

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 36: 7th 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 15th May 2020.

DfE Covid-19 Updates



Under the Coronavirus Act 2020, the Secretary of State for Education can issue notices to temporarily remove or relax statutory requirements where this is an appropriate and proportionate action relating to the incidence or transmission of coronavirus (COVID-19). Consequently the following documents have all recently been updated.

[Disapplication notice: school attendance](#)

Legislation changes. The Secretary of State for Education has issued a notice to disapply offences for non-attendance in schools during the coronavirus outbreak.

[Modification notice: school registration](#)

Legislation changes. The Secretary of State for Education has issued a notice to modify pupil registration requirements when providing education on a temporary basis during the coronavirus outbreak.

[Disapplication notice: school inspections](#)

Legislation changes. The Secretary of State for Education has issued a notice about changes to state-funded school inspections requirements during the coronavirus outbreak.

[School behaviour and attendance: parental responsibility measures](#)

Statutory guidance was issued for schools, local authorities and the police on dealing with poor attendance and behaviour in schools. It has been updated to reflect changes made under the Coronavirus Act 2020 concerning school attendance and parental responsibility measures.

[School attendance: guidance for schools](#)

The guidance on using pupil registers and attendance codes, as well as setting school hours and term dates has been updated to reflect changes made under the Coronavirus Act 2020 concerning school attendance.

Guidance for Safer Working Practices in Schools - update April 2020



The Safer Recruitment Consortium documents have been updated to provide some additional information for COVID-19. We are aware that you will have already updated your Child Protection and Safeguarding policies and are keeping these under review during the school closure and lockdown period. This updated guidance notes a number of further considerations relating to Covid 19 and, as we have noted previously, this document can provide useful guidance for writing your staff code of conduct. All of the changes are highlighted in the addendum.

[Guidance for safer working practice for those working with children and young people in education settings: May 2019](#) and the April 2020 Addendum are both available in the **Information for DSLs Folder**.

Early Intervention Foundation - Adverse Childhood Experiences



The Early Intervention foundation (EIF) is an independent charity established in 2013 to champion and support the use of effective early intervention to improve the lives of children and young people at risk of experiencing poor outcomes. In February 2020 the EIF published a summary document to establish what we know about **ACES** and the impact they have on outcomes of children and young people. The document is

entitled [Adverse childhood experiences: What we know, what we don't know, and what should happen next](#). The summary makes interesting reading from a safeguarding point of view, particularly as 5 out of the 10 ACES identified are forms of abuse.

Why reducing the impact of parental conflict matters for schools

The EIF has also produced an education briefing on parental conflict and its impact on children and young people in schools. The briefing is in the **Information for DSLs Folder**.

The Northumberland County Council webpage - [Healthy Parental Relationships](#) - has been updated specifically around COVID-19 and includes access to resources for parents to use from home.

Just a Reminder

There is a new e-learning module on Learning Together - **Parental Conflict and its Impact on Children**. The course is available to anyone working with children, parents and families in Northumberland. The course can be accessed [here](#).

Operation Encompass Teachers' National Helpline



0845 646 0890 - Monday to Friday 8.00 am - 11.00 am

In response to the Covid-19 Pandemic, The Home office and the DfE have announced the launch of the **Operation Encompass Teachers' Helpline** to support the growing number of children experiencing Domestic Abuse.

This is particularly relevant as many of those children may not be in school at the moment and so are not accessing the support that would normally be available to them from their teachers.

The helpline is designed to also offer support to teachers who are working in very different situations, without many of their usual support mechanisms, and who are working under great pressure.

The dedicated Operation Encompass National Teachers' Helpline will run Monday - Friday; 8.00am - 11.00am and started on Monday 4th May for all schools. It is staffed by Educational and Clinical Psychologists who have extensive experience of providing consultation and support to staff working in schools. This service will offer school staff immediate, in the moment, consultation that is confidential and easily accessible. This offers staff a reflective space to seek guidance and discuss any worries, concerns and queries they may have following an Operation Encompass call.

Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Support



There is a document in the **Information for DSLs Folder**, under *Covid-19, May 2020* which has all the most up to date information on the support services available for victims/survivors of domestic abuse and sexual violence. This information is there to support you to signpost families from your school to the most appropriate services for them, and it is also for you to distribute to your colleagues. Many of our colleagues may be in lockdown with an abuser and may need support.

Staying Safe Online



Northumbria Police has produced a list of resources to help keep children safe online while they are accessing school work from home and spending increased amounts of time online.

There is also information available for families to support them to improve the security systems they have set up at home. The document is available in the **Information for DSLs folder**, under Covid-19, May 2020.

Modern Day Slavery (MDS) and Covid-19



The Home Office has produced some brief guidance to support us to spot the signs of Modern Day Slavery and to signpost appropriate help and support.

Modern slavery is a harmful and hidden crime and its victims may be especially isolated and hidden from view during the Covid-19 outbreak. The document is available in the **Information for DSLs folder**, under Covid-19, May 2020.

Action for Happiness



Well-being charity Action for Happiness has published their [Meaningful May](#) calendar full of ideas and top tips to help us respond to the global crisis with a sense of purpose and meaning and to assist in supporting our emotional well-being.

There is also some helpful advice on how to facilitate and [take part in online groups](#), including how to make your online space feel safe and positive.

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.