

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 32: 9th 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.

The next issue will be shared with you on Friday 17th 2020.

National Guidance

Updates to government guidance have been published this week (7th April 2020), all relevant to your DSL role:

- Information for parents and carers about the closure of schools and other educational settings following the outbreak of coronavirus (COVID-19) - [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): Closure of educational settings: information for parents and carers](#)
- Coronavirus (Covid-19) School Closures - [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): school closures](#)
- Guidance for Schools and other Educational Settings - [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): guidance for schools and other educational settings](#)
- Free School meal Guidance - [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): free school meals guidance](#)
- Implementing Social Distancing in School - [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): implementing social distancing in education and childcare settings](#)
- Coronavirus (COVID-19) information leaflet - leaflet on what to do to help the spread of coronavirus, including information on symptoms and government support - <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-information-leaflet>

Resources for Young People

The DfE announced on 7th April that they had produced an initial list of online educational resources to help children to learn at home. The DfE states that these websites have been identified by some of the country's leading educational experts and offer a wide range of support and resources for pupils of all

ages. [Coronavirus \(COVID 19\): online education resources](#).

In addition, Northumberland County Council and Northumbria Healthcare Trust have produced a 'Coronavirus: Factsheet for Kids'. [Coronavirus Fact sheet for kids](#)

Children missing education during the Coronavirus outbreak

We have published guidance to schools and professionals about the process to follow if you can not make contact with a family to make a welfare check or if a child you were expecting at school does not arrive that day. This is being referred to as the children missing education (CME) procedure during the school closure period.

Process to check on the welfare of children during Covid 19 pandemic

Schools should ensure they have a process in place to check on the welfare of any child during the Covid 19 pandemic. Children whose welfare is of particular concern at this time will include:

1. children who do not attend school when expected and contact cannot be established with parent/carers
2. children who are at home and attempts made to contact the family by the school are unsuccessful

Please remember that there is still a children missing protocol in place even though the school may be closed.

On a daily basis DSLs should:

- Make sure they know which children on their school roll/AP register have a social worker (contact Vicky Kinneavy for clarification if necessary) and/or an EHCP
- Know who to expect at school/provision each day
- If an expected child doesn't arrive then contact home (parent/carer) and carry out the usual reasonable checks for CME, e.g. home visit. If a home visit is to be carried out, ensure that:
 - A risk assessment has been carried out
 - Social distancing is maintained, eg stay outdoors
 - A note is left asking the family to contact the school by a given time if no contact is made

If, following your CME checks, you are unable to make contact with parents/carers, then inform **the allocated worker**. This could be a social worker or early help family worker within Northumberland Children's Services. It could also be the lead professional from another agency if there is an open EHA) **and** notify Education Welfare (educationwelfare@northumberland.gov.uk). Any actions agreed should be recorded by all parties involved using their service system.

If a child does not have an allocated worker contact Education Welfare.

An Education Welfare Officer will then make relevant checks to try and establish the whereabouts of the child. Should efforts to trace the child be unsuccessful, the school should contact EH First Contact (01670 536400) who will:

- a. Check the system for history of family
- b. If there are other contact details on NCC systems, these are to be tried
- c. If appropriate, request EHFw or other appropriate team to deliver a note to the family asking them to contact school by a set date and time (if possible using a worker the family knows).

If there is still no contact at the requested time, schools are to contact OneCall on 01670 536400 to report this. Decisions can then be made on appropriate course of action applying relevant Children's Services decision making procedures.

If you have immediate safeguarding concerns then schools should follow their safeguarding policy and seek advice from OneCall on 01670 536400 where necessary.

Domestic Abuse Against Parents and Carers

The Police and Crime Commissioner's Violence Reduction Unit have funded the production of a leaflet to inform families about Adolescent to Parent Violence and Abuse and this can be found on the [Northumberland County Council Domestic Abuse](#) webpage.

Domestic Violence and Abuse

Our local Domestic Abuse Coordinator, Lesley Pyle, has continued to keep the NCC page updated with resources as the evidence locally and nationally indicates that rates of domestic violence are increasing.

The most recent guidance includes the following links and resources:

- [Women's Aid practical safety advice for survivors](#)
- [SafeLives advice and information for survivors, professionals and policymakers](#)
- [Galop National LGBT+ Domestic Abuse Helpline](#)
- [Men's Advice Line](#)

Rights of Women comprehensive guidance on Coronavirus and child contact arrangements: [here](#)

Independent Office for Police Conduct information on what survivors can do if they need urgent police help through the 999 service, but can't speak: [here](#)

Public Health England COVID-19: guidance on isolation for domestic abuse safe-accommodation settings: [here](#)

Age UK Advice on staying safe and well at home: [here](#)

General Covid-19 advice and information

These websites have information and advice relating to health and wellbeing:

- <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/stress-anxiety-depression/>
- <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/nhs-fitness-studio/>
- <http://franticworld.com/>
- <http://www.freemindfulness.org/download>
- <https://www.headspace.com/>
- <https://www.nsun.org.uk/News/covid-19-mental-health-information>
- <https://www.mind.org.uk/information-support/coronavirus-and-your-wellbeing/>
- <https://www.mentalhealth.org.uk/>

When it rains look for rainbows

A Facebook group '**When it rains look for rainbows**' has free packs available to download to support emotions for children, young people and adults during the Covid-19 crisis. The packs are aimed at addressing worries and supporting emotional wellbeing. **These resources are only available to individuals who already have a Facebook account.** There are 2 packs: one aimed at young children (rainbow pack) and one for teenagers. They are suitable for both parents or support workers to complete with the children. There's also a pack for adults.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/232578031465715/announcements/>

FLOWS (Finding Legal Options for Women Survivors)

The COVID-19 lockdown has heightened the need to keep women safe: self-isolation has the potential to aggravate pre-existing abusive behaviours by perpetrators. While in lockdown or self-isolation, women and children are likely to be spending concentrated periods of time with perpetrators, potentially escalating the threat of domestic abuse and further restricting their freedom.

FLOWS has adapted their service in the wake of COVID-19.

New referral app

We recognise that it would be difficult for a woman isolating with her abuser to call us discreetly. In response to this, we have created a self-referral app so that women can contact us without having to call us or access an email account.

The page can be accessed here: <https://self-referral.flows.org.uk/>.

This is in addition to our existing referral app for statutory organisations and front line professionals which can be found here: <https://referral.flows.org.uk/> .

Phone line and email consultancy

The FLOWS phone line and email consultancy remains in place. Women can contact the team between 9am-5pm Monday to Friday on;

Phone: 0203 745 7707 Email: flows@rcjadvice.org.uk

Website

We have updated our [website](#) content to provide advice and assistance surrounding abuse and COVID-19. We will continue to update the content to match the latest government advice. Our service map continues to grow and provides details of local help that women can access.

Keeping Children Safe in Education 2020

The Government has suspended the consultation on the new version of KCSiE 2020 and at this stage is not able to confirm if and when the consultation will be reopened.

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.

Carol Leckie, Schools' Safeguarding Team Manager, 01670 622720

Carol.Leckie@northumberland.gov.uk

If you can not 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 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.