

## 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 60: 15<sup>th</sup> December 2021



### Seasons Greetings and a Huge Thank You!

On behalf of the team a huge thank you for everything you do to ensure the children and young people of Northumberland are kept safe. A DSL's job is not an easy one and you all work exceptionally hard to fulfil your duties and to go that extra mile for the students!

You will see below that the Northumberland Strategic Safeguarding Committee has asked all partners to review their approach to address sexual harassment in their setting. As they would like as many partners as possible to complete this by the end of January 2022 I have decided not to share the link to the electronic S175 with you just yet. The link will be shared in January, in an early new year edition of Safe to Learn, with expected completion by the end of February. I know some of you have requested a word version and have been working on this and if required the team can support you to transfer this to the e-version next term.

Please have a lovely Christmas break and see you all in January.

## Peer on peer sexual abuse and sexual harassment

The Northumberland Strategic Safeguarding Committee is reviewing the approach of all partners to tackling peer on peer sexual abuse, following the recent Osted review.

To facilitate this work all partners are being asked to contribute valuable intelligence to this review by completing an audit tool, based on the NSPCC self evaluation. Schools, as partners, are being asked to complete the review by following the links below.

Part 1 - <https://bit.ly/nsspshsb1>

Part 2 - <https://bit.ly/nsspshsb2>

Part 3 - <https://bit.ly/nsspshsb3>

Part 4 - <https://bit.ly/nsspshsb4>

Part 5 - <https://bit.ly/nsspshsb5>

(Pressing Ctrl on your keyboard and the link should open them up - they're set for anyone to be able to respond. Please also see this guide: <https://learning.nspcc.org.uk/media/1658/harmful-sexual-behaviour-framework-health-audit-tool.pdf>).

**The deadline for completion is Friday 21<sup>st</sup> January.**

The Children's Commissioner, Dame Rachel de Souza, has published a guide for parents supporting them to talk to their children early and to support them on how to discuss this delicate subject. The resource can be found by following this link - [Talking to your child about online sexual harassment: A guide for parents](#)



## Arthur Labinjo-Hughes



The Government has launched a national review and local inspection to 'determine what improvements are needed by the agencies that came into contact with Arthur in the months before he died.'

Some may ask what the school was doing because at the time Arthur had become an 'invisible child', as he was not able to attend school due to lockdown. School was not able to see him each day (or question his absence) and identify his deteriorating condition, physically and mentally. This daily check that schools do for so many children, is what helps to keep so many children safe.

The murder of Arthur Labinjo-Hughes was a tragedy, the explanations of what happened, as they emerge, are sure to be painful. Our response must be to apply the lessons of his death to our daily work towards a strengthened safeguarding and child protection system. We must continue to think that 'it could happen here' and to use our 'professional curiosity'

## Update from the Schools' Engagement Sub Group

At the last meeting of the Schools' Engagement Group we agreed our priorities for the next year. Watch this space as we will be communicating with you through briefings, training and Safe to Learn on the work being undertaken, with your support, to achieve the agreed outcomes:

1. Schools are prepared and resourced to take appropriate action in their own school communities to challenge sexual abuse, violence and harassment.
2. Fulfil the extended duty of Virtual School Headteachers to promote the education of children with a social worker.
3. Education providers in Northumberland can provide assurance to the NSSP that the recommendations from case learning reviews have been fully implemented



## White Ribbon Accreditation

Northumberland County Council has recently received White Ribbon accreditation following approval by the White Ribbon organisation of its three-year plan and zero-tolerance approach to domestic abuse and sexual violence.



Early in 2021 the County Council made the decision to work towards White Ribbon accreditation to cement its commitment to ending domestic abuse and sexual violence in the county. The White Ribbon Organisation is a charity that works to encourage everyone, and **especially men and boys**, to make the White Ribbon Promise to never commit, excuse or remain silent about violence against women and girls.

White Ribbon Ambassadors are men who engage with other men and boys in their day to day lives to call out abusive and sexist behaviour among their friends, colleagues and communities to promote a culture of equality and respect.



### Sexual violence and sexual harassment between children in schools and colleges

Advice for governing bodies, proprietors, headteachers, principals, senior leadership teams and designated safeguarding leads

December 2017

White Ribbon Champions are women who play an essential role by encouraging men to get involved and in finding opportunities to inspire and inform others through presentations, conversations and social media.

