

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 52: January 22nd 2021

Happy New Year

Welcome to the first edition of Safe to Learn for 2021

DSLs in Schools and APs – SharePoint



As Northumberland County Council has moved from using Google to Microsoft 365, the Schools' Safeguarding Team has been unable to share information with you via the Google folder: Information for DSLs. The information that was contained in this folder has now been moved over to SharePoint and is entitled: **DSLs in Schools & APs** and you should have received your invitation to access this SharePoint site before the Christmas holidays. The invitation you were sent came from the SharePoint address so it may have gone into your spam folder. If you have not received your invitation, or you were unable to access the site, please contact Justine Clephane via email: justine.clephane@northumberland.gov.uk

Updating the Schools' Safeguarding Team on Changes



Please remember to update the Schools' Safeguarding Team on any changes to the DSLs (designated safeguarding leads) 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

DfE Guidance

Restricting attendance during the national lockdown: Schools Guidance for all schools in England – January 2021. This is the latest DfE guidance to support schools during the current lockdown. The guidance does not include maintained nursery schools or pre-reception classes. The key safeguarding information included is:



- Update safeguarding and child protection policy
- DSL should be available on-site or available to contact via telephone
- Social workers should be notified about vulnerable children who need to self-isolate
- Check vulnerable children have access to remote education support and regularly check they are accessing this.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/actions-for-schools-during-the-coronavirus-outbreak>

Additional guidance for special schools and other specialist settings was published on the 14th January. It does not make specific reference to safeguarding but does discuss attendance, the attendance of vulnerable children (which is in line with guidance for all schools) and links to further information relating to respite care and children's social care services.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-for-full-opening-special-schools-and-other-specialist-settings/guidance-for-full-opening-special-schools-and-other-specialist-settings>

The DfE guidance is also on the DSLs in Schools and APs SharePoint site.

Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy



The latest guidance suggests settings should review their Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy, so it reflects the current restrictions and remains effective. A coronavirus addendum that summarises any key local restriction related changes will be more effective than re-writing the whole school policy. Carol Leckie – Schools Safeguarding Team Manager has written an addendum for schools to add to their Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy.

The addendum is available in the policies folder on the DSLs in Schools and APs site.

Working Together to Safeguard Children

In December 2020, the government updated the 2018 Working Together to Safeguard Children, the key changes to this document include:

- Clarification about information sharing
- Updating the definition of safeguarding – already included in Keeping Children Safe in Education 2020
- Strengthening the wording around domestic abuse to include coercive control
- Clarity about the Homelessness Duty – early assessments for 16/17-year-olds.

Please note; the front cover of Working Together to Safeguard Children still has the original publication date of July 2018 (as in the picture). To ensure you have accessed the most up to date version, please check the copyright date on the back cover, it should say 2020. The updated 2020 version is on the DSLs in Schools & APs site.



NCC Guidance for Children's Social Work Home Visits



Northumberland County Council have updated their guidance for children's social work home visits to reflect the current lockdown. The guidance is for children's social care staff who will be required to undertake home visits.

This guidance is useful to DSLs to see what the expectations are regarding visiting the homes of vulnerable children and young people. **The guidance is available on the**

DSLs in Schools & APs site in the Northumberland Strategic Safeguarding Partnership folder.

Keeping Children Safe in Education 2021 – Consultation



The DfE is consulting on the proposed changes to Keeping Children Safe in Education 2021. The consultation will seek views on the proposed revisions. As well as the online survey, they are running a series of consultation events for DSLs to attend. If you would like to apply to attend one of these events, please

use the link below.

<https://consult.education.gov.uk/safeguarding-in-schools-team/keeping-children-safe-in-education-schools-and-col/>

The key changes being proposed are as follows:

Part one

There is an argument that the detail in Part one is excessive for those staff who do not regularly work directly with children, such as caterers and cleaners, to fulfil their safeguarding responsibilities. Governing bodies and proprietors are given the freedom to choose a shortened version for those staff who do not regularly work directly with children.

Part two

Information regarding online content from Annex C of KCSiE 2020 will be moved to Part two. This change will give online safety the prominence it deserves. The Department for Education are updating guidance for DSLs to clarify the type of additional support that can help educational outcomes of children who need and have a social worker.

Part three

Suggestion that Part three overly focuses on DBS checking and does not place enough emphasis on encouraging schools and colleges to have an ongoing culture of vigilance. Part three will be restructured so that it follows more closely the recruitment practices followed by most employers. Part three will move to four sections:

- the recruitment and selection process
- pre-employment vetting checks, regulated activity and recording of information
- other checks that may be necessary for staff, volunteers and others, including the responsibilities placed on schools and colleges for children in other settings; and
- how to ensure the ongoing safeguarding of children and the statutory reporting duties on employers.

Part four

Proposed changes have been informed by the stakeholder engagement undertaken by the Department for Education. The engagement identified:

- the need for schools and colleges to ensure that they understand the local authority arrangements for managing allegations, including the contact details of the local authority designated officer (LADO)
- how to manage allegations that do not meet the LADO threshold

Part five

Substantive changes proposed to Part five. Proposed changes and rationale:

- add an introduction at the beginning of Part five to provide contextual advice and information

- highlight and draw attention to the fact that sexual violence and sexual harassment can be committed by a group of people, and not just one perpetrator. Thus, they have changed perpetrator to ‘perpetrator(s)’
- **strengthen the advice to reiterate that staff should act immediately if they have concerns and not wait for disclosure, and that staff should not be frightened of asking a child outright whether they have been harmed and what the nature of that harm was;** and
- provide additional effective safeguarding practice on how to respond to the initial report.

