

North Tyneside Schools Designated Safeguarding Lead Spring term newsletter 2021



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Welcome to the latest edition of the North Tyneside School's DSL newsletter. This termly newsletter will supplement the termly DSL briefing and subsequent e-bulletin. If you would like any earlier copies or notes from previous DSL briefings, please email lisa.wardingham@northtyneside.gov.uk. For further information, please also see the Safeguarding page on NTEYSIS website available here <https://nteysis.org.uk/safeguarding/>

LOCAL UPDATES

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RE-OPENING SCHOOLS-WELFARE CONCERNS ABOUT CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

As lockdown eases and increased numbers of pupils return to school, there is likely to be another 'spike' in concerns about children and young people's welfare as there was last year. Many children have been out of sight of professionals for some time and as contact increases with schools and wider services, issues may emerge from their experience of lockdown. Cases of neglect, physical abuse, domestic abuse, online safety issues, exploitation and mental health issues increased last year, and organisations should be alert to this being a possibility again.

The Professionals' Advice line continues to offer support, helping you consider the best next steps for a child or young person you have concerns about, but where there is no obvious safeguarding need. The service is manned by a qualified Social Worker, who can be contacted by calling 0191 643 5555.

For all other enquiries, or to make a referral, please phone the Front Door on 0345 2000 109. The MASH team ask that the Signs of Safety Agency Form is completed and submitted, following the phone conversation during which a referral has been made. The form is available below.

<https://my.northtyneside.gov.uk/sites/default/files/web-page-related-files/SOS%20Agency%20Referral%20v4.docx>

MULTI-AGENCY SAFEGUARDING HUB (MASH) UPDATES

Are you receiving written outcomes of your child protection referrals?

If a referral comes through to Children's Services from a professional, *the outcome of decision-making should now be shared with the referrer, via letter.*

Please contact Katie Kershaw to offer any feedback that she can share with the MASH team to find out if this is being fully implemented as it should be.

katie.kershaw@northtyneside.gov.uk

CONSENT-A REMINDER

The MASH team would like to remind all professionals as to the necessity for consent wherever appropriate when making a referral into the Front Door as they continue to receive contacts where consent has not been sought.



Unless the immediate safety of a child requires it, the MASH will not progress a contact without agreement to do so and this is the responsibility of the person referring.

For further information on how cases will be handled and circumstances where consent does not need to be sought, please see the MASH Consent Policy available here [Consent Policy 2021](#).

Child Protection Policy Addendum March 2021

Child Protection Policy Addendum

The DfE School's Coronavirus (Covid-19) Operational Guidance [available here](#) outlines that schools should consider revising the child protection policy to reflect the return of more pupils at this time.

Throughout the pandemic, it has been suggested that an addendum to the child protection policy summarising key coronavirus related changes may be more effective than re-writing/re-issuing the whole policy. Several versions have been shared with schools over the last year. The latest version has a slight change of wording to reflect that,

- most children will now be in school rather than at home,
- training is now readily available for DSLs/DDSs and should be attended as before, every two years,
- direction and advice are available regarding remote education and,
- support should be offered to families where there are concerns about the re-opening of schools that may impact on pupil attendance.

A copy of the most recent March 2021 was shared with DSLs on 5th March and is also available here [March 2021 - NT Addendum to CP policy re Covid 19](#)

Missing, Slavery, Exploited and Trafficked (MSET)

North Tyneside have clear and robust multi-agency procedures in place for Missing, Slavery, Exploited and Trafficked (MSET) issues. These processes have recently been reviewed and refreshed so that children and young people who are at medium or high risk of exploitation, will be provided with a coordinated response formulated across the MSET partners to consider the worries and how best to disrupt and prevent exploitation and violence.

An invite to the MSET launch was shared with DSLs last month but if you could not make the sessions, a summary of the updated procedures will be provided at the next DSL briefing in June.

In the meantime, if you would like further information to raise awareness of these issues, a poster and leaflet are available to download, print and share by clicking the links below.

