



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. 54 – SEPTEMBER 2014

INCLUDED IN THIS ISSUE

- Consultations
- Sexual abuse and exploitation
- Young Carers
- Ofsted and e-Safety: updates for September 2014
- Early Years Foundation Stage 2014
- Egress secure email system
- KSCB Lay Member vacancy
- ChildLine school's service
- A new service for children affected by parental offending and imprisonment
- Training - including Safer Recruitment – Important changes in arrangements

Consultations

As you will know, one of the primary responsibilities of the Education Safeguarding Team currently is to provide a consultation service to education providers on any aspect of safeguarding practice. Across the County over the last academic year these numbered 2,600 which is a drop in previous years' totals. As expected, the nature of consultation requests varied from general procedural type queries, for example policy matters to concerns for children's immediate welfare and safety.

We are currently in discussion with our specialist children's services colleagues in the Central Referral Unit (CRU) regarding an increase over recent months in the number of calls from schools and early years providers to CRU requesting a consultation. A large number of these requests for would be considered appropriate i.e. the caller needs advice as to whether the high level Tier 3 / 4 threshold for a referral to CSS has been met. In some cases however, the caller is already clear that a referral is necessary and the call to CRU serves only to confirm this or to seek advice about the need for consent in more complex cases. They have also received a number of calls relating to children's welfare that are either very clearly at the "early

help” stage or where an existing CAF plan is not being effective but this process has not been used to assess the impact of this and alternative actions.

We would wish to stress that if you are in doubt about how to respond to concerns for a child’s safety, either the Education Safeguarding Team or CRU should be contacted without delay. A call to CRU to share “urgent or grave” concerns prior to an Inter-agency referral form (IARF) being completed is also completely appropriate. We would also wish to remind you however that if in your professional judgement, the threshold for referral to CSS has been met you should complete an IARF clearly referencing your concerns to the Threshold matrix. Concerns for children at a lower level should be shared in the first instance with us in the EST or your local Early Help Team colleagues.

Sexual Abuse and exploitation

Over the summer holidays there has been news of the appalling extent of sexual abuse and exploitation in Rotherham the details of which have been widely covered in the press. One important point noted again, as it was in Rochdale, is the attitude of some professionals. Many of the victims were very troubled children who may have been hard to help. However, the report indicated that the children were let down by the adults who should have cared for and protected them.

As education professionals we are in the frontline of spotting this abuse.

There is guidance and an assessment toolkit published by the Kent Safeguarding Children Board http://www.kscb.org.uk/professionals/sexual_exploitation.aspx. Please take time to look at this.

Sexual abuse in British classrooms

The Independent newspaper has also recently published information relating to sexual assaults in schools. According to data released by police under the Freedom of Information Act at least 2,865 sex-crime reports were recorded by police between 2011 and 2013 and more than half of them were committed by other children,

The figures showed that more than 320 alleged rapes were reported in schools in the last three years, with the NSPCC saying that pupils’ easy access to online pornography has likely driven the surge in online child abuse.

Last year alone, there were at least 1,052 alleged sex offences reported in schools, of which 134 were reported as rape.

Statistics on rape and sex crime reports that took place in schools were released by 37 out of 46 UK police forces. Children accounted for more than 90 per cent of alleged abuse victims, but more than half of the claimed offences were also said to have been committed by children.

The Department of Education (DfE) has resisted calls to introduce mandatory reporting of abuse allegations but the Government is now facing renewed pressure to reform child safeguarding. Currently, Headteachers are urged to report allegations to child-protection experts, but there is no legal penalty if they choose not to.

Claire Lilley, of the NSPCC, said: “Schools must make sure they have adequate safeguarding procedures in place and that parents and teachers are able to recognise warning signs early so they can take swift action when required.

“However, the damaging behaviour of these children can be turned around if caught early. Prevention has to be the key.”

The National Association of Headteachers claimed the increase in child-abuse reports may reflect “alleged victims being more confident about making a disclosure”. A spokesperson said the work being done in schools to create a safe environment was “excellent”.

