



Child Protection Newsletter

March 2023

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Welcome

Welcome to the 4th Child Protection newsletter for 2022-23.

We are aware that there is a lot of information but recommended that you try to find time to read and digest its contents as it will help you in your role as DSL.

In the articles below we include links to external websites. These will be in [blue text](#) for you to click on and read further information. We try and provide useful resources but cannot be responsible for their content and advice. Please tell us if you have any issues with any of the links provided.

Education Safeguarding Service Updates

What is happening?

As you should all now be aware, from 1st April 2023, we will be returning to Kent County Council to deliver our services alongside the other key teams within the Council. We have had great success in developing our products and training offer within The Education People and we are now moving back to KCC to be more aligned with other statutory services.

We will continue to work closely with our Education People colleagues, and for the rest of this academic year, our material will show Education People branding while we update everything ready for a fresh start in September 2023.

What this means for you?

For education settings very little will change, and you will continue to access support from the Education Safeguarding Service in the same way as you have for the last few years. Our email addresses and telephone numbers will eventually be changing, and we will keep you updated with contact information changes.

The whole team is transferring, so we are retaining our expertise in all areas, and you will get the same high-quality service you are used to. The Education People credits will not be redeemable against training booked or resources purchased with the Education Safeguarding Service from the 1st April 2023. We will advise you via invoice on any changes to bank details.

What you need to do next?

Our courses and training for Terms 5 and 6 are now live on [CPD Online](#) – please visit the site and book as you normally would. If you have any questions, please contact us via [Education Safeguarding Service Head Office](#).

ESS Safeguarding and Online Safety Consultation Process Reminder

If you have a query or need safeguarding advice from our service, please call the numbers relevant for your area or the online safety number listed at the end of this newsletter. Your consultation request will then be passed to the duty officer/online safety advisor for that day.

Any emails sent or phone calls sent to generic inboxes or directly to advisors will be directed to call the officers on duty for that day. By calling your area phone number or the online safety number in the first instance, we can ensure a quicker response to your queries.

Core Safeguarding Training for DSLs

Designated Safeguarding Leads (DSLs) need to undergo appropriate training to provide them with the knowledge and skills required to carry out this essential role. As a reminder, our '[Frequently Asked Questions](#)' on [The Education People's blog](#) explores some common queries which may be helpful for new and experienced DSLs. For any training queries, please contact your Area Safeguarding Advisor or the [Training and Development Manager](#).

We are continuing to provide a blended training offer for 2022-23 and training dates from March until July 2023 is now available on the [CPD website](#). Face to face training is our preferred and recommended core delivery approach, however if delegates are unable to attend face to face training for any reason, virtual options are available as an alternative.

- [Event Catalogue for Safeguarding for Schools](#)
- [Event Catalogue for Safeguarding for Early Years Settings and Childminders](#)

DSLs need to access refresher training **at least every two years**. Please book your refresher training as soon as possible, rather than wait for your certificate to expire. If you require refresher training and are unable to book a face-to-face refresher course, we recommend accessing our refresher E-learning as an alternative:

- [Designated Safeguarding Lead Refresher \(for Kent Schools/Colleges\) 2022-23](#)
- [Early Years Designated Safeguarding Lead Refresher \(for Kent providers\) 2022-23](#)

CPD Website Emails/Bookings

We have experienced issues over the past few weeks where staff have not received emails from CPD, for example, where training has relocated to a different location, or staff have not received links to join Zoom training sessions. The CPD website moved to a different server last year which means their

emails are now sent by a different server and in some cases, this has resulted in their emails being marked as 'junk'. Please check your junk folder for any emails from CPD Online and mark them as safe/not junk to ensure you receive them in future. If a colleague is booking training for you, please ask them to also check their junk folder for any emails and mark the CPD email as safe/not junk.

We recommend that you check and confirm your booking and the training information for any of our courses you are attending, at least 14 days before they are due to take place. This is to ensure that you have the correct date/times and venue information, and to check that you are booked to attend the most appropriate course. For example, if you are already a DSL, you should be attending a DSL refresher course and not one for new to role DSLs, and our online safety for DSL course is for existing DSLs only. By checking this information at least 14 days before the training, you have time to make any amendments and avoid cancellation fees.

