently as part of a MASH request or in regard to Operation Encompass and Operation Endeavour notifications. **If the named people in your school for Operation Encompass and Operation Endeavour have changed, please contact Victoria Kinneavy as soon as possible:**

victoria.kinneavy@northumberland.gov.uk



Northumberland Adolescent to Parent Violence and Abuse (APVA) Pathway

The Northumberland APVA pathway has recently been developed and is available on the DSL in schools and APs site. The APVA Pathway was discussed at the recent Locality Briefings on 8th, 9th and 10th December. The presentation will be available in the DSL in schools and APs site.

CONSULTATION - Northumberland Multi Agency Referral Form – MARF

The Northumberland Multi Agency Referral Form is now available to schools for consultation. Next year this form will be used to refer a child and family for an Early Help support request, where you are identifying a need for support to promote a child's wellbeing and the family have asked for help, or to a Children's Social Care Service where you are worried about the safety of a child. This form will replace the previous single agency forms that schools had been asked to use. Children's Services would like your feedback on this form, in preparation for it being launched next year. **Please send any comments to Carol Leckie**, who will collate them and feed them back to Dorothy Chambers, senior manager specialist services. **Please return all responses by Friday 21st January 2021**



Online Bullying



The Office for National Statistics has recently published findings for the prevalence and nature of online bullying among children. This information has been collected from the 10 – 15-year olds' Crime Survey for England and Wales. There are some rather concerning statistics having come out of this survey, including the numbers of children having experienced online bullying; approximately 764 000, and how one in four of these children did not report their experiences. The findings of this survey are available by following this link:

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/crimeandjustice/bulletins/onlinebullyinginenglandandwales/yearendingmarch2020>

Helping Children and Young People Talk About Loneliness

A recent national survey, carried out on behalf of Public Health England, found that one in ten 11 – 22-year-olds reported that they often or always felt lonely. The Every Mind Matters Building Connections Resource for Year 6, KS3 and KS4 children and young people is aimed at encouraging them to discuss loneliness and provide them with self-care techniques they can use when they're feeling lonely.



The resources include engaging peer-to-peer activities such as forming a support squad to give advice to others who might be feeling lonely, lesson plans and activities to use in class and a film to support the teacher led activities.

The Building Connections resources can be accessed by following this link:

https://campaignresources.phe.gov.uk/schools/topics/mental-wellbeing/overview?utm_source=recruitment_phe_edcoms&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=nov_subscriber&utm_content=download#building-connections

Statutory RSE, Relationships Education and Health Education



The PSHE Association have recently launched their **Quick Start Guide** to support schools and APs to be fully informed, up to date and confident in meeting the new statutory requirements. Delivering good quality PSHE/RSE and RE&HE supports schools and APs to safeguard children and young people.

Follow this link to access the Quick Start Guide:

<https://www.pshe-association.org.uk/quick-start-guide>

To further support schools and APs in meeting the statutory requirements, the Association have developed their 'Ask a Subject Specialist' area where their team of subject specialists are answering questions posed by colleagues in schools and APs. Support includes guides to assessment, parental engagement guides and developing your programme of study. The Ask a specialist area can be accessed by following this link:

<https://www.pshe-association.org.uk/ask-subject-specialist>

New Site Launched to Support Prevent

ACT Early is a new website launched to support family and friends to report the people they care about if they suspect they are being radicalised. The site will provide advice, guidance and support for anyone concerned that someone they know may be at risk. This is in response to the national concern regarding lack of engagement by families with the Prevent Programme.

<https://actearly.uk/>

The Government has also updated the Channel Panel guidance, making sure that LAs and partner agencies are holding effective Channel panel meetings and ensuring that anyone referred to the Channel panel receives the right level of support. The latest Channel guidance is on the DSL in Schools and APs site.

The logo for ACT (Action Counters Terrorism), featuring the letters 'ACT' in a large, white, sans-serif font, with the words 'ACTION COUNTERS TERRORISM' in a smaller, white, sans-serif font to its right, all set against a dark blue square background.

