

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 35: 1st May 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 8th May 2020.

Vulnerable Children in Schools

Cath McEvoy Carr, Executive Director of Children's and Adult Services, extract from briefing 27.04.20

We have seen an increase in the number and percentage of vulnerable children who have attended school provision last week, and this remains a priority focus across children's services.

This was the first week where schools were required to complete detailed returns in relation to vulnerable children and we will use this information to ensure we are appropriately supporting and overseeing those children. The forms that schools receive will be prepopulated with lists of their learners who have EHCPs, and those who are open to social care. These forms will be issued every week and the expectation is that they will be returned by Thursday at 5pm so that any follow up can be assigned appropriately.

Further guidance has been published in relation to risk assessing children with SEND in relation to school attendance. For those with EHCPs, it is very important that a schools' assessment of where the learner is 'safest' should include consultation with their social worker, if they have one. This is made clear in government guidance, and the message from NCC into our schools is consistent. We have made a proforma available to schools which clearly indicates that this should happen.

Feedback from Schools

As part of a conference call with headteachers and the Service Directors for Education and Children's Social Care, there was positive feedback from heads in relation to communication and liaison between schools and children's social care about safeguarding vulnerable children. This chimes with feedback gained from social care staff previously about constructive working with schools. The importance of effective and constructive partnership working cannot be overemphasised in ensuring the safeguarding of children and [we are really appreciative of receiving this feedback](#) and obviously encourage this to continue. Thank you.

Free Safeguarding Training



Now might be a good time to catch up on your safeguarding training. The [Northumberland Schools' Safeguarding Team Manager, Carol Leckie](#), has compiled a programme of online training for staff working from home, and for those staff who are continuing to work in school. The courses will keep you in touch with key safeguarding matters and enhance your safeguarding knowledge. Group 1 are courses available through Learning Together and Group 2 are external courses:

Group 1

- Safeguarding and Child Protection for Children's Workforce
- Domestic Abuse and Safeguarding Children
- Emotional Abuse
- Safeguarding Children with Disabilities
- FGM
- MAPPA
- Signs of Safety
- Private Fostering
- Criminal Exploitation
- Early Help for Children and Families
- Child Sexual Exploitation
- Child Protection Processes
- Honor Based Violence and Forced Marriage
- Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking
- Understanding SEN Support and EHCPs in Schools
- ROAR (mental health for primary schools)

Group 2

- ACEs (Introduction to Adverse Childhood Experiences Early Trauma Online Learning) produced by the Home Office Early Intervention Fund
- Female Genital Mutilation training
- Honour Based Violence and Forced marriage
- Increasing Your Knowledge of Security and Counter Terrorism

NEW - Parental conflict - details were given on Safe to Learn Issue 34, available in 'Information for DSLs' folder

Schools' Safeguarding Team SLA

The Schools' Safeguarding Team would like to offer 1-1 support to DSLs of schools that have bought into the 2019/2020 SLA and we will be contacting you in the near future to arrange the format you would prefer this support to take. The SLA for 2020/2021 is now available to purchase. If you would like individual support for DSLs this will be made available in the new package too.

This is an opportunity for you to:

- Discuss current cases you are working on
- Ask questions regarding safeguarding issues in your school
- Discuss historic cases and ask about past or future actions
- Take advice
- Signposting to appropriate support
- Check in with the safeguarding team.



NSSP Update



Lesley Pyle - Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Co-ordinator, and Anne Lambert - Learning and Organisational Development Co-ordinator have been working on a new short e-learning package on [Recognising and Responding to Domestic Abuse: an Introduction](#).

This is in response to the worrying increase in domestic abuse during lockdown. It has local links and contacts in it and is currently available free for anyone with a Learning Together account at this [link](#).

A longer, more advanced e-module on Domestic Abuse and Safeguarding Children is available [here](#).

Multi-agency NSSP and Early Help & Prevention Training Catalogues



Please find [HERE](#) the new multi-agency NSSP and Early Help & Prevention Training catalogues. They are also being uploaded onto our webpage:

Courses start from 1st June but in light of the current Covid-19 situation, we need to be realistic about when they are likely to start. More information will follow.

Domestic abuse advice and information



We know that this is a difficult and worrying time for everyone, but particularly so for adults and children living with abuse and the professionals working hard to support them. It can be very difficult to know how to support someone who you suspect is experiencing domestic abuse. With this in mind, [Safe Lives](#) has worked alongside Dr Alison Gregory, a researcher at Bristol University who specialises in domestic abuse and informal support networks, and has produced this [guide](#) to help you.

[Equation](#) has released helpful [guidance on what to say](#) if you think a friend is experiencing domestic abuse.

National charity [Victim Support](#) has put together some advice aimed at survivors of domestic abuse on how to stay safe when they're social distancing or self-isolating, and is available [here](#).

