

## 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 63: 6<sup>th</sup> May 2022

## Northumberland Strategic Safeguarding Partnership



**Neglect Summit, Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> May 2022** – Agencies across Northumberland are coming together to share knowledge, experience and thoughts on how together we can address neglect more holistically in the future. Practitioners working with children, young people and families are being invited to a 'Neglect Summit' to consider how we can work with communities and the Northumberland Strategic Safeguarding Partnership to identify and respond to neglect at the earliest opportunity. For more information about the Neglect Summit, and to book a place, please see the **DSL in Schools and APs SharePoint**, in the Northumberland Strategic Safeguarding Partnership folder or follow

this link:

<https://northumberland365.sharepoint.com/sites/NorthumberlandNeglectSummit?e=1%3a064258969a45446483b291ca3876c79c&CT=1650889217027&OR=OWA-NT&CID=88205ff3-0325-3160-700b-514d59d66590>



## Northumberland Schools Engagement Group



**Changes to the Northumberland Strategic Safeguarding Partnership** – from May 2022 it has been agreed that Northumberland, in line with many other local authorities, will operate with a joint safeguarding children and safeguarding adult's partnership. The inaugural meeting took place on 4<sup>th</sup> May and the name of the officially merged partnership is the **NCASP** or **Northumberland Children's and Adults' Safeguarding Partnership**. Please be assured

that as soon as further information is available, we will pass it on. A new logo will be published soon.

**Otherwise, it's business as usual, the change is in structure and name only.**

### Draft Thresholds Document Consultation

Thank you very much to everyone who responded to the consultation on the draft Thresholds Document. Catherine MacDonald has responded to all your comments and questions and has created a document with her responses on. The document is available on the **DSL in Schools and APs SharePoint** site in the Referral Information folder – 'Draft Thresholds Document Responses'.

### Local Authority Designated Officer

From this month our Local Authority Designated Officer has changed, the new LADO is Louise Prudhoe. To ensure schools receive a response to queries please use the generic LADO email and telephone number. This will ensure, in Louise's absence that a team member picks up queries. We have been reassured that the flow chart and guidance on the NSSP website will be updated with the new information, and we will keep an eye on that being completed.

In the short term, please amend your policy if the specific details are included, as well as amending any posters you have displayed in the school.

## Coming soon – promoting the education of children with a social worker



As well informed DSLs you all know about the addition to your role, via KCSIE, to promote the education of children with a social worker. Look out for a briefing for DSLs and children's social workers that will be published in the week beginning 9<sup>th</sup> May for further information about the project in Northumberland and how to get involved.

### DfE Guidance

#### Remote Teaching

The DfE has published new guidance for schools on providing remote education in England. The document provides non-statutory guidance to replace temporary provisions and guidance on remote education set out in the Coronavirus Act 2020, which expired on 24<sup>th</sup> March 2022. The guidance advises that remote education 'should only ever be considered as a short-term measure'. It also contains specific sections on:

- Delivering remote education safely
- Providing suitable provision for children with SEND

Please follow this link to access the guidance:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/providing-remote-education-guidance-for-schools/providing-remote-education-guidance-for-schools#delivering-remote-education-safely>



#### Non-statutory Guidance for Providers Running Out-of-school Settings

This non-statutory guidance from the DfE aims to help providers of out-of-school settings (OOSS) understand best practice for creating a safe environment for children in their care. It also aims to give parents and carers confidence that their child is in a safe activity or learning environment. The guidance is for organisations or individuals who provide community activities, tuition or after-school clubs for children, as well as their staff and volunteers.

The guidance is available on the **DSL in Schools and APs SharePoint** site, in the DfE folder.

#### Emergency Planning and Response for Education, Childcare and Children's Social Care Settings

This non-statutory guidance from the DfE aims to help all education, childcare and children's social care settings respond to emergencies. It does not cover every aspect of what settings should do in relation to emergency planning. This guidance replaces the previous advice on emergency planning for education and childcare settings which only applied to schools and early years settings.

