



# 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 12: June 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.**

### Updated Threshold of Need document

The updated thresholds document is due to be published shortly, having been updated after the consultation events with partner agencies, including schools. We are hoping to share the final document with headteachers at the headteachers conference on 20/6/17.

**Please don't miss the SECURITY UPDATE on the back page**

## Emotional Health and Wellbeing Briefings

**FAO PSHE coordinators:** In partnership with colleagues from Public Health and Northumbria Healthcare we will be delivering briefings in localities. The purpose of these sessions is:

- to update schools on the partnership Emotional Health and Wellbeing Transformation plan;
- to initiate discussions on the role of emotional health and wellbeing champions;
- to discuss opportunities for supporting the development of emotional health and wellbeing in the curriculum, including links to key resources;
- to introduce colleagues from partner agencies, who can describe their offer to school;
- to identify any gaps in support available to school and develop a plan for the way forward.

Dates of the sessions are:

- Monday 19th June 15:00 - 17:30 at Choppington Welfare Social Club, Choppington
- Thursday 22nd June 15:00 - 17:30 at The Fuse Media Centre, Prudhoe
- Tuesday 27th June 15:00 - 17:30 - Alnwick (venue to be confirmed)

All bookings to [Carol.Leckie@northumberland.gov.uk](mailto:Carol.Leckie@northumberland.gov.uk) On receipt of your booking we will send a full agenda and details of the venues.

**Useful resource:** [Take Ten Toolkit \(MHFA\)](https://mhfaengland.org/take-10-together-toolkit/Take_10_Together_at_School_print.pdf) - MHFA England have posters and leaflets on their website including ones aimed at schools. One poster gives tips and guidance on how to have a meaningful 10 minute conversation with a young person about their mental health. You can download it here: [https://mhfaengland.org/take-10-together-toolkit/Take\\_10\\_Together\\_at\\_School\\_print.pdf](https://mhfaengland.org/take-10-together-toolkit/Take_10_Together_at_School_print.pdf)

## Operation Encompass update

Supported by Northumbria Police and Northumberland County Council staff, Operation Encompass went live in Northumberland on 3rd April 2017. Prior to going live meetings were held to ensure that the appropriate model of notification was put in place to meet Northumberland needs, discussions were held to ensure appropriate levels of security could be assured in terms of email addresses and training across Northumberland was provided to Headteachers and whole school staff.

Between Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> and Friday 28<sup>th</sup> April there were 127 notifications, an average of 7 a day, with the majority of these being from the south east and central areas. The feedback from the first week, when the calls were received by the central admin team based at Foundry House, was very positive. Notifications from the police were being received well before 10am and schools have reflected that the information received has been extremely valuable, particularly in cases where they had no knowledge of any home issues.

A multi agency steering group has been established to monitor the implementation of Operation Encompass. This is chaired by Patrick Boyle (Senior Manager Social Care) and includes colleagues from health, the police, education, children's and adult social care, schools and the police. Initially the group will meet monthly to monitor the implementation and will then meet quarterly. We currently have high school representation on the steering group but if any primary or special school headteachers are interested in joining please let me know.

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)

## Statutory RSE and RE in schools

On 1<sup>st</sup> March 2017 the government made an announcement about the [introduction of statutory relationships education, relationships and sex education \(RSE\), and personal, social, health and economic education \(PSHE\) in schools](#). It is being introduced as an amendment to the Children and Social Work Act to introduce statutory:

- relationships education in primary schools
- relationships and sex education in secondary schools
- PSHE in all schools

Statutory guidance sets out what schools and local authorities must do to comply with the law. You should follow the guidance unless you have a very good reason not to. Some frequently asked questions are answered below:

### What does the new subject of 'relationships education' mean for primary schools?

There is no detail about topics in the primary legislation, but the [DfE Policy Statement](#) broadly references healthy relationships.

Schools will be mandated to address some topics (relationships) but may cover other topics in accordance with the needs of the school community. In the event that primary schools 'choose to teach sex education in an age-appropriate way, as they can now, they will be able to do so, but the right to withdraw from that will still apply, as it does in secondary schools'.

The consultation on the regulations and guidance will present an opportunity to influence the content of the topic in line with best practice.

### What is going to happen next?

The Department for Education will consult widely with the education and young people's sectors in order to determine the content of the regulations and statutory guidance; and on whether to introduce PSHE as the framework within which SRE is delivered

The Secretary of State will bring the regulations and guidance back to the House of Commons for its approval.