[MISSING, SLAVERY, EXPLOITED, TRAFFICKED KNOW THE SIGNS - Leaflet](#)

[MISSING, SLAVERY, EXPLOITED, TRAFFICKED KNOW THE SIGNS - Poster](#)



New support service for families living with Domestic Abuse

Harbour, North Tyneside's Domestic Abuse Service has a new way of supporting families living with domestic abuse called *Domestic Abuse Assertive Triage*. This model of work offers more intensive and if needed, daily support and interventions to families living with domestic abuse and other additional complex needs.

Harbour will work intensely with the client for an 8-week period and gain relevant information to identify any other services which can offer support to the client. After a 6-week review, if domestic abuse remains the primary and main concern, the client will be allocated to the Assertive Worker for continued longer-term support.

The Assertive Worker will continue to work with the client to address their safety needs, support in attending appointments and help with seeking suitable long-term accommodation as well as therapeutic support and building the client's confidence to lead their new way of life.

Support will also be offered to any children living in those complex households. This is to ensure that children can explore their feelings in a safe way with the Children and Young People's Worker from Harbour.

Please contact Shona Sloanes or Sophie Timney for further information or to make a referral. Referrals and enquires can be made via email or telephone.

Shona Sloanes Mob: 07789962589

E: shonasloanes@myharbour.org.uk

Sophie Timney Mob: 07721213797

E: sophietimney@myharbour.org.uk

Once a referral is accepted, it will be allocated to the Triage Assertive Worker to undertake a risk assessment and support plan. The worker will provide immediate response to any safeguarding issues such as MARAC referrals or accommodation needs.

Sexualised Online Bullying (Childnet)

Childnet have launched a new toolkit to help teachers talk about problematic online sexual behaviour with 9-12 year olds.



Called 'Just a Joke', the toolkit includes a range of resources to help educators explore problematic online sexual behaviour, including: three lesson plans, an interactive quiz and a teachers' guide.

You can find the toolkit here: <https://www.childnet.com/resources/just-a-joke>

NEPACS-SUPPORTING YOUNG PEOPLE WITH A FAMILY MEMBER IN PRISON

As 'Working Together to Safeguard Children' has now included children with a parent/ carer in custody to their list of 'vulnerabilities', it is a pertinent time to remind ourselves about the support offered from NEPACS.

NEPACS is an organisation for young people in the North East who are experiencing difficulties due to the impact of having a parent, sibling or grandparent in prison.

Children and young people who have a family member in prison undergo a 'hidden sentence' and so the need to reach out to those who would benefit from 1:1 support is vitally important. A key aspect of NEPACS is to recognise the impact of parental imprisonment and the negative consequences this can have on children and young person in the future if support is not provided from an early stage.

Referring a young person to NEPACS: A young person must be aged 8—17 years old to access the 1:1 service. To request a referral form, please contact the youth project coordinator on the details below:

Email: youth@nepacs.co.uk Mobile: 07964 959959

NEPACS is funded by the Northumbria Police and Crime Commissioner's supporting victims fund to work with young people across both Tyne and Wear and Northumberland. The project can provide therapeutic support for a young person to help them express how they are feeling about their experiences, linked to the imprisonment of a family member. The sessions also provide reflective activities and the chance to answer questions to help reduce feelings of anxiety and uncertainty.

Abdul Amin, the Youth Support Worker will be joining the next DSL briefing, but in the meantime, he was keen to share contact information should you become aware of a child or young person who has a family member in prison.

Find out more at www.nepacs.co.uk

nepacs

Harmful online challenges and online hoaxes

The DfE, UK Council for Internet Safety Education and the Samaritans have developed advice for schools to support their approach to harmful online challenges and online hoaxes.

A hoax is a deliberate lie designed to seem truthful, and online challenges generally involve users recording themselves taking a challenge, and then distributing the video through social media channels, inspiring or daring others to repeat the challenge.

The advice [available here](#), outlines how schools can prepare for the next harmful online challenge and/or hoax and what to do when a challenge or hoax might be circulating between children and young people. It looks at what information should be shared with children, young people, parents, carers and staff and offers lots of links to further support.

