



# Safeguarding Newsletter

**THE SAFEGUARDING NEWSLETTER IS PUBLISHED BY THE EDUCATION SAFEGUARDING TEAM AND ISSUED TO SCHOOLS, EARLY YEARS PROVIDERS AND LOCAL AUTHORITY STAFF THREE TIMES EACH ACADEMIC YEAR**

**ISSUE NO. 62 – April 2017**

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## **Important Updates and Communication**

We have recently become aware that important updates from the team are not always received by or acted upon by the Designated Safeguarding Leads in schools and settings and are seeking your views on how we can improve our communication with you. In order to gather this information, we have asked a number of questions via Survey Monkey which have been sent by e-mail to all Designated Safeguarding Leads in the County. If you haven't already completed the survey, please could we ask you to take a look. Any comments would be greatly appreciated <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/F2MCQVZ>

It is vital that we are able to communicate changes in safeguarding policy and practice to ensure you are kept up to date and meet the requirements of revised statutory and non-statutory guidance. Safeguarding children can be a fast moving subject, as learning is developed or reinforced as a result of Serious Case Reviews taking place, both locally and nationally. As always, we are committed to ensuring you have the most up to date information, but need your help in making this as efficient as possible.

If you have any queries or wish to learn more about the Education Safeguarding Team then please follow the link to access contact details [Here](#)

# Blue Whale Game

We've had a deluge of queries in the last few weeks in relation to the so called 'Blue Whale Game' – a phenomenon which has been claimed to be responsible for a number of teenager's deaths in Russia. Following thorough research and consultation by various organisations it has been identified that the 'Blue Whale Game' is an example of a sensationalised fake news story and no reported cases [have been found to have a conclusive tie to the game](#). Whilst the content originated as a fake news story, the recent publicity around it is believed to have led to copycat behaviour amongst young people.

With this in mind, Rebecca Avery and Ashley Assiter have written a blog post with helpful advice in responding to such issues. <https://kentesafety.wordpress.com/2017/04/28/online-safety-alerts-think-before-you-scare/>

## Operation Encompass



### **New initiative to inform schools and early years settings of domestic abuse incidents**

Operation Encompass is a national initiative regarding the notification and sharing of information in respect of domestic abuse incidents within families.

### **What is Operation Encompass?**

Operation Encompass is a process by which Key Adults in schools and early years settings are informed that a child may be affected by domestic abuse. This will usually mean that a child has been in the household where an incident of domestic abuse has taken place. The initiative will initially be trialled in South Kent area and following this will be rolled out across the county in the next twelve months.

### **Principles:**

- When a police officer attends a domestic abuse incident where a child or young person has been in the house or exposed to the abuse, the officer will obtain details of the incident. This will include, if the child or young person is of relevant age, information relating to the schools or early years setting they attend.
- All domestic abuse records will be fully reviewed to ascertain if a child or young person was present during the incident. If so, the police will share information, in confidence, at the earliest opportunity with a Designated Safeguarding Lead at the school or setting the child attends.
- The Designated Safeguarding Lead, who will have been provided with Operation Encompass training by the police and Education Safeguarding Team, will record and retain the information they receive in a secure location as per schools/settings safeguarding protocols.

- The sharing of information between the police and schools will allow early intervention and/or support by a key adult. This support, which may be overt or silent, will assist the child to remain in school to continue learning in a safe and secure environment.

## Benefits

- One phone call will share important information which could be vital to improve the child or young person's life chances allowing professionals to appropriately respond to some of the warning signs that a child has been affected by a domestic abuse incident.

## Domestic Abuse Services

From 1 April 2017, domestic abuse services in Kent are changing. The IDVA service, and KCC contracts for refuges and floating support all end on 31 March, to be replaced by new area based integrated support services.

Attached is the service overview, referral pathway and referral form for professionals to refer clients in for support.

Any clients already in receipt of one of these services is being transferred to the new service and will not need to be re-referred.

For all referrals after 31 March 2017, please follow the attached referral routes in the link below [Domestic Abuse Support Referral pathway and flowchart \(PDF, 211.8 KB\)](#)  
[Domestic Abuse Referral form \(DOCX, 34.1 KB\)](#)

## Revised statutory definition of Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) – A reminder

This information has been previously shared via the schools e-Bulletin on the [21.2.17](#). Following a consultation last year the Department for Education has now issued a [new definition](#) of CSE and a new guide for practitioners.

