

## 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 59: 5<sup>th</sup> November 2021

## Model Northumberland Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy



The policy is available to DSLs to support you in updating your school's policy in line with the changes to KCSiE 2021. **As it is a requirement set out in Keeping Children Safe in Education please ensure that you have a current policy on your website.**

The policy is on the **DSLs in Schools and APs SharePoint site**, in the policies folder. If you need access to the SharePoint Site, please contact Justine Clephane – [justine.clephane@northumberland.gov.uk](mailto:justine.clephane@northumberland.gov.uk)

## Signs of Safety Benchmark Survey



**Please see the request below sent on behalf of Adele Wright, Head of Service (Children's Social Care)**

"We would appreciate your time to complete the Signs of Safety benchmark survey-- <https://forms.office.com/r/pmmjLDSVRv> The findings will be used to help us understand what is working well, and plan what supports we need to put in place to continue our success in embedding the model across the whole service"

## Childline Posters and Wallet Cards

# NSPCC Learning

NSPCC Childline has produced a new series of posters and wallet cards for schools. The new series is designed to encourage children to contact Childline if they need to talk.

There are several new designs for children of primary and secondary school age which can be downloaded by following the link below. Print versions are also available through the NSPCC online shop.

<https://learning.nspcc.org.uk/research-resources/childline-posters-wallet-cards>

The series includes

Nobody is Normal posters:

- Is it normal to feel anxious?
- Is it normal to hate my body?

Tough To Talk posters:

- Hating what you see
- Keeping it all in



## Think U Know Resources to share with Parents/Carers



Think U Know have produced a newsletter which schools can edit and share with parents and carers in primary settings. The template newsletter includes information and advice on topics such as watching videos, sharing pictures, online gaming and other information to support parents/carers to keep their children safe online. This information is particularly relevant as children are accessing the online world at a much younger age and are still engaging online for much longer periods of time as a result of lockdown. As the evenings become darker earlier, it's more likely that children will be communicating with their peers, and others, virtually.

There is a newsletter available for secondary schools and settings too.

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

There is also a short video available to share with secondary age pupils to help them understand what they might want to report to CEOP, explaining how to report to CEOP and what will happen once they've made a report. The video can be shared with secondary age pupils through face-to-face lessons and it's important to highlight that the CEOP Safety Centre is designed for children and young people who feel they have no one to talk to. With this in mind, you can use the introduction of the resource as an opportunity to explain your school's safeguarding processes and discuss the importance of identifying trusted adults who are there to safeguard the pupils. Follow this link to the video:



<https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/professionals/resources/reporting-to-ceop-video/>

## Commission on Young Lives Report



In recent training we have been reminding staff that exploitation continues to be a cause for concern, and that it is an area we must continue to consider when 'thinking safeguarding'.

Recent figures published by the Department for Education reveal 12,720 children assessed by children's social services in England between 1 April 2020 and 31 March 2021 were deemed to be at risk due to gang involvement. The figures also show there were 16,830 children where child sexual exploitation was a factor during their assessment and 2710 children where trafficking was a factor.

The overall statistics, in the DfE's annual Children in Need data, also reveal a fall in the number of children being referred to social services during the Covid pandemic lockdown. The figures show there was a 31% drop in referrals via schools during the periods when schools were closed to some children. This suggests some vulnerable children did drop out of the sight of teachers, who are often the first to spot the need for children's social services to assess a child.

The Commission on Young Lives, the independent year-long commission looking at how to develop a national plan to divert vulnerable children away from gangs and serious violence, chaired by former Children's Commissioner Anne Longfield, is warning that the number of children referred for gang involvement is likely to be the tip of the iceberg, with overall referrals falling over the last year.

Today's statistics show:

- There were 496,030 episodes of a child being referred to social services in 2020/21 compared to 522,990 in 2019/20, a fall of 5%.
- The number of times a school made a referral to social services fell from 117,010 in pre-Covid 2019/20 to 81,180 in 2020/21 when there were two school lockdowns - a drop of 31%.
- There were 12,720 children identified by children's social services as at risk due to involvement in gangs in 2020/21. This is 13% lower than pre-Covid 2019/20 (14,700) but still 16% higher than 2018/19 (10,960).

**Anne Longfield, Chair of the Commission on Young Lives and former Children's Commissioner for England, responding to the figures, said:**

"The number of children being referred to social services because of fears of gang exploitation is extremely troubling and likely only the tip of the iceberg. During a period when the country was in lockdown twice, thousands of vulnerable children were still being sucked into gangs, serious violence and crime or being sexually exploited.

## Incels

An up-to-date explanation of Incels, or men who identify as being 'involuntarily celibate', is contained in a new Incel folder on **DLSS in Schools and APs SharePoint site**. This information can be included in your safeguarding training in schools.



## Smoking, Drinking and Drug Use survey

The latest wave of the Government's Smoking, Drinking and Drug Use Among Young People in England (SDD) survey is taking place in secondary schools across the country. Findings shape services and regulation that help to support and protect young people. The 2021 study will also help to identify some of the ways in which the pandemic has affected 11-15 year olds' health behaviours.

