



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. 58 – JANUARY 2016

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Introduction: Safeguarding In Education

The Safeguarding Newsletter has historically been aimed at schools and early years settings but from this term we are looking to increase the circulation to include local authority staff within the EYPS Directorate. As a consequence we will in future be including safeguarding related items that are pertinent to the wider workforce and updating on activity or strands of work that might impact on the safe working practice of others.

Last term saw the Education Safeguarding Team involved in reviewing safeguarding policy and practice with an increasing number of Safeguarding Reviews being commissioned by schools, including those within the independent sector. Work has also been undertaken in reviewing the Education and Young People's Services Directorate's Safeguarding Policy Statement that outlines the responsibilities placed on all staff employed within the Directorate to safeguard children and promote their welfare as required under section 175 of the Education Act 2002. This Policy Statement can be found [here](#) and is a must read for all staff.

Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility and should be embedded in practice across the Directorate but in addition to the day to day requirement for staff across the disciplines to foster a culture of vigilance regarding signs and symptoms of abuse, all staff **must** be aware of the current safeguarding priorities and know how to respond when issues arise.

Current safeguarding priorities driven by central government include mandatory reporting of concerns relating to radicalization and female genital mutilation. In addition, child sexual exploitation and children missing education are key issues that all staff need to be aware of and be confident about responding appropriately.

These priorities are referenced in all training provided by the Education Safeguarding Team. In addition, a conference was held on 20 October 2015 for one hundred Headteachers and Designated Safeguarding Leads in schools and these issues were covered in detail – with specialist guest speakers helping to facilitate. An information sheet that references on line training, critical documents to aid risk assessment and referral processes is also provided [here](#).

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](#)

e-Safety Development Officer post

We are delighted to welcome Ashley Gorton to the Education Safeguarding team. She has taken up the new post of e-Safety Development Officer and will be supporting the work of Rebecca Avery, Education Safeguarding Adviser (Online Protection). Ashley's role will include the provision of training in addition to developing new resources and support for schools. Between January and July 2016, Ashley will be looking for a small number of schools to work with to consider and develop new resources regarding online safety education. If your school might be interested in supporting this then please email esafetyofficer@kent.gov.uk

DfE Consultation: Keeping Children Safe in Education

On 22 December 2015 the Department for Education launched a consultation on further proposed changes to this key guidance for schools and colleges. The results of the consultation and the Department's response will be published on Gov.uk in Spring 2016. Subject to Ministerial approval the revised guidance will be published in advance of its start date as part of the consultation response, in order to give schools and colleges time to consider and act upon any new requirements. The revised guidance will come into effect for the beginning of the new school year in September 2016. The proposed changes include:

- Changes to the “Summary” to reinforce the importance of Part One as a starting point for all staff in schools and colleges to read and **understand**;
- Increasing the focus on the importance of a child centred and coordinated approach to safeguarding;
- Emphasising further the role that individual staff play in safeguarding and the fact it is **everyone's** responsibility;
- Highlighting the importance of early help and how it sits in the wider safeguarding system;
- Highlighting the importance of data sharing;
- Clarification on the role of the designated safeguarding lead and cover for the role;
- Aligning and clarifying training requirements for the designated safeguarding lead and staff;
- Updating the inspection section to reflect the Ofsted framework; and
- A new section covering children with special educational needs and disabilities.
- Changes relating to online safety. This includes ensuring schools have appropriate filters and monitoring in place to prevent children from accessing harmful content via the school's IT systems and to help ensure that online safety concerns are spotted quickly.

The links to the consultation document and draft guidance are provided below and we would urge you to read these and contribute accordingly.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/keeping-children-safe-in-education-proposed-changes>

Supervision and support

Much of the guidance relating to safeguarding children makes reference to the need for staff across all agencies to be appropriately supported and supervised in the work they undertake. Working Together to Safeguard Children 2015 states

- Professionals should be given sufficient time, funding, supervision and support to fulfil their child welfare and safeguarding responsibilities effectively;
- Employers are responsible for ensuring that their staff are *competent to carry out their responsibilities* for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and creating an *environment where staff feel able to raise concerns and feel supported in their safeguarding role*;
- All professionals should have regular reviews of their own practice to ensure they improve over time.

Since 2014 the Early Years Foundation Stage guidance of 2014 has placed a responsibility on providers to provide supervision for staff.

- 3.21. Providers must put appropriate arrangements in place for the *supervision of staff* who have contact with children and families. *Effective supervision provides support, coaching and training for the practitioner and promotes the interests of children.* Supervision should foster a culture of *mutual support, teamwork and continuous improvement, which encourages the confidential discussion of sensitive issues.*

For staff in schools, this is less clear. Keeping Children Safe in Education does not specifically refer to supervision but references the need for support for staff.