*Child Sexual Exploitation is a form of child sexual abuse. It occurs where an individual or group takes advantage of an imbalance of power to coerce, manipulate or deceive a child or young person under the age of 18 into sexual activity (a) in exchange for something the victim needs or wants, and/or (b) for the financial advantage or increased status of the perpetrator or facilitator. The victim may have been sexually exploited even if the sexual activity appears consensual. Child Sexual Exploitation does not always involve physical contact; it can also occur through the use of technology.*

More information on CSE can be found on [Kelsi](#).

## The Early Years Foundation Stage 2017

The EYFS 2017 was implemented on 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2017 and contains some minor changes in relation to the safeguarding of children. Most notably, when considering appropriate training, Section 3.6 explicitly mentions being 'aware that a girl may have been subjected to (or is at risk of) female genital mutilation', linking to the national guidance [www.gov.uk/government/publications/female-genital-mutilation-guidelines](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/female-genital-mutilation-guidelines).

In addition, providers are advised that they "must have regard to" other national guidance

including Working Together to Safeguard Children 2015 <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/working-together-to-safeguard-children--2> and the Prevent duty guidance for England and Wales 2015 [www.gov.uk/government/publications/protecting-children-from-radicalisation-the-prevent-duty](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/protecting-children-from-radicalisation-the-prevent-duty).

The document also highlights that Keeping Children Safe in Education 2016 [www.gov.uk/government/publications/keeping-children-safe-in-education--2](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/keeping-children-safe-in-education--2) although statutory for schools, is considered to be helpful for other childcare providers. By way of a reminder, this was also recommendation in the EST September 2016 newsletter; *'The inspection framework follows the main principles of the updated KCSIE 2016, with which Early Years settings may not be familiar. It is recommended, therefore, that DSLs in these settings follow the links above to familiarise themselves with the expectations placed on DSLs within schools and colleges to ensure they are able to fully meet the requirements expected by Ofsted'*

**The exemplar Child Protection policy on KELSI has been updated to reflect these changes and schools and settings should also revise their policies**  
[http://www.kelsi.org.uk/data/assets/word\\_doc/0003/66009/Child-Protection-Exemplar-Policy-for-schools.doc](http://www.kelsi.org.uk/data/assets/word_doc/0003/66009/Child-Protection-Exemplar-Policy-for-schools.doc)

## **Peer on peer abuse and the wider school community**

Keeping Children Safe in Education 2016 asks us to have regard to several specific issues, including peer on peer abuse, gangs and sexual exploitation. These issues should be considered by staff not only in the school environment, but also in the wider community.

Peer on peer abuse can range from playground fights and bullying to sexualised behaviour, or in some cases, the targeting of vulnerable children by other children to extort money and goods. There is increasing evidence in some parts of the County of children being targeted and groomed to join gangs, sometimes by outsiders but also by fellow pupils.

Observation by school staff of what is happening in informal times such as playtime or lunchtime can be vital and observing what is happening around the wider school environment can be equally important. Staff also need to be aware of the security of the school boundary and who else may be observing or contacting your children or vulnerable parents. Staff who may have less formal contact with pupils or who may live and work in the same community for example midday meal supervisors, pastoral staff and teaching assistants can be vital in addressing these issues.

It is recommended that all staff, regardless of their role, are included in safeguarding training DSLs should also access relevant information about gangs and Child sexual exploitation which are available on the Education Safeguarding Team's Kelsi pages. It is particularly recommended that schools should make available leaflets from KSCB on CSE and the "advice to parents and carers on gangs" booklet, both of which can also be found on Kelsi.

<http://www.kelsi.org.uk/child-protection-and-safeguarding/safeguarding-policies-and-guidance>

## **Safeguarding Conference feedback**

An "annual update" conference for school DSLs was held on 9<sup>th</sup> March 2017 at Oakwood House Maidstone and was attended by 97 delegates from across the county, with feedback from the day being overwhelmingly positive.

The first speaker was Chris Hansen, a Senior Investigating Officer in the police who led the investigation into the tragic death of Daniel Pelka. This was a powerful and at times challenging

presentation but the vast majority of the feedback indicated that although difficult to hear, the information was necessary to help improve school safeguarding practice. A further presentation in the morning focussed on the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) service and concluded with updates on the Kent Young Carers service and the new KSCB policy on 'sexting', now known as YPSI, or Youth Produced Sexual Imagery.

