

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

Issue 38: 22nd May 2020

DSL support during the Coronavirus Covid 19 outbreak

During the school closure period we are going to publish a Safe to Learn bulletin every Friday. Please remember to share with all staff and your governing body.

The next issue will be shared with you on Friday 29th May 2020.

DfE Updates May 2020



For those of you who like to see everything in one place, the homepage for the government guidance relating to education and childcare, including safeguarding, can be found at this link [here](#). Guidance updates are published daily and this is clearly indicated on that webpage. The general school guidance links have also been added to the DSL folder.

Updated safeguarding in education and childcare settings guidance, including advice on updating the child protection policy, designated safeguarding lead arrangements, protecting vulnerable children and mental health support for children and young people, was released on Wednesday 20th May. Carol Leckie, Schools' Safeguarding Team Manager, has produced a checklist for schools to support you to address all of the points raised in this guidance. The checklist is on the Virtual School's Safeguarding pages of the website and in the information for DSLs folder, or you can view and download it now:

[Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): safeguarding in schools, colleges and other providers](#)

Education Support



Education Support is a UK charity dedicated to supporting the mental health and wellbeing of education staff in schools, colleges and universities. The charity is able to offer support for anyone worried about coronavirus, as well as support on financial matters, work-life balance, support for anyone feeling overwhelmed, stressed or anxious. The charity is also able to offer an employee Assistance Programme and leadership Development. The Education support Helpline number is 08000 562 561 and the website can be accessed [here](#).

Domestic Abuse in Rural Communities



Following publication of the report on [Domestic Abuse in Rural Areas by the National Rural Crime Network](#), Northumberland Domestic Abuse Services (NDAS) has written a survey to consult with rural residents and professionals. The survey is designed to enable them to identify the issues and levels of support needed in rural Northumberland. The feedback will allow them to provide support services to those living with abuse in rural Northumberland, tailor-made to suit each

community.

It would be very helpful to NDAS if you could share the questionnaire with your colleagues in rural schools, or those who live in rural communities, and encourage them to take the time to complete the survey. The survey can be accessed by following this [link](#).

NDAS Children's Services



Northumberland Domestic Abuse Services are refreshing their children and young people's service and would like to invite children and young people to get involved. They are launching a competition to design a new logo for the service and for the young people's Facebook page. They are also on the lookout for the next young person to help educate and inspire other young people; to understand what domestic abuse is and how to access the support they need.

Please share the details of the competition with children you are working with. Details can be found by accessing this [link](#).

Northumberland Education website



The Northumberland Education website has become the home of all relevant and useful (and growing every day) documentation related to COVID-19 for all education settings. Please have a look at it and encourage your colleagues to do so as well. The website contains not only DfE and LA advice, but PHE guidance and NSPCC resources. You can find the Northumberland Education Coronavirus webpage [here](#).

Northumberland Young Carers



The service Northumberland County Council provides to young carers has recently been redesigned to allow a county wide offer of support to young carers, which is now a more individualised service.

A young carer is somebody who is aged under 18 and looks after a parent, sibling or any other family member who may have a disability, serious illness, problems with their mental health or with alcohol or drugs.

Schools can access the **Young Carers Health and Wellbeing Check** through the new [young carers' webpage](#) which can offer support to the young carers you have identified. This form should be completed with the young person and / or parent, and asks a range of questions about their wellbeing and caring responsibilities.

Once submitted, the form will be sent through to Early Help for processing and then to a Young Carer's Worker who will contact the young person to undertake a more detailed assessment, and put the relevant support in place. This support could include access to an Active Northumberland Leisure pass, access to existing young carers groups, access to a dedicated support line and to activities led by the Youth Service. More information about local authority support can be found on the council's webpage [here](#).

Amended Process for Child Protection Conferences during Covid-10 Pandemic - update from Jan Tilson IRO Safeguarding manager



On 24 March 2020, following government advice, the way in which the Safeguarding Unit carried Child Protection Conferences and looked after reviews changed to virtual meetings. Since that time we have undertaken 41 Initial Child Protection Conferences, 72 Review Conferences and 156 Looked after reviews. The numbers for looked after children and children subject to Child Protections are at some of the highest seen in Northumberland. As of 18 May 2020 we have 445 looked after children and 452 children subject to plans.

We have had some positive feedback on how meetings have been managed and some frustrating technical issues. However overall we have had more attendance from professionals who would normally struggle to attend conferences - joining the meeting either for short periods of time or remain joined for the whole of the meeting.

We are currently planning our conferences month by month - however it is unlikely that we will be meeting face to face for the foreseeable future, so I just wanted to reiterate our processes. We are planning to book remote conferences up to 1 July after this we will review as per guidance from the Senior Leadership Team.