This guidance now applies to:

- early years
- wraparound childcare and out of school settings
- children's social care residential providers
- schools
- further education
- higher education
- SEND and specialist settings

## DfE - School Review



The DfE has published a white paper setting out new measures and standards to help children reach their full potential in schools in England. Actions to support vulnerable children include:

- - Introduction of measures to improve information sharing between organisations working with vulnerable children, including data and intelligence about attendance, exclusions and those removed from schools, in order to reduce the time vulnerable

children spend out of school.

Introduction of a new system whereby local safeguarding partnerships will commission safeguarding audits every three years, to ensure that schools' policies are consistent with local safeguarding arrangements.

A summary of the white paper is on the **DSL in Schools and APs SharePoint** site, in the DfE folder.

## Multi-agency Statutory Guidance on Forced Marriage

The Home Office have published statutory guidance for agencies on forced marriage (published 21st March 2022). There is a section entitled 'Specific issues to be considered by agencies working with, or providing services to, children and young people facing forced marriage'. It provides important information that sits alongside existing wider statutory guidance.



The guidance is on the **DSL in Schools and APs SharePoint** site in the DfE folder

## Controlling or Coercive Behaviour, Statutory Guidance Framework - Consultation

This guidance provides information on controlling or coercive behaviour and provides information on how to reduce the risk of harm to the victim and their family and provide support for the victim and their family. The guidance reflects content in the draft Domestic Abuse Statutory Guidance to ensure both documents are aligned. A consultation of the draft Domestic Abuse Statutory Guidance concluded in September 2021 and the finalised version is due to be published in 2022. Any further changes made to the Domestic Abuse Statutory Guidance post-consultation, will also be reflected in the finalised version of the Controlling or Coercive Behaviour Statutory Guidance Framework.

The guidance document is on the **DSL in Schools and APs SharePoint** site, in the DfE folder.

## Minimum Marriage Age Changed in England and Wales



The legal age of marriage and civil partnerships has been raised to 18 in England and Wales. Previously, people could get married at 16 or 17 as long as they had parental consent. The new law also applies to cultural or religious marriages that are not registered with the local council.

MP Pauline Latham, who introduced the bill to Parliament, said it would "transform the life chances of many girls". Under the new rules, children will not face penalties but adults who facilitate their marriage could face up to seven years in jail and a fine. This would include adults who took children abroad to carry out the marriage. Backed by the government, the bill has sailed through Parliament with very little opposition - and will receive Royal Assent later this week, meaning it will become law.

The hope is this new law will empower young people who are at risk, and the threat of prison will act as a deterrent for those trying to arrange any marriage for under-18s.

## Preventing self-harm and suicide

In 2020 the Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel had commissioned a thematic analysis of Serious Incident Notifications where the child had ended their own life. A sample of 98 notifications was examined.

Themes that could be seen in the study were:

- abuse or neglect from others
- bereavement
- relationship issues



Annual Report 2020

Partnership for the prevention and protection of children

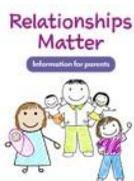
- substance misuse
- children missing from home and
- bullying in an educational setting

A fifth of all the cases involved children who were, or had previously been involved with Children's Services, including looked after children and care leavers.

Please follow this link to access the full report and the executive summary:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/child-safeguarding-practice-review-panel-annual-report-2020>

## Healthier Relationships Group Programme Pilots



Information on the Healthier Relationships programme has been provided by Helen Lancaster; Senior Project and Development Manager for Early Intervention and Prevention: The refreshed Prevention and Intervention Pathway will shortly include three interventions to encourage healthy parental relationships to reduce the impact of conflict on children.

### Arguing Better

This programme is aimed at **couples (together) who are experiencing high levels of stress and conflict**. 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).

Thursday 9th June, 16th June, 23rd June ([kerrie.hutchins@northumberland.gov.uk](mailto:kerrie.hutchins@northumberland.gov.uk) and [Jonathan.blackmore@northumberland.gov.uk](mailto:Jonathan.blackmore@northumberland.gov.uk))

### Getting it Right for Children

This is for **separating or separated parents who are experiencing conflict which might be harmful to their children**. 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: 18th, 25<sup>th</sup> May and 1<sup>st</sup> June 7.30 - 8.30pm ([denise.clayson@northumberland.gov.uk](mailto:denise.clayson@northumberland.gov.uk))

Group 2: 4th, 11th, and 18th May 2pm - 3pm, followed by final session on 8 June ([jennifer.forsythe@northumberland.gov.uk](mailto:jennifer.forsythe@northumberland.gov.uk) / [julie.mcnally@northumberland.gov.uk](mailto:julie.mcnally@northumberland.gov.uk))

These interventions do not work with those in abusive relationships. 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 your assessment has explored this, and you are satisfied domestic abuse is not present.

