

## 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 55 26<sup>th</sup> March 2021

### SharePoint Site - DSLs in Schools and APs site



Thank you to all the DSLs that have been in touch to confirm they are accessing the SharePoint site for **DSLs in schools and APs**. If you have not been able to access the site, please contact Justine Clephane: [justine.clephane@northumberland.gov.uk](mailto:justine.clephane@northumberland.gov.uk) so you can be given access as soon as possible. Access issues will be passed onto the IT department so these can be resolved.

### Northumberland Schools' Safeguarding Team Training

If you would like to attend any training with the Northumberland Schools' Safeguarding Team, including training for New DSLs and DSL refresher training, please contact Alyson Webb. Alyson is the named Admin Assistant for booking all our safeguarding training and will be able to answer any queries you may have regarding current bookings.



If you have previously been sent a Google Meet invitation for any training from the Schools' Safeguarding Team, please delete this booking as colleagues are no longer able to access training through Google, all training provided by the team will be through Microsoft Teams. If you have any questions regarding previous bookings, please contact Alyson Webb via email: [Alyson.Webb@northumberland.gov.uk](mailto:Alyson.Webb@northumberland.gov.uk) Dates for upcoming DSL training are as follows:

#### **Refresher Training (required every two years)**

Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> April 13:30 – 15:30

Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> May 13:30 – 15:30

Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> June 13:30 – 15:30

Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> July 13:30 – 15:30

#### **New DSL training (two half days required)**

Monday 14<sup>th</sup> June – 13.00 - 15.30 - Part One

Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> June – 13.00 - 15.30 - Part Two

### Just Say App Launch



The Just Say app is now available to 16-25 year olds, helping young people of Northumberland find their way to be happy, healthy, safe and independent. It is available to download on the [App store](#) and [Google Play](#). Just Say aims to help young people get the advice and support they need at the earliest opportunity to start achieving their ambitions. The App brings together local information and advice as well as signposting over 250 services for young people. These

include signposting to support for mental health, money worries, relationship problems, games, daily positive messages and activities, goal setting and trophies for hitting milestones.

We are delighted to share a range of free downloads and resources including, posters and digital assets for social media to help promote Just Say. Click [here](#) for a full list of resources you might like to use in school.

There are also hard copies available so if you haven't yet requested these, please email [justsay@northumbria.nhs.uk](mailto:justsay@northumbria.nhs.uk)

This is a valuable resource that has been developed by young people, and we would be grateful if you could promote this in your school.

## Help and Support for Children and Young People from Childline



The **Something's Not Right** website has been designed to enable children and young people to access help, advice and counselling easily if they have worries or concerns. There are also message boards available on the site so young people can ask if other people have been through the same things that they have. There is advice and templates available for young people wishing to 'tell someone' about something

that has happened to them, when they don't know where to start. This area of the site encourages children and young people to write down their experiences and feelings to help them start the conversation with an adult who can help them. It goes on to explain the safeguarding process so children know what to expect if they make a disclosure.



### Domestic

### Abuse

### Updates

Although in the past children have been seen as 'witnesses' to domestic abuse the new Domestic Abuse Bill, currently in its Third Reading, will define children as 'victims' for the very first time. The Bill says that a victim of domestic abuse includes a reference to a child who sees or hears, or experiences the effects of the abuse when the adult is

their parent or someone who has parental responsibility for the child, or are related to the them. (See Domestic Abuse Bill Part 1, Section 3 )<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/2709>)

### Operation Encompass Teachers' Helpline

For FREE advice from an Education Psychologist about how best to support children affected by domestic abuse, teachers can call the Operation Encompass Teachers' National Helpline on 0204 513 9990, available Monday to Friday, 8am-1pm.

**More information here:** <https://www.operationencompass.org/SM4/Mutable/Uploads/medialibrary/OE-teachers-helpline-info-040121.pdf>

**Website:** <https://www.operationencompass.org/>

**Northumberland Resources and Services** are all located on one page, which you can find using the link below

<https://www.northumberland.gov.uk/Protection/Violence.aspx>

**Ask for ANI**

If you are experiencing domestic abuse and need immediate help, ask for 'ANI' in a participating pharmacy. 'ANI' stands for Action Needed Immediately but also phonetically sounds like the name Annie. If a pharmacy has the 'Ask for ANI' logo on display, it means they're ready to help. They will offer you a private space, provide a phone and ask if you need support from the police or other domestic abuse support services.



## DSL Locality Briefings



All resources from the last DSL Locality briefings are in the SharePoint site for **DSLs in schools and APs**. Included here are Carol's slides with the updates and the relevant resources, slides relating to MSET, SORTED and missing children.

## Children's Commissioner Survey – The Big Ask

Dame Rachel de Souza, Children's Commissioner for England, is launching a once-in-a-generation review of the future of childhood by the Children's Commissioner's Office. 'The Childhood Commission' will be inspired by the ambition of William Beveridge's pioneering 1940s report, which laid the foundations of the post-War social security system. 'The Childhood Commission' will identify the barriers preventing children from reaching their full potential, propose policy and services solutions and develop targets by which improvements can be monitored.



