



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

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Introduction: Safeguarding In Education

The previous Newsletter discussed the DfE Consultation on proposed changes to the statutory guidance *Keeping Children Safe in Education 2015*. The intention was for the new guidance to be published this term with a view to implementing changes by September 2016. This has now been delayed, possibly as a result of the White Paper, so as things stand currently we are no clearer about whether training for DSLs and whole staff groups will be require annual refreshers as proposed by the DFE. This does present a challenge when planning the training schedule for the next academic year, but we are looking to be creative in finding ways to add capacity to the programme so that we will be in a position to respond to additional demand as required. Details and dates should be available on CPD On-Line prior to Whitsun.

Changes in Personnel (Education Safeguarding Team)

This Term will see us saying goodbye to Helen Windiate (Area Safeguarding Adviser covering North Kent). Helen has been providing safeguarding support (including the LADO function for a number of years) and training to schools for almost 17 years. Her sound knowledge, experience and calm assurance will be missed by local authority colleagues and the many schools in Kent that she has worked with over the years. Helen is with us on a part-time basis until the end of term and we are actively seeking to appoint her replacement for the beginning of next term. In the meantime, a Duty Officer will be available to respond to any urgent matters in Helen's absence.

If you have any queries or wish to learn more about the Education Safeguarding Team then please use the contact details at the end of this newsletter.

Safeguarding and Visitors to Schools

It has recently come to our attention that there have been a number of issues relating to visitors to schools from the Local Authority and other statutory organisations, for example CAF/CASS and the Police. This is particularly in relation to unsupervised contact with children not being allowed unless the school has carried out its own DBS check or the visiting professional brings a copy of their DBS check with them. There have been occasions where this has led to children not feeling able to discuss personal issues, including those of a safeguarding nature, as there has been a member of staff from the school present during the meeting, despite the child requesting to be alone.

The current guidance issued by the Department for Education on the vetting of visitors is unclear and this had been brought to the attention of the DfE in the recent consultation document response by KCC. *Keeping Children Safe in Education 2015* currently includes 'visitors' to the school in section 50, which is about *Recruitment, Selection and Pre-employment vetting*. This is unfortunate and has led to confusion and misinterpretation by some schools. However, section 95 of the same guidance makes it very clear that *'Schools and colleges do not have the power to request DBS checks and barred list checks, or ask to see DBS certificates for visitors.'*

Advice issued in the previous guidance *Safeguarding Children and Safer Recruitment in Education* was far more prescriptive and still applies today for visiting professionals from the local authority. We are working to produce a clear policy statement on this for future reference that captures section 4.76 which helpfully stated that *'Individuals such as psychologists, nurses, dentists, centrally employed teachers and other public sector staff will have been checked by their employing organisationit is not necessary for schools or FE colleges to see their DRB/DBS disclosure as appropriate checks will have been carried out. Schools and colleges will however want to check identity when an individual arrives (and signs in) to ensure imposters do not gain access to children.'*

Finally, section 31 of *Keeping Children Safe in Education (2015)* outlines the schools' responsibilities for inter-agency working and allowing access to children by local authority personnel under safeguarding management responsibilities. In addition all schools may need to be reminded that the law states that schools have a "duty to co-operate" with child protection enquiries under Section 47(1) of the Children Act 1989. This would include the need for a child to be seen alone by a trained social worker and/or police officer if this is deemed to be the most appropriate course of action to gain an accurate account from the child. Similarly, the law states that the "welfare of the child is of paramount consideration" and "their wishes and feelings must be taken into account". On occasion an accurate representation of a child's wishes and feelings will only be possible if the child is able to speak to a worker on their own. Any registered Social Worker or police officer working on behalf of the Local Authority, in whatever capacity, must be thoroughly vetted in order for them to carry out their role. Similarly, social work assistants and early help practitioners who have regular contact with children are also legally required to have a DBS check carried out by the Local Authority. A KCC photographic identification card, which all staff visiting schools are expected to carry, is sufficient proof that the member of staff has a valid DBS check so further checks carried out by the school are not necessary. Similarly, a police Warrant Card or a CAF/CASS identity card are sufficient proof that a check has been completed. If you have any queries relating to this or related vetting issues then please contact your Area Safeguarding Adviser.