- 37. Governing bodies and proprietors should appoint a member of staff of the school's or college's leadership team to the role of designated safeguarding lead. This should be explicit in the role-holder's job description ... *This person should have the appropriate authority and be given the time, funding, training, resources and support to provide advice and support to other staff on child welfare and child protection matters...*

As you will know, the Education Safeguarding Team has provided training and advice to staff with safeguarding responsibility in education settings for many years. This includes staff with specific pastoral roles in schools and settings e.g. Family Liaison Officers, Pastoral Managers and Pupil Support / Inclusion Managers in addition to Designated Safeguarding Leads. We are frequently asked about additional professional support for these staff members. The EST can provide training for schools in setting up supervision systems and developing supervisory skills. At present this is not part of our core training programme but we would be happy to develop this if there is sufficient demand. If you are interested in further information about supervision training and support or would like to discuss any aspect of this further please contact your Area Safeguarding Adviser.

The Prevent Duty

You will be aware from previous newsletters that all staff within schools and Early Years settings come under the scope of the Prevent Duty as defined by the Counter Terrorism and Security Act

2015. Some schools have been requesting further information on training available to staff and pupils on this subject. We would recommend all staff, including governors and committee members, complete the [NCALT training](#) Package. Queries relating to WRAP training (Workshop Raising Awareness of Prevent) which is a half day workshop run by Kent Police, should be directed to Toni Roullier: toni.roullier@kent.pnn.police.uk. In addition, following the success of the conference in October 2015, the Education Safeguarding Team is planning a further conference in the Spring for Designated Safeguarding Leads focussing on specific priorities under the Prevent Duty, FGM and CSE. The date and venue for this conference will be confirmed via CPD on line by the end of the month

Safer Internet Day 2016 – 9th February

Safer Internet Day 2016 will take place on the 9th February with the theme “Play your part for a better internet!” The UK Safer Internet Centre have announced the launch of the Safer Internet Day Education Packs for primary age children (3-11 years), secondary age children (11-19 years) and parents and carers.

The resources are designed to help schools deliver activities regarding keeping safe online for children, young people, parents and carers on Safer Internet Day 2016. This year the education packs aim to empower young people to celebrate diversity online to inspire a kind, respectful and inclusive internet, and help raise awareness about the issue of online hate. This is explored through posters, assembly presentations with scripts, drama activities, quick activities, full lesson plans and even films!

Schools can download the packs here: www.saferinternet.org.uk/safer-internet-day/2016/education-packs

Other Online Safety Updates

Feedback following the event for DSLs in October indicated that a number of delegates would like additional information and support to ensure they are able to fulfil requirements regarding online safety. To support DSLs there is currently a full day refresher course available which focuses on online safety and the roles and responsibilities of safeguarding leads to support this within schools.

DSLs are also encouraged to visit the Kent e-Safety blog at <https://kentesafety.wordpress.com/> to register to receive regular emails and updates when new both local and national resources and materials are published.

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

Emotional abuse within relationships is now illegal – New resources from Think U Know

Following an amendment to the Serious Crime Act on the 29th December 2015, coercive or controlling behaviour has now become a criminal offence, punishable with up to 5 years in prison. This news provides an excellent opportunity to discuss healthy and unhealthy relationships with young people.

Emotional abuse can include a pattern of threats, humiliation and intimidation, or behaviour such as stopping a partner socialising, controlling their social media accounts, surveillance through apps or dictating what they wear. Teenagers experiencing romantic relationships for the first time often find it hard to recognise these kinds of unhealthy behaviours in their own relationships. The Think U Know website has published an age-appropriate article titled '[Emotional abuse is now](#)

[illegal – but what is it?](#)’ in the 14+ News section at Thinkuknow.co.uk. The article reports on the change in the law, presents a brief case study and short video and signposts reader to further information and support. Schools could consider using this article not only to discuss controlling behaviour in relationships specifically, but as a topical springboard to discussion of wider issues around healthy and unhealthy relationships regarding Child Sexual Exploitation.

School can also find more useful resources at the Thinkuknow website. This includes articles for this age group on [how to spot abuse in relationships](#) and [potential exploitation in a relationship](#). The Think U Know video *Exploited* explores healthy and unhealthy behaviours within teenage relationships, and is supported by a complete resource pack for teachers, in the Teacher’s area of the Thinkuknow website. The video referenced in the emotional abuse article is produced by the ‘This is Abuse’ campaign for teenagers. Viewing this with a KS4 or 5 group would be a good starting point for discussing the nature of emotional abuse and additional films, resources and guidance on relationship abuse can be found at their [website](#).

Women’s Aid has also published a useful [guidance for parents](#) on how to recognise if their child is being controlled by their partner, helping talk about healthy behaviour in relationships, showing how to collect evidence of coercive control and where to go for help.

KSCB Inter-Agency Referral Form

The KSCB Policy and Procedures group has recently approved a revised version of the Inter-Agency Referral Form. School or settings looking to make a child in need or child protection referral to Children’s Specialist Services need to be using the updated form which can be accessed from [here](#)

Safeguarding in Education contact list next page

EYPS – Safeguarding in Education Contacts – December 2015

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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 or ring 03000 419222