The afternoon was themed around vulnerability and exploitation. Presentations were given by the multiagency Child Sexual Exploitation Team (Operation Willow), the county lead for Children Missing Education and Elective Home Education with a Detective Inspector from the East Kent Task Force on gang activity ending the day. Although it may be considered some of these issues relate mainly to secondary age pupils, themes emerging from this were relevant across all age ranges for example the targeting of vulnerable parents, including those with mental health and drug misuse issues.

A further conference will be held this academic year, with this becoming a regular training offer from the Education Safeguarding Team. If anyone has any thoughts on subjects they would find helpful to cover then please let us know.

## **Referrals to the Disclosure and Barring Service**

Schools and Early Years Providers must meet their responsibilities under the Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006, which includes a duty to make a referral to the Disclosure and Barring Service where a member of staff is dismissed (or would have been, had the person not left the setting first) because they have harmed a child or put a child at risk of harm. (DfE, 2017.p.19)

The Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) has three functions:

- i) Check a person's criminal record
- ii) Hold the list of barred people
- iii) Take referrals from employers who have dismissed an employee or was planning to dismiss someone but they resigned first from working in regulated activity because they have or may have harmed someone

### **What does this mean for you?**

All providers have a responsibility to inform the DBS of any actual or planned dismissals due to potential harm to another person or child. Failure to do so is an offence and carries a significant fine. Similarly as well as notifying the LADO, registered childcare providers are required to notify Ofsted of any allegations of serious harm or abuse by any person living, working or looking after children at the premises.

Providers should ensure that relevant policies and procedures reflect these duties and that employees understand and acknowledge *their* responsibilities and are fully aware of *your* responsibilities as an employer.

## **Online Safety Updates**

### **Filtering and Monitoring – Use of Tablets**

As per the statutory Keeping Children Safe in Education (KCSIE) 2016 guidance, schools are obligated to "ensure appropriate filters and appropriate monitoring systems are in place. Children should not be able to access harmful or inappropriate material from the school or colleges IT system". KCSIE 2016 highlights that when making these decisions "governing bodies and

proprietors should consider the age range of their pupils, the number of pupils, how often they access the IT system and the proportionality of costs vs risks". Schools will also need to balance this decision making with the need to "be careful that "overblocking" does not lead to unreasonable restrictions as to what children can be taught with regards to online teaching and safeguarding."

Recently there has been an increase in calls to the EST regarding inappropriate use of tablets, most notably, but not exclusively, iPads. Children are being left unsupervised and are then using the camera to take inappropriate (and in some cases potentially illegal) images or are bypassing filtering to access inappropriate content. In some cases schools are unaware of which pupil or member of staff has used a particular device. This could lead to serious safeguarding concerns not being identified, for example under responsibilities placed on schools under the Prevent Duty, if an iPad was used to search for or access extremism content. In many cases devices are not being checked until a considerable time after use, if at all.

In many cases schools do not appear to have risk assessed the use of tablets prior to purchasing them which can leave schools in a vulnerable position if a foreseeable risk occurs, such as pupils deliberately or accidentally being exposed to unsuitable content. DSLs and school leaders should have oversight of the monitoring and filtering that is in place within their setting and be able to discuss and explain why specific monitoring and filtering decisions were made.

Although not specific to the use of tablets, the UK Safer internet Centre has put together excellent guidance for schools and colleges about [appropriate filtering and monitoring](#). Schools may wish to approach their broadband/filtering provider to help them consider the range of tools available to them which may enable them to develop strategies to control and supervise the use of tablets.

Additional guidance is also available in the Online Safety Policy Guidance and template which is available on [Kelsi](#) or following a consultation with Ashley Assiter, e-Safety Development Officer and/or Rebecca Avery, Education Safeguarding Adviser (Online Protection).

## **Official Social Media Use – Updated guidance now available**

Following the previous newsletter, the "Using Social Media as an Establishment" guidance has now been updated. The core guidance document explores a range of frequently asked questions and contains supporting material to enable leaders to make informed decisions regarding safe and appropriate use of social media and support their staff if they are using social media professionally.

The guidance also contains the following resources:

- Template letters for parental engagement and awareness
- Template disclaimers for Social Media sites
- Tools to help leaders explore potential risks and document their decision making
- FAQ guides relating to help leaders consider safe use of popular social media websites (Facebook Pages, Facebook Groups, YouTube Channels and Twitter accounts).