Reminder: Child Sexual Exploitation Team (CSET) and Operation Willow

The Child Sexual Exploitation Team (CSET) is a multi-agency team covering Kent and Medway made up of partners from Kent Police, Kent and Medway Specialist Children's Services, Education and Young People's Services and health services. Gerry O'Brien is the Education and Young Peoples Services representative on CSET.

Operation Willow is the awareness raising and intelligence gathering campaign linked to the Child Sexual Exploitation Team. For more information on Operation Willow and to download posters and resources visit <http://www.kelsi.org.uk/support-for-children-and-young-people/child-protection-and-safeguarding/cse/operation-willow>

Where a possible CSE concern has been identified, a CSE Intelligence form should be used to provide intelligence to the police in order to obtain a better understanding of local CSE concerns and issues. The form can be found at <http://www.kscb.org.uk/guidance/sexual-abuse-and-exploitation>

On completion the form should be submitted to the CSET via:
Cse.team.kent.and.medway@kent.pnn.police.uk .

To contact Operation Willow Call 101 and ask for Operation Willow or call the "Say Something" Helpline 116 000.

Zak and Lottie Training: Resources to Support Schools Responding to Child Sexual Exploitation and Radicalisation.

The [Centre for Child Protection at the University of Kent](#) are offering a range of training events for education staff including:

- 'Lottie: spot the signs of CSE' CPD workshop:
- 5 May (Canterbury), 9th June (Medway), 14th July (Canterbury)
- 'Zak: spot the signs of radicalisation' CPD Workshop:
- 3rd May (London), 7 June (Canterbury), 12 July (London)

Lottie is a simulation which features the 'boyfriend' style groomer, and tackles the complexities of a seemingly normal online relationship and provides unprecedented insight into perspectives of both groomer and victim of CSE.

Zak seeks to support education settings in complying with the mandatory Prevent Duty to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism. Zak training enables delegates to be able to identify children at risk of being drawn into terrorism, have confidence and knowledge to challenge extremist ideas and know how to refer children and young people for further help.

For more information access the [Centre for Child Protection's website](#)

Female Genital Mutilation - update

All education professionals should be aware that statutory guidance *Keeping Children Safe in Education 2015* refers specifically to schools duties in respect of female genital mutilation. To assist you in fulfilling this responsibility we want to update with recent developments.

The Kent Safeguarding Children Board has developed local protocols in draft form, based on the revised national guidance. All Staff need to be aware of their responsibilities in this regard particularly the **Statutory Duty** to report:

KSCB Appendix 4

Female Genital Mutilation Mandatory Reporting Duty from 31st October 2015 there is a new professional duty for staff working in health, education or social care to report cases of FGM in girls under 18 to the police using 101 service where:

- *A child under 18 discloses they have had FGM (genital piercing is Type 4 FGM)*
- *The professional observes a sign leading them to suspect the child/young person has had FGM*
- *The professional must report as soon as possible (ideally within 24 hours) and speak to their safeguarding lead.*

The duty to report is a personal duty to report FGM i.e. professional has accountability rather than their employing agency. Failure to comply with the duty will be managed through local disciplinary processes, with potential referral to the registrant's professional body for consideration of fitness to practice proceedings.

Please note: the duty does not apply to:

- *children thought to be at risk cases of FGM*
- *A woman discloses having FGM as a child*

In such cases local safeguarding procedures must be used.

In effect that means that any direct observation must be reported to the police. It is an individual duty i.e. the person who has the evidence reports directly, not their line manager or other personnel. In reality this will most likely apply to medical practitioners.

For schools and settings we are more likely to have concerns where risk needs to be considered, for example a request for extended holiday in a high risk area from a family whose child might fit the profile. Professional curiosity in such circumstances is essential and if the worker is unsure, a consultation should be had with the agency safeguarding lead as a referral to specialist children's services may be necessary – FGM is abuse and will be dealt with as a child protection matter.

National guidance covering the duty in detail can be found at:

www.gov.uk/government/publications/mandatory-reporting-of-female-genital-mutilation-procedural-information.

New national guidance on FGM was published in April 2016, which replaces the multi-agency practice guidance of 2014.

