



# Safe to Learn



## Northumberland Children's and Adult's Safeguarding Partnership

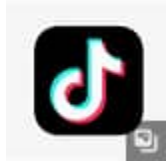
with Northumberland Virtual school

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

Issue 70: 10<sup>th</sup> March 2023

### Northumberland Schools' Safeguarding Team Updates

#### Important Information Regarding a Tik Tok Video



It has been brought to our attention, by our safeguarding partners that there is a concerning video going around on TIK TOK regarding 24th April 2023 being an alleged Rape Day. This has been shared multiple times around social media and apparently it has been created as a video for people to participate in, like previous examples such as the blackout dares (ligature videos). It started in 2021 and is trending again. The trend is called April 24<sup>th</sup>. There is a lot of counter-information, but it is something that young people could be influenced by, and it is important that we acknowledge that many young people, even those who should not be accessing TikTok, may become aware of this trend.

We are not suggesting that you bring this specific video to the attention of your pupils, as we know that may make them inquisitive, but please ensure you are reminding pupils and parents about safe internet use.

#### LADO – Important Information

Louise Prudhoe, the LADO is currently not in work and Carol Glasper is returning to cover from next week (beginning Monday 13<sup>th</sup> March).

As usual all queries should go to the generic email and telephone number, any open cases someone will be in touch.

Call: 07500 606174 or Email: [LADO@northumberland.gov.uk](mailto:LADO@northumberland.gov.uk)

#### Updated Training Dates

The Schools Safeguarding Team Training dates for academic year 2022 – 2023 have been updated with extra dates added.



**Please note; Northumberland Children's and Adults Safeguarding Partnership (NCASP) have stated that all DSLs working in Northumberland schools need to do their refresher training, every 2 years, with the Northumberland Schools Safeguarding Team, regardless of where schools commission their safeguarding support.** DSLs who are new to the authority and have not previously trained with the Schools Safeguarding Team, also need to complete the Northumberland **Referral Process Training**. For more information regarding this, please contact a member of the team

(contact details are listed below).

The next dates for these training sessions are as shown below:

1. **DSL refresher (KCSiE advises every two years and NCASP requires that Northumberland DSLs attend training delivered in Northumberland. All sessions will remain virtual)**  
21<sup>st</sup> March 2023 - 13:00 – 15:00  
17<sup>th</sup> May 2023 - 13:00 – 15:00  
29<sup>th</sup> June 2023 – 13:00 – 15:00  
11<sup>th</sup> July 2023 – 13:00 – 15:00
2. **New DSL Roles and Responsibilities Training. Face-to-face training delivered over one full day at West Hartford Fire Station**  
9<sup>th</sup> May 2023 – 09:00 – 16:30
3. **Making a Referral Training. Face-to face training for DSLs new to Northumberland – delivered at Northumbria House, Cramlington**  
23<sup>rd</sup> May 2023 13:30 – 16:30
4. **Additional Whole School Child Protection and Safeguarding Session for new staff** - an opportunity for schools to access a **one-hour virtual session for new staff** or anyone who missed the school training at the start of the year. The session will cover key safeguarding messages from Keeping Children Safe in Education, the Local Authority and the Northumberland Children and Adult's Safeguarding Partnership (NCASP)  
25<sup>th</sup> April 15:45 - 16:45
5. **Governors Role and Responsibilities – virtual.** As KCSiE 2022 states that all governors should do safeguarding training we have added more regular sessions. Schools can also request training for the full governing body, which can be delivered virtually or face to face.  
Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> March: 16:30 – 17:30  
Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> April: 18:00 – 19:00  
Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> May: 17:30 – 18:30
6. **Safer recruitment training: attendees must attend both sessions. These are face to face sessions delivered at Northumbria House, Cramlington**  
Session 1 - Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> June 13:00 – 16:00  
and  
Session 2 Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> June 13:00 – 16:00

The training dates are available in the training folder of the DSL in Schools and APs SharePoint site.

