

NCASP

Northumberland Children and  
Adults Safeguarding Partnership

# Safe to Learn

  
Northumberland  
County Council

## 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 64: 17<sup>th</sup> June 2022

### Northumberland Strategic Safeguarding Partnership - Change to NCASP

From May 2022 Northumberland, in line with many other local authorities, now has a joint safeguarding children and safeguarding adults partnership. The inaugural meeting took place on 4th May and the name of the officially merged partnership is the NCASP or Northumberland Childrens and Adults Safeguarding Partnership. Please be assured that as soon as further information is available, we will pass it on. It's business as usual, the change is in structure and name only. We will share the new logo as soon as it is made available.

### DfE Guidance - Keeping Children Safe in Education 2022



The DfE has published the updated version of Keeping Children Safe in Education (KCSiE). Although this guidance is available to download, it is not to be put into practice until September 2022. A summary of the changes from the old to the new 2022 guidance will be shared with all lead DSLs next week. The summary will also be made available on the **DSL in Schools and APs SharePoint** site.

### Management change for the EOTAS Health Needs Service



After several years at the helm, Carol Leckie has handed over the management of the EOTAS Health Needs Service to a new member of staff who will hopefully be joining us this term. More details about that and changes to the service for September will appear in a later edition of Safe to Learn and the schools' e-courier.

Carol is still the Schools' Safeguarding Team Manager and has ambitious plans to develop the team and the service level agreement that is available to education settings in Northumberland. The focus will be on safeguarding standards and fulfilling the requirements of Keeping Children Safe in Education (September 2022), making sure that our DSLs are kept up to date with the Northumberland context, policies and procedures. Carol will also continue her key role in our extended duty to promote the education of children with a social worker.

I would like to sincerely thank Carol for her years of commitment as the EOTAS Health Needs team manager. The service has evolved during those years and the parental feedback about the team and its very positive impact on their children is testament to her commitment and approachability.

*Jane Walker, Virtual School Headteacher*

### FGM Reporting Procedures



FGM is an illegal and life-threatening form of abuse which is often performed without anaesthetic and can leave its victims in agony and with physical and psychological problems. Over 200 million girls and women around the world have suffered some form of FGM. **School holidays are a particular time of risk for a girl to be taken abroad for the purpose of FGM.** Staff in schools may have cause for concern where:

- A girl is going abroad but seems vague about where they are going and how long for, is reluctant to talk about the holiday, or seems upset or scared when discussing it but won't say why.
- Parents ask to take their daughter out of school before the holidays begin and/or are uncommunicative or become aggressive when asked about their plans.

### Signs a girl may have had FGM

Signs that indicate a child may have been a victim of FGM include where she:

- Is absent for a long time from school.
- Goes to the toilet more than usual or stays in there for an unusually long time.
- Isn't able to cross her legs when sitting down on the floor.
- Is reluctant to do PE.
- Suffers urinary tract infections.
- Shows signs of pain or clutches her body.
- Is absent from school when she has her period.

### Female Genital Mutilation reporting procedures

Where there is a disclosure of FGM it is important that staff know what their statutory response should be. Keeping Children Safe in Education (2021), paragraph 40 says 'whilst **\*\*all\*\*** staff should speak to the designated safeguarding lead (or deputy) with regard to any concerns about female genital mutilation (FGM), there is a specific **\*\*legal duty on teachers\*\***'. If a teacher, in the course of their work in the profession, discovers that an act of FGM appears to have been carried out on a girl under the age of 18, the teacher must report this to the police'.

What is often less well-known is what a teacher should do next to make a report.

Below is a very short summary and must be read in conjunction with the mandatory reporting guidance, available by following this [link](#)

#### The mandatory reporting procedures say:

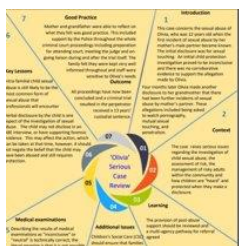
'It is recommended that you make a report orally by calling 101, the single non-emergency number.'

'Where there is a risk to life or likelihood of serious immediate harm, professionals should report the case immediately to police, including dialling 999 if appropriate'.

In most cases 'reports under the duty should be made as soon as possible after a case is discovered, and best practice is for reports to be made by the close of the next working day'.

The procedures also set out what information is needed, in order to make a report.

## Hidden Men



Safeguarding practice reviews (formerly known as serious case reviews) often find that the role men play in children's home lives is not always clearly understood by professionals working with families, including schools. Sometimes the person being referred to as 'dad' may not even be the same man throughout the safeguarding notes and records. It is important that we understand the impact of these 'hidden men'.