The link is below. We have found the new guidance much more user friendly and it contains some good practical advice e.g. about how to discuss such issues with families.(Annexe C)

www.gov.uk/government/publications/multi-agency-statutory-guidance-on-female-genital-mutilation

There is a specific section for schools and colleges annexe D2.11 which suggests:

As well as following relevant statutory guidance, schools, colleges and universities may also find it useful to:

- *Raise awareness of FGM among staff and pupils/students by*
- *displaying relevant materials;*
- *providing staff training;*
- *making materials such as books or DVDs available;*
- *including FGM in relevant parts of the school curriculum: PSHE in England (PSE in Wales); sex and relationship education; science; citizenship.*

With this in mind it also references resources e.g. the FGM toolkit. Which has a section for schools including lesson plans.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/female-genital-mutilation-resource-pack/female-genital-mutilation-resource-pack>

We would recommend schools download and make the following leaflet available “FGM:the facts”.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/female-genital-mutilation-leaflet>

As always if you have concerns or need further information contact your Area Safeguarding Adviser (Education).

Online Safety Updates

NSPCC Net Aware Update:

On Wednesday 23rd March, the NSPCC re-launched their excellent [Net Aware](#) guide. Net Aware is a simple guide to the social networks, sites and apps children use, based on parents’ experiences and the views of young people. Over 750 reviews from an O2/NSPCC parent panel and over 1720 young people reviewed 50 platforms against criteria such as reporting mechanisms, privacy and prevalence of inappropriate content. The NSPCC have also launched a Net Aware app, which will be available to download from iTunes and Google play stores.

The NSPCC hope that in providing parents with up-to-date information about the sites most commonly used by young people, parents and carers will be able talk to their children about staying safe on those platforms, as well as encouraging providers to take action to make their sites as safe as possible for children.

The Education Safeguarding Team would encourage schools and education settings to support the updated guide and help the NSPCC to reach as many parents and carers as possible. There are a number of ways schools and settings can help;

- Highlighting the updated Net Aware website and app to parents/carers via your website, email, newsletter, and other events as appropriate. <http://www.net-aware.org.uk>
- Talk about the Net Aware update on social media. Tweet or retweet about the Net Aware guide on social media using #NetAware either using your professional or official school accounts.

Childnet Film Competition 2016

Childnet love to celebrate the positive things that young people are doing online which is why each year they hold a film competition which showcases young people's creativity and understanding of e-Safety issues. The theme for 2016 is about how we can all make a positive difference online by supporting young people to 'shine online'.

Primary aged young people (7 – 11) are invited to create a 60 second film in response to the theme ['Shine Online' – Tell us how you're using the internet positively](#)

Secondary aged young people (11 – 18) are invited to create a 2 minute film in response to the theme ['Shine Online' – How can you make a positive difference online?](#)

For both age groups Childnet are looking for creative, imaginative films which reflect a positive and inspiring message. This might include comedy, animation, music, an advert, campaign or documentary. To celebrate the young people's amazing work, shortlisted finalists will be invited to a private screening at London's BFI where the winners in both categories will be revealed by the judges and will be awarded great prizes.

To find out more and download the resource packs for primary and secondary visit:

<http://www.childnet.com/resources/film-competition/2016>

Important dates

- **Competition closes:** Friday 13th June 2016
- **Finalists notified:** Monday 20th June 2016
- **Finalists' event:** Monday 18th July 2016

Make sure you visit [Childnet's blog](#) for updates as they will be sharing top tips for filmmakers, blogs from past winners and will be announcing more information about judges and the prizes that can be won for schools.

Anonymous Cyberbullying Concerns

The Education Safeguarding Adviser (Online Protection) has recently received an increase in consultations from schools relating to "anonymous" cyberbullying, whereby someone has set up an account on a social media site which is then used to harass others or post unkind comments.

Schools (and pupils and parents) need to be aware that it may not always be possible to identify who has set these accounts up unless the content being posted is criminal (e.g. credible threats). Schools should therefore request that pupils, parents and staff follow the schools anti-bullying policy in these cases. Schools should request access to the concerning content; either by requesting the victim provides screenshots or in some cases allowing pupils to log into their accounts.