Safeguarding Products, including the Safeguarding Support Package for Schools

When we return to KCC, the service will be undertaking a piece of work to establish the best way of continuing to ensure our resources are available to schools and settings, and we will communicate this to you as soon as any decisions are made.

In the meantime, our intention is to continue to provide our safeguarding support package, training, and other standalone products in their current format via The Education People until at least the end of this academic year.



As a reminder, our [Safeguarding Support Package for Schools](#) provides members with 2022-23 academic year access to a range of up-to-date advice and resources, as well as exclusive access to content and cost saving benefits, including:

- access to staff training presentation resources for DSLs to use internally
- access to a staff induction safeguarding awareness E-learning course
- access to a downloadable resource library which includes a range of guidance documents and time-saving templates
- at least annual updates to existing content, plus a minimum of 6 new resources added to the resource library per year
- 1 free place at each of our six annual DSL Briefing twilight sessions – our next session will be exploring 'Adverse Childhood Experiences: A Trauma Informed Approach'.

It doesn't matter when you sign up as you'll be able to access recordings of any DSL briefings you may have missed, and new resources are added to the main library for all members to access throughout the year.

The cost for access to the 2022-23 content is currently £510 plus VAT (increasing to £535.50 for schools who sign up after 1st April 2023) and includes exclusive access to some documents within the resource library, as well as providing significant saving compared to purchasing content on an individual basis.

KCC Family Hub Trailblazer

KCC 'trailblazer' in national Family Hub programme

Kent County Council is delighted to have been designated by the Department for Education as one of only 14 "trailblazer" councils in the government's Family Hubs project which is intended to provide support to families and young children to help them overcome difficulties and build strong relationships. The announcement on Thursday 9 February also brings a one-off grant of £183,000 towards initial work on formulating details on the precise plans, as well as access to more than £10million transformation funding for implementing them over the next two years.

A total of 75 local authorities have been given government approval for the Family Hubs scheme, but of these only 14 have been given "trailblazer" status. These trailblazers will lead the way and support other local authorities to improve services that are offered to families, so that these can be rolled out more widely across the country. This announcement builds on the Prime Minister's ambition to put strong families at the heart of communities, in recognition of how important they are for residents' life chances.

The Family Hub programme will give KCC the opportunity to build on and enhance the existing 0 to 19 Open Access offer. The Family Hub funding will help support KCC staff to develop the range of services that will be provided for local residents through co-production with communities, partners and CYPE teams.

Sue Chandler, KCC's Cabinet Member for Integrated Children's Services, said: *"Making sure families get the support they need from birth through to adulthood helps with children's educational attainment and wellbeing, while also helping to combat poor mental health and to avoid unemployment. We intend our Family Hubs will bring together a variety of services which are currently disjointed and hard to navigate. Our Family Hubs will act as a single point of support, offering guidance and advice on a range of circumstances including, infant feeding, mental health support, health visits and parenting classes. To help us plan our Family Hub provision, we will be consulting widely with all interested parties - parents and careers, other agencies, charities and district councils, so we can decide precisely which services are most required and where they can be located. This is a wonderful and unique opportunity to improve the life chances of the children and families of Kent."*

Please find details of three new Family Hub Project Manager roles that are now available on the KCC website:

- [Health Integration](#)
- [Programme Support](#)
- [Service Delivery](#)

Whistleblowing process

As a service we have written articles and delivered safeguarding training that talks about settings having regard to a 'safe culture' whereby staff feel empowered to be able to raise concerns about how senior leaders are protecting children. We encourage every setting having a whistleblowing process and sometimes a standalone policy. As part of this we also suggest having the NSPCC poster somewhere in your buildings in case the process is not working effectively.

To clarify, whistleblowing is when someone raises a concern about a dangerous or illegal activity or any wrongdoing within their organisation. Sharing that information or talking through a concern can be the first step to helping an organisation identify problems and improve their practices. As a concept it exists in all forms of organisations not just education safeguarding.

