



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 13: July 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

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 *Inclusion and 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.

Fire Safety

In response to recent tragic events in London all schools and settings need to assess their own buildings and environments for fire safety and ensuring that they test all equipment, check for hazards and practice evacuation regularly.

Please follow [this link](#) to find a briefing notice from Northumberland Fire and Rescue Service giving general guidance on the principles of setting up a fire policy in your school/educational premises. The documents give contact details for further advice and guidance.

Preventing Bullying

In July 2017 the DfE updated the document [Preventing and Tackling Bullying: Advice for headteachers, staff and governing bodies](#) which you can access as a pdf to download/view at this link.

Keeping Children Safe in Education from September 2017

At a national conference on 12th July Michael Bell, DfE team leader of the safeguarding in schools team, confirmed that **there will be no update to KCSiE in September 2017** or the Ofsted safeguarding supplementary guidance.

Based on this information there will only be minor updates to Northumberland's safeguarding standards online audit (Section 175) and the template safeguarding policy. The policy template will be updated by September 4th and the audit by the middle of the month.

Michael Bell confirmed that there will be a consultation during the next academic year on possible changes to KCSiE and it is most likely that the significant changes will be in part 3 (safer recruitment) and part 4 (allegations of abuse made against teachers or other staff). With regard to local safeguarding boards, it is expected that within the next three years all local authorities will have agreed with their partners the model that their new boards will have.

At the conference delegates asked that clarity be given particularly to the role of multi academy trusts and the content of the single central register in the new guidance. Delegates also asked that the DfE and Ofsted consider how local authorities were used in the complaints procedure, sought clarity on when the disqualification by association advice would be updated (based on the consultation which was held) and there was a lengthy discussion on the relationship between schools and social care in the light of all of the changes happening nationally.

What was reassuring about the event and the feedback to Michael Bell was that comments and questions reflected what we have been hearing in Northumberland! We will keep you updated on developments and feedback through our Safe to Learn bulletins.

Training for Designated Safeguarding Leads (DSLs)

From September 2017 the Schools' Safeguarding and Wellbeing team will be responsible for all designated safeguarding lead training. The training for new DSLs has been extended to a full day to allow us to invite a colleague from social care to update us on key priorities. New DSLs also need to attend the full day NSCB multi agency training.

Please note the cost remains at £50 for the half day and £100 for the full day. If the school has an SLA with the Schools' Safeguarding and Wellbeing team then the cost of the training can be included as part of the package.

The training will be delivered by Carol Leckie, Schools' Safeguarding and Wellbeing team manager and the dates for 2017 - 2018 are:

DSL refresher 09:00 - 12:30 on Thursday 14th September

DSL Roles and responsibilities (for new DSLs) 09:00 - 15:30 on Tuesday 19th September

DSL refresher 09:00 - 12:30 on Tuesday 9th January

DSL Roles and responsibilities (for new DSLs) 09:00 - 15:30 on Wednesday 10th January

DSL refresher 09:00 - 12:30 on Tuesday 1st May

DSL Roles and responsibilities (for new DSLs) 09:00 - 15:30 On Wednesday 2nd May

All sessions will be held at West Hartford Fire Station. Booking will be through Learning Together once we get systems operating but in the short term please book directly with Carol.Leckie@northumberland.gov.uk

Emotional Health and Wellbeing

We have held a number of briefings with schools over the past month to introduce colleagues from health, public health and the voluntary sector and to gather schools' views on a plan to have an emotional health and wellbeing champion in each school with a network for information sharing.

The feedback has been very helpful, for example:

- *use the current DSL email network to share information as this is well established*
- *use the term mental health 'lead' rather than champion as this will ensure the role has status in school*
- *consider including head teachers in any multi agency steering group*
- *develop a database of resources to be shared with schools*
- *training needs to be available countywide, considering geography and availability of school staff*
- *support for parents, and at a bare minimum access to resources schools can give to parents*
- *schools to identify a lead governor for emotional health and wellbeing and provide training*

We also discussed waiting times and the variable quality of provision.

The Government has pledged to offer all schools mental health training by 2020

The Government's pledge to transform mental health services for young people has taken an important step forward, with staff across the country starting training to identify and respond to early signs of mental health problems among pupils.

The programme, backed in the first year by £200,000 in government funding will start with 1000 staff and extend in years 2 and 3 to cover every secondary school in England. They will receive practical advice on how to deal with issues such as depression and anxiety, suicide and psychosis, self-harm, and eating disorders.

