

## 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 42: 19<sup>th</sup> June 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 26<sup>th</sup> June 2020.

## DfE Updates



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

Guidance for schools and colleges to support them keeping children safe, including online, during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak is regularly reviewed and is available in the [DSL's folder](#)

### Information: Keeping Children Safe in Education during the COVID-19 Pandemic

The DfE has announced that it; "... wants schools and colleges to be able to focus their efforts on responding to the Covid-19 pandemic. As such, the **2020 Keeping Children Safe in Education (KCSiE) consultation** which was suspended on 31 March 2020 **has been withdrawn.**'

The majority of the revisions have been withdrawn to be reconsidered for future updates in a full public consultation, the timing of which will be confirmed later this year. There are a small number of revisions that will still be made. These fall into three categories:

1. Those that reflect legislative changes and, as such, are essential to ensure the guidance remains accurate
2. Those that provide additional helpful support and information, such as on mental health and children in need
3. Important clarifications which will help the sector better understand and/or follow our guidance

The DfE published the revised KCSiE guidance for information on 17th June 2020, to come into force on 1 September 2020. We are currently reviewing all of our resources to ensure they are ready for September 1st, including the policy template.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/keeping-children-safe-in-education--2>

## Northumberland Schools Wider Opening



This week the number of children attending schools in Northumberland increased significantly, in part due to the return part time of Year 10 and 12. The figure attending exceeded 6000 pupils during the week.

As schools and alternative providers are working with an increasing number of young people it is important, from a safeguarding perspective, to remember the children that we are not seeing in school and to keep them on the radar of DSLs. There may be a range of reasons why these children are not accessing school at this point in time. We must remember to think about some of the less obvious reasons why the families of some eligible children are choosing not to send their children into schools.

## Important Message from Liz Morgan, the Northumberland Director of Public Health



Although the NHS Test and Trace is in place, it is likely that on some occasions, schools may hear about COVID 19 positive results for pupils or teachers (or indeed their families) before our local PHE Health Protection Team does. This is because the transfer of data from laboratories to Public Health England (PHE) is not usually immediate. If schools do hear about a positive case in a pupil or staff member, please continue to **contact PHE on 0300 303 8596 option 1**.

Schools are reminded that:

- For children or staff who become symptomatic at the school, the advice is that the staff member is sent home and the child isolated in a separate room until they can be collected. In both cases, arrangements should be made by the child's parent/guardian or the staff member to be tested. The current advice is that it is not necessary to send home any contacts of the person with symptoms until, or if, the test result is confirmed as positive. The majority of people with symptoms of COVID 19 who are tested have a negative test result so please resist pre-empting the outcome of the test. Sending other children or staff home at this stage is at odds with the current advice.
- If you are advised by a child's parents/carers or a staff member that they have developed symptoms whilst at home, please advise them to make arrangements to be tested. Again, it is not necessary to send home any contacts within the school until, or if, the test result is confirmed as positive.
- If you are advised that a child or staff member has tested positive for coronavirus, then please contact PHE (if they haven't already been in contact) on the number above, they will advise on the correct course of action in terms of identifying contacts and providing advice on self-isolation and cleaning. Again, schools are requested not to pre-empt the advice from PHE.
- In principle, a contact of a contact should not be considered to be a case. If, for instance, a parent of a child tests positive, that child will be required to self-isolate at home for 14 days. Children in the same class as the child are only contacts of a contact so should remain at school. Should the child develop symptoms, PHE will review the situation. If you are aware of a child or staff member who is symptomatic but who hasn't yet been tested, please contact the Council's Public Health Team at:  
[publichealthincidentalalerts@northumberland.gov.uk](mailto:publichealthincidentalalerts@northumberland.gov.uk).

Key workers who develop symptoms can access testing by going to:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-getting-tested#arrange-a-test-if-youre-an-essential-worker> .

For any pupils or family members who develop symptoms, they can access the NHS website for testing and advice. They should do this as soon as possible after developing symptoms.