We urge our Northumberland DSLs to encourage staff and students in your school to support this. Work in schools towards the accreditation will support your RHSE/RHE curriculum and it will show that your school is committed to challenging sexual violence and sexual harassment between children in schools and colleges.

For more information contact [Lesley.pyle@northumberland.gov.uk](mailto:Lesley.pyle@northumberland.gov.uk) Northumberland & North Tyneside Domestic Abuse & Sexual Violence Co-ordinator.

## New Domestic Abuse Champions



An introductory training session for new Champions will take place on **Thursday 20 January 2021**, 9.30 am to 12.30 pm, at Newcastle Civic Centre or using Microsoft Teams, depending on Covid restrictions. The last introductory session was in July 2021 so this session is aimed at anyone who joined the Network since then, although anyone who joined before then, but couldn't make the last session is welcome to attend.

The session objectives are:

- To refresh and update Champions' knowledge of domestic abuse
- To explain the aims of the North of Tyne Domestic and Sexual Abuse Champions Network
- To outline the role and responsibilities of a Domestic and Sexual Abuse Champion
- To outline the support that is available to Champions in their role
- To discuss the next steps for the Champions Network

If you would like to attend the New Champions training, please contact Lesley Pyle via email – [lesley.pyle@northumberland.gov.uk](mailto:lesley.pyle@northumberland.gov.uk)

## CARE Northumberland

UNDERSTANDING YOUR CHILD



SOLIHULL APPROACH

As part of the CARE Northumberland approach to supporting children who have experienced adversity, they are now able to offer anyone working with children or families in Northumberland the opportunity to access 3 new e-learning modules developed by Solihull Approach. Access to these courses is available

via Learning Together at the following links, where you will be able to enrol with Solihull Approach and complete the modules.

- [Understanding Brain Development](#)
- [Understanding Attachment](#)
- [Understanding Trauma](#)

## Healthy Parental Relationships Training (Parental Conflict)

This training is aimed at practitioners who have not completed any training (other than e-learning) to date. Course Overview and Objectives can be found by following this link: <https://ncc.learningpool.com/course/view.php?id=3322>

Booking can be undertaken through Learning Together under the Early Help section.

If you do not have an account you can set one up via [Learning Together](#). Your details will be shared with the external training provider.

Relationships  
Matter



The Healthy Parental Relationships Team want to continue to maximise the knowledge, skills and understanding of those working with children and families in order to reduce the, sometimes harmful, impact of parental conflict on children.

## Northumberland Young Carers Toolkit for Education Settings



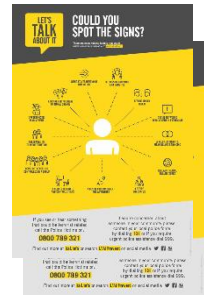
The Northumberland Young Carers Toolkit 2021 is now available on the SharePoint site for **DSLs in Schools and APs** in the Young Carers folder. The toolkit aims to support schools to increase awareness of the needs of Young Carers and to support you to put in place the reasonable adjustments

necessary to ensure Young Carers reach their full potential. It also offers guidance to support you to develop a Young Carers Policy.

The toolkit also offers advice on how to spot the signs that a pupil may be a Young Carer as well as how you can access the support available to Young Carers in your school.

## Let's Talk About It – Working Together to Prevent Terrorism

[Let's Talk About It](#) is an initiative designed to provide practical help and guidance to the public in order to stop people becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism. The website provides a range of posters and videos that can be used within an educational setting to educate children, adults and parents/carers about the dangers of extremism and radicalisation.



## Fearless



Fearless is part of Crimestoppers and is a safe place for children and young people to report crime anonymously. There is no need to pass on any personal information or details so children and young people can confidentially ask questions about crime, find out which behaviours and actions are criminal, and

find out the consequences of being involved in crime. They can also report behaviours and actions they have witnessed or are concerned about, without the fear of being identified.

There is a section on the website for professionals which includes resources to support you to deliver lessons on County Lines and educating children and young people on recognising the signs of County Lines, and how to report it. This can help protect children and young people from being groomed or exploited by criminal gangs. [www.fearless.org](http://www.fearless.org)

## Reporting and Removing Abusive TikTok Videos – Advice for Schools and College Staff

An increasing number of schools have made reports around their pupils making explicit, offensive and harmful videos on social media identifying staff members or education settings, particularly on TikTok. The videos are either making reference to the school, or individual teachers themselves, through a variety of online accounts. As a result, TikTok have been engaging with UK Safer Internet Centre to ensure there is action



[www.saferinternet.org.uk](http://www.saferinternet.org.uk)

being taken to quickly remove content.