As soon as we are made aware of how and when this will be delivered we will ensure that schools are informed.

The latest [young carers newsletter](#) is now available.

If you do not receive this directly remember to register on the community of interest.

LSCB Training Diary

Multi Agency Child Protection

(2nd full day all new DSLs have to complete)

18 Sept, 09.30-16.30

West Hartford Fire Station, Cramlington

Introduction to Attachment

20 Sept, 09.30-13.00

West Hartford Fire Station, Cramlington

Children who Display Sexually Harmful Behaviour

21 Sept, 09.30-16.30

West Hartford Fire Station, Cramlington

Physical Abuse

22 Sept, 09.30-12.30

Fuse, Prudhoe

Sexual Exploitation

25 Sept, 09.30-13.00

West Hartford Fire Station, Cramlington

Impact of Early Adversity

28 & 29 Sept, (2 day course) 09.30-16.30

West Hartford Fire Station, Cramlington

E Safety

6 Oct, 09.30-12.30

West Hartford Fire Station, Cramlington

Booking is via Learning Together

(ncc.learningpool.com)

For any queries please ring 01670 629033 or

emailducommunity@nhct.nhs.uk

Supporting children after a frightening event

Terrorist attacks as well as natural and man-made disasters are sadly, regular occurrences these days – in the last few months we have seen multiple attacks in the UK alone. When these events hit the news it is important to think about how and what we communicate with children and young people. Remember that all adults, especially teachers, carers and parents, are important role models – we need to take the lead.

Though we may not always see it first hand, especially as a parent, children and young people are learning from us all the time. This includes how we respond to distressing events in the news. Remember that when a major incident occurs it is broadcast repeatedly on news outlets and widely communicated in person and through the internet. Most children and young people will have heard it talked about, and in some instances, it will be a significant topic of conversation in the playground. It is appropriate and important to let children know that we are all likely to have an emotional reaction to a tragic event. We can show them that feeling sad, angry, confused or upset is normal after these events. However, we also want to reassure them and show them that we are able to cope with even the most difficult tragedies.

It is also important not to assume that children will see things in the same way as us, if we do, we could inadvertently project our fears onto them. It may be helpful to point out that the stories are in the news not only because they are shocking and sad, but also because they are rare and where appropriate, pointing out the police or other emergency services are acting to make things safer.

Several organisations listed below have resources on their websites aimed at teachers and other professionals, including school bereavement strategies and lesson plans about death and dying:

- The Childhood Bereavement Network website has a directory of local open access services (www.childhoodbereavementnetwork.org.uk/directory)
- There may be instances where you feel that you need to seek extra support – the recent attacks may be one of these instances. Winston's Wish has a National Helpline (08088 020 021) available to call between 9am and 5pm Monday – Friday, as well as an email support service available through our website (www.winstonswish.org.uk). We also offer training for schools. Winston's Wish also offers particular support to those bereaved through murder or manslaughter
Helpline: 08088 020 021 – open Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm E-mail: info@winstonswish.org.uk www.winstonswish.org.uk
- Child Bereavement UK Guidance, support and information for anyone caring for a bereaved child
Helpline: 0800 02 888 40 – open Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm Email: info@childbereavement.org.uk www.childbereavement.org.uk
- Cruse Support for the bereaved, including a network of local groups 0844 477 9400 – open Monday to Friday, 9.30am to 5pm Email: helpline@cruse.org.uk www.cruse.org.uk
- Child Death Helpline Helpline for anyone affected by the death of a child of any age 0800 282 986 www.childdeathhelpline.org.uk
- [The Compassionate Friends Support](http://www.tcf.org.uk) for bereaved parents who have experienced the death of a child of any age and from any cause. Phone: 0845 123 2304 E-mail: info@tcf.org.uk
- ChildLine Helpline for children to talk about anything that worries them 0800 1111 24 hours a day, every day www.childline.org.uk
- [SAMM – Support After Murder or Manslaughter](http://www.samm.org.uk) offers emotional support to those bereaved through murder or manslaughter, in this country or abroad. Phone: 08458 723440

LSCB Education Reference Group

The Education Reference sub-group of the LSCB had a new look for this academic year whereby group members decided the agenda for workshop-style meetings. At the three meetings held this year the chosen themes explored further included: thresholds of need, health and safeguarding, physical intervention and restraint, the new landscape for social care in Northumberland, adopting and monitoring a model safeguarding policy, the role of the Principal Social Worker and Early Help.