The Education Safeguards Team has also noted an increase in consultations regarding sexualised behaviour between children. This can vary from age appropriate experimentation to sexual assault. We would endorse the NSPCC view that early recognition and action can be the key to managing this behaviour. Further advice and materials are available from your local Area Safeguarding Adviser and KSCB has revised procedures for working with children who pose a risk to others.

Young Carers

Some work is currently being undertaken by the Local Authority regarding the needs of Young Carers. We would like to remind you of the role of schools in this.

The term “**Young Carer**” should be taken to include children and young people under 18 who provide regular and ongoing practical, personal care and/or emotional support to a family member who has a physical, learning or mental disability, or who misuses substances, or where there are issues of domestic violence.

A Young Carer becomes vulnerable when the level of care-giving and responsibility to the person in need of care becomes excessive or inappropriate for that child, risking impacting on his or her emotional or physical wellbeing or educational achievement and life chances. (The Children’s Society – Key Principles for Practice)

Not all Young Carers experience a negative impact as a result of their caring responsibilities but, particularly where other support is absent or limited, the Young Carer may be vulnerable to a range of negative effects. These include personal, social, health and education/employment.

Many Young Carers leave school with low grades or no qualifications (1 in 3 regularly miss school and/or have educational difficulties). Indicators such as school absence, not completing homework, or being tired and distracted are often misunderstood, resulting in them being negatively labelled which compounds social isolation and low self-confidence, which also impacts on access to further education or employment.

Schools should be mindful of an under identification of Young Carers and of their often complex needs. Every Young Carer is unique and each person’s ability to hide their responsibility can be vastly different, as can the willingness to trust and confide in professionals. Schools can often address the needs of Young Carers in-house and through the CAF process, however, they must also be mindful of possible significant harm and therefore follow their safeguarding procedures. When appropriate the school can seek an assessment from Children’s Specialist Services as most young carers will meet the definition of a child-in-need under the Children Act 1989.

Ofsted and e-Safety: updates for September 2014

In July 2014 Ofsted published the updated version of their School Inspection Framework ready for use in September 2014. Ofsted have significantly reduced the number of guidance documents which they publish for inspectors, schools and other stakeholders. This has resulted in there now being just three guidance documents: [The framework for school inspection](#); [School inspection handbook](#) and [Inspecting safeguarding in maintained schools and academies](#).

This means that although the section five briefing “Inspecting e-Safety” has now been removed from the Ofsted website, many elements of good e-Safety practice have now been embedded and included within the September 2014 school inspection handbook and the separate safeguarding briefing. Ofsted have assured that all education, early years and social care inspectors will receive regular and up-to-date e-Safety training to enable them to identify good and inadequate e-Safety practice as part of inspections within schools, colleges and other settings.

e-Safety practice should therefore be embedded throughout schools and settings safeguarding policies and procedures and is clearly identified as an issue for school leaders to consider and address. The e-Safety agenda has shifted towards enabling children and young people to manage risk, rather than filtering/blocking and therefore requires a comprehensive and embedded curriculum which is adapted specifically to the needs and requirements of pupils and the technology with which they are exposed too.

These changes, along with 'Keeping children safe in education' 2014 highlight the need for schools to consider how children will be taught about safeguarding, including online safety, through teaching and learning opportunities, as part of providing a broad and balanced curriculum. School leaders and designated persons must therefore ensure that their school promotes safe practice and challenges unsafe or concerning behaviours throughout the community and ensures that all members of staff receive up-to-date and appropriate safeguarding training, including online safety.

The e-Safety Officer will be providing more in depth content regarding these changes and implications for schools and school leaders on the e-Safety blog: <http://www.kentesafety.wordpress.com>

Specific centralised training is available to enable senior leaders, designated child protection coordinators (DCPC) and early years designated persons (EYDP) with their responsibilities regarding online safeguarding policy and practice and provide leads with an updated knowledge of resources and materials that are available to be used to support safe practice and deliver education approaches to staff, students and parents/carers. There is also a new course available as a half day basic entry course which is suitable as an introduction or refresher session for any member of staff within schools and early year's settings to raise awareness about online safeguarding. These courses can be booked through the CPD online website: <http://www.kentcpdonline.org.uk>

The Kent e-Safety guidance is available [here](#).