## DSLs in Schools and APs SharePoint



All DSLs in Northumberland have been invited to access the **DSLs in Schools and APs SharePoint** site. If you are having difficulties accessing the site, please contact Justine Clephane [justine.clephane@northumberland.gov.uk](mailto:justine.clephane@northumberland.gov.uk) who will be able to support you to gain access. The site is regularly updated, and the following documents have been added to the site since the last full Safe To Learn (Issue 69) was sent out in January:

### DBS Folder:

- NCC staff DBS assurance letter from Audrey Kingham, Director of Education and Skills

### Exploitation Folder:

- Slang dictionary

### Inclusion Folder:

- The Northumberland Strategic Inclusion Strategy 2022 – 2026

### Locality Briefings Folder:

- February Locality Briefing presentation

### NCASP Folder:

- Bruising in babies leaflet – **for professional use only, not for display in schools**
- Pathway for bruising in pre-mobile babies
- FGM Pathway

### Online Safety Folder:

- Age limits on Apps and games
- Cyber Protect resources for education
- P\*rn\*graphy and young people information sheet

### Training Folder:

- Updated Schools Safeguarding Team Training dates

### Young Carers Folder:

- Young Carer Schools Award Framework and Checklist
- Young Carers Package Offer

## Northumberland Children and Adult's Safeguarding Partnership (NCASP) Updates

### Review of NCASP Partnership arrangements



Following a period of consultation and development sessions with key partners, the Northumberland children's and adults' safeguarding boards merged in April 2022 to become the integrated Northumberland Children and Adults Safeguarding Partnership. These new arrangements acknowledge that children and adult arrangements are underpinned by different legislation and statutory guidance, however, also recognise the similarities and shared benefits of a joint safeguarding approach across the life course.

The NCASP vision is to work together and provide added value across the safeguarding system, to improve practice and outcomes, and safeguard and promote the welfare of children, young people, adults, and their families in our community. A joint Executive and Partnership Board has ensured the Partnership continues to meet its statutory requirements, whilst a full review has been undertaken to ensure the needs of both partnerships are met, and any new arrangements are carefully planned and implemented.

The current parameters, themes and reporting arrangements of the current subgroups have recently been reviewed, and consideration has also been given to the supporting structure of NCASP and its alignment to wider Partnerships. This work has been overseen by a Lead Task and Finish group, comprising of multi-agency Partnership leads, and has reported regularly into the NCASP Executive group. We will invite one of the Partnership Business Partners to update schools on the changes at the Locality Briefings at the end of this half term.

**It is important to remember that Ofsted Inspectors have been asking head teachers, designated safeguarding leads and safeguarding governors about their understanding of how the local partnership works and what the local priorities are, so it is important that you keep in touch with what is happening locally.**

Currently schools are known as relevant partners of the safeguarding partnership.

## Northumbria Connected



Northumbria Connected is a new tool being promoted by Northumbria Police to ensure that they are delivering on the issues that affect all communities across the North East. Information on how to sign up has been saved in the 'police Information' folder on the DSL SharePoint Site and we ask you, as partners of NCASP to share the information with the school community, including pupils, parents and staff. The resource in the folder can be downloaded and shared with everyone and gives clear instructions on how to register.

## Updates from subgroups

Recent guidance from subgroups has included updated guidance on:

- Procedures for the Management of Self Harm and or Suicidal Behaviour in Children and Young People
- Northumberland Self harm pathway for Children and Young People (flowchart)
- 7 Minute Briefing - Self Harm: Children and Young People
- Multi Agency Pathway for Bruising in Pre -Mobile Babies
- Bruising in Young Babies – Information for Parents and Carers (**please note this leaflet is to advise professionals, it is not for sharing with parents**)
- Updated Female Genital Mutilation referral pathway [fgm-pathway-multi-agency.pdf](#) ([proceduresonline.com](#))

There is also a working group looking at the guidance for **Fabricated or Induced Illness/Perplexing Presentations**. We have requested that once the guidance has been redrafted that we share with a few schools for feedback, so we will keep you informed as that progresses.