The Commission will not focus only on the problems that have been highlighted and amplified by the Covid pandemic but will also address the policy shortfalls that have held back the lives of many children for decades. At its heart will be '[The Big Ask](#)' – the largest consultation ever held with children in England. The Children's Commissioner will ask children how the pandemic changed their lives for better or worse, what their aspirations are and the barriers to reaching them, how things are at home, how their communities and local environment could be improved, and how they feel about the future and the challenges facing the world.

'The Big Ask' consultation will take place after the Easter break. An online survey will be distributed to all schools. This consultation will drive the subsequent phases of the Commission. An interim report will be published before the summer, setting out children's expectations and aspirations, and the barriers to attaining them, informed by the results of the consultation

For more information visit The Big Ask website: <https://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/thebigask/>

## Northumbria Police – Prevention Through Education Team

Message from Miriam Harper, Northumbria Police Safeguarding Schools Co-ordinator:

It's great to be back interacting with schools again, and I was glad to be invited to attend your recent DSL locality meetings. We appreciate this is a very busy time for you all, and we want to assure you that we are here to support you in delivering various safeguarding topics in line with the PSHE curriculum. Our [webpage](#) is always evolving, with items available to download such as **Internet Safety** for Y6, and County Lines for KS3, so please have a look! Schools with Y8, Y9 and Y10 students can take advantage of a new **Shared Images** (Sexting) delivery that we are offering currently. We have already arranged to visit 18 schools Forcewide (9 in Northumberland) to deliver this topic during April/May, with more lining up for June/July.

Availability is limited, but we will continue to offer this topic as we recognise it is a real and widespread issue for this age group in particular.

Please get in touch if you would like to know more about what we do and how we can help your school. Contact [Miriam.harper.9630@northumbria.pnn.police.uk](mailto:Miriam.harper.9630@northumbria.pnn.police.uk)



## Parental Responsibility

We are often asked about parental responsibility and it also comes up in a lot of the Child Concern Notifications (CCNs) submitted by the police. This can be a very complex area. The government guidance says, 'Schools are required by law to engage with pupils' parents in several different ways. They can find themselves caught up in disputes between a number of adults, each claiming to have parental responsibility for a particular child. Schools are also expected to navigate complex living arrangements, particularly for children who are living in social care, where parental responsibility can be confusing or unclear.'

The Government guidance is designed to support schools as much as possible with issues relating to parental responsibility.

You can find the government guidance here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/dealing-with-issues-relating-to-parental-responsibility/understanding-and-dealing-with-issues-relating-to-parental-responsibility>

The guidance should not be treated as a complete and authoritative statement of the law. It refers to legislation that sets out schools' legal duties. If you have any queries about the legislation referred to in this guidance you should contact your legal advisors in the first instance.'



Improving children's  
mental health

## Mental Health Champions – Foundation programme (Place2Be)

Place2Be is offering an online children's mental health training course developed from their work in schools. The course enhances professionals' understanding of children's mental health and introduces approaches that foster positive wellbeing in schools and communities. This course is suitable for people working with children and young people of any age, including primary and secondary.

Over a 5 week programme, the course covers:

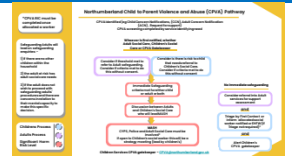
1. Understanding mental health & wellbeing
2. Nature and nurture
3. How can I help?
4. Mental health: everybody's business

Due to generous funding the programme is offered free to UK qualified teachers and school-based staff in open groups. To be eligible for the funded programme, you need to have UK QTS, be an NQT or have a permanent role in-school.

For more details: <https://www.place2be.org> <https://www.childline.org.uk/somethings-not-right.uk/our-services/services-for-schools/mental-health-champions-foundation-programme/>

## Child to Parent Violence and Abuse

It was recently agreed across all Local Authorities in the Northumbria Police Force area to use the term Child and Parent Violence and Abuse (CPVA) in preference to Adolescent to Parent Violence and Abuse (APVA). In line with this decision the pathway has been updated and the latest CPVA version can be in the DSLs in Schools and APs site on SharePoint.



## Safeguarding and Child Protection Information

We

have recently been asked to pass on a reminder regarding sharing safeguarding and child protection information. When a child leaves your school, it is important to pass on their child protection file to the DSL at the school they are going to be attending. This information should be passed on in a confidential way and not included with the child's general school records. The information should be passed on in a confidential folder marked for the attention of the DSL, when information is posted recorded delivery must be used. If schools have access to CPOMS then the information should be passed on confidentially using this system initially and then any relevant hard copies of paperwork should be passed on, securely. Please do not delay in passing on child protection information, it is important that the DSL at the child's new school is aware of any issues for that child as soon as possible. If you experience any issues with information being shared, please let us know and we will endeavour to support you in this process

## Contact us

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)
- **Justine Clephane, Schools' Safeguarding Consultant, 07879 874168**  
[justine.clephane@northumberland.gov.uk](mailto:justine.clephane@northumberland.gov.uk)

If you cannot make contact with a member of staff directly then please use the following 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
- If you are worried about the safety of a child please call **OneCall 01670 536 400**