A big thank you to all of our guests who are all welcome to join us again next year - Cath McEvoy, Margaret Tench, Kay Vincent, Vanessa Easton, Jess Barclay Lambert and Adele Wright.

The final workshop of the year took place on 22nd June and explored the theme of health in safeguarding with guests from the CCG and Northumbria Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust.

Margaret Tench (Head of Quality and Commissioning and Designated Safeguarding Nurse for looked after children), works for the NHS Northumberland Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) and represents the CCG on the safeguarding board and a number of sub groups. Key areas where Margaret's work links with education are sexual exploitation where ensures that actions supporting vulnerable young people are taken forward.

Margaret chairs the sub group looking at serious case reviews and updated us on the 4 current cases. The key themes from these reviews, which will be shared with schools when they are published, are the role of fathers (particularly when they live separately from families and may not be registered with doctors in Northumberland), and how professionals record incidents. In terms of the latter theme Margaret gave an example of how a child's disclosure had been 'watered down' because professionals interpreted things or did not want to write down what the child said. This misinterpretation of the child's disclosure had meant that the case had not been managed properly and actions expedited in a timely manner.

Kay Vincent (Acting Clinical and Professional Lead- health visiting and school nursing) works for Northumbria Healthcare Trust and has a significant role in the delivery of the 0-19 Healthy Child Programme, a coordinated approach to support children and young people's health and wellbeing commissioned by Public Health. The programme will ensure that there is a seamless progression from health visitor to school nurses and there will be a focus on developing children's resilience, including emotional health and wellbeing. The Education and Skills service continues to engage with this work and will keep schools informed as the roll-out develops in the next academic year.

School nurses will continue to offer drop in's in high schools, to deliver the NCMP programme (checking weight at reception and year 6), and are introducing a health texting service for 11 – 18 year olds called CHAT. All referrals for school nurse support should continue to go to the locality Early Help hubs and Kay felt that this process was working very well. Kay did inform the group that the audiology tests carried out in reception will no longer take place as it is believed that any significant concerns are picked up at newborn checks or by health visitors.



It is important that all schools, academies, independent schools and faith schools from all special, first, primary, middle, secondary and high phases from every locality in Northumberland participate in the Education Reference sub-group. As well as keeping you informed and providing training on safeguarding themes which matter to you, it is also a priority of the LSCB to improve engagement with you all as a key partner in keeping children safe. Please look at the list of participants on the next page. If you would like to nominate an additional or different representative for your partnership, or you would like to get involved yourself, then please contact Carol Leckie asap.

Current membership: Education Reference Group

Name	School	Partnership
Jane Walker	Chair – Head of Inclusion, Education and Skills Service	NCC
Carol Leckie	Team Manager, Schools' Safeguarding and Wellbeing	NCC
Robin Harper-Coulson	LSCB Business Manager	NCC
Saira Park	Participation and Advocacy Officer	NCC
Helen Norris	Northumberland College	Northumberland College
Amanda Frankish	Hexham Middle School	Hexham
Andrew Hudson	Mickley First School	Prudhoe
Bryan Stewart	The King Edward VI School, Morpeth	Morpeth
Emma Beeston, Helen Brown	Eastlea Primary School	Cramlington
Gary Hilton	Berwick St Mary's C Of E First School	Berwick
Graeme Atkins	Hexham Middle School	Hexham
Heather Cape	Richard Coates C Of E Middle School	Ponteland
Jenny Smith	Swansfield Park First School	Alnwick
John Barnes	Astley Community High School	Seaton Valley
Jon Souter	Whytrig Community Middle School	Seaton Valley
Sally Hobson	Whitley Memorial Primary School	Bedlington
Neil Richmond	Morpeth Stobhillgate First School	Morpeth
Penny Derries	The Grove Special School	Berwick
Richard Bollands	Red Row First School	Coquet
Sandra Brown	Northumberland Church of England Academy, William Leech Campus	Ashington
Tina Henderson	Otterburn First School	Hayden Bridge
Lesley Poulter	St Benet Biscop Catholic Academy	Catholic p/ship
		Blyth

Next meeting

Date: Wednesday 4th October

Time: 9.00am-11.00am

Place: room CR1 at County Hall

Focus: emotional wellbeing and resilience
First Contact

A partnership representative
is needed for BLYTH,
recruiting now!

Please contact Carol Leckie
to join the group.