

## 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 45: 10<sup>th</sup> July 2020

### **DSL support during the Coronavirus Covid 19 outbreak**

The next issue will be shared with you during the summer holiday and will have details of how to book onto the training programme for 2020-21.

## Checklist for school leaders to support full opening: behaviour and attendance Introduction



The DfE has published this checklist to assist all school leaders and staff in preparing to welcome back all pupils full-time in September. It is a tool for schools to support the re-engagement of pupils and the return to orderly and calm environments in which all pupils can achieve and thrive. The tool is intended for mainstream schools and has been developed by the Department for Education with input from the Department's Lead Behaviour Adviser, Tom Bennett, and the behaviour adviser team.

This guidance is crucial when considering issues around children missing education because it reinforces the importance of regular attendance. Alongside this we must also remember to consider the vulnerabilities and risks there may be when children are not attending school. Evidence suggests that children not in school are more likely to become the victims of exploitation and abuse and it is really important that as schools reopen to everyone that we remain vigilant, checking first day absences, watching out for patterns of days off, working with your education welfare officer and completing your monthly CME returns.

The checklist can be accessed here:

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/899384/Checklist\\_for\\_school\\_leaders\\_on\\_behaviour\\_and\\_attendance.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/899384/Checklist_for_school_leaders_on_behaviour_and_attendance.pdf)

There is also a copy in the Information for DSLs folder

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1xAjxp8BtTbFFNh8ZqC2yDcXP4I-d8pMC> under Covid-19, DfE July folder.

## Look At Me – Teens, Sexting and Risks Report

Internet Matters has published a new report in partnership with Youthworks and Kingston University. This report draws from young people, some with vulnerabilities, in schools across the country and their thoughts and experiences of sharing self-generated explicit images, videos or live streams, and also the risks associated with doing so.

The report offers an interesting profile on life today as a young person. It also offers some interesting insight into young people's experiences with online safety lessons in schools, from the perspective of those who share nude images and those who do not/have not shared these images.

This briefing paper – part of a series from The Cybersurvey – details both who shares nudes and why, and the risks involved with this. For some teens, technology enables and facilitates relationships without harm, but others suffer intensely. This complexity is a challenge when teaching online safety, which should be taught alongside healthy relationships and issues of consent. Emotional health needs drive some teens to overshare, posting images of all types as they seek to be liked, admired or to escape from loneliness. Others tend to take risks online. Sadly, for both, oversharing and signs of neediness are quickly exploited by others.

Key messages from the study include:

- Sexting is not widespread among all teens but is worryingly prevalent among those who are already vulnerable offline in other ways.
- Among those who shared nudes, 18% were pressured or blackmailed into it.
- Less than 1/3 of those who share nudes follow the online safety advice they were taught, while 14% say they did not receive it.



The full report is available in the Information for DSLs folder:

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1xAjxp8BtTbFFNh8ZqC2yDcXP4I-d8pMC>

## Domestic Abuse

The Domestic Abuse Bill was recently passed by the House of Commons, marking an important step in the Bill becoming law. Among other things, the Domestic Abuse Bill will:



- create a statutory definition of domestic abuse, emphasising that domestic abuse is not just physical violence, but can also be emotional, coercive or controlling, and economic abuse. **As part of this definition, children will be explicitly recognised as victims if they witness abuse**
- create a statutory presumption that victims of domestic abuse are eligible for special measures in the criminal courts (for example, to enable them to give evidence via a video link)

For further information on this bill, please follow this link:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/enhanced-domestic-abuse-bill-introduced-to-parliament>

## Update to ID checking guidelines



Expired UK passports may currently be used as ID for DBS checks. The DBS say; 'We are aware that it is taking longer than usual to process UK passport applications, as a result of the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak. In response to this, DBS will **temporarily** allow expired UK passports to be used for ID checking purposes, if within 6 months of their expiry date. The applicant must be in

possession of their expired passport, to use it as an identity document. Further information to this update and to all other updates to the DBS service are available by following this link:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/further-update-to-id-checking-guidelines>

## Safe Families Referral Request



Safe Families provides early intervention and 'wraparound care' for families who are struggling, to help them get back on their feet and work to avert escalation of need. Safe Families offer individually tailored support to families, helping to prevent the onset of crises that may necessitate

statutory intervention. The Safe Families model offers families in crisis a team of approved and trained volunteers to support them, dependent on the individual needs of the family.

Please see the referral request pathway by following this link:

[https://docs.google.com/document/d/1y\\_-BjFh3NOWUvAeeAnwtg5tmQhrJofQp8-epyp8z\\_qM/edit?usp=sharing](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1y_-BjFh3NOWUvAeeAnwtg5tmQhrJofQp8-epyp8z_qM/edit?usp=sharing)

Please follow the link below to the referral request form:

[https://docs.google.com/document/d/1s42BzpZLqWPkSFwCc72\\_TimSggxQJ4VZ\\_2Ap3RLaCRQ/edit](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1s42BzpZLqWPkSFwCc72_TimSggxQJ4VZ_2Ap3RLaCRQ/edit)

## Virtual School Training Programme

The latest training programme from the Virtual School is now open and ready to take your bookings! Using the link below you can book on your DSL refresher, training for new DSLs and also training for Designated Teachers for Looked after Children. All training will take place 'virtually' until we are notified that we can deliver face to face. You will receive a confirmation and log in details when your booking is confirmed.

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1g1vCDVINjDiYmAVvtMjJpZo\\_a9yOjxPhfKLg9CmMJrg/edit?ts=5f106caf](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1g1vCDVINjDiYmAVvtMjJpZo_a9yOjxPhfKLg9CmMJrg/edit?ts=5f106caf)

## End of Term Good Wishes from the Schools' Safeguarding Team



To all the DSLs who are off to start a new adventure outside of Northumberland, we'd like to take this opportunity to wish you lots of luck in your new roles, whatever they may be. May we also ask that you let us know if you are leaving the county so we can update our DSL list and make sure that we are not sending you information that you no longer need from us.

If there is a new **lead DSL** in your school, could you contact Carol Leckie so she can add them to the DSL distribution list please. For those of you who have let us know about the exciting changes taking place for you, thank you very much and very best wishes from the team.

You will find a number of documents to support your return in September in the information for DSLs folder. These include

- Keeping Children Safe in Education 2020 slides (including notes on the changes)
- A checklist of what you should cover in your September safeguarding update
- A Keeping Children Safe in Education 2020 quiz
- A checklist of what should be in your 2020 policy
- A draft 2020 Child protection and Safeguarding Policy

And finally, we wish you all a wonderful summer break. We do not intend to send Safe To Learn out

regularly during the summer holidays but remember we are still available throughout the break, so if you need to contact us we will still be there!

## 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](mailto: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](mailto:educationwelfare@northumberland.gov.uk)
- If you have a query for the looked after children's team please email - [eslac.info@northumberland.gov.uk](mailto: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](mailto:eotashealth@northumberland.gov.uk)
- If you have a more urgent query or request please telephone 01670 622787.