## Virtual School Updates

## Suspensions and Missed Sessions

As you know keeping our young people in school is a priority and we have had a timely reminder from Tara Prescott, the ESLAC Team Manager, in relation to the rising number of suspensions being given to looked after children.

We have significant concerns regarding the overuse of suspensions, and missed learning given the already fractured and disrupted learning that our looked after children have experienced prior to entering care. The primary reason used for suspensions is 'persistent disruptive behaviours', however when unpicking these, the majority are children in crisis and in a heightened state of dysregulation.

### **Suspensions are not an effective behaviour management strategy for looked after children:**

- Safeguarding - if they're not in school where are they and are they safe?
- Puts additional pressure on the foster placement or children's home.
- Increases lost learning for children who are already at a disadvantage academically.
- Triggers feelings of shame, rejection and loss for children who already carry this with them daily.
- Negatively impacts key relationships in school - with adults and children.
- Coming back to school is yet another difficult transition for children who are already likely to be experiencing transition fatigue.
- Gaps widen between them and peers, limited educational progress.

### **Alternative to Suspensions:**

- Key Adult in school
- Relational behaviour policy
- Trauma informed practice
- Emotion Coaching
- PACE
- Restorative Approaches
- Time In/Internal Suspension **NOT** isolation
- Time limited provision outside of school (AP/PRU etc)

Please get in touch with ESLAC for additional support, before suspending.

**Please call 01670 622779 or email [ESLAC.info@northumberland.gov.uk](mailto:ESLAC.info@northumberland.gov.uk)**

## Prevent

### **Martyn's Law**

Following the Government's consultation on updates to the Protect Duty, which is part of the Prevent Duty, there is a plan to update guidance to schools and colleges in relation to security guidance for publicly accessible locations (PALs). The following summary from the interim guidance identifies some of the key points that will shortly be made available to schools.

**Why do I need to consider counter-terrorism?** The terrorist threat to education settings is currently assessed as low. Martyn's Law legislation will improve the security awareness and preparedness of a range of locations to protect against and mitigate the impact of attacks. Improving CT security awareness and preparedness mitigates against a range of risks – not just from terrorism. As Protect Duty policy develops, and as and when legislation is agreed by Parliament, tailored guidance will support the education sector to meet its obligations under the Protect Duty.

**What resources can I access now?** All schools will have policies, plans and procedures in place to deal effectively with health and safety responsibilities. Processes to identify, assess, and review health and safety

risks can be adapted to address security matters. Guidance, training and advice on safety and security can be found here:

- [ProtectUK](#) is a new counter terrorism Policing platform to help organisations counter terrorism, increase awareness and stay alert. The ProtectUK app offers actionable content that can help counter-terrorism. The app also includes videos, such as 'RUN HIDE TELL' showing clear steps to take if faced with a terrorist incident.
- [Centre for the Protection of National Infrastructure | CPNI](#) - As the UK Government's national technical authority for physical and personnel protective security, the CPNI website covers a range of advice and guidance that is free to access.
- [School and college security - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#) is non-statutory guidance to help schools and colleges develop policies and plans to manage and respond to security related incidents. The local context is crucial when developing your policies. This should reflect your school or college's unique circumstances, including size and location, character and ethos, educational needs, and local priorities.

We are in regular contact with our colleagues in the counter terrorism team and will update you as the guidance develops and is made available for educational settings.

## Other Useful Information

### Update from the Inclusion Team



Last term the inclusion team published their first Northumberland Strategic Inclusion Strategy which sets out how they will promote Inclusion and prevent exclusion. The strategy draws heavily from examples of the strong leadership and good practice that already exists in many Northumberland early years' settings, schools and Post 16 provisions, where there is robust evidence of strong inclusive practice and a reduction in the use of exclusion.

