



Safe to Learn



Northumberland Safeguarding Children Board with Northumberland Education and Skills Service

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

Issue 25: July 2019

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

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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 *Virtual School* webpage.

The minimum safeguarding requirements you should 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 is compliant and meets required standards.

Online Safety

Booking for the **Online Safety Event** in Northumberland is now open – [follow this link](#) to access it.

The UK Safer Internet Centre are delivering a FREE 2 hour Online Safety update in a venue near you. It is open to all who work with children and young people and will give you the latest in research, legislation, technology, tools and resources along with exclusive access to the presentation and resource materials.

Delivered by the South West Grid for Learning, they bring these events locally to you with all the very latest in online safety including the latest issues, the biggest trends and the best resources.

Also available, straight after this session is an exclusive 30min introduction to SELMA – a project tackling the problem of online hate speech by promoting mutual awareness, tolerance, and respect.

A number of resources are also available for schools and parents at the following links:

<https://www.saferinternet.org.uk/advice-centre>

<https://www.internetmatters.org/resources/esafety-leaflets-resources/>

Joint Targeted Area Inspection (JTAI) – child exploitation

Last month Northumberland experienced a joint targeted area inspection on the theme of child exploitation. Through the case tracking methodology a number of our schools and some alternative providers were involved and the local authority's procedure for children missing from education was scrutinised.

An outcomes letter, with no judgement, will be published jointly by the 4 inspectorates on 2nd August. As with all JTAs, the local authority and partner agencies will then be required to draft an action plan to address any the identified areas for improvement.

The outcomes letter will be shared through Safe to Learn in October.

And a huge thank you to the schools involved, both Headteachers and Designated Safeguarding Leads.

Keeping Children Safe in Education

The DfE has updated *Keeping Children Safe in Education* and the draft 2019 document is now available on the DfE website. Please ensure you do not use the new document until September at which point the DfE will remove the *draft* statement from the document.

While we do not expect any changes we will only share a *draft* NCC Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy until September 2nd. The draft policy will be available online on the [Virtual School webpage](#) from 23rd August 2019.

[Draft Keeping Children Safe 2019](#)

Training programme for DSLs 2019-20

Booking for training for Northumberland DSLs for 2019-20 is now open. Follow [this link](#) to view details of the programme and to book your place(s).

Prevent Duty

A number of schools have approached us to ask for updated information relating to the Prevent Duty and associated resources. The Prevent Duty for schools has not been updated since 2015.

[Protecting-children-from-radicalisation-the-prevent-duty](#) and local arrangements have been shared with schools. Recent changes to Northumberland procedure such as the referral pathway and the inclusion of radicalisation in the threshold document were introduced during this academic year.

Schools should always refer to Children's Services (One Call 01670 536400) when there are significant concerns.

Other recent updates are:

- **NCC Policy template** - this will be updated and shared on the Safeguarding and Schools section of the [Virtual School webpage](#) for the start of the September 2019 term
- **NCC preventing radicalisation audit tool** - will be updated and available on the Safeguarding and Schools section of the [Virtual School webpage](#) for in September 2019.

- **Training requirements** - advice from the **NSCB** is that the head teacher and designated safeguarding lead should attend face to face training and the remaining staff (this means **all staff**) can access online training. Face to face and online training can be accessed on [Learning Together](#).

For schools looking for other sources of training the Home Office have recently updated their training resources and these can be accessed using the following links. Anyone undertaking the training will be able to produce a certificate on completion.

<http://www.elearning.prevent.homeoffice.gov.uk>

<https://www.elearning.prevent.homeoffice.gov.uk/preventreferrals>

<https://www.elearning.prevent.homeoffice.gov.uk/channelawareness>

Young Carers' Survey

We know that some young people in Northumberland often take on responsibilities at home that are usually looked after by adults. We would love to know a little more about their experiences around this so that we can try and make life a little easier.

This survey can be completed by school staff and/or young carers known to schools. The data from the survey will help the local authority to review and update the support they offer to young carers so collecting as much information as possible is really important.

Young Carers Survey

The survey deadline has been extended to the 26th July. Thank you for your help and support.

Reducing Parental Conflict

At the recent locality briefings for designated safeguarding leads we introduced a new initiative developing in the local authority to support schools working with families where parental conflict is an issue and impacts on children's learning and/or attendance. The local authority is now able to offer briefing sessions to schools to improve their knowledge of this new initiative.

As part of the Early Help and Prevention Multi-agency Training Programme, a series of training days will be delivered, aimed at all services / organisations working with children and families. The training will equip practitioners with the skills to recognise, identify and address parental conflict. **These modules will equate to one full days training and participants should complete both.**

The dates and venues of the training are:

- Friday 11th October or Friday 18th October 2019 - 9.00 - 5.00pm, refreshments and lunch provided
Alnwick Children's Centre, Howling Lane, Alnwick NE66 1DJ
- Monday 14th or Tuesday 15th October 2019 - 9.00 - 4.30pm, refreshments and lunch provided
Adapt (North East), Burn Lane, Hexham NE46 3HN
- Monday, Tuesday or Wednesday 21st, 22nd and 23rd October 2019- 9.00 - 4.30pm, refreshments and lunch provided
West Hartford Fire Station, West Hartford Business Park, Cramlington NE23 3JP

Booking can be made through the Council's learning and development portal, Learning Together under the Early Help section. If you do not have an account you can set one via [Learning Together](#). Your details will be shared with the training provider, Knowledge Pool.

Everybody who attends the face to face training will get access to all four modules of the programme via e-learning. **Before the event, participants will be asked to complete module 1.**

This is a highly valued opportunity. The aim is to target the most appropriate participants who can act as ambassadors within their role and ensure that the learning provided achieves the maximum impact.

Schools' Engagement sub-group

The Schools' Engagement sub-group of the NSCB, attended by a group of volunteer Designated Safeguarding leads and managers from Children's Services, has produced the following resources for schools:

- [the Referral Process- flowchart](#)
- [First Contact - what happens to your referral](#)
- [10 top tips when making a referral](#)
- [examples of application of thresholds to referrals at different levels](#)
- [making a good referral](#)

The group will continue to meet next year and updates from the group will be shared at the locality DSL briefings. New members are welcome and any DSL who is interested in joining the group should contact the chairperson, Jane Walker at - Jane.Walker@northumberland.gov.uk

Missing, Slavery, Exploitation and Trafficking (MSET)

Alongside 5 other local authorities, Northumberland has moved to an **MSET model** (Missing, Slavery, Exploitation and Trafficked) to measure and mitigate children and young people at high risk of harm. The reason for this is to create more consistency in the way authorities identify and respond to MSET concerns. The meeting is now chaired by the Police Complex Abuse Unit who also act as chair for the other authorities' MSET panels.

The MSET tool has replaced the old Vulnerability Check List and works in four stages:

Stage 1: To be complete by any professional who has concerns of an MSET nature: Health Visitor, school health, Youth Club, School, CYPS etc.

Stage 2: To be completed by a Social Worker if the outcome of Stage 1 is Medium or High. This stage works on a scoring matrix and considers all vulnerabilities in context. If the score is Medium or High the social worker should complete Stage 3.

Stage 3: The disruption tool will be completed by the care team/core group to identify workable risk management strategies. This tool should be brought to the MSET panel where other agencies will contribute to risk management and take accountability for specific actions.

Stage 4: The review will be completed by the social worker alongside the care team/core group and should include an update on the previous month only.