TikTok has confirmed that the best way for schools and colleges to get content removed to is to report it through the [Professionals Online Safety Helpline - UK Safer Internet Centre](#). The Professionals Online Safety Helpline has produced [an article and short video on how best to report content](#). TikTok commit to removing content which breaches their [community guidelines](#). Call the helpline on **0344 381 4772** or email [helpline@saferinternet.org.uk](mailto:helpline@saferinternet.org.uk).

Safer Internet Centre continue to work with TikTok, trade unions, the Children's Commissioner and other bodies to monitor the situation and consider if further action needs to be taken. It is clear that social media companies need to take immediate action against harmful content on their platforms.

It is never acceptable for anyone to harass or intimidate education staff. Some incidents may constitute a criminal offence and schools/colleges should [report](#) those they think may come into that category to the police. We know many institutions are already talking to students about these issues and UK Safer Internet Centre fully support schools and colleges in taking appropriate action against pupils and students who are identified as posting abusive content.

[Read more about how schools and parents can spot and tackle online abuse of teachers.](#)

## Signs of Safety

Those of you attending meetings with colleagues from Children's Services (child protection or early help) will understand the Signs of Safety approach has now been fully embedded in meetings and associated paperwork. The latest newsletter (October 2021) and various other guidance documents can be found on the NSSP procedures manual site. Follow the link below, which takes you to the documents library, a useful resource.

[Document Library \(proceduresonline.com\)](http://proceduresonline.com)

## Supporting Traumatized Children Through the Christmas Storm (Beacon House)

For many children the run up to Christmas is very exciting as it includes many festivities and family get-togethers. Other children can find the next few months really stressful, not least autistic children or children coping with trauma.

Beacon House Therapeutic Services and Trauma Team have a special interest in repairing the effects of trauma and attachment disruption. Amongst their many resources is one with ideas for coping with Christmas: 'The Christmas Storm: Surviving & Thriving At Christmas' which can be downloaded here: <https://beaconhouse.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/The-Christmas-Storm.pdf>



## Update Your Contact Information

Please could you make sure that the Schools' Safeguarding Team has up to date contact information for the DSLs in your setting. This is particularly important for our colleagues in Operation Encompass as 'undeliverable emails' mean that children and

young people are not getting the support they need following domestic abuse incidents in their homes.

If a DSL in your setting has left, is on leave or has changed their name/email address, please let us know as soon as possible. That way, we can ensure the correct information is getting to the correct people without any delays.



## Schools Safeguarding Team Training - upcoming dates

DSL Refresher	11 <sup>th</sup> January 22	10:00 - 12:00
New to DSL Part 1	1 <sup>st</sup> February 22	13:00 - 15:30
New to DSL Part 2	8 <sup>th</sup> February 22	13:00 - 15:30

These sessions will be delivered virtually.

For all bookings please email [alyson.webb@northumberland.gov.uk](mailto:alyson.webb@northumberland.gov.uk).

For any enquiries contact [Carol.Leckie@northumberland.gov.uk](mailto:Carol.Leckie@northumberland.gov.uk)



## Contact us

Please contact us with any queries you might have by phone or by email.

**Carol Leckie, Schools' Safeguarding Team Manager, 07584313178**

**[Carol.Leckie@northumberland.gov.uk](mailto:Carol.Leckie@northumberland.gov.uk)**

**Justine Clephane, Schools' Safeguarding Consultant, 07879 874168**

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

**Vicky Kinneavy, Schools' Safeguarding Consultant, 07966 325300**

**[Victoria.Kinneavy@northumberland.gov.uk](mailto:Victoria.Kinneavy@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 Schools' Safeguarding team please email - [Schoolssafeguarding@northumberland.gov.uk](mailto:Schoolssafeguarding@northumberland.gov.uk)
- 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 children educated other than at school team (EOTAS) please email - [eotashealth@northumberland.gov.uk](mailto:eotashealth@northumberland.gov.uk)
- If you have a more urgent query or request please telephone 01670 622787.