In terms of the NSPCC helpline, we thought we would clarify what happens when and if you ever need to contact them. This is taken directly from their website:

What happens when you contact the NSPCC helpline

One of their call handlers will connect you with a trained practitioner. They'll discuss your concerns with you and:

- talk you through the whistleblowing process
- take details of your concern
- explain the protection available to you if you need it
- get relevant agencies and authorities to take action on your concern.

You don't have to tell them who you are if you don't want to - you can remain anonymous. If you do give them your name and contact details, you can ask them not to share these with other agencies.

When to contact NSPCC

If you have any concerns about a child in your workplace you should raise this with your employer or organisational safeguarding lead in the first instance.

You should contact the Whistleblowing Advice Line if:

- your organisation doesn't have clear safeguarding procedures to follow
- you think your concern won't be dealt with properly or may be covered-up
- you've raised a concern, but it hasn't been acted upon
- you're worried about being treated unfairly.
- You can contact the NSPCC about an incident that happened in the past, is happening now or you believe may happen in the future.

We would also encourage any person working in schools or settings, in whatever role that they have, can also seek advice from the Education Safeguarding Service and one of the advisors on duty daily.

Early Years and Childcare

Free Webinar training on 0-5's mental health

On Thursday 20 April, 9:30am-12pm NHS England are providing a webinar with a focus on **0-5s mental health**, specifically around the importance of early years mental health as well as sharing case study examples, including good practice and overcoming implementation challenges and an update on the Start for Life and Family Hubs programme.

The webinar is free to attend, and especially pertinent to those working within Children and Young People Mental Health Services, Parent-Infant Mental Health Services and Specialist Community Perinatal Mental Health Services, as well as those in commissioning roles, and also services and organisations working within or complementing the children and young people's mental health pathway. You will need to book via the link after setting up a free account.

- [National 0-5s Mental Health Shared Learning Webinar | NHS England Events](#)

2023 Appropriate Filtering and Monitoring Definitions Published for Public Consultation

The UK Safer Internet Centre (UKSIC) has published a [draft](#) of its 'appropriate' filtering and monitoring definitions for 2023 for public consultation. The definitions help both schools and providers understand what is considered 'appropriate' and comments are invited regarding this year's proposed revisions.



Alongside the DfE's introduction of [statutory guidance](#), UKSIC first published its [filtering and monitoring definitions](#) in 2016 to help both schools and providers understand what should be considered as 'appropriate'. The UK Safer Internet Centre have [published the final proposed revisions](#) alongside a version that tracks the changes compared to 2022. A separate document highlights the substantive changes, both for Filtering and Monitoring is also available. The public consultation period will close on March 31st, 2023. Please send any response to enquiries@saferinternet.org.uk

Childnet Film Competition 2023!

Now in its 14th year, the [Childnet Film Competition](#) invites young people across the UK to create a short film or storyboard focusing on a specific online safety theme each year. UK based schools and youth groups are invited to create a two-minute film or storyboard in response to the competition theme: **Time to talk! How can people support each other online?**



The Film Competition could be a fantastic online safety activity for your next term and provides a unique opportunity for learners to develop skills in media, drama, art all while considering how to stay safe online. Prizes in previous years have included a DSLR cameras, tripods, and a professional graphics pen – everything needed for film making!

Multiple groups within the same school can submit their own films, and there is no limit to the number of individual storyboards schools can enter. You have until **Wednesday 5th June** to submit films and storyboards, with the final event showcasing on **Tuesday 4th July**. For further information for primary and age groups, visit the [Childnet website](#).

Guide to the Online Safety Bill

SWGfL have partnered with Schillings International LLP to produce a clear and accessible [guide to the Online Safety Bill](#) which breaks down what the Bill is and what it is trying to achieve. The resource is divided into the following sections:



1. What is the Online Safety Bill?
2. Protections for young people
3. Protections for adults
4. How will the Bill be enforced?
5. What is the verdict?
6. Staying safe online
7. What is next?

They have also produced a [helpful video](#) and have published a [survey](#) to gather thoughts on the Online Safety Bill.