### What is the timeframe for these changes?

The Department for Education will draft regulations and guidance in Spring 2017 and put them out for consultation in Autumn 2017:

1. Regulations and final draft guidance will be presented in Parliament, and final statutory guidance will be published early in 2018
2. **Schools will be expected to deliver 'RSE' in secondary schools and 'RE' in Primary schools, in the academic year 2019/2020**

## Joint Targeted Area Inspections: NEGLECT

Before the half term holiday DSLs were all sent a briefing paper about Joint Targeted Area Inspections (JTAI) for children experiencing neglect. These inspections involve Ofsted, the Care Quality Commission, HMI Constabulary and HMI Probation. Previous themes were domestic violence and child sexual exploitation.

The briefing explains in detail what the JTAI is, the likelihood of Northumberland being involved in one, and a checklist for schools to prepare for such an eventuality. Please use the checklist and direct any queries you have to Carol Leckie.

Should Northumberland receive the inspection call we will of course contact you straight away with further details and guidance.

## SECURITY UPDATE

After the terrorist incidents in Manchester and London schools are considering the actions they need to take when they are planning school trips. The Health and Safety team at County Hall has added new information to the Evolve pages stating the following:

*At present there is no information from the Home Office asking people not to visit the Capital. As far as we/they are concerned it is business as normal. Unless otherwise advised, insurance cover remains in place. So it is important to keep checking to see the current threat status.*

*The advice following previous incidents remains the same, see national Guidance: 6K FAQs where you will also find links to other information. Once in London your tour guide will keep you informed of any changes to itinerary due to police concerns.*

*If parents do not want their children to attend you need to speak to someone from the tour provider to find out if there are any consequences for pulling out.*

It is not the local authority's role to tell schools to cancel or continue visits, however the Health and Safety team can advise in relation to risk assessments and the Evolve process.

Schools are responsible for informing parents about decisions to continue or cancel trips and must liaise with insurance companies re refunds if there are cancellations.

**The local authority will continue to liaise with Northumbria Police and will share all pertinent information with schools. DSLs are also advised to share the guidance sent to schools this week via Carol Leckie and from the county's Joint Engagement Group, chaired by Northumbria Police. The key messages are to:**

- to access latest guidance on the terrorist threat and remaining vigilant at [www.nactso.gov.uk](http://www.nactso.gov.uk)
- report suspicious activity to 0800 789 321 or dial 999
- for further information about suspicious behaviour to visit <http://act.campaign.gov.uk/>
- for non-urgent advice contact:
  - [Helena.barron.7094@northumbria.pnn.police.uk](mailto:Helena.barron.7094@northumbria.pnn.police.uk)
  - [Elizabeth.hall.7469@northumbria.pnn.police.uk](mailto:Elizabeth.hall.7469@northumbria.pnn.police.uk)
  - [mark.storey.7825@northumbria.pnn.police.uk](mailto:mark.storey.7825@northumbria.pnn.police.uk)
- and in the rare event of being involved in a weapons attack follow **RUN, HIDE, TELL** advice

A number of resources have been advertised to support schools and links are shown below:

### Royal College of Psychiatrists

<http://www.rcpsych.ac.uk/healthadvice/parentsandyouthinfo/parentscarers/worriesandanxieties.aspx>

**NHS Choices** <http://www.nhs.uk/Conditions/stress-anxiety-depression/Pages/anxiety-in-children.aspx>

**Young Minds** <https://youngminds.org.uk/find-help/conditions/anxiety/>

Resources which can be used to support schools to talk to children about the attacks are also available:

- Winston's Wish has published specific guidance on responding to children for affected by coverage of the attack
- Child Bereavement UK has information on supporting children after a frightening event
- Annalisa Barbieri has written a piece in the Guardian about talking to children about distressing events in the news
- BBC Newsround has advice for young people if they are upset by the news.

The Government advice on recognising the terror threat, which is currently at severe, is available at: [https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/recognising-the-terrorist-threat/recognising-the-terrorist-threat?mc\\_cid=1faed9f151&mc\\_eid=f10b3e61a9](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/recognising-the-terrorist-threat/recognising-the-terrorist-threat?mc_cid=1faed9f151&mc_eid=f10b3e61a9)