



# Safe to Learn

**NORTHUMBERLAND**  
Northumberland County Council

## 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 11: April 2017

## Changes to Children's social care and Early Help family work services

From 1<sup>st</sup> April 2017 changes were made to the ways in which children's social care and early help family support is provided to families across Northumberland. The aim of the change is to provide more joined up early help support at a local level for families with complex needs who don't meet the threshold for statutory social work intervention. The main changes are as follows:

1. Creation of four Early Help Family Work locality teams
2. Creation of four Northumberland County Council Early Help Locality Managers
3. Changes to the Early Help Coordinators and Hub administration

Full details of the changes were shared with schools on the ecourier <http://northumberlandeducation.co.uk/ecourier/> on March 28th 2017.

## 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 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 2016.

Make sure you and your staff have access to the most up to date version. The initial draft which was published in July 2016 was refreshed and schools must use the September 2016.

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

## Child sexual exploitation (CSE) update

The government have revised the **statutory definition of child sexual exploitation** along with new working together advice on CSE. The revised definition is:

*Child sexual exploitation is a form of child sexual abuse. It occurs where an individual or group takes advantage of an imbalance of power to coerce, manipulate or deceive a child or young person under the age of 18 into sexual activity (a) in exchange for something the victim needs or wants, and/or (b) for the financial advantage or increased status of the perpetrator or facilitator. The victim may have been sexually exploited even if the sexual activity appears consensual. Child sexual exploitation does not always involve physical contact; it can also occur through the use of technology.*

**The new working together advice on CSE and the new definition can be found here:**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/child-sexual-exploitation-definition-and-guide-for-practitioners>

## Domestic Homicide Review

NCC has recently been involved in a multi-agency Domestic Homicide Review (DHR) following the killing of a mother by her 16 year old son in 2015. The DHR is now complete and there will be a multi agency group established to look at the action plan. All professionals need to be aware of the Home Office Guidance 'Adolescent to Parent Violence and Abuse' (APVA), which can be found here:

[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/420963/APVA.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/420963/APVA.pdf)

Schools must ensure they pay particular attention to coercive control within family dynamic, ensure that the child/young person and the adult are being safeguarded and supported and any concerns regarding Adolescent to Parent Violence and Abuse should be discussed with children's social care (01670 536000) or adult services (01670 536400).

## Operation Encompass

Operation Encompass went live in Northumberland on 3rd April and the majority of schools have met the required criteria to ensure they receive a child concern notification when children and young people (aged 4 - 16 years) who attend their school have been at home when the police have been called out to a domestic violence incident.

To receive the notifications the Headteacher or DSL must have attended a briefing, staff must be trained and parents must have been notified (using a template letter provided by the LA) that the school is part of this initiative. **There is an expectation that all schools will participate in this initiative.**

Supporting documents for schools who have not yet fully engaged can be accessed by emailing Carol Leckie: [Carol.Leckie@northumberland.gov.uk](mailto:Carol.Leckie@northumberland.gov.uk)

## Safeguarding: Service Level Agreement 2017-18

From 1<sup>st</sup> April 2017 non-statutory support to schools, academies and alternative providers is now available for schools to buy through the Education & Skills Service service level agreement. The full brochure can be viewed on the Northumberland Education website by clicking the image of the brochure or following the link <http://northumberlandeducation.co.uk/services-to-schools-17-18/>:

The safeguarding support starts on page 23 and includes:

- core packages of support for safeguarding and PSHE
- achieving a culture of safeguarding: school leadership
- safeguarding learning walk
- themes governor training programme
- induction training for new DSLs
- pay as you go support

Costs are included in the brochure, but if you would like to discuss or arrange a package of support more tailored to the needs of your school/setting then please contact Carol Leckie to discuss directly.

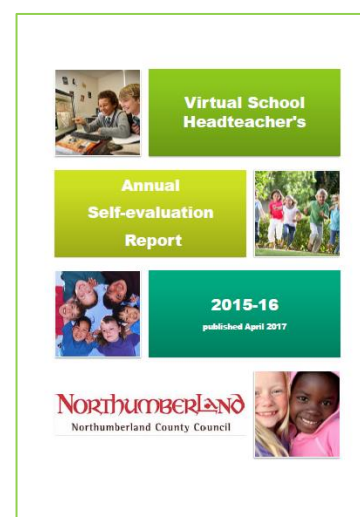


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## Virtual School Headteacher's Annual Report 2015-16

The Annual Report of Northumberland's Virtual School Headteacher, Jane Walker, is now available and can be downloaded from the [Inclusion and the Virtual School](#) webpage of the Council's website.

There are many achievements to celebrate with our looked after children and lots of evidence that outcomes are improving. Well done to our Designated Teachers for LAC!



## Education Reference Group

The LSCB's Education Reference sub-group was convened last year to support the LSCB's priority to improve communication with schools/academies/education settings and to encourage you all to engage with the work of the Board as valuable partners. Your ongoing feedback with the Education and Skills Service has been very useful

This year the meetings have become workshops where guests are invited to deliver briefings on key safeguarding themes and issues at the request of school representatives. The intention is that your partnership representative disseminates the resources and learning to your own school/academy and partnerships. Many school partnerships now have safeguarding as a standing agenda item on their partnership head teachers' briefings, ensuring information is shared and all schools are updated on current board and local authority priorities

For those of you who feel confident about your knowledge of safeguarding process and practise, then arrangements can be made for you to perhaps become a member of a board sub-group to get directly involved in the development work of the LSCB.

The current partnership representatives are:

Morpeth	Bryan Stewart (The 3 Rivers) and Neil Richmond (Stobhillgate)
Ashington	Sandra Brown and <i>current vacancy for remaining Ashington partnership</i>
Prudhoe	Andrew Hudson
Seaton Delaval	Graeme Atkins and Jon Soutar
Cramlington	Emma Beeston
Coquet	Richard Bollands
Ponteland	Heather Cape
Berwick	Gary Hilton
Special Schools	Penny Derries
Hexham	Amanda Frankish
Haydon Bridge	Alison Hawkins
Bedlington	Sally Hobson
Blyth	Shirley Clements
Alnwick	Jenny Smith
Catholic Partnership	Lesley Poulter
Northumberland College	Helen Norris



The next meeting is on Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> April 2017. For your information the agenda includes contributions from:

- Northumberland's Principal Social Worker, Adele Wright
- Early Help update from Vanessa Easton and Jess Barclay Lambert
- Feedback from the education threshold events, Robin Harper Coulson
- Physical restraint policy for schools, Saira Park