Safeguarding training for governing bodies and proprietors

Proposals and rationale - KCSiE currently advises all schools and colleges to have a senior board level safeguarding lead (i.e. a safeguarding governor or equivalent), but the DfE do not hold information about what safeguarding training the lead has undertaken to support them with their role. The DfE wants to understand what training is being undertaken and whether mandated safeguarding training would be helpful. The responses to their questions will help them make an informed assessment about whether there is a case for making any future change to KCSiE.

DfE: School and College Closures: Ongoing Prevent Management Support – January 2021

The impact of COVID-19 on education settings has created a number of challenges for safeguarding children and young people from extremism and radicalisation. The DfE is aware that Prevent is often seen as something separate to other types of safeguarding, which is why they have provided updated advice to settings on managing Prevent processes during the partial closure of settings in March 2020.

‘Following the [Prime Minister’s announcement on 4 January 2021](#), Educate Against Hate have [updated their advice to school leaders on Prevent management during COVID-19](#) to reflect current COVID-19 guidance for schools and colleges. This is to provide public facing advice for schools and colleges around Prevent during COVID, as well as to further clarify how the vulnerable children definition applies to Channel cases. The blog will be signposted in DfE COVID-19 safeguarding guidance and promoted through our Educate Against Hate social media channels’

Further information is available on [spotting the signs](#) of radicalisation and [how to raise concerns](#) you may have. Prevent referrals can still be made using existing referral processes.

educate.against.
hate



Impact on Children of Experiencing Domestic Abuse



Domestic abuse is harmful to children, and puts children at risk of harm, whether they are subjected to domestic abuse, or witness one of their parents being violent or abusive to the other parent, or live in a home in which domestic abuse is perpetrated (even if the child is too young to be conscious of the behaviour). Children may suffer direct physical, psychological and emotional harm from living with domestic abuse and may also suffer harm indirectly where the domestic abuse impairs the parenting capacity of either or both of their parents.

The Welsh Government has produced a document which investigates the short term and long-term effects on children living in households where there is domestic abuse present. The document links the experience to Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) and to children's cognitive development. The document also looks at the trauma that living with domestic abuse can cause and investigates the different ways that children are affected. This is an interesting read which offers insight into the experiences of the child and asks us to consider the child as a victim of the domestic abuse, rather than as simply a witness of it.

<https://gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2019-08/cafcass-cymru-impact-on%20children-experiencing-domestic-abuse.pdf>

This document is also available on the DSLs in Schools & APs site, in the domestic abuse and sexual violence folder.

Sharing Nudes and Semi – Nudes: Advice on responding to an incident.

Published in late December This non-statutory advice aims to support designated safeguarding leads (or equivalents) and senior leadership teams in education settings in responding effectively to incidents involving the sharing of nudes and semi-nudes.

It includes guidance on:

- risk assessing incidents
- safeguarding and supporting children and young people
- handling devices and imagery
- recording incidents, including the role of other agencies
- providing education on the sharing of nudes and semi-nudes

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/sharing-nudes-and-semi-nudes-advice-for-education-settings-working-with-children-and-young-people/sharing-nudes-and-semi-nudes-how-to-respond-to-an-incident-overview>

This information is also available on the DSLs in Schools & APs site.

Sharing nudes and semi-nudes

Advice for education settings working with children and young people
Responding to incidents and safeguarding children and young people

County Lines – Information Leaflet for Parents

Northumbria Police, in partnership with other colleagues have produced a leaflet aimed at providing parents and carers with information about county lines. We are all conscious that this is a subject parents will hear about on the news and social media so the leaflet produced can be used to give them information about what county lines actually involves, the things to look out for and contact details for services. The leaflet can also be used with your staff.



This information is also available on the DSLs in Schools & APs site.

Barnado's Young Dads Development Worker

A new offer has been made available from Barnado's to offer support to young dads and referrals can be made by contacting - newcastleypst@barnardos.org.uk or 0191 2714615 OR simon.tovey@barnardos.org.uk / 07565 620600.

AGED 25 AND UNDER? DO YOU NEED SUPPORT AROUND:

- BUILDING YOUR CONFIDENCE AS A YOUNG DAD, OR A DAD-TO-BE?
- 1:1 WORK? SOMEONE TO TALK TO OR ADVISE YOU?
- PRACTICAL PARENTING SKILLS AND INFORMATION?
- SOMEBODY TO ADVOCATE FOR YOU?
- SUPPORT WITH OTHER ISSUES SUCH AS:
 - EMPLOYMENT? RELATIONSHIPS? YOUR RIGHTS?

Fliers to promote the service in school, on your website or other social media platforms can be found in the DSLs in Schools & APs site on SharePoint

Training

We are continuing to deliver our DSL training virtually and offering whole school training sessions if required. Please book by emailing carol.leckie@northumberland.gov.uk

The dates for the next sessions are as follows:

DSL Refresher

10th February 2021 13:30 – 15:30

10th March 2021 10:00 – 12noon

13th April 2021 13:00 – 15:00



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.

1. **Carol Leckie Schools' Safeguarding Team Manager** , Carol.Leckie@northumberland.gov.uk, 07584 313178
2. **Justine Clephane Schools' Safeguarding Consultant**
Justine.Clephane@northumberland.gov.uk , 07879 874168
3. **Victoria Kinneavy Education Safeguarding Liaison Officer**,
Victoria.Kinneavy@northumberland.gov.uk, 07966 325300

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 more urgent query or request please telephone 01670 622787.