

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

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Advice and guidance is available from the Education and Skills Service and the Northumberland Strategic Safeguarding Partnership (NSSP):

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All schools/academies/alternative providers need to know about safeguarding is on 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 2019.

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

You don't need an SLA to benefit from our support!

The **School's Safeguarding team** supports schools to create environments where vulnerable pupils are safe to learn and monitors safeguarding standards. Services schools and providers can access from the team *at no charge* include:

- Telephone advice regarding safeguarding processes in schools, academies and settings
- Half termly Safe to Learn Bulletin, for staff and governors
- 10 Things leaflets, providing key information in relation to a number of significant safeguarding themes
- A model Child protection and Safeguarding policy, updated each September
- A model drug policy
- Free place at locality DSL briefings, where key local priorities will be addressed and DSLs will receive updates on changes to local policy and practice.

If you would like to buy in services from the team in addition to those listed above then visit Shop Northumberland or contact Carol Leckie.

Whole School Drug Policy

The [Northumberland drug policy template](#) is available on the Virtual School safeguarding webpages. As a result of the findings of the Joint Area Targeted Inspection (JTAI) the policy has been updated to highlight the vulnerability to criminal exploitation of young people who have been excluded from school for a drug related incident.

What to do if you're worried about a child

The updated NSSP [Thresholds of Need poster](#) is now available. Please print off a copy and display this on your safeguarding notice board for all school staff to access. The multi-agency [Thresholds of Need document](#) is available here. This is the complete version of the document which contains information about the threshold indicators and some of the services which may be able to support children and families.

Adolescent to Parent Violence and Abuse (APVA)

Anne Lambert - Learning and Organisational Development Coordinator, and Emma Walker - Early Help Manager, presented a briefing on APVA at the last December DSL locality briefings to support DSLs in understanding APVA in the context of domestic abuse and to offer advice in making a referral.

What is APVA?

- There is currently no legal definition, but APVA is **a form of domestic abuse in which a parent is experiencing physical violence or controlling and coercive behaviour from their child.**
- APVA may present as a single violent incident, but is more likely to be a pattern of behaviour including damage to person or property, threats, stealing from the parent, humiliation or verbal abuse.
- It is **not** just a young person being a 'stropky teenager'

Background and Context: Adolescent to Parent Violence and Abuse (APVA) is recognised nationally as an issue which relates to safeguarding both adults and children. Locally, APVA has also been the focus of the 'Sarah' Domestic Homicide Review in Northumberland. This focused on the death of a mother in 2015 who was stabbed by her 16 year old son 'Michael' who had significant learning and mental health difficulties. The review highlighted a number of key areas for agencies to learn from. These included: inadequate assessment and treatment of 'Michael's' mental health; failure to identify domestic abuse, specifically Adolescent to Parent Violence and Abuse, and to fully recognise the risk posed by 'Michael'.

The Police and Crime Commissioner for Northumbria (at that time), Vera Baird, has championed and funded the development and delivery of the 'RESPECT' programme across the region. This provides a structured approach to working with both parents and children in order to de-escalate difficulties in specific families. A small group of workers in Northumberland have been trained and accredited to deliver this intensive programme and a referral pathway is in place to identify and prioritise families for this process.

The referral process:

- Ring One Call to express concerns; or
 - If the child is known to services – speak to their Social Worker
- ↓
- Concern discussed with single point of contact in MASH (Emma Walker)
 - Referrer is asked to complete and return APVA risk assessment form



- Information considered for referral to RESPECT programme; or
- Referrer asked to consider other options, such as Early Help

For detailed information about APVA and the respect programme, please use the following links:

- NSCB 7 minute briefing - [Sarah DHR](#)
- [Home Office Guidance](#)
- [RESPECT](#)
- [Family Lives](#)

If you would like a copy of the briefing delivered by Anne and Emma, please contact the School's Safeguarding Team.

Exploitation risks to young people

Leigh Graham; Child Sexual Exploitation Practitioner, Northumberland County Council, asked the School's Safeguarding Team to share the following information about Apps that young people in Northumberland have been talking about:



YUBO (Formerly known as Yellow) was initially marketed as 'Tinder for teens'. Children create an account and swipe left if they want to be friends with someone and right if they don't. If both users swipe right they are matched and can message each other privately. Yubo also now has a Live feature, meaning that users can create a live video with up to four 'friends', these streams can also be viewed by strangers who can screenshot them at any time. Due to high levels of exploitation the app has recently introduced a feature which recognises 'too much flesh' and will send a message warning the user to put clothes back on.

The app can be used in your own country or you can choose to make friends from around the world. Similar to Tinder, the app uses location features to show other users who are in close proximity and this creates obvious risks for children and young people.