[The Gay Times](#) online magazine features an article, 'The rise of domestic abuse during COVID-19 in LGBTQ relationships and how you can get help', and is available [here](#)

Recent Articles in the News: Domestic Abuse During Lockdown

- [Domestic abuse sufferers are the hidden victims of lockdown](#) (The Spectator 17.4.20)
- [Domestic abuse killings 'more than double' amid Covid-19 lockdown](#) (The Guardian 15.4.20)
- See also [Coronavirus Doesn't Cause Men's Violence Against Women](#) (blog by Karen Ingala Smith 15.4.20)
- [#YouAreNotAlone campaign to tackle domestic abuse during lockdown launched by Priti Patel](#) (Mirror 11.4.20)



Child to parent violence



The following resources can help professionals responding to child to parent violence as a result of the pressures of lockdown and coronavirus:

- Professionals can learn more about responding to parent to adult violence with [Oasis Kent](#)
- [My CWA](#) in Cheshire, Tandem and Acorns service
- Helen Bonnick's blog, [Holes in the Wall](#), is a great resource for learning more about child to parent violence

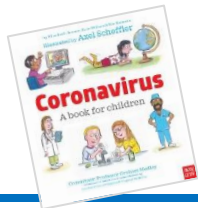
Children's Commissioner's report - 'We're all in this together?'



The essential public health measures that have been taken to stop the spread of Covid-19 have affected everyone in the country, and many families are struggling with additional financial and social pressures. But there are some children, who before this crisis were already vulnerable or living in precarious situations, who are facing particular hardship. These children have been cut off from many of the sources of support that they might previously have had – schools, children's centres, health visitors, networks of family and friends, home visits from social workers – at the same time as their families are under new stress and strain from lockdown requirements.

The Commissioner's office is publishing this work in order to better identify vulnerable children who need help both during the lockdown and once the crisis has passed. The current unprecedented crisis is opening the eyes of many to the generational problems that have blighted the life chances of millions of our children for decades. Intensive support for vulnerable children – to protect them now and to help them do well at school and in life in the future – must be a key part of the 'new normal'. The report is available [HERE](#).

Resources to use with Children



The Gruffalo illustrator, Axel Scheffler, has contributed to a free e-book explaining coronavirus to children, available [here](#).

Personalised Mental Health Support from NHS



The NHS have devised a quiz to help tailor mental health support so that it is personalised for every individual. All you need to do is answer 5 quick questions and you will receive a personalised plan based on your answers. The plan will aim to support your mental well-being. You have the option to have it emailed to you and there are short clips for meditation and relaxation. The questionnaire is available [here](#).

NENC Suicide Prevention Network Website Launch



Overall, national suicide rates remain too high and are highest in the North of England. The devastating impact of suicide to the individual, their family and friends, colleagues and wider community is immeasurable.

The following message is from [Yvonne Hush; Public Health Manager in Northumberland](#)

The North East and North Cumbria Suicide Prevention Network is working to ensure everything possible is done to get support and information to help people stay safe and well, and to manage their mental health and wellbeing. This is especially important during this incredibly difficult and stressful time. The need to focus on the general mental health and wellbeing of the wider population, following the national Public Health England 'Every *Mind Matters*' programme, is already recognised as a public health priority. The aim of the North East and North Cumbria Suicide Prevention Network (NENC)– 'Every *Life Matters*' - is to do everything possible to stop us losing any life to suicide.

The Suicide Prevention Network is especially focused on people in our communities who are more at risk and already struggling, and for whom the current situation poses a potential increased risk. The Network is striving to ensure those who need help most, can easily access the support they need to stay mentally safe and well.

Making good information easily accessible to people is a key objective of the Network and is especially important during this current crisis, which is why this week sees the launch of the new [Suicide Prevention Network Website](#) supporting the whole North East and North Cumbria area. The website will provide a new community resource for people seeking help and advice about suicide and mental wellbeing, guidance for those who have sadly been bereaved by suicide, and signposting to a library of professional resources for those working in suicide prevention. The website content will be expanded by Network members over the coming weeks and months.

Every Life Matters – Suicide Prevention is everyone's business

NENC Suicide Prevention Network Aims:

- Promote wellbeing and resilience.
- Reduce the number of suicides, including in high-risk groups, across the ICS.
- Reduce the incidence of self-harm and repeated self-harm.
- Reduce the impact of self-harm and suicide.
- Reduce the stigma of self-harm and suicide.

Mental Health and Well-being (Education Endowment Foundation)



During this time when our normal patterns of work and daily routines have been severely disrupted, it is especially important for us to develop ways to keep mentally healthy. One of the most effective ways to do this is to develop a routine and structure which supports our changed circumstances and which enables us to maintain a healthy sleep pattern.

The Education Endowment Foundation (EFF) has produced a series of checklists to help parents and children manage their routines. [Supporting home learning routines: Planning the day.](#)

Please remember that these routines are just as important to professionals and other adults.

The Foundation has also produced [a video](#) to share with children to help them understand the importance of having routine in their day.

All the EFF materials to support home learning can be found [HERE](#).

Supporting Your Health

NHS guides to supporting your physical and emotional health and well-being are available [here](#).

Titles include:

- Sleeping Problems
- Stress
- Panic
- Health Anxiety
- Bereavement.



Education Support Partnership



The Education Support Partnership has produced [mental health resources](#) for teachers, lecturers and support staff dealing with the Covid-19 crisis. The support is available on topics which have been highlighted as especially difficult. The partnership is available to provide mental health and wellbeing support to all education staff.

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 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 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.