



# Safe to Learn



## Northumberland Safeguarding Children Board

### Northumberland Education and Skills Service

Half termly bulletin for Governors, Headteachers/Principals and Designated Safeguarding Leads in Schools, Academies and Alternative Providers

Issue 18: May 2018

### Age restricted products

Children and young people can gain access to **age restricted products** which impact negatively on their health and safety. These can include: **alcohol, cigarettes and tobacco, fireworks, gas lighter refills, knives and blades, lottery tickets and scratchcards, solvents, dvds and computer games.** The NSCB is aware through audit and serious case reviews of the links between age restricted products and child sexual exploitation and abuse.

The vast majority of premises do not make sales to children and young people and act responsibly. However those that do are no longer subjected to random test purchasing and all tests have now to be informed by intelligence. Your actions can deter the sale of age restricted products to young people with the intention of improving community safety and public health.

The NSCB is a Responsible Authority with respect to licensing and working with trading standards is encouraging workers, parents and residents to report premises that are making sales of Age Restricted Products.

**If you identify through your work of any premises that are making underage sales please report it via email to [tradingstandards@northumberland.gov.uk](mailto:tradingstandards@northumberland.gov.uk) or telephone 01670 623870 and ask to speak to the Trading Standards Duty Officer. Any information will be held in the strictest confidence. Your action may save a young persons life.**

### Advice and guidance

Advice and guidance is available from the Education and Skills Service and the Northumberland Local Children's Safeguarding Board (NSCB):

Carol Leckie, Schools' Safeguarding and Wellbeing Team Manager, 01670 622720  
[Carol.Leckie@northumberland.gov.uk](mailto:Carol.Leckie@northumberland.gov.uk)

All schools/academies/alternative providers need to know about safeguarding is ON ONE PAGE of the NCC website entitled [Information for Schools](#) and the [Safeguarding and Schools section](#) of the *Inclusion and the Virtual School* webpage.

The minimum safeguarding requirements you should to have in place by law can be found in the DfE's statutory guidance [Keeping Children Safe in Education](#) September 2018.

**Please remember that it is your responsibility to ensure that safeguarding practice in your own organisation meets required standards and is compliant.**

## Female Genital Mutilation: Summer Alert

These next few weeks are commonly known as the 'cutting season'. This marks a time of year when many young girls are taken abroad to have FGM performed in order that they can 'heal' over the long summer holiday period – mainly to avoid detection when they return to school.

Frontline staff are crucial in identifying and protecting against FGM, so NHS staff and schools must be even more vigilant in the coming weeks and take every possible action to prevent this criminal practice. Some of the signs to look out for are:

- young girls attending for inoculations to travel to countries with high FGM prevalence;
- young girls talking about travelling home for 'special' ceremonies or rituals;
- families planning absence from school that would extend the summer holiday period.

Physical signs of a procedure having already taken place include: difficulty in walking or sitting down comfortably; taking a long time in the toilet; and significant changes in behaviour, such as becoming withdrawn.

If you have concerns, please follow your usual safeguarding procedures speak to your designated safeguarding lead or contact OneCall on 01670 536400.

For guidance please go to [http://northumberlandlscb.proceduresonline.com/chapters/p\\_fem\\_gen\\_mut.html](http://northumberlandlscb.proceduresonline.com/chapters/p_fem_gen_mut.html)

From October 2015, the new 'mandatory reporting' duty for professionals working in the 'regulated professions' came into force. This duty requires them to notify the police if they discover that an act of FGM appears to have been carried out on a girl who is under 18 (either if they have visually confirmed it or it has been verbally disclosed by an affected girl). 'Regulated professionals' will cover healthcare professionals, teachers and social care workers. The only exception to the duty is if the professional knows that another individual from their profession has already made a report - there is no requirement to make a second.

For further information about FGM:

- [Female Genital Mutilation Risk and Safeguarding: Department of Health](#)
- [Female Genital Mutilation Resource Pack: Home Office](#)

## Safeguarding review of Healthy Child Programmes

Public Health England has published the outcomes of a **Rapid review on safeguarding to inform the healthy child programme 5 to 19**. The full report can be accessed on line [here](#).

The focus of the review was on: child abuse and neglect, child sexual abuse and exploitation, intimate partner violence, FGM, and gang violence. The headline findings include:

- there is evidence that parenting programmes can be successful in preventing child maltreatment, although evidence is stronger for their impact on reducing relevant risk factors and strengthening protective factors;
- there is reasonably strong evidence for the effectiveness of school-based sexual abuse prevention programmes in improving children's protective behaviours, perceived self-protection skills and knowledge about sexual abuse and how to be safe;
- however, there is limited evidence available suggesting that universal schoolbased interventions to reduce cyber-abuse are ineffective in increasing children's online protective behaviours - though do have some positive effects on internet safety knowledge and attitudes;
- there is reasonably strong evidence for the effectiveness of school-based dating violence interventions in improving young people's attitudes and knowledge around dating violence;
- there is a need for further intervention development in a range of areas including neglect, parents' mental health, the role of fathers, and more rigorous evaluation of intervention effectiveness.