Invites to Conferences

Initially invites to conferences remain the same. The social worker completes the invite list (meeting arranger) on day one of the Section 47 Investigation starting and reassigns this to the ICPC Bookings tray in ICS. Please remember the SW or Team Manager should update the Safeguarding Unit day four or five if the investigation is not progressing to an ICPC.

Safeguarding Admin prepares the invite letters that are sent by email to our partner agencies generic mailboxes - the invite letter includes the joining instructions for invitee's. The calendar invites includes the SW, Conference Chair, Team Manager and our partner agencies receive the invites again via their generic mailbox - if the individual professional email address is known they will also be included in the calendar invite. Invites for parents are sent via post again with the joining instructions. The Conference Chair will contact parents in advance of the conference and discuss ways to join the meeting. However to support the process the Social Worker should also discuss how parents might join the meeting when delivering the social work report. Social workers can also add professionals directly to the email invite - please inform the Safeguarding Admin if you have added anyone.

So long as we have the correct information we aim to get invites for ICPC's out within five working days and RCPC's ten working days.

Reports for Conference

Given the mobility restriction for professionals and parents the Safeguarding Unit have agreed to collate all of the professional reports for the conference and will share these with the all professionals the morning of the conference - again through the generic mailboxes. This includes all of the reports we have received and the Social Work Report, please let Safeguarding Admin know when the Social Work Report is completed and agreed so that it can be distributed. If the reports are not with the team by 9am they will not be able to be shared. It remains the responsibility for each professional to ensure the parents get copies of their own reports as soon as possible - one full working day for the Social work report (ICPC three for RCPC's) other professionals the agreed standards are three working days for both ICPC and RCPC's.

Once the conferences have taken place the minutes will be distributed in the same way within five working

days for ICPC's and ten working days for RCPC's. It is still expected that the social worker will hand deliver the conference minutes and plan to parents.

Managing conferences in this way has demonstrated that we can be flexible in how the meetings are held and we have seen an increasing number of professionals attending conferences when previously they would have struggled - we have also had professionals join us for short periods of time to share their information.

If you have any queries about invites or reports please email: childprotection@northumberland.gov
To discuss your attendance at or during a conference please contact the Conference Chair directly - their contact details are included on the invite. I would love to hear any comments or suggestions about our new way of working, please feel free to email mail me: jan.tilson@northumberland.gov.uk

Yes Futures - Self-esteem resources for young people



Yes Futures is a charity which works with schools to provide intensive support programmes for children struggling with self-esteem and resilience.

They have recently launched **Home Grown Skills**, a completely free resource bank for parents and teachers to support young people's wellbeing and personal development during this difficult period.

The series of activity sheets are designed to take between 20-50 minutes each and can easily be adapted for different ages and levels. The resources can be used independently by a child or alongside a teacher or parent/carer. The child will only need a pen and paper and the activities are fun to complete. You can access the resources [here](#).

Speech, Language and Communication e-learning



Ian Marks, a speech and language therapist currently working with Northumberland Adolescent Service, has been working with NCC's Learning and Development Team to produce a new e-learning module on Speech, Language and Communication Needs in children and young people. This is now available on Learning Together [here](#).

FRIENDS Resilience Programme - Online Training

The FRIENDS Resilience programmes are cognitive behaviour therapy (CBT) based programmes endorsed by the World Health Organisation. Each programme is delivered over 10 one hour sessions and two booster sessions. The courses are designed to build life-long resilience in individuals, families, schools and communities through fun activities. The FRIENDS courses help guide the social and emotional development of children, develop coping skills and help to prevent anxiety. They help children and young people build resilience, confidence, and emotional wellbeing which improves learning and social outcomes in schools and families.

There are four courses available:

1. Fun Friends (ages 4-7)
2. Friends for Life (ages 8-11)
3. My Friends Youth (ages 12-15)
4. Adult Resilience (ages 16-18+)



These courses will be useful to schools, particularly in these unusual times, for the following reasons:

- Building Resilience is the focus of FRIENDS and on return to school it is likely all of our children and young people will be encountering new situations and have experienced a range of unusual circumstances.

- The skills taught in FRIENDS can help children and young people be able to identify their feelings, explore their thoughts and experiences and find ways forward.
- The FRIENDS Resilience programme can help children build/rebuild appropriate peers relationships and support networks within school.
- The activities help the children and young people to identify thoughts and feelings which are unhelpful to them and choose more appropriate behaviours and ways to respond to negative situations.

Training is open to all members of staff. On completion of the online training you will be a facilitator, which enables you to deliver the programme to children and young people of the age group you have trained for. There are currently 100 facilitator training places available. To sign up, please complete this [form](#), using **your school email address**

If you have any questions about the course please contact: Katinka Bryan (Senior Educational Psychologist) Katinka.Bryan@Northumberland.gov.uk

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

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
- If you have a query for the looked after children's team please email - 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
- If you have a more urgent query or request please telephone 01670 622787.