This strategy is seen as the foundation on which Northumberland can now build upon a shared commitment to working in partnership with multi-agency services, schools, academies, early years and post 16 settings and the local authority.

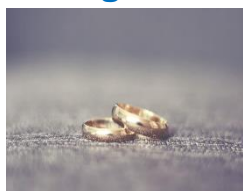
Education settings and services should use this strategy to inform their policies, practice and multi-agency planning in their work to ensure good outcomes for our children and young people ensuring that promoting inclusion and preventing exclusion is everybody's responsibility in Northumberland.

Please see below a link to the strategy and the School Exclusion Handbook:

<https://northumberlandeducation.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/Inclusion-Strategy-final.pdf>

[https://northumberlandeducation.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/School-Exclusion-Handbook\\_v1-5\\_Sep-2022-1.pdf](https://northumberlandeducation.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/School-Exclusion-Handbook_v1-5_Sep-2022-1.pdf)

### Change to the Law in Relation to the Legal Minimum Age for Marriage



The legal minimum age of marriage has increased to 18 in England and Wales under the Marriage and Civil Partnership (Minimum Age) Act (2022). Children could previously get married at the age of 16 or 17 with parental consent. This new act makes it an offence to pursue any activity for the purpose of causing a child to enter into a marriage prior to age 18. Previously, it was only illegal if coercion was used. Those found guilty of arranging a child marriage can now face up to seven years imprisonment. These new changes are a huge step in protecting vulnerable children, linked to child exploitation, forced marriage and domestic abuse.



## National Child Exploitation Awareness Raising Day 2023

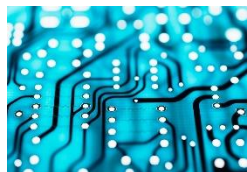


The 18<sup>th</sup> March 2023 is National Child Exploitation Day and the National Working Group have added a [number of free promotional resources](#) to their website, which can be used to promote this day. There are also [training events on](#) offer, including myth busting sessions. These myth busting

sessions cover useful information, including:

- what CSE is
- how children are targeted and groomed for the purpose of CSE
- signs that might indicate that a child is being groomed for CSE or is a victim of CSE
- how to respond to CSE to protect children and hold the abusers to account for the abuse and harm that they cause.

## Updated Cyber Security Resources



Schools have an increasing reliance on IT and online systems which makes cyber security an important consideration. The Cyber PROTECT network has produced this document for the education sector to help schools understand the information, resources and services available to improve their cyber security.

Resources are available on [the National Cyber Security Centre's dedicated website](#) and are designed to help schools improve their cyber security, as well as various other NCSC resources that will prove useful to the education sector. An additional document with this and other information has been saved in the 'Police Information' folder on the DSL SharePoint site.

**SAVE THE DATE!**

**YCAD 2023  
will be on  
15 March**

**CARERS  
TRUST**



## Young Carers

### What's is Young Carers Action Day 15<sup>th</sup> March 2023

Young Carers Action Day raises awareness about young carers and young adult carers, the challenges they face and the support they need.

### What is the theme of this year's Young Carers Action Day?

The theme for 2023 is Make Time for Young Carers. Young carers told Carers Trust that an adult taking just a small amount of time, even just

ten minutes, can make a big difference. That's because listening to a young carer and asking the right questions could help them get the vital support they desperately need. This can make all the difference to their health and wellbeing.

Resources, such as the award framework and toolkit are saved in the DSL SharePoint Young Carers folder. You can also Download resources for Young Carers Action Day, on the website. Find posters and other useful resources to create displays of social media posts.

[Download resources](#)

and can also be accessed by contacting the young carer's workers -

**Anne-Marie Johnstone - Service Coordinator - 07500 886 319**

**Karen Lightley - Schools Link Worker - 07500 886 321**

Telephone: 01670 320025

Email: [youngcarers@carersnorthumberland.org.uk](mailto:youngcarers@carersnorthumberland.org.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 contact a member of staff directly then, please use these generic email addresses. 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.