Here are some guides to use with parents: <http://parents-guide.yubo.live/> and teens: <http://teens.yubo.live/>



Snapchat Premium has become popular in the last year and is mostly used by people in the adult entertainment industry. Recently, children in Northumberland have started to talk about the app. The app looks like the normal Snapchat your child may use (above). The difference is that users make a separate 'premium' account. They may advertise this premium account on other social media platforms like Facebook, Instagram or TikTok. Some users also advertise prices e.g. £15 to join; £20 for a photo; £30 for a video. Money is usually transferred via bank or PayPal accounts. All messages on Snapchat self delete making it difficult for parents, Police or Social Care to view or monitor communication. Those who have paid for access to the premium account can record videos or 'screen grab' pictures which they can then pass on or upload to other websites themselves. Messages which are deleted cannot be recovered making it difficult to trace who has received or re-shared content.

What to look out for:

- A sudden increase in finances
- Unexplained items or belongings
- Children advertising a Premium Account



Omegle is marketed as a chat app for young people to 'talk to strangers' around the world. The app has a video feature which encourages young people to use a webcam in the chat. On setting up a profile, they are encouraged to list their interests, making it easier for others to initiate conversation. Young people jump right in and start chatting with a completely random stranger, or they can connect with people based on specific interests. Once they've made a decision about how they want to chat, they're immediately paired with a stranger.

As the app is very popular with young people, there are large numbers of adults who use the app to start conversations. Chats are anonymous so young people do not have to share their identity, but also **have no idea who they are talking to. Sexually explicit messages are incredibly common when using Omegle.** The grooming process typically begins on Omegle then young people are encouraged to move over to another app with less security, like Snapchat for example.

What to do:

It is illegal to send or receive indecent images of a child. If you believe a child is being exploited online please contact the police and Northumberland Children's Social Care.

On a more positive note, Northumbria Police has asked the Schools Safeguarding Team to bring your attention to [Fearless.org](#). This is a website or app where young people can make referrals if they are concerned about something or want more information or guidance on a particular issue, like carrying a knife, for example. The young people can see what the law says and what the consequences of certain actions would be. This service allows young people to do this in a way that doesn't put them at risk and allows them to think about the consequences of their own, and their peers actions. Please see the attached link for the [Youtube video](#) so you can see what is available and then pass this information on to your students.

Free Safeguarding Posters

Raising awareness of safeguarding across the school is an excellent first step in keeping children safe. It is important that everyone in your school knows how to raise a concern, whether they are an adult or a child. Making information available is another way that the school shows any unsuitable people that safeguarding is treated seriously by your school.

Andrew Hall has shared the following free posters which can be downloaded and then printed and displayed around school. The posters can be downloaded for free [HERE](#).

Resources available through Childline

As well as being a helpline for children and young people, the Childline website has lots of valuable information available for children and for adults too. Their Calm Zone has activities which aim to help children feel better when they're feeling anxious, scared or sad. Although children could be encouraged to visit the website themselves, these are good techniques for adults to use with children and young people. Ideas include: breathing exercises, a 'let it go' box and creating a 'sense drawer'. The website homepage looks like it is aimed at primary aged children, but by scrolling down the page, you can access activity videos that are aimed at young people. Go to the Childline website [HERE](#).

Period products for schools (DfE)

On 20th January 2020 the government launched its long-awaited period product scheme for schools and colleges in England. The DfE said:

'No-one should be held back from accessing education due to their period. The period product scheme will provide free period products to learners in all state-maintained schools and colleges who need to access period products in their place of learning in order to access education. Although the scheme is for all learners, **it is not a universal offer of free period products to everyone under the age of 19.** This would be prohibitively costly and would not represent good value for taxpayers' money.'

To make sure organisations have access to a wide range of period products in the most cost-effective and efficient way, the DfE has awarded a contract to Personnel Hygiene Services Limited (phs). Schools will be able to order a range of period products and have these delivered free of charge.

The government guidance contains information on:

- choosing and ordering period products
- distributing products within institutions
- tackling stigma
- how to set up an account

All information is available on the guidance webpage [HERE](#).

Private Fostering

Private fostering is the term used when someone who is not a parent or a 'close relative' (eg. great aunt, cousin, mum's friend or a neighbour) is looking after a child or young person under the age of 16 (under 18 if they are disabled) for 28 days or more in their own home. It also covers children who stay at a residential school for more than two weeks of the school holidays.

A **close family relative** is defined in the Children Act 1989 as a grandparent, uncle or aunt (whether by full-blood, half-blood or by marriage/civil partnership), sibling or step-parent, it does not include great-aunts or uncles, great grandparents or cousins.

The legislation governing private fostering is the 'Children (Private Arrangements for Fostering) Regulations 2005' and came into force following the death of Victoria Climbié in 2000. Victoria was privately fostered by her great aunt.