Kent schools and settings can contact the e-Safety Officer, Rebecca Avery, for advice and guidance regarding e-Safety practice. esafetyofficer@kent.gov.uk 01622 221018.

The Early Years Foundation Stage 2014

You will be aware from the April newsletter that the 2014 EYFS came into force on September 1st 2014 with a few changes to the Safeguarding and Welfare Requirements. Below is a link to an article, originally published in April 2014 in Nursery World magazine, which provides a helpful summary of the key changes to the whole document. We would ask designated staff to pay particular attention to Section 3.13 which stipulates the providers' responsibilities under the Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006, including a duty to make a referral to the Disclosure and Barring Service and Section 3.14, which outlines when employees may be disqualified from working at a setting.

<http://www.nurseryworld.co.uk/nursery-world/news/1143173/revised-eyfs-guide-changes>

If any further clarification is needed, please contact your Area Safeguarding Adviser.

Egress

Following a recent review of practice, it has become apparent that the Egress Switch method of sending secure information via e-mail is not being used regularly by our colleagues in Social Services. As a result, there has been a significant push to ensure all administrative staff in area based social services teams use their Egress accounts to send invitations to meetings including to child protection conferences, to schools and early years settings. It is vital that any replies to these invitations or any information which contains personal information relating to a child or their family is sent using the Egress method. This will ensure any personal data is encrypted and that your school or setting is meeting its data protection requirements.

A 'view only' account is free of charge and only has to be set up once. A user guide can be found on the contacts page of our website [here](#).

KSCB Lay Member vacancy

The Kent Safeguarding Children Board (KSCB) is looking to recruit a Kent resident and member of the local community to become a Lay Member of the Board.

This is a great opportunity to help us to ensure that all Kent agencies are safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people across the County.

The KSCB is the statutory mechanism for the safeguarding and protection of children in the County. It sets out how agencies should work together to safeguard children and monitors how well they are doing. The board is made up of senior professionals from partner agencies that are responsible for safeguarding children such as Kent County Council Specialist Children's Services, the Police, Schools and Health agencies. More information on the Board's work can be found on our website at www.KSCB.org.uk

We are ideally looking for someone who has knowledge and understanding of local child safety issues; can help us make better links with local community groups; and can challenge us to make our policies and procedures more accessible to the public.

You should be able to act as an independent but informed observer; able to ask questions which the professionals closely involved in the work might not think of asking and bring your understanding and perspective of the communities where you live.

Our Lay Member will operate as a full member of the Board, attending the six half day meetings per year. Our Lay Member will also participate in a small number of relevant Working Groups. Appointments will be for three years, and subject to annual review. We expect a commitment of at least ten days per year.

We will provide induction training for those appointed and other training opportunities available which will enable the position holder to increase skills and understanding of safeguarding issues. Out of pocket travelling expenses will be available to attend meetings if required.

Please note that applications will not be accepted from those living outside the local authority boundaries of Kent County Council or from those who currently work for an agency represented on the Board.

Successful candidates will be asked to apply for a Standard check from the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS). Further information on this process can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/disclosure-barring-service-check/overview>.

If you would like to have more details on how to apply for this challenging and rewarding role, please contact Mark Janaway, KSCB Programme and Performance Manager on 01622 694856 or mark.janaway@kent.gov.uk

Applications can be submitted to by way of a letter/e-mail outlining your reasons for applying for the post, together with a CV, covering your relevant knowledge and experience. These should be sent to Mark Janaway, Programme and Performance Manager, Room 2.60 Sessions House, County Hall, Maidstone, Kent, ME14 1XQ or mark.janaway@kent.gov.uk

The Job Description and Person Specification can be found on the 'What's New' section on the Home Page of the KSCB Website – www.kscb.org.uk.

