

## 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 61: 17<sup>th</sup> January 2022

### Northumberland Strategic Safeguarding Partnership - REMINDER

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/nssphsb1>

Part 2 - <https://bit.ly/nssphsb2>

Part 3 - <https://bit.ly/nssphsb3>

Part 4 - <https://bit.ly/nssphsb4>

Part 5 - <https://bit.ly/nssphsb5>

(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](#)  
Please see article below for further information.

### Northumberland Schools Engagement Group



The Schools Engagement Group is committed to supporting schools to take appropriate action to challenge sexual abuse, violence and harassment. To enable us to do this in the most effective way, we would like to collect examples of how schools have managed cases involving bullying where the bullying has taken place through social media. If you have had to manage such bullying cases in your setting, please could you get in touch with Justine

Clephane: - [Justine.clephane@northumberland.gov.uk](mailto:Justine.clephane@northumberland.gov.uk) or telephone 07879 874168 to discuss this further.

We would like to celebrate good practice around tackling online bullying and to share this with colleagues across Northumberland, to support them to manage future incidents.

### Prevent

Although not a statutory requirement, many of you have chosen to have a Preventing Radicalisation Policy. If you have a policy, please ensure your policy is up to date and all references to national guidance are current. There is a copy of the most up to date policy on the **DSL in Schools and APs SharePoint** site, in the Prevent folder.

The DfE are proposing to make changes to KCSiE statutory guidance in preparation for the 2022 edition to be published. They are currently seeking views on the proposed changes and would value your contribution. The consultation opened on 11<sup>th</sup> January and closes on 8<sup>th</sup> March 2022 and can be accessed by following this link:



<https://consult.education.gov.uk/safeguarding-in-schools-team/kcsie-proposed-revisions-2022/>

## Stop It Now – Confidential Helpline



Stop It Now! UK and Ireland is run by The Lucy Faithfull Foundation and is a charity dedicated to preventing child sexual abuse. The organisation is there to support anyone with concerns about child sexual abuse and its prevention. Trained staff provide a call-back and face-to-face service to helpline callers who need specialist, ongoing advice, and support. There is an area on the website for professionals

looking for advice, to ensure professionals working with children are well equipped to keep children safe. The website can be accessed via this link: <https://www.stopitnow.org.uk/professionals-looking-for-advice/> Resources for professionals are also available to anyone worried about a child or young person who has been accessing inappropriate sexual material online via the 'What's the problem?' pages. This is an area which will help you to support children and young people who have got into trouble online, either through sending nude images, accessing adult pornography, or viewing sexual images of children. It is designed to answer some of the questions you may have after learning that something has happened in a child's online life.

The Stop It Now Confidential Helpline number is 0800 1000 900

## Parents Protect Traffic Light Tool

The Lucy Faithfull Foundation have produced a traffic light tool to support parents/carers to recognise worrying sexual behaviour in children and young people. The leaflets are designed to help give adults guidance and information on the difference between healthy and developmentally expected sexual exploration and play, in children of specific ages, and behaviour that is not appropriate and can cause harm to others, or increase a child's vulnerability. There are two leaflets to support parents/carers, one is for children under the age of 5 and the second is for children aged 5 – 11 years. These leaflets are available for you to access from the **DSL in Schools and APs SharePoint Site**, in the **Harmful Sexualised Behaviour folder**.

**Parents Protect**

Together we can prevent  
child sexual abuse

## Stop Abuse Together – 0808 800 5000



The government's Stop Abuse Together website and helpline provide dedicated NSPCC child protection specialist support to anyone contacting them regarding a concern for a child who may be being sexually abused. There is a dedicated area on the website for parents and carers as well as areas for survivors, young people, and professionals, including resources and information specifically for teaching staff.

## Young Carers

The latest edition of the Young Carers Newsletter is available on the **DSL in Schools and APs SharePoint site**, it is filed in the Young Carers folder. There is also information available for making a referral and accessing support for Young Carers in your school, via the Young Carers Toolkit.



## Northumberland Health Related Behaviour Questionnaire (HRBQ) Deadline Extended



The Northumberland HRBQ deadline has been extended until the end of January, this is to give schools greater flexibility to plan in time for students to complete the questionnaire. The questionnaire is commissioned by Northumberland County Council's Public Health Team for students in years 6, 9 and 11 to complete. This free resource is then analysed and evaluated externally and then each resource is returned to the school that completed it for personal ownership. The results of the questionnaire can provide a solid evidence base to support the development of your schools RHSE curriculum and supports you to meet the needs of the students in your school.