Common situations in which children are privately fostered include:

- Children with parents or families overseas
- Children with parents working or studying in the UK
- Asylum seekers and refugees
- Trafficked children
- Local children living apart from their families
- Adolescents and teenagers
- Children attending language schools
- Children at independent boarding schools who do not return home for holidays
- Children brought in from abroad with a view to adoption.

In these situations the local council's Children's Services department must be informed. A social worker will visit the home to speak to the carer and the child to ensure the child is safe, carry out background checks and make sure support is being provided.

Birth parents, private foster carers and persons who are arranging for a child to be privately fostered are required by law to notify the local council's Children's Services department of the arrangement. Schools and other professionals also have a responsibility to report to the local authority where they are aware or suspect that a child is subject to a private fostering arrangement. (see 'Replacement Children Act 1989 Guidance on Private Fostering 2005 paragraph 2.6)

Note that although **schools have a duty to inform the local authority**, there is no duty for anyone, including the private foster carer or social workers to inform the school. However, it should be clear who has parental responsibility.

PSHE Association's Updated Programme of Study for PSHE

The PSHE Association has recently launched an updated edition of the Programme of Study for PSHE education to support schools to integrate statutory content, by key stage, into the broader PSHE curriculum.

Most PSHE education becomes statutory for all schools in England from September. This includes Relationships Education at key stages 1 and 2, Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) at key stages 3 and 4, and Health Education in both primary and secondary phases.

The Department for Education's statutory Relationships Education, RSE and Health Education guidance sets out what schools must cover. This latest edition of the Programme of Study will support schools to provide a comprehensive programme that integrates, but is not limited to, this statutory content. The statutory guidance is comprehensively covered by learning opportunities for each key stage across the Programme's three core themes: 'Health and Wellbeing', 'Relationships', and 'Living in the Wider World'.

Much of 'Living in the Wider World' is not included in the statutory requirements but this core theme is equally important. A high-quality PSHE programme will also cover economic wellbeing, careers and enterprise education, as well as education for personal safety, including assessing and managing risk. Effective safeguarding depends upon good quality PSHE delivery in school. For support in developing a robust PSHE curriculum for your school, go to the [PSHE Association website](#)

Summary of the Designated Officer's Role

The Local Authority Designated Officer (DO, sometimes also known as the LADO) is now firmly embedded within the safeguarding arrangements of Northumberland Strategic Safeguarding Partnership (NSSP). The DO manages all allegations of abuse against children that relate to anyone working with children and young people within Northumberland. The Northumberland DO operates systems that are compatible with national safeguarding procedures and statutory interagency guidance such as 'Working Together to Safeguard Children' (DfE March 2018) and 'Keeping Children Safe in Education' (DfE September 2019), and are compliant with the requirements of the Disclosure and Barring Service. Northumberland Strategic Safeguarding Partnership has clear procedures for managing allegations of abuse against people who work with children.

Section 11 of the Children Act 2004 places duties on a range of organisations and individuals to ensure their

functions, and any services that they contract out to others are discharged, having regard to the need to safeguard and promote the welfare of children. They are required to have clear policies in line with those from the Strategic Safeguarding Partnership for dealing with allegations against people who work with children. Working Together 2018 stipulates that such policies should make a clear distinction between an allegation, a concern about the quality of care or practice or a complaint.

An allegation may relate to a person who works with children who has:

- behaved in a way that has harmed a child, or may have harmed a child;
- possibly committed a criminal offence against, or related to a child; or
- behaved towards a child or children in a way that indicates they may pose a risk of harm to children.

Local authorities are required to have arrangements in place to provide advice and guidance on how to deal with allegations against people who work with children to employers and voluntary organisations. Local authorities are also tasked to ensure that there are appropriate arrangements in place to effectively liaise with the police and other agencies to monitor the progress of cases and ensure that they are dealt with as quickly as possible, consistent with a thorough and fair process.

Employers and voluntary organisations should ensure that they have clear policies in place setting out the process, including timescales, for investigation and what support and advice will be available to individuals against whom allegations have been made. Any allegations against people who work with children should be reported immediately to a senior manager within the organisation. Working Together 2018 stipulates that the designated officer, should also be informed within one working day of all allegations that come to an employer's attention, or that are made directly to the police.

Managing Allegations Procedure

The details of the procedure to manage allegations against people who work with children is contained within the Northumberland [Child Protection Procedures](#). Inappropriate behaviour by those who work with children should be considered within the context of physical, sexual, emotional abuse, or neglect. It includes concerns about inappropriate relationships between staff / volunteers and children. For instance, where professional boundaries are not maintained and employees / volunteers breach policies e.g. a worker having contact online with a young person through social networking sites.