These documents are all contained within the core guidance but are also available separately for ease of use. The full suite of documents are available on [Kelsi](#)

## **Responding to "Sexting" Incidents – Re-reminder for DSLs**

Please ensure that your school has downloaded a copy of the UKCCIS and KSCB guidance ,available on [Kelsi](#) regarding responding to youth produced sexual imagery aka "sexting" and that it is readily available for use.

## Online Safety – Staying up-to-Date!

We are frequently asked by schools how they can keep up-to-date with online safety, such as new policy changes and resources, as it moves so quickly! We would like to encourage all DSLs to visit and subscribe to the [Kent Online Safety blog](#) as we are using this communication channel to share new resources and local and national updates.

Recent blog posts have included:

- [Childline launches new 'For Me' app to support young people via their smartphone](#)
- [Childnet Film Competition 2017 now open!](#)
- [FREE PSHE Association-accredited resources regarding body image and self-esteem from Parent Zone and Dove](#)
- [New Home Office Resource – Indecent images of children: guidance for young people](#)

Please contact Ashley Assiter, e-Safety Development Officer and/or Rebecca Avery, Education Safeguarding Adviser (Online Protection) for further support, advice and guidance regarding Online Safety.

Please email [esafetyofficer@kent.gov.uk](mailto:esafetyofficer@kent.gov.uk)

Schools can also access a range of template, guidance and suggested materials via the online safety section on Kelsi: [www.kelsi.org.uk/support-for-children-and-young-people/child-protection-and-safeguarding/e-safety](http://www.kelsi.org.uk/support-for-children-and-young-people/child-protection-and-safeguarding/e-safety)

## CYPE – Education Safeguarding Team Contacts – 2017

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<b>Catherine Holmberg</b> Area Safeguarding Adviser (Education)	<b>Office: 03000 418503</b> Mobile: 07786 191 359 <a href="mailto:catherine.holmberg@kent.gov.uk">catherine.holmberg@kent.gov.uk</a>
<b>Katie Agnew</b> Safeguarding Admin Support (part-time)	
<b>SOUTH KENT – Ashford, Shepway, Dover</b> Kroner House, Eurogate Business Park, Ashford TN24 8XU	
<b>Peter Lewer</b> Area Safeguarding Adviser (Education)	<b>Office: 03000 415648</b> Mobile: 07917 602413 <a href="mailto:peter.lewer@kent.gov.uk">peter.lewer@kent.gov.uk</a>
<b>Lin Storton</b> Safeguarding Admin Support (part-time)	

**Central Duty: 03000 41 11 11**

Urgent child protection issue outside of office hours call the **Central Duty** Out of Hours  
Number: **03000 41 91 91**

**Early Help & Preventative Services:** [earlyhelp@kent.gov.uk](mailto:earlyhelp@kent.gov.uk)



or phone 03000 419222

## Local Authority Designated Officer Contacts

The LADO Team deal with **allegations against staff** who work with children either in education or the wider workforce

If you need to speak to the LADO Team regarding an **allegation** against a member of staff **please call any member of the LADO Team number**. Your details will be taken and passed to the intake officer. The same intake officer will support you through the process until the matter has been resolved. Please note that the team no longer works on an area basis.

<b>LADO Team contact number: 03000 410 888</b> Now it's just one number for the whole LADO Team covering Kent Local Authority <b>Email: <a href="mailto:kentchildrenslado@kent.gov.uk">kentchildrenslado@kent.gov.uk</a></b> <b>Or via secure: <a href="mailto:gcsxsafeguardingunit@kent.gcsx.gov.uk">gcsxsafeguardingunit@kent.gcsx.gov.uk</a></b>	
Kroner House Eurogate Business Park, Ashford TN24 8XU	
<b>Becky Cooper</b> LADO Team Manager (Tue/Wed/Thu/Fri)	
<b>Jinder Pal Kaur</b> LADO	<b>Yetunde Areeson</b> LADO
<b>Elaine Coutts</b> (Tues/Wed/Thur) LADO	
<b>Nicola Collis</b> LADO (Temporary)	
<b>Admin Officer Emma Cumberbatch</b> <b>Admin Officer Jane Davey</b>	

If a call is urgent i.e. **a child is in immediate danger**, and the call **cannot** go through to the officer on **Duty**, the call should go through to the **Central Referral Unit on: 03000 41 11 11**

Urgent child protection issue outside of office hours, Call the **Central Duty Out of Hours**  
Number: 03000 41 91 91