## Responding to threats to the safety of your school



Northumberland's Community Safety team and the Education & Skills Service have collaborated to publish a 10 step response to follow in the event of receiving a threat to the safety of your school/academy/education setting.

The guide is accepted procedure for Northumberland and must be followed. You can download it by visiting the [NSCB web page](#).

## Education Reference Sub Group



The next meeting of the NSCB's Education Reference Sub-Group is on:

**Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> June 9.00-11.00am in Room CR1 at County Hall**

This group is your chance to be involved in the decision making of the NSCB and to influence policy and procedure in Northumberland. Please try to attend, and if you are unable to nominate a colleague from your partnership to attend in your place. Hopefully we'll see you in June.

## Facebook e-safety alert



A Facebook message is being shared which points out that if parents illegally allowed their children to have facebook accounts pretending they were 13 when they were only 8, then those children will now have Facebook accounts saying they are 18 and therefore adults.

Please share appropriately with your pupils and parents/carers to mitigate any risks to on-line safety and the use of social media.

## Tackling harmful sexual behaviour in schools



The Contextual Safeguarding team, supported by Ofsted and the Care Quality Commission, has created a range of resources for schools, multi-agency partnerships and inspectorates for tackling harmful sexual behaviour in schools. There are resources for schools to assess their own response to harmful sexual behaviour. This includes a traffic-light tool for self- assessment, a series of 5 webinars that explain how to use the tool and an Excel spreadsheet to record the scores of self-assessment.

Visit the webpage to find the resources here: [Contextual Safeguarding Network](#)

## Keeping Children Safe in Education

The revised [Keeping Children Safe in Education \(KCSIE\)](#) guidance is now live on the DfE website, however it does come with the following 'health warning':

**THE REVISED GUIDANCE WILL COMMENCE 3 SEPTEMBER 2018. UNTIL THAT POINT SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES MUST CONTINUE TO HAVE REGARD TO THE 2016 KCSIE.**

Based on the new guidance the LA policy template will be updated before the end of the summer term.

## Northumberland domestic abuse support service



Northumberland now has an integrated service to help tackle domestic abuse. Details can be found on the Council's webpage here:

<http://livingplus.placesforpeople.co.uk/customer/our-services/domestic-abuse/>

You are encouraged to read and share the information to fulfil your duty of care to staff and to raise awareness for potential victims or those who might need to seek support.

Run by Places for People Living+, commissioned by Northumberland County Council the new integrated domestic abuse support service brings together existing services including a refuge and independent domestic violence advisors (IDVA) for high risk cases. The new service will, for the first time, also offer a confidential 24 hour help line and outreach to female and male victims of domestic abuse.

Living+, who has been awarded a three-year contract by the Council, has been operating the new integrated service since 1<sup>st</sup> March 2018. In the first month it had 92 referrals and helped 32 new people. It is estimated that approximately 500 victims of domestic abuse will be supported each year through this new 'one-stop-shop' arrangement.

**Domestic Abuse Support Service Northumberland**  
**DASSN@placesforpeople.co.uk**  
**01670 820199**

## County Lines

- County lines is a term used by the police and other law enforcement agencies to describe an approach taken by some criminal groups within the UK to distribute drugs and conduct other criminal activities in other areas of the country.
- The offenders often originate from large urban areas and use children and other vulnerable people to deliver drugs/ other illegal commodities to customers.
- This often involves deception, intimidation, violence, debt bondage and/or grooming.
- The proceeds of this criminality are returned to the large urban areas from which the criminality originates.
- "The Line" is linked by a marketed mobile phone line, known as the 'line' Traditionally the 'line' is kept away from the area where the drugs are sold and a relay system is used to contact those acting as dealers in the county location.
- Gang members travel between the urban and county locations on a regular basis to deliver drugs and collect cash.
- Historically there has been no intelligence of 'County lines' activity in the Northumbria area. There are indications that this is changing and that this activity is becoming an issue.
- The accurate recognition and reporting of 'County Lines' is key to successfully combating this activity and protecting those affected by it.
- If you have concerns contact Northumbria Police by telephone on 101 or 999 in an emergency or email [-forceintelligence@northumbria.pnn.police.uk](mailto:forceintelligence@northumbria.pnn.police.uk)
- More resources and information can be found on the NSCB information pages <http://www.northumberland.gov.uk/Children/Safeguarding/Safeguarding-children-information-forprofessional.aspx#teambriefguides>