#### Useful resources and articles

Hidden men: learning from case reviews

<https://learning.nspcc.org.uk/research-resources/learning-from-case-reviews/hidden-men>

"The Myth of Invisible Men"

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/1017944/The\\_myth\\_of\\_invisible\\_men\\_safeguarding\\_children\\_under\\_1\\_from\\_non-accidental\\_injury\\_caused\\_by\\_male\\_carers.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1017944/The_myth_of_invisible_men_safeguarding_children_under_1_from_non-accidental_injury_caused_by_male_carers.pdf)

The Myth of Invisible Men: fathers who kill or injure their babies

<http://www.fatherhoodinstitute.org/2021/the-myth-of-invisible-men-fathers-who-kill-or-injure-babies/>

Practice reviews and 7-minute guides are available on the **DSL in Schools and APs SharePoint** site.

## Arthur and Star



A summary of the National review into the murders of Arthur Labinjo-Hughes and Star Hobson has been added to the Practice Reviews folder on the DSL in Schools and APs SharePoint site. The full report and the press release can also be accessed from this document.

## Getting it Right for Children



The following information was provided by Helen Lancaster, Senior Project and Development Manager Early Intervention and Prevention: We are currently planning to run 2 more virtual Getting it Right for Children groups as part of the pilot, the proposed dates are shown below. It is also hoped there will be a trial face to face group as well. The parents who are currently attending this group have expressed they are finding this group very helpful and thought provoking.

This is for **separating or separated parents who are experiencing conflict which might be harmful to their children**. (For example, where contact arrangements are not consistent, communication is difficult, children are aware their parents are arguing or where children are involved in passing messages between parents).

Two groups will run concurrently to allow each partner to attend separately (both parents do not necessarily need to attend but this is strongly encouraged).

**Group 1: Starts on Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> June** (then 29<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup> July and a follow up session on 20<sup>th</sup> July) at 8.00-9.00pm

**Group 2: Starting on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> July** (then 25<sup>th</sup> July 1<sup>st</sup> August and a follow up on 15<sup>th</sup> August) 10.00-11.00am.

This intervention does not work with parents who have been in an abusive relationship. The programme is for parents where there is not an imbalance of power, neither parent is fearful of the other and there are no specialist domestic abuse services working with the family. You should be clear before you refer that you have explored this, and you are satisfied domestic abuse is not or has not been present in this relationship. If you have a family you wish to refer, please discuss this with them before doing so. Nominations to the suitable sessions for parents (below) can be made by completing the [Request for Service](#) form, or you can contact the facilitators delivering the programmes.

## Healthy Relationships Resource Pack (Safelives)



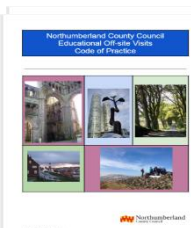
In 2019, SafeLives gathered the voices and perspectives of men and boys aged 11 and over, asking them about abuse, masculinity and what a 'healthy' relationship looks like. Almost a third of respondents said they had demonstrated behaviour within a relationship that they regretted. Professionals working with young people are in the unique position to support them to have healthy relationships during this critical window - before they harm or are harmed.

To do this, professionals need to feel confident starting conversations about relationships. Building on the research, SafeLives have developed a resource pack that practitioners could use to start conversations with young people about relationships and explore what healthy looks like.

Access the resource pack here:

<https://safelives.org.uk/sites/default/files/resources/SafeLives%20Resource%20Pack%20-%20final.pdf>

## School Visits



Now that SATs are finished and we're in the last half-term of the summer, thoughts turn to outings, trips and residentials. The Outdoor Education Advisers' Panel (OEAP) website includes all the national guidance for education out-of-school and includes guidance, activities, training and support for outdoor learning and educational visits. Some of the specific guidance can be found [here](#)

A copy of the Northumberland County Council Educational Off-site Visits Code of Practice is available on the **DSL in schools and APs SharePoint site** in the policies folder.

## Ukrainians Welcome



If your school is hosting Ukrainian students, this site may be helpful to you and the families you are working with. The Ukrainians Welcome website offers a directory of information on the support available in the UK for Ukrainians who have been displaced by the current conflict. The advice, support and information available includes finances, health, travel, legal, work and housing.

The UK Government website has immigration information for Ukrainians, plus a number of factsheets with information on what to do when they arrive in the UK. [The factsheets are available here.](#)

Barnardo's have also set up a Ukrainian support helpline and website. The free helpline number is: 0800 148 8586

The Barnardo's Ukrainian Support website can be accessed [here](#).