S11 audits

A reminder of the S11 audit update from North Tyneside Safeguarding Children Partnership (NTSCP)

Due to the current pressures schools are currently managing in relation to the pandemic, it is proposed that the S11 self-assessment audit which was going to commence this term, is postponed.

This was discussed at the Head Teacher Briefing on 29 January 21. The proposal will be discussed with the Safeguarding Executive Group who have overall responsibility for the S11 process, and their comments and revised timetable will be shared with you.



This update was also sent to all DSLs/DDSLs via email on 5th Feb 2021



CRIME AND VIOLENCE PREVENTION AND REDUCTION

Northumbria's Police and Crime Commissioner Office has developed a Violence Reduction Unit (VRU) which works to reduce violence through preventive strategies such as training, education and support. They have uploaded many of their resources and service information to the [Northumbria Police public website](#).

The VRU also have Community Safety Advisors who are happy to deliver lessons in school. If you would prefer to download materials for your own use, the teaching resources can be [found here](#).

One other useful function of this site is the page on [Reporting Incidents](#). Many of us may think about reporting to the police as something we would do in an emergency. However, the website also encourages anonymous reporting, reporting of activity and intelligence where a name is not necessarily known and digital reporting e.g. where a dashcam captures an incident that has occurred.

ONLINE SAFETY BRIEFINGS FOR PARENTS, CARERS AND PROFESSIONALS – 18TH MARCH 2021

As part of the 'SAY SOMETHING IF YOU SEE SOMETHING' campaign to stop Child Exploitation, South Tyneside Safeguarding Children and Adults Partnership are running awareness sessions on 18th March for parents, carers and professionals. They have extended their invite to other Local Authorities. Please email STSCAP@southtyneside.gov.uk to obtain session access links.

- **Engaging Parents 10am – Google Meet**
To raise awareness of issues surrounding access to technology for our young people, risks and risky behaviour, the parental role and resources.
- **Sexual Predation, Child Exploitation and Online Grooming**
Accessible at any time from 18th March 2021 onwards. A one-hour session with a feature on predators and online grooming. WARNING – the content of this session may be upsetting for some.
- **Protecting your Reputation 1.30pm -Google Meet**
To raise awareness of issues surrounding access to technology for our young people, the role of the school and the individual, policy, practice and resources.

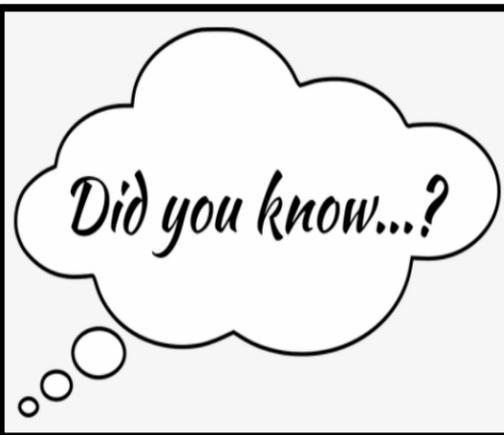
SAFER SCHOOLS APP

As a Local Authority, we have access to a free Safeguarding in School App courtesy of our main insurers Zurich Municipal developed by 'Ineqe' which is run by the former chief executive of CEOP, Jim Gamble.

We know that screen time and internet access has increased immensely in recent times. The positive power of technology will help keep our community digitally connected but we also know that more time spent online by our children, can lead to greater levels of risk. There have been warnings about this increased risk from sources ranging from government, national and local law enforcement agencies to leading children's charities.

To help schools to support children and young people, Zurich is making available the **Safer Schools App to North Tyneside Schools. There is no cost attached to this app or the in-app resources** which provides access to advice, guidance and CPD/training, with a specific focus on making children and young people safer in the online world.

The Safer School team will be joining the DSL briefing on 8th June to give a taster of the app and all its functions and features.