Each completed survey is anonymous and confidential, and the questions cover a wide range of health behaviours, including emotional health and wellbeing, relationships and social media use. This year's questionnaire will include specific questions relating to Covid 19 and how this has impacted on your students.

Schools which complete the survey online will be able to access their results almost immediately and full reports will be available to you at the end of February.

To register your interest in taking part in the Survey, please nominate a contact within your School by clicking on the link here **Sign up** Please choose the appropriate year groups for your school.

If you have any questions, or would like more information about the HRBQ, please contact Yvonne Hush, Public Health Manager – [Yvonne.hush@northumberland.gov.uk](mailto:Yvonne.hush@northumberland.gov.uk) or telephone 07970 341824

## Resource for Parents – Talking to Your Child About Online Sexual Harassment

Since March 2020, young women have been sharing their experiences of sexual harassment through the 'Everyone's Invited' project. This is an online platform where girls (most of whom are still in school) have shared their experiences of growing up with sexual harassment. It's important to remember that boys also experience sexual harassment, but most of the sexual harassment is perpetrated by boys towards girls.



One of the responses to this, has been by the Children's Commissioner who brought together a group of 16 – 21-year-olds and asked them to share what they thought their parents should know, and what they think parents should say to their children when talking about sexualised bullying and the pressures of growing up online. The young people were asked what their parents did and said that was helpful, and what wasn't. As a result of this consultation, the Children's Commissioner has produced a parent's guide **'Things I Wish My Parents Had Known – young people's advice on talking to your child about online sexual harassment'** which is available by following this link:

[https://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/12/cco\\_talking\\_to\\_your\\_child\\_about\\_online\\_sexual\\_harassment\\_a\\_guide\\_for\\_parents\\_dec\\_2021.pdf](https://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/12/cco_talking_to_your_child_about_online_sexual_harassment_a_guide_for_parents_dec_2021.pdf)

The guide is also available on the **DSL in Schools and APs SharePoint** site, stored in the 'sending nudes, online sexual harassment and getting naked online' folder. In there, you will also find a poster summarising the key points from this consultation, these include:

- Don't wait for the crisis
- Don't mention it once and think that's enough
- Don't scare them with 'the big talk'
- Don't punish them before listening and understanding
- Don't pretend these issues don't exist
- Don't leave your child unsupervised online without using monitoring and filter tools. You wouldn't leave them alone in the park or the street, apply the same level of protection online.

## Safer Internet Day – Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> February 2022



Safer Internet Day is celebrated globally in February each year to promote the safe and positive use of digital technology for children and young people, and to inspire a national conversation about using technology responsibly, respectfully, critically, and creatively. Safer Internet Day 2022 is on 8th February and will be celebrated with the theme '**All fun and games? Exploring respect and relationships online**'. Coordinated in the UK by the UK Safer Internet Centre, Safer Internet Day is celebrated in over a hundred countries. There are

a wide range of educational resources for you to use with children and young people from 3 years to 18 years of age. There are also resources for parents and carers to access too.

To find out how your school can be supported to take part in Safer Internet Day this year, please follow this link:

<https://d1xsi6mgo67kia.cloudfront.net/uploads/2021/11/PlayYourPart-on-social-media.pdf>

## Update Your Contact Information

Please could you make sure that the Schools' Safeguarding Team has up to date contact information for the DSLs (Designated Safeguarding Leads) 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 Events

**New DSL, Roles and Responsibilities Training (Day 1)** – Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> February 1.00 - 3.30 pm

**New DSL, Roles and Responsibilities Training (Day 2)** - Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> February 1.00 - 3.30 pm

**Governors Training** – Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> February – 5.00 - 6.30 pm

**DSL Refresher Training** – Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> February 10.00 - 12.00 noon.

**DSL Refresher Training** – Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> March 1.00 - 3.00 pm

**NSSP Locality Safeguarding Briefings** – Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> March, Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> March, Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> March, all running from 3.45 - 5.00 pm

If you would like to book on any of the above training events, please contact the Schools Safeguarding Team Admin Alyson Webb via email [alyson.webb@northumberland.gov.uk](mailto:alyson.webb@northumberland.gov.uk)

If you would like further information on the training programme provided by the Schools Safeguarding Team, please contact a member of the team, contact details are listed below.

## Contact us

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

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

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

**Victoria 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 EOTAS Team please email - [eotashealth@northumberland.gov.uk](mailto:eotashealth@northumberland.gov.uk)
- If you have a more urgent query or request please telephone 01670 622787.