Vodafone Digital Parenting Magazine Issue 10

The latest edition of Digital Parenting Magazine is available to [view online](#) or schools can [order up to 500 magazines](#) to send home for parents/carers to read. In this resource, Vodafone have put together articles and expert advice on a variety of online safety topics to help parents be better informed and keep their children safer in the digital world.



DigitalParentingPro

One of the UK's largest parental controls and safety settings resources

Created in partnership with online safety experts Digital Awareness UK

Vodafone have also developed their [Digital Parenting Pro](#); an interactive resource which provides helpful information about what parental controls and safety settings are available across the most popular apps, games and devices. This is a useful resource to signpost parents/carers to upskill themselves and take steps to keep children safer when accessing the internet and technology at home.

Alongside this, Vodafone have also created a [“Digital Family Pledge”](#), which is another interactive resource designed for families of children aged 5-13 years, to support parents/carers in starting a discussion and setting appropriate ‘house rules’ on how technology should be used and acceptable behaviour online. Pledges can be made by individuals or the whole family and cover a range of issues including:

- Quality screen time
- Being kind online
- Healthy social media
- Happy gaming



Hanni and the Magic Window



[Childnet International](#) have written a new [online safety storybook](#) for children aged 3+. ‘**Hanni and the Magic Window**’ is available as an ebook or download, in English and in Welsh, and a simplified PowerPoint.

It explores the concept of speaking up and getting help when you see something upsetting online, without explicitly talking about the internet or technology, making it accessible to children at a younger age who may not yet be using the internet unaided.

“Hanni’s home has a very special magic window. But when Hanni sees something that upsets her, she struggles to explain what has happened.”

BBC Own It: Safer Internet Day Resources

BBC Own it have published a [new set of videos](#) on their website to align with the theme of [Safer Internet Day 2023](#). Their engaging video content includes young people’s personal experiences in the online world as well as some of their favorite BBC characters and tv personalities exploring relevant online safety topics.



Data protection in schools - revised guidance

The Department for Education has reviewed and updated their [Data Protection in Schools toolkit](#). The toolkit helps educational settings understand how to comply with UK GDPR, including

- understanding how to comply with data protection law
- developing data policies and processes
- knowing what staff and pupil data to keep; and
- following good practices for preventing personal data breaches.



Department
for Education

Free Webinars from the DFE

The Department for Education and subject experts have produced a series of four 60-minute safeguarding webinars to support the statutory safeguarding guidance 'Keeping children safe in education' (KCSIE), which all schools and colleges must have regard when carrying out their duties to safeguard and promote the welfare of children. The webinars will focus on four important topics: Low level concerns; single central record; safeguarding partners and sexting/online harms. Some of these webinars will have already occurred, however you can still access the recordings in the archive.

- The link to all these free webinars is here at <https://kcsie.orculla.co.uk/home>
- Future seminars future seminars can be booked here: <https://orculla.com/kcsie/register/Site/Register>

The State of the Nation

The Government has published its [State of the Nation report](#), into children and young people's wellbeing throughout the country. It deals with the report's key findings on the topics of personal wellbeing, mental and physical health, education and skills and relationships. It relates to children from the age of 5 years old into adulthood up to 24 years old. Although, it is a long report it breaks it down into sections for you to dip into. We know that much of what we hear and read can be negative and at times overwhelmingly. However, this report helps to also present a picture of children being very resilient and for the majority seemingly positive about their lives.

Useful Documentaries for DSLs

Emily Atack asking for it

This [documentary](#) is predominantly about the actress Emily Atack's own experiences on social media as an adult being sent abusive and sexually offensive content, but she does spend some time speaking to a group of 16-year-old girls. Viewer discretion is advised, although some schools may find it useful to share extracts with older students and/or staff.



The dangerous rise of Andrew Tate

Many of you may be familiar with Tate and his views shared widely via social media; we have previously identified useful resources in the [September 2022](#) and [January 2023](#) versions of this newsletter. This [documentary](#) talks to some of his victims but also seeks to challenge him on his beliefs that sadly are lauded by a significant number of mostly young males in the UK and worldwide. Viewer discretion is advised as many will find the content offensive.