The dark web refers to an area of the internet that can only be accessed through particular software. This means networks are encrypted repeatedly, making a user anonymous. 6% of internet information is on the dark web. Accessing the dark web is not illegal, but due to its anonymity it is often used for criminal purposes. Many illegal activities and transactions take place within the dark web. The Children's Society have produced a quick, easy to understand guide about the dark web and young people's use of it [available here](#).

APVA or CPVA?

'Adolescent' or 'Child' to Parent Violence and Abuse

Incidents of child to parent violence has been increasing for some time now and services have been involved in raising awareness of these issues by providing training, tools and programmes to support families.

To ensure a consistent approach to the issue, it has been agreed across all Northumbria services (e.g. for police, health, domestic abuse services etc.) that Adolescent to Parent Violence and Abuse should now be referred to as

Child to Parent Violence and Abuse (CPVA)

The definition of Child to Parent Violence and Abuse is:

"Any harmful act or behaviour by a child aged 10-18yrs, whether physical, psychological, emotional or financial towards a parent/guardian or carer".

CPVA training can be [accessed here](#)

Next DSL briefing

Tue 8th June
9.30-12.30

BOOK HERE

Training opportunities

Child protection training for school staff

Training notifications have been sent to all schools due their three yearly whole school child protection training up to the end of September 2021. This can be delivered as 'face to face' training, live streaming or e-learning.

Those who need to attend a child protection training session outside of their three year whole school training date (as they are new to school or have missed the whole school session) can do this via a live TEAMS session with a safeguarding trainer [bookable here](#) or by using the e-learning module [accessible here](#)

The e-learning does not require account sign up, user names or login details.

Both options are endorsed by the North Tyneside Safeguarding Children Partnership (NTSCP), cover staff for three years and provides a certificate for each member of staff.

DSL/DDSL training (two parts needed 'regular updates' and 'training')

'Regular updates' are through newsletters and briefings (which includes a follow up e-bulletin). Regardless of attendance at the briefings, the newsletters and e-bulletins are sent to all on the DSL/DDSL mailing list on a regular basis during the year. Therefore, reminders to 'update' are not sent out as you will have received safeguarding information for school DSLs at several points during the year as part of your safeguarding in schools training SLA. If you would like to attend a DSL briefing which will be via TEAMS for the foreseeable future, please [click here](#) to book.

'Training' must be 'multi-agency training' and is complete through the North Tyneside Safeguarding Children Partnership (NTSCP) training programme. DSLs/DDSLs can currently choose from the offer below and must undertake at least one session every two years. Reminders *are* sent for this part of training. This training is bookable through the [Learning Pool](#) For Learning pool support, telephone 0191 6435063 or email workforce.development@northtyneside.gov.uk

Current (NTSCP) courses to meet DSL multi-agency safeguarding training need

Children's safeguarding

- NTSCP child protection refresher
- NTSCP Early Help Assessment
- Signs of Safety webinar (4 modules)

Working with children

- Adolescent to Parent Violence and Abuse (APVA)
- Basic Drugs Awareness and Intervention
- Identifying and Exploring Parental Alcohol Misuse

Safeguarding adults

- Domestic Abuse Awareness Level 1
- Domestic Abuse Awareness-Ask and action Level 2.

FYI...Notifications and reminders have been sent to all DSLs/DDSLs for those due training up to the end of July 2021. Please ensure you book sooner rather than later as places are limited on the North Tyneside Safeguarding Children Partnership (NTSCP) programme.

New Designated Safeguarding Leads Training

New DSLs/Deputy DSLs, need to attend two training sessions which can be attended in any order. Anyone wishing to train as a DSL or Deputy DSL should attend,

- 'New to role' DSL training' [bookable here](#) and,
- NTSCP Child Protection training [available here](#) on the Learning Pool. New Learning Pool accounts can be created [here](#).

Please Note: Make sure you book an individual place on webinars and use the link sent to you directly to attend the session. Those accessing the session via another person's booking link may not have their attendance marked and this causes difficulties when requiring proof of attendance such as your learning record or certificates e.g. for inspection purposes.