

Northumberland Strategic Safeguarding Partnership with Northumberland Education and Skills Service

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

Issue 31: 3rd April 2020

DSL support during the Coronavirus Covid 19 outbreak

During the school closure period we are going to publish a Safe to Learn bulletin every Friday.

Please remember to share with all staff and your governing body.

As next week is easter weekend you can expect issue 32 on Thursday 9th April 2020

National Guidance

Updates to government guidance have been published this week, all relevant to your DSL role:

- [Guidance on safeguarding in schools, colleges and other providers](#) (published 27 March 2020)
- Guidance on vulnerable children and young people (updated 27 Mar 2020 - Updated the following sections of the guidance: 13, 20, 21, 22, 24, 26, 27 and 30)
- [Guidance on vulnerable children and young people](#) (updated 27 March 2020 - Updated questions on 'How are vulnerable children defined', 'What should schools do if vulnerable children do not attend school' and what public health advice should schools follow')
- [Guidance for schools on temporary closing](#)
- [Guidance on supporting children's mental health and wellbeing](#)
- [Free school meals guidance](#)

School moves during school closure period

As some schools start to close and school hubs start to emerge, there may be times where children are required to attend other school sites. *These moves do not require a change in school roll.* [Government guidance](#) has been published to make sure the appropriate safeguarding arrangements are in place to support these moves and the Schools' Safeguarding Team has published a [checklist for schools](#) based on the guidance.

Child Protection policies – Covid 19

Following the publication of the [Guidance on safeguarding in schools, colleges and other providers](#) (published 27 March 2020) we have produced a template appendix which can be added to your current **Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy** and a checklist you can use to ensure you address all of the points raised in the new guidance. The resources were emailed directly to you and by the end of the week will be on our webpage to view and download.

Keeping Children Safe in Education Update

On 2nd April 2020 the DfE made a minor update to the current version of KCSIE by adding a link to the most recent Covid-19 guidance. The updated guidance can be found [here](#)

Operation Encompass and Operation Endeavour

It is extremely important throughout this pandemic period that Operation Encompass and Operation Endeavour notifications are checked daily. This will help to ensure that some of our most vulnerable children and young people can still be supported. If you receive an Encompass notification consider calling home, just to check things are okay. If you have the contact details of the victim use them and, wherever possible, ask if you can talk to the young person.

Working remotely

IMPORTANT NOTE:

Whilst many staff will be working remotely during the coronavirus outbreak, it is important to note that personal data must at all times continue to be processed and stored in accordance with data protection principles. You should not use personal devices to communicate with service-users, store personal data on personal devices or download and use apps onto work or personal devices (phones/laptops/tablet computers) without express authorisation from your manager.

For more information see:

- [Storage of Data on Mobile Devices](#) (for Children's and Adult Services)
- [Use of Social Media Sites by Social Care and Safeguarding Staff](#) (for Children's Services)
- Social Media (use of) (adult customers can find this on their procedures site)
- Children's Services customers will be offered the above two chapters at their next scheduled update. Adult Service customer updates will automatically include Storage of Data on Mobile Devices as a new procedure.
- We have also added a useful new chapter on [Capacity and Consent](#) (for Children's Services).

Missing children – a message from the Police

A message from Lynne Colledge Detective Inspector (Safeguarding Strategic Support) in relation to Missing Children:

As you know the Prime Minister announced strict-stay-at-home measures for the public and enacted new legislation to support this.

The Government Guidance on 'Staying at Home' is clear. There is not a complete lock down. People are allowed to leave home for certain reasons including to 'provide care or to help a vulnerable person'. It is clearly not the intention of the Government to prevent parents (including corporate parents) from going to look for their children when they leave home without permission, or in breach of parental discipline. This is a parental issue. Unless there are some risk factors, such as they were seen to get into a car, or were extremely active on their mobile phones before leaving which is a previous indicator of them planning to meet exploiters, the police should not be contacted to report them missing until the professional carers have conducted reasonable actions to locate the child.