## Schools' Safeguarding Team - DSL training



If you completed the Safeguarding Training Google Form or emailed Carol Leckie directly, you will now have received an offer of dates to access this training. For the foreseeable future all of our DSL training will be via Google Hangouts and the refresher courses will last two hours. If you have not completed the form and need DSL refresher training or a new DSL trained before the end of term, please complete the form or contact Carol directly.

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1H6tvbC7CShmxfwMoVAYQkxdIE9sSSLLsYZfb9IayPxA/edit>

## Keeping Children Safe Online



As we have mentioned in previous Safe To Learn briefings, it's more important than ever to support children and young people to stay safe online. Children and young people are accessing the virtual world more than ever before in an effort to engage with their peers and stay in touch with the world outside their home.

### Childnet Film competition 2020



Childnet has created an opportunity for children to design their own internet safety film. The Childnet Film Competition has now been running for 11 years and has shown off great talent and creativity. This year there are three categories, including one where children don't actually have to create the film itself:

- Solo category – Young people make their own film, with minimal support from an adult.
- Group category – Work with friends or family to make a film.
- Storyboard category – Create a short storyboard and script for a film.

The challenge is to create a positive, short online safety film or a storyboard with a script in response to this year's theme which is 'We want an internet where we're free to...'

By taking part in the solo and group film categories, young people will be able to create content which can be used to educate their peers. They will also have the opportunity to win specialist film equipment for their school and will have their film judged by the Childnet judging panel.

The deadline closes on Monday 22nd June 2020 at 5pm.

More information about the competition and tips on what makes a great film or storyboard here:

<https://www.childnet.com/resources/film-competition/2020>

## Online Safety videos from the e-safety Advisor



Many online safety videos simply present the same information in various different ways in an attempt to produce something original. The content is often very similar, but online safety specialist, Alan Mackenzie, has created four new videos that look deeper at topics that you may not have seen before. The content includes:

- empathy and criticism online
- captology
- YouTube moderation and
- online disinhibition

These topics will be particularly useful for those of you working with secondary aged young people.

You can find the videos here: <https://www.esafety-adviser.com/online-safety-videos/>

## Families Under Pressure



DSLs may be working with families who are really feeling the pressure of family life. It's a very stressful time, where the pressure of parenting may be getting some parents down, not only families you are supporting but colleagues too. *Families Under Pressure* is a resource that you may find helpful to pass on to colleagues and families. The resource offers simple tips and tricks, formulated by researchers and NHS mental health experts, which are backed by science and proven to work

with families. The Families Under Pressure resource can be accessed by following this link:

<https://maudsleycharity.org/familiesunderpressure/>

## Northumberland's Healthy Parental Relationships

<https://www.northumberland.gov.uk/healthyrelationships.aspx>

As well as the *Families Under Pressure* resource, the Healthy Parental Relationships page on the NCC website is also a very useful resource to refer families and colleagues to for support. This programme is referred to nationally as the Parental Conflict Programme and in recent DSL training we were surprised that not everyone was aware of the range of resources and support available.

The resources available include:

- **COVID-19 advice and tips for healthy relationships** from Relate
- **Advice on how to handle arguments** from Relate
- One Plus One
- **COVID-19 guidance for children and families** from Cafcass (for those co-parenting and with child arrangement agreements in place)
- **Co-Parent Hub, a free online resource for separated families linking together expertise** from across the family justice sector
- **Parenting during COVID: useful advice and downloadable resources** from Triple P

- Facebook: **Centre-for-Parent-and-Child-Support-CPCS**

There are a number of online courses for parents too:

#### **Me, You and Baby Too:**

- This is aimed at expectant or new parents, but this is just as helpful for those with older children, especially during COVID-19. We know that having a baby is one of the biggest life changes we can go through. Parents will be tired and stressed, and we may argue more.
- The videos help parents learn to argue better so that they can sort things out and move on together. The course teaches why stress should be a shared burden.
- It can also be accessed through the **baby buddy app** - see 'You and your partner'.

**Free online parenting course** from UK Charity Family Links, and hosted by Netmums:

- This is an eight-session email course that guides you through different parenting topics and situations, helping you become a more confident parent. Many of the tips and skills can be applied to all relationships.

## **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](mailto: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](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.