Researchers at Ipsos MORI have been approaching schools this term to ask them to participate, and if you were contacted, we hope you were able to get involved. Participating schools will receive a report showing how their school's findings compare with national statistics on key measures of smoking, drinking and drug use. **You can find out more by visiting the Ipsos MORI [website](#) or by contacting Jamie Roberts on 080 8101 2066.**



## The Big Ask Report



Earlier this year, the Children's Commissioner asked all the children in England to complete a survey, to capture the voice of this generation. We now have the [results](#). Over half a million children responded - the largest survey of its kind in history - and at a landmark moment for young people growing up in this country. Children reported how the past year has affected them and what needs to happen now as we recover. Despite the sacrifices they have made, the majority of children say they are happy.

The Children's Commissioner commented *'This is not a 'snowflake' generation. Rather, it is a heroic generation.'*

Children were united in what they said across all identity groups, every part of the country and across all age groups.

### What this generation of children told us

The report was analysed and a report produced which sets out what children have said across six areas: family, community, health, school, work and children in care.

- Children care deeply about family – families of all kinds. They care about being part of happy homes. This is particularly important for vulnerable children.
- Children care deeply about community. They want to get outside and play. To have enough to do in their neighbourhoods. They want to feel safe and protected in online spaces.
- Children were united in showing a new consciousness of the importance of health and wellbeing. The pandemic has affected their wellbeing and now they want good mental and physical health to be a priority in their lives.

- Children are pleased to be back in school. As we recover, they have asked for support to make a success of the opportunities returned to them. This is especially important for children who found learning harder in lockdown.
- Children described ambitious plans for the world of work and their futures. Many of them want to do civic-minded jobs which help other people - to be part of the recovery from the pandemic. They want to be treated fairly as they choose from a variety of pathways towards a career.
- The same ambitions were true of children in care. They described both gratitude and frustration at the level of support they currently receive.

### What happens next to deliver for children

The Children's Commissioner will be visiting schools around the country and providing learning resources on The Big Ask so that children know that we have listened and that we are delivering for them. The full report is available using the link below

[www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/the-big-answer](http://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/the-big-answer)

## Supporting traumatised children through the Christmas storm (Beacon House)

For many children the second half of the autumn term is exciting as includes many festivities and family get-togethers. Other children can find the next few months really stressful, not least autistic children or children coping with trauma.

Beacon House Therapeutic Services and Trauma Team have a special interest in repairing the effects of trauma and attachment disruption. Amongst their many resources is one with ideas for coping with Christmas: 'The Christmas Storm: Surviving & Thriving At Christmas' which can be downloaded here: <https://beaconhouse.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/The-Christmas-Storm.pdf>



## Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Update



The most recent Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence newsletter has been 'filed' in the DASV folder on the DSL site. This edition contains important information on the services available in Northumberland.

## Staying safe online intensification



During October all schools received communication from Northumbria Police regarding increasing concerns about the sharing of sexual images online. The letter for parents and the posters showing sources of support are in the '**Sending nudes, getting naked online**' folder on the DSL site.

## Operation Payback



The following link, [Current funding opportunities - Northumbria PCC \(northumbria-pcc.gov.uk\)](http://Current%20funding%20opportunities%20-%20Northumbria%20PCC%20(northumbria-pcc.gov.uk)), should take you to an application form where organisations can apply for a share of £130 000 community payback funding being offered by the Police and Crime Commissioner, Kim McGuinness. We did check that schools were eligible and were told they were, but that everyone should read the guidance before making an application.

## Training Dates - upcoming dates

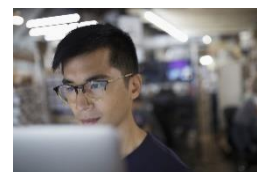
DSL Refresher	9 <sup>th</sup> November 21	13:00 - 15:00
New to DSL Part 1	10 <sup>th</sup> November	13:00 - 15:30
New to DSL Part 2	17 <sup>th</sup> November	13:00 - 15:30

### The theme for the locality briefings will be Peer on Peer Abuse

Locality Briefing	23 <sup>rd</sup> November 21	15:45 - 17:00
Locality Briefing	24 <sup>th</sup> November 21	15:45 - 17:00
Locality Briefing	25 <sup>th</sup> November 21	15:45 - 17:00

DSL Refresher	8 <sup>th</sup> December 21	13:00 - 15:00
DSL Refresher	11 <sup>th</sup> January 22	10:00 - 12:00
New to DSL Part 1	1 <sup>st</sup> February 22	13:00 - 15:30
New to DSL Part 2	8 <sup>th</sup> February 22	13:00 - 15:30

These sessions will be delivered virtually. **For all bookings please email [alyson.webb@northumberland.gov.uk](mailto:alyson.webb@northumberland.gov.uk). For any enquiries contact [Carol.Leckie@northumberland.gov.uk](mailto:Carol.Leckie@northumberland.gov.uk)**



## 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**

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](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 Safeguarding team or children educated other than at school 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.