Northumbria Police's stance in terms of the new legislation is one of Engaging, Explaining and Encouraging first, with Enforcement being an absolute last resort.. Any parents/carers stopped by police outside of their home address while trying to locate a child in their care will be dealt with sympathetically as this would be

seen as a “reasonable excuse” **Please reassure your parents and carers that they can still take reasonable steps to safeguard and locate the young people in their care.**

Northumberland Strategic Safeguarding Partnership (NSSP)

Please follow this link to the [Tri.x Guidance](#) from the Northumberland Strategic Safeguarding Partnership (NSSP, formerly NSCB). This is your safeguarding handbook containing links to all local procedures and policies. There is also a Covid-19 guidance page which will change as working practice and legislation changes during the outbreak available at <https://www.proceduresonline.com/resources/covid19/>

On-line safety

There is a lot of support available to keep children safe online. Below are some useful links to help parents and carers:

- [Thinkyouknow](#) (advice from the National Crime Agency to stay safe online)
- [Internet matters](#) (support for parents and carers to keep their children safe online)
- [Parent info](#) (support for parents and carers to keep their children safe online)
- [LGfL](#) (support for parents and carers to keep their children safe online)
- [Net-aware](#) (support for parents and careers from the NSPCC)

Resources

The [Open Clasp Theatre Company's](#) 'Key Change' is currently available to view online for free. Key Change was devised with women in HMP Low Newton to tour to male prisons. Winner of The Carol Tambor Best of Edinburgh Award 2015, Key Change premiered in New York in 2016 and was the prestigious New York Times Critics' Pick. <https://www.openclasp.org.uk/>

The NSPCC's [Learning e-mail](#) includes a number of links to resources which are helpful for children about Covid-19 and how parents / carers can talk to them about the issue.

The [Recovery College](#) has produced a free online course for coping during the pandemic - <http://email.nspcc.org.uk/q/1lqjiNT9L7yI1mgQinfw7/wv>

Domestic abuse

With continued concerns that the level of domestic abuse may increase during extended periods when families are social distancing, the following resources are available to share with families and on your websites.

These websites are updated regularly:

- [Women's Aid practical safety advice for survivors](#)
- [SafeLives advice and information for survivors, professionals and policymakers](#)
- The [Women's Aid](#) website has also been updated with the ability for survivors to do live chat as a means of contacting the Women's Aid national support service.
- [Bright Sky](#) is a free to download mobile app providing support and information to anyone who may be in an abusive relationship or those concerned about someone they know. The app is also designed to be used by professionals looking for information about issues around domestic abuse such as online safety, stalking and harassment and sexual consent. It looks like a weather app so the abuser wouldn't suspect if it was on a survivor's phone.

The [Safe and Together Institute](#) is providing advice on how domestic abuse support work might be adapted during the pandemic crisis.

All of our local DA and SV services are continuing to offer support (via phone and on line) and are still accepting referrals.

Remember for service users who are victims of domestic abuse, self or household isolation could mean they are at additional risk of abuse, trapped in their homes with their abusers and isolated from the people and the resources that could help them. Guides are attached and some important things to remember when having contact by phone:

- Check who else is in the house/room when you are talking
- Ask if they feel safe.
- Ask about what support they have, how they are managing with isolation/schools closing/social distancing.
- Consider use of 'closed' questions when asking about safety – questions with 'yes/no' answers may help a victim of abuse share that they are being harmed.

The [Dogs Trust Freedom Project](#) is still up and running and taking referrals (free fostering service for dogs belonging to people fleeing domestic abuse).

North East Referral Line – 0300 303 3497 <http://www.moretodogstrust.org.uk/about-freedom>

From the Schools' Safeguarding Team

The Northumberland Schools' Safeguarding Team would like to thank all DSLs, Headteachers, teachers and support staff for the amazing response to the pandemic situation. Northumberland schools have done their very best to stay open for the most vulnerable children who need your support more than ever in this time of crisis. Thank you to all the Northumberland school staff who are also looking after the children of the essential workers so they can help the country stay safe and well for as long as possible. Thank you to everyone who is driving miles around the county to deliver free school meals to the families that need them. You are all doing a fantastic job in the most difficult circumstances.

The Northumberland Schools' Safeguarding Team are here to help with any advice or support that you might need. Please stay in touch with us. We are able to offer one to one virtual meetings to support you with your safeguarding needs, and to talk over some of the issues you are currently facing. If this is something you would like, please send an email to any of the team members and we will set up a meeting time.

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. Your query will be logged and you will receive a response by the end of the working day or within 24 hours. If you can not make contact with a member of staff directly then please use these generic details and someone will respond to your query as soon as possible:

- 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.