Updated Guidance from DfE



The following non-statutory guidance was updated on 4th December: **Keeping children safe during community activities, after-school clubs and tuition: non-statutory guidance for providers running out-of-school settings.** To access the full guidance, please follow this link:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/keeping-children-safe-in-out-of-school-settings-code-of-practice/keeping-children-safe-during-community-activities-after-school-clubs-and-tuition-non-statutory-guidance-for-providers-running-out-of-school-settings>

Introduction to Sorted and Drug Information - Bitesize Learning

Sorted; the Northumberland Young Peoples Substance Misuse Service is running a 45-minute webinar on **Thursday 17th December, 9.30 - 10.15**. The webinar will explain Sorted's work, the substance misuse service and provide an outline of the drugs some young people are using in Northumberland. The webinar is free and is available through ncc.learningpool.com:



<https://ncc.learningpool.com/login/index.php>

Unlock – Changes to Criminal Record Disclosures



The government put the planned changes to the rules on filtering into effect on Saturday 28 November. The changes mean that childhood cautions will no longer be disclosed, and the rule that meant someone with more than one conviction had all their convictions disclosed, regardless of offence or length of time, has been abolished.

An explanation of these changes, and a flowchart that reflects the changes can be found here:

<https://www.unlock.org.uk/policy-issues/specific-policy-issues/filtering/what-will-be-the-impact-of-the-changes-to-filtering/>

Young Minds Crisis Messenger

Christmas can be a very difficult time for some of our vulnerable children, with increased stress within the family or home setting. It is also a time when the support services and strategies that some children rely on, may not be as easily accessible. Young Minds has a Crisis Messenger service which provides free, 24/7 support across the UK. If a child is experiencing a mental health crisis and needs support, they can text YM to 85258.



Young Minds aims to connect every texter to a trained volunteer promptly to provide crisis help. They will listen to the child and help them think more clearly, enabling them to know the next steps to take towards feeling better. The service is free and confidential (unless a child is at immediate risk of harm).

It might be helpful to advertise this service around school as we come towards the Christmas Holidays. For more information on the Young Minds Crisis Messenger, please follow this link:

<https://youngminds.org.uk/find-help/get-urgent-help/youngminds-crisis-messenger/>

Keeping Safe at Parties

**Are you safe
and in a healthy relationship?**

As we are currently under tier 3 restrictions in Northumberland, it's unlikely that there will be many Christmas parties taking place, but we would be naïve to think that young people will not be gathering and celebrating in their own way. With that in mind, it is a good opportunity to make sure they understand how to keep themselves safe and support them to have a good understanding of consent. The Know About Abuse website has some very useful information and practical advice for young people about healthy relationships and recognising the signs of unhealthy relationships. There is also helpful information for professionals working in schools. The information can be shared with students in Key Stages 3 and 4, as well as with students in Years 12 and 13. The schools and professionals' pages contain resources you can use in lessons with young people. These include the 'cup of tea' video which explains sexual consent in a very clear and simple way, and 'Rebecca's Story' which is a teaching resource with accompanying lesson plans. To access these resources, follow this link:

<http://knowaboutcse.co.uk/>

The Return to Education Pop Up Hub

The Return to Education Pop Up Hub will be finishing at the end of the Autumn term. After this time, if you have a child or young person you are worried about, in terms of the effect Covid has had on them being able to engage with education, you can use the Early Help Hub process.



The services that meet on a Thursday to discuss these referrals will still meet, but with a focus on reintegration of those children and young people who have already been referred. They will also consider any other issues that are being raised within the Covid situation, which changes often.

Acorns Project – New Referral form



Acorns Project, which supports children and young people who have been affected by domestic abuse, have recently updated their referral form and guidance. These forms will take effect from January 2021, and they now have a dedicated email address for these – referrals@acornsproject.org.uk

The referral form and guidance document are available on the DSL in schools and APs site.

DSL in Schools and APs Site

As Northumberland County Council has recently moved over from Google to using Microsoft 365 it has been necessary for the Schools Safeguarding Team to share information with you in a different way. To replace the Information for DSLs Folder, which is no longer being updated, we have created a site called **DSL in Schools and APs**. This is where all the information that was in the Information for DSLs folder is now stored and is regularly updated. All DSLs will be sent an invitation to view this site which gives you access to everything you had access to through Google but including the most recent updates. If you have not been invited to view the site, please contact Justine Clephane: justine.clephane@northumberland.gov.uk stating your email address, your school or setting and your role.



Contact us

Whether your school is open or closed during the next few months, please contact us with any queries you might have by phone or by email.

Carol Leckie, Schools' Safeguarding Team Manager, 01670 622720

Carol.Leckie@northumberland.gov.uk

If you cannot make contact with a member of staff directly then 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
- If you have a query for the looked after children's team please email -

eslac.info@northumberland.gov.uk

- If you have a query for the Safeguarding team or children educated other than at school team please email - eotashealth@northumberland.gov.uk
- If you have a more urgent query or request, please telephone 01670 622787.