The deadline for applications is **15th September 2014**, with interviews being held the week commencing **29th September 2014** at Sessions House, County Hall, Maidstone.

ChildLine school's service

We informed you of this free Service for Primary schools from ChildLine in the first Newsletter last year. The service is aimed at children aged 9 to 11 years and seeks to raise awareness of abuse and how to seek help and support. We are pleased to report that the service has been very successful. They are fully booked at the start of this term, but are taking bookings from October onwards. Full details of the service and how to access this are provided in the attached flyer

We have also been asked to let you know that the Service will be recruiting for more volunteers over the Autumn term to increase their current team to approximately 35 members. Many of the current volunteers have a background in Education or Safeguarding, and it is has proved very beneficial when they are able to bring an existing level of skill and experience to the role. If you think you might be interested in learning more about this, please contact your Area Safeguarding Adviser who can put you in touch with NSPCC Area Coordinator with responsibility for the Service.

A Service for children affected by parental offending and imprisonment

We have been asked to bring to your attention a national service "i-Hop", which is funded by the Department for Education and provides a one-stop information hub for professionals who work with children and families of offenders. There are an estimated 200,000 children of offenders in England and Wales and 7% of school-aged children will have experienced the imprisonment of their father. These children are far more likely to suffer poor outcomes (poverty, mental health, youth offending) than their peers.

i-HOP provides professionals (whether they are teachers, social workers, commissioners, health care workers, prison officers etc.) with a free online information hub providing all the up to date resources, strategies, services, policies, research and practice models to support work with these families. There is also a free helpline that professionals can access for support (**0808 802 2013**). A poster and two relevant briefings with more information for Education and Local Authority professionals about i-HOP can be accessed at www.i-hop.org.uk.

Training

The full years training programme for designated persons is now available via CPD online. This includes new e-Safety training courses comprising a full day sessions for Designated Safeguarding / SLT and a half day basic awareness course open to all staff.

Courses running in Term 1 which were advertised before the summer break are already filling up, so if you need to access training urgently please book as soon as possible.

All training courses have been fully updated with respect to the new guidance Keeping Children Safe in Education 2014 and to learning from serious case reviews involving education/professional issues.

Safer Recruitment Training – Important changes in arrangements

The DfE will no longer be responsible for approving and maintaining the Safer Recruitment training programme that was introduced following Sir Michael Bichard's enquiry into the Soham murders. This training has been mandatory in schools since January 2010 and continues to be an area that Ofsted scrutinise during section 5 Inspections.

The on-line training option will be withdrawn by the DfE on 30 September 2014 but the NSPCC will be taking over the administration of a revised on-line training package but it is currently unclear when this training will be accessible. In the meantime the Education Safeguarding Team, in partnership with the Schools Personnel Services will continue to offer approved Safer Recruitment Training based on the original materials that are being updated accordingly. We are also looking to develop a half day refresher course for those who have already undertaken the initial training and this is in response to requests from schools where Ofsted have been recommending a 5 yearly update in Safer Recruitment training. To book on to current KCC Safer Recruitment courses go to <http://cpdonline.kentcpdonline.org.uk> (Schools training courses). Any enquiries about this training please contact the Education Safeguarding Team or the Schools Personnel Service directly.

Other training: please see KSCB flyer on next page.

KENT SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN BOARD - ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2014

The Kent Safeguarding Children Board Annual Conference 2014 will be taking place as follows:

Date: Thursday 13th November 2014
Venue: Ashford International Hotel

Further details to be published, and when available, booking will be on the cpdonline website: <http://cpdonline.kentcpdonline.org.uk>

UNDERTAKING EFFECTIVE RETURN INTERVIEWS

For Children and Young People who go Missing

Children and young people who go missing from home can place themselves and others at risk.