Role of the (DO)

The role of the DO is to: provide advice and guidance to employers and voluntary organisations liaising with the police and other agencies; monitor the progress of cases to ensure that they are dealt with as quickly as possible, consistent with a thorough and fair process.

Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs)

When children are exposed to adverse and stressful experiences, it can have a long-lasting impact on their ability to think, interact with others and on their learning. Longitudinal research with adults found that compared to people with no ACEs, those with 4 or more ACEs are more likely to:

- Have been in prison
- Develop heart disease
- Frequently visit the GP
- Develop type 2 diabetes
- Have committed violence in the last 12 months
- Have health-harming behaviours (high-risk drinking, smoking, substance misuse)

When researchers tracked back to the adults' childhoods they found the following negative experiences:

- Domestic violence
- Parental abandonment through separation or divorce
- A parent with a mental health condition
- Being the victim of abuse (physical, sexual and/or emotional)
- Being the victim of neglect (physical and emotional)
- A member of the household being in prison
- Growing up in a household where adults misuse alcohol and drugs
- Bereavement

ACEs should not be seen as someone's destiny. There is much that can be done to offer hope and build resilience in children and young people who have experienced adversity in their life. Research has found that a relationship with one trusted adult during childhood can mitigate the impacts of ACEs on mental and physical wellbeing. For more information on ACEs, have a look at [*The Little Book of Adverse Childhood Experiences*](#)

Health and Safety Bulletin

The Health and Safety team is sharing a termly newsletter that will be distributed via the e-courier and will contain a variety of items aimed to raise awareness of current health and safety issues, policy changes, legislation/guidance, as well as detailing the resources available at your disposal to support the effective management of health and safety within schools.

Dates for your diary - Safeguarding Locality Briefings

The next round of safeguarding locality briefings will take place in March. Attending the 3 locality briefings offered throughout the year allows DSLs to stay up to date with local, as well as national, safeguarding information and priorities.

Spring Term

North Locality

Tuesday 10th March 2020 (Twilight 3:30 - 5:30 pm Bell View Resource Centre, Belford)

West Locality

Wednesday 11th March 2020 (Twilight 3:30 - 5:30 pm Fuse Media Centre Prudhoe- science lab)

Central Locality

Thursday 12th March 2020 (Twilight 3:30 - 5:30pm Choppington Social Welfare Centre)

Summer Term

West Locality

Tuesday 30th June 2020 (Twilight 3:30 - 5:30 pm Fuse Media Centre Prudhoe- science lab)

North Locality

Wednesday 1st July 2020 (Twilight 3:30 - 5:30pm Bell View Resource Centre, Belford)

Central Locality

Thursday 2nd July 2020 (Twilight 3:30 - 5:30pm Choppington Social Welfare Centre)

PREVENT updates

Action Counters Terrorism (ACT) E-Learning package

This training is now available to all individuals within the UK to sign up to and complete free of charge and become a CT Citizen. Completion of the training supports colleagues in the police to get the counter terrorism message out and provide individuals with the knowledge so they can learn how to spot the signs of suspicious behaviour and understand what to do in the event of a major incident.

In addition, the package auto generates a certificate of completion at the end of the course. This will be an added benefit to those in the educational sector currently building CVs and personal portfolios.

Highlighting the counter terrorism message can come with some hesitation and such messages are usually only sent out following an incident. The idea of this training is to actively push for everyone to complete it, being pro-active and preparing everyone in the event of an incident, rather than reactive.

A poster with details on the E-Learning package and sign up is [HERE](#).

This training is not mandatory, but comes highly recommended from colleagues in the police.

Following a number of enquiries received in relation to the non-violent activist group, **Extinction Rebellion XR**, the attached briefing note from NECTU is provided for general information.

Some students/staff are exercising their legitimate right to protest as part of Extinction Rebellion. However this protest could/has led to them to being;

- at risk of violence from opposing factions
- subject to arrest
- face linked safeguarding issues.

Extinction Rebellion is NOT a proscribed organisation. [This briefing](#) aims to provide general information on the organisation to inform practitioners, whose role it is to support and safeguard the student community. This advice is mainly aimed at post 16 students, but should be used as useful reference materials for DSLs

Referral to the Channel Panel

If any setting feels it necessary to make a referral to the Channel Panel then the referral form at [THIS LINK](#) should be used. Please remember any concerns relating to the radicalisation of a young person should be discussed with Children's Services.

For information, please also view or download the Northumberland [process for reporting a Prevent concern and process for Channel Panel](#).

Online learning modules are available from the National Counter Terrorism Security Office via their ACT campaign (Action Counters Terrorism). The modules can be accessed [HERE](#).

Remember to share this edition of Safe to Learn with your governors. Please display this edition of Safe to Learn on your safeguarding notice board for all staff to see.