If you have a family you wish to refer, please discuss this with them before doing so. Nominations to a suitable sessions for parents can be made by completing the [Request for Service](#) form, or you can contact the facilitators delivering the programmes set out above.

## Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner – Support for Families and Friends Worried about Abusive Relationships

The Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner's Violence Reduction Unit is supporting a new project being launched across Northumbria called [Findaway](#). This project recognises that families, friends and community members are usually the first to know, and best placed to support, if someone is being controlled, scared or hurt by someone they love. This project fills a current gap in the response to domestic abuse. It is not aimed at victims or perpetrators as there are already services in place providing that support – instead it is aimed at those informal networks who are close to the victim or the person who is causing the harm.



[Findaway](#), therefore, wants to equip families, friends and communities with the knowledge and skills they

need to effectively support the people they care about. Currently people can request a call-back via the [Findaway](#) website but as part of this new service there will be a [Findaway](#) phoneline that will be staffed by trained advocates, for people worried about someone else. The service is open to anyone from Tyne and Wear and Northumberland.

As well as letting you know about this new service and its website, [Findaway](#) also needs your help!

[Findaway](#) are gathering information on the current support available for families and friends who are worried about someone else's relationships, and they'd appreciate your help. They'd like to hear from you if you've ever been worried about someone else's relationship or have supported someone you care about to cope with a controlling or dangerous relationship. Please follow this link to the [Findaway](#) survey:

<https://tinyurl.com/wefindaway>

*If you have any questions about [Findaway](#) please get in touch with the project lead Ciara on [hello@wefindaway.org.uk](mailto:hello@wefindaway.org.uk).*

## NWG Safeguarding Network – Harm

The NWG Safeguarding Network believes that all children have the right to a childhood free from any type of harm and they recognise the key role that schools play in providing positive and safe environments in preventing harm/abuse/exploitation. NWG Network and Safeguarding Network are collaborating in a partnership to evidence the positive impact of school's role in early intervention when children have been identified as being vulnerable to being exploited/experiencing exploitation. The findings will be collated in a guide for practitioners to share examples of what works, and support more professionals in developing protective practice and experiences for children in schools.



By completing their short survey, you will be participating in this valuable research to help support settings tackle exploitation and inspire hope.

To access the survey follow this [link](#)

## Online Safety and Relationships



The Child Exploitation and Online Protection Command (CEOP) has created a new website for children aged 11 – 18 years old. The site gives information, support and advice on:

- Relationships
- Socialising online
- Online safety
- Nudes
- Sex and sexual content online
- Sexual abuse

There is also content aimed at protecting children and young people who may want to explore their sexual identity online, advice on healthy relationships and sexual consent. The site can be accessed by following this link:

[https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/11\\_18/](https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/11_18/)

CEOP has also updated its toolkit of activities which schools, youth workers and other educational settings can use when teaching about online safety. The resources can be accessed by following this link:

<https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/professionals/resources/>

## Harmful Sexual Behaviour Support Service

The Marie Collins Foundation has launched a support service for professionals who are working with children and young people who are displaying harmful sexual behaviours. The service will provide advice and support for professionals on how to respond if a child is displaying sexually harmful behaviour. The service is run by trained professionals and provides the tools to equip and empower you through advice on cases, guidance



on policy development and sharing resources, best practice and useful contacts.

Please follow this link to their resources page:

<https://www.mariecollinsfoundation.org.uk/resources>

Follow this link to access the advice and helpline:

<https://www.mariecollinsfoundation.org.uk/news/harmful-sexual-behaviour-support-service>

## Text Your School Nurse Resource for Secondary School Aged Children

Text your school nurse is a resource for children and young people aged 11–19 years old. The service is for confidential advice and support from school nurses on a range of issues including:

- Relationships
- Mental Health
- Self-harm
- Bullying
- Alcohol
- Drugs

Sometimes young people prefer to communicate via text, rather than speaking to a professional they don't know. The service aims to be more appealing to children and young people and break down some of the barriers to seeking professional support.