## Northumberland Health Related Behaviour Survey



The results of the Northumberland Health Related Behaviour Survey 2021 have been published and are available on the **DSL in Schools and APs SharePoint site** in the HRBQ folder. The results can be used to inform your PSHE, RHE and RSHE curriculum to enable you to deliver on priorities identified by young people in the local area.

## DSLs in Schools and APs SharePoint



All DSLs in Northumberland have been invited to access the **DSLs in Schools and APs SharePoint** site. If you are having difficulties accessing the site, please contact Justine Clephane [justine.clephane@northumberland.gov.uk](mailto:justine.clephane@northumberland.gov.uk) who will be able to support you to gain access.

The site is regularly updated, and the following documents have been added to the site since the last Safe To Learn was sent out on 6th May:

### DfE Documents and Guidance Folder:

- A Summary of the final report of the independent review of children's social care (May 2022)
- Searching, screening and confiscation – Advice for headteachers, school staff and governing bodies

### Education of Children with a Social Worker Folder:

- Education of Children with a Social Worker Newsletter – June 2022

### HRBQ Folder:

- A summary report of the Health-Related Behaviour Survey 2021

### KCSiE Folder:

- Keeping Children Safe in Education 2022 (goes live September 2022)
- Presentation with summary of changes

### NCASP Folder:

- Procedures regarding children missing from home and care (June 2022)

### Operation Encompass Folder:

- Updated Operation Encompass and Operation Endeavour template letters

### Practice Reviews Folder

- Arthur and Star National Briefing

### Risk Assessment Templates:

- Additional templates have been added to the folder

### Training folder



- Schools Safeguarding Team Training Dates for academic year 2022 - 2023

## Contact Information

Please could you make sure that the Schools Safeguarding Team has up to date contact information for the DSLs in your setting. This is particularly important for our colleagues in Operation Encompass as 'undeliverable emails' mean that children and young people are not getting the support they need following domestic abuse incidents in their homes.



If a DSL in your setting has left, is on leave or has changed their name/email address, please let us know as soon as possible. That way, we can ensure the correct information is getting to the correct people without any delays.

### Notifying Parents/Carers

All schools in Northumberland are Operation Encompass and Operation Endeavour schools and you must notify parents of this. The end of this term and beginning of the new academic year are both good times to remind parent of this and it's especially important that new parents/carers are notified. The template letters have recently been updated and are available for you to cut and paste from the **DSL in Schools and APs SharePoint** site, in the Operation Encompass folder. You can also add the letters and logos to your school website.



**There is an up-to-date list of DASV support services available in the DASV folder on the DSL in Schools and APs SharePoint site, please share this information with parents and carers via your website, newsletters and through signage in schools. DASV incidents rise during school holidays so it's helpful for families to have this information before you break up for summer.**

### Additional Reminder

If your school receives an Operation Encompass or Operation Endeavour notification for a pupil attending **EOTAS or an Alternative Provider**, it is your responsibility to pass on that notification to the child's setting. This must be done as soon as possible so the child can be supported at the setting they attend. For children attending EOTAS, please send the notification to

[Angela.mitchison@northumberland.gov.uk](mailto:Angela.mitchison@northumberland.gov.uk)

**For children attending Alternative Providers, please contact the DSL at all/both of their provision sites.**

## Schools Safeguarding Team – Training Events



**New DSL, Roles and Responsibilities Training (Day 1)** – Friday 8<sup>th</sup> July 1.00 - 3.30 pm

**New DSL, Roles and Responsibilities Training (Day 2)** - Monday 11<sup>th</sup> 1.00 - 3.30 pm

**DSL Refresher Training** – Tuesday 12 July 1.00 - 3.00 pm

**NSSP Locality Safeguarding Briefings** – Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> June, Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> June, Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> June, all running from 3.45 - 5.00 pm. Please choose one of the locality

briefings to attend, it is not necessary to attend more than one.

If you would like to book on any of the above training events, please contact the Schools Safeguarding Team Admin **Alyson Webb** via email: [Alyson.webb@northumberland.gov.uk](mailto:Alyson.webb@northumberland.gov.uk) If you would like further information on the training programme provided by the Schools Safeguarding Team, please contact a member of the team, contact details are listed below. **For SST Training for 2022 – 2023, please go to the DSL in Schools and APs SharePoint site as all dates are listed in the training folder.**

## 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)**

**Victoria Kinneavy, Schools Safeguarding Consultant, 07966 325300**

**[Victoria.kinneavy@northumberland.gov.uk](mailto:Victoria.kinneavy@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 Schools' Safeguarding Team, please email – [schoolssafeguarding@northumberland.gov.uk](mailto:schoolssafeguarding@northumberland.gov.uk)
- 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 EOTAS 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.