The Big Ask



The Children's commissioner's [The Big Ask](#) survey highlighted how important supporting children's mental health was to those surveyed, with one in five children overall saying they were unhappy, making it a top issue for children. As a way to promote this and gauge the feelings and thoughts of children in settings they have developed two flyers for you to use. [Let's talk about your feelings – primary](#) and [Let's talk about your feelings – secondary](#).

Money Advice Hub Service

We would like to make you all aware of a scheme that is currently being run by Citizens Advice and would encourage schools and settings to share the text below with their communities to ensure it reaches as many residents of Kent as possible.



citizens
advice

We would like to advise you of a scheme that is operating by Citizen Advice and is supporting people in Kent who are struggling financially or need support to manage the rising cost of living through its new Money Advice Hub. The service is completely free and confidential. People can access the service online by visiting www.kentmoneyadvicehub.com (with video call and webchat functions) or by calling the freephone number on 0800 808 5622 by phone from Monday – Friday between 8am – 8pm. It can also be accessed using one of five kiosks installed in community spaces in Gravesham, Cliftonville, Ramsgate, Aylesham and Ashford.

Youth Resilience UK – Mental Health First Aid Training

James Walker (Director of Operations) from Youth Resilience UK has asked if we could share their offer of training with schools.



YRUK Training have just received some additional grant funding to help subsidise the costs of delivery MHFA course for people in Kent which aim to create much better understanding of mental health and support. All the training will take place on Zoom. Details of all upcoming courses are on [their website](#), and it is hoped that more dates will be included for later in the year so please register an interest even if you cannot make the specific sessions.

If you are encountering any difficulties, or would like further information, please contact james@youthresilience.uk

A Longer Read: PIAS (PRU, Inclusion and Attendance Service)

It is acknowledged when working in safeguarding that [poor attendance and welfare of children is inextricably linked](#). Therefore, it is a little surprising that there is only one brief mention of attendance in Keeping Children Safe in Education 2022, that if a student who is 'frequently missing/goes missing from care or from home' this is an indicator of a potential safeguarding issue. Despite this, having a clear and effective attendance policy and practice is the first key protective factor for children.

Not only can regular absence, particularly unexplained absence, be a red flag for safeguarding issues, but only when children are in school can they talk to staff and be given support for any pastoral and safeguarding problems. We all know that the pandemic has impacted greatly on this, and some schools are not yet still back to pre-covid attendance levels. A child who is not in school will become vulnerable to all kinds of societal issues alongside their own emotional wellbeing possibly being negatively impacted too. Some factors that may place a child at higher risk and should be considered in the planning of preventative monitoring and support by schools are the following:

- children at risk of abuse or neglect
- children of Gypsy, Roma or Traveller (GRT) families

- children of service personnel
- children who go missing or run away from home or care
- children who are supervised by the Youth Justice System
- children of new migrant families

All students who are not attending fully will be impacted negatively no matter their background or circumstances. 'Missing out on lessons leaves children vulnerable to falling behind. Children with poor attendance tend to achieve less in both primary and secondary school.' (Extract from p. 5 of [School Attendance: Guidance for Schools](#)).

We have received an update via the PIAS service which they wanted to share with all the schools in Kent.

- The new countywide PIAS Service Manager, Simon Smith, joined KCC at the start of January having previously been a Headteacher of a secondary school.
- The South team are working through the latest DfE guidance '[working together to improve school attendance](#)' which became active in September last year. The guidance is non-statutory and was due to become statutory no earlier than September this year, but it is uncertain exactly when as it was integrated into the Schools Bill which was abandoned. Nevertheless, KCC's stance is to continue to ensure the expectations on LAs are followed as if it was statutory guidance. There is nothing significant in there which requires schools or LAs to work differently – the main purpose seems to be to raise the profile of attendance which very much promotes a 'support first' approach and that it's 'everyone's business.'
- The government is undertaking an [enquiry](#) as the level of persistent absence nationally has not returned to pre-pandemic levels. The focus will be to identify barriers to attendance as well as identify effective practice being used to improve it. Anxiety Based School Avoidance (ABSA) continues to be dominant cause of absence. The Kent Educational Psychology Service is