In some cases, this approach may enable the DSL to identify who may be behind the concerning account, for example looking at locations, times and "friends" or "followers". Additional advice and guidance for DSLs when responding to any type of cyberbullying can be accessed via Kelsi and further support can be provided by the Education Safeguarding Adviser (Online Protection) and e-Safety Development Officer.

www.kelsi.org.uk/support-for-children-and-young-people/child-protection-and-safeguarding/e-safety/cyberbullying

Other Online Safety Updates

Feedback following training sessions for DSLs and Early Years Designated Safeguarding Leads has again indicated that a number of delegates would like additional information and support to ensure they are able to fulfil their safeguarding requirements regarding online safety. To support DSLs and EYDPs there is a full day course available which focuses on online safety for safeguarding leads.

DSLs are 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 and settings 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

Safeguarding Leads requiring advice, guidance, support and training can contact The Education Safeguarding Adviser (Online Protection) and e-Safety Development Officer.

Kent Safeguarding Children Board Leaflets

KSCB have produced a number of leaflets which may assist you in your work with young people and their families. Topics currently available are:

- **Self-Harm** for School & College Staff
- **Self-Harm** for Young People
- **Self-Harm** for Parents and Carers
- **When your Child is Missing** – a Guide for Parents and Carers
- **Thinking of Running Away?** – Advice for Young People
- **Child Sexual Exploitation** – a Guide for Parents and Carers
- **Is it Love?** – Information about CSE for young people

These leaflets are available to download from the KSCB website http://www.kscb.org.uk/search?mode=results&queries_exclude_query=no&queries_keyword_query=leaflets and are also available as printed versions. If you would like to receive hard copies, please email your request to KSCB@kent.gov.uk

In addition there are information leaflets available on **Trafficking**, together with a new referral form for referrals to the National Referral Mechanism (NRM). The leaflets and referral form are available to download from the KSCB www.kscb.org.uk/guidance/trafficking. They are available in several languages. If you cannot find the language you require please email KSCB@kent.gov.uk with your request. Any feedback and comments would also be welcome on these or suggestions for other leaflets.

Additional information and useful links

NSPCC

- The Schools Service: <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/services-and-resources/working-with-schools/childline-school-service>
- Support for Parents/Carers: <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/preventing-abuse/keeping-children-safe>

- Share Aware (including free resources/lesson plans for teachers):
<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/shareaware>
- The Underwear Rule (including free resources/lesson plans for teachers):
<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/preventing-abuse/keeping-children-safe/underwear-rule>

NSPCC contact details for Kent and Medway: Sarah Walker, Area Co-ordinator | NSPCC Schools Service| Kent and Medway: 0782 507 3988 sarah.walker@nspcc.org.uk

The NSPCC Whistleblowing Advice Line can be reached on 0800 028 0285 for more information go to their website:

[https://www.nspcc.org.uk/fighting-for-childhood/news-opinion/new-whistleblowing-advice-line-professionals?utm_source=google&utm_medium=ppc&utm_campaign=BND_-_Whistleblowing_Helpline_-_Exact\]&gclid=CPGKgajirswCFUQwsgodrJkNiA&gclid=ds](https://www.nspcc.org.uk/fighting-for-childhood/news-opinion/new-whistleblowing-advice-line-professionals?utm_source=google&utm_medium=ppc&utm_campaign=BND_-_Whistleblowing_Helpline_-_Exact]&gclid=CPGKgajirswCFUQwsgodrJkNiA&gclid=ds)

A report has been brought to our attention regarding 'Hungry Pupils', which may be of interest to schools. What the article does not cover is the fact that if a child is arriving at school hungry there may be a safeguarding issue and we would remind you that as with all welfare concerns for children there will be a need to consider the reason for this.

http://www.theguardian.com/education/2016/jan/15/hungry-pupils-breakfast-teachers-survey?CMP=share_btn_tw

Safeguarding in Education contact list next page

EYPS – Safeguarding in Education Contacts – April 2016

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Lin Storton Safeguarding Admin Support (P/T)	Office: 03000 415648 linda.storton@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**
Early Help & Preventative Services:
earlyhelp@kent.gov.uk or ring 03000 419222