Fortunately most children who go missing are returned home within a short period of time, but it is important that we try and understand the reasons for the missing episode and minimise the chances of it happening again.

In order for us to better understand and support children and young people who go missing, we will be offering every child who goes missing an Independent Return Interview. This is an opportunity for them to talk about their experience with someone away from their home situation.

Return interviews provide an opportunity to place the child's needs and experiences at the centre, giving them an opportunity to talk, to be listened to, and to have their feelings and experiences taken seriously. It is also an opportunity for us to learn more about why young people go missing.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

An interactive workshop developed in partnership with The Children's Society to explore best practice in Return Interviews

By the end of the training day you will be able to:

- *Identify and deal with any harm the child or young person has suffered either before they run away or while they are missing*
- *Adopt a consistent countywide approach to return interviews*
- *Understand and address the reasons for running away*
- *Help identify possible trends and hotspots to enable agencies to take proactive action to support other CYP*

CURRENT DATES:

More dates will follow
shortly please see
CPD online

Friday 12th September
Lullingstone Country Park, Eynesford
13:00—16:30 pm

Monday 29th September
St Augustine's, Westgate on Sea
9:30—13:00 pm

Tuesday 7th October
Singleton Centre, Ashford
9:30—13:00 pm

Wednesday 15th October
Oakwood House, Maidstone
9:30—13:00pm

TARGET AUDIENCE:

- Social Workers
- School and other Education staff
- Youth Workers
- Any frontline staff in regular contact with CYP
- Voluntary and Community Sector.

FACILITATORS:

Lesley Burnand
Partnership development Officer
Kent Safeguarding Children Board

Subject matter experts

EYPS – Safeguarding in Education Contacts – May 2014

Head Office – Sessions House Sessions House, County Hall, Maidstone ME14 1XQ		
Room 2.04	Kel Arthur Principal Officer (Safeguarding)	Office: 01622 694162 Mobile: 07786 191 359 kel.arthur@kent.gov.uk
	Rebecca Avery - e-Safety Officer	Office: 01622 221018 Mobile: 07789 968705 rebecca.avery@kent.gov.uk or for general enquiries: esafetyofficer@kent.gov.uk
	Kay Ashman Safeguarding Admin Assistant (part-time)	Office: 01622 696158 kay.ashman@kent.gov.uk

North Kent – Worrall House (Dartford, Gravesham, Sevenoaks) 30 Kings Hill Avenue, West Malling, ME19 4AE		
	Helen Windiate Area Safeguarding Adviser (Education)	Office: 03000 412445 Mobile: 07740 183798 helen.windiate@kent.gov.uk
	Linda Funnell Safeguarding Admin Support (part-time)	Office: 03000 411995 linda.funnell@kent.gov.uk

West Kent – Worrall House (Tonbridge & Malling, Tunbridge Wells, Maidstone). 30 Kings Hill Avenue, West Malling, ME19 4AE		
	Claire Ray Area Safeguarding Adviser (Education)	Office: 03000 412284 Mobile: 07920 108828 claire.ray@kent.gov.uk
	Linda Funnell Safeguarding Admin Support (part-time)	Office: 03000 411995 linda.funnell@kent.gov.uk

East Kent – Brook House (Swale, Canterbury, Thanet) Brook House, Reeves Way, Whitstable CT5 3SS		
	Mike O'Connell Area Safeguarding Adviser (Education)	Office: 01227 284636 Mobile: 07740 183807 mike.o'connell@kent.gov.uk
	Katie Agnew Safeguarding Admin Support (P/T)	Office: 01227 284636 katie.agnew@kent.gov.uk

South Kent – Kroner House (Ashford, Shepway, Dover) Kroner House, Eurogate Business Park, Ashford TN24 8XU		
	Peter Lewer Area Safeguarding Adviser (Education)	Office: 01233 898597 Mobile: 07917 602413 peter.lewer@kent.gov.uk
	Claudia Pryor Safeguarding Admin Support (P/T)	Office: 01233 898594 claudia.pryor@kent.gov.uk

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**