**The number to text is 07507 332258.** The poster advertising this resource is available on the **DSL in Schools and APs SharePoint**



## NSPCC – Speak Out Stay Safe Resource

**NSPCC**  
Learning

The NSPCC has updated the Speak out Stay Safe programme for children with additional needs and disabilities. The specially adapted resources support schools to deliver vital messages to children and young people about how to recognise abuse, and which trusted adults to turn to for help. The programme is suitable for pupils with moderate learning disabilities, additional learning needs and/or autism.

[The resource can be accessed by following this link.](#)

The NSPCC Learning Site has posters for primary and secondary schools to download and display to encourage children and young people to get in contact with **Childline** if they need support. They've also produced a new series of posters for the Childline *Nobody is normal* and *Tough to talk* campaigns.

[The resources can be downloaded by following this link.](#)

## Childline Neglect - Support and Information for Children and Young People

The Childline Website has a whole area devoted to giving children and young people information, advice, and support about neglect. The site explains what neglect is, some of the reasons why neglect occurs and advice on how to tell someone if they think a friend is being neglected, or if they think they are being neglected themselves. This would be a helpful resource to share with colleagues and with children. [The site can be accessed by following this link.](#)



## LGfL DigiSafe – Undressed Resource for Primary Schools

This is a resource for Early Years and KS1 children to help them stay safe online.

This resource has been produced due to the National Crime Agency and CEOP warning about sexual predators tricking young children into getting changed or undressed on camera. Sexual predators are reported as tricking children by encouraging them to playing 'games' or issuing 'challenges' to see how fast they can get changed into different clothes or into a swimming costume. This might happen over video chat or livestreaming apps and children often don't even know this has happened. The Internet Watch Foundation (IWF) has identified an increase in this trend during 2020. It's important to recognise that this happens in regular, safe families,



while parents are in the house, sometimes the IWF analysts notice the recording ending when a child is called for dinner.

There is a case study available on the website to show teachers how this resource has been used in a primary school in Liverpool.

To access the resource, please follow this [link](#).

## 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 before Easter:

### **DfE Documents and Guidance folder:**

- Controlling or Coercive Behaviour; statutory guidance
- The Right to Choose: Multi-agency statutory guidance for dealing with forced marriage
- Keeping Children Safe during Community Activities, After-School Clubs and Tuition
- Providing Remote Education: guidance for schools

**Attendance folder** – Securing Good Attendance and Tackling Persistent Absence

### **Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence folder**

- Northumberland DA Funded Posts Structure
- DASSN Referral Form
- DASV Support Services in Northumberland
- The Impact of Domestic Abuse on Children and Young People – NSPCC
- What is Findaway

### **Exploitation folder**

- Appropriate Language in Relation to Child Exploitation
- Spot the Signs of Exploitation poster

**Neglect folder** – Learning from Case Reviews

**Police Information folder** – Prevention Through Education newsletter

**Prevent folder** – Prevent Training Providers

**Referral Information folder** – Draft Thresholds Document and Response Document from Catherine MacDonald

### **Safer Recruitment folder**

- ★ DBS Assurance
- ★ Guidance for Safer Working Practice
- ★ Guidance with changes highlighted

**School Nurse Contacts folder** – Text Your School Nurse poster

**Signs of Safety (SOS) folder** - 'How to' Guides folder full of support for using SOS

### **Training folder**

- ◆ Multi-agency Training Catalogue for April – July
- ◆ NSSP DASV Training

## 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.

### 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)** – Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> May 1.00 - 3.30 pm

**New DSL, Roles and Responsibilities Training (Day 2)** - Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> May 1.00 - 3.30 pm

**Governors Training** – Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> May 5.30 - 7.00 pm

**DSL Refresher Training** – Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> June 10.00 am - 12.00 noon

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.

**Safer Recruitment Training** - (Session 1) Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> May 1.00 pm - 4.00 pm

(Session 2) Friday 10<sup>th</sup> June 9.00 am - 1.30 pm

Cost - £75.00 per person, limited availability. **Participants must attend both sessions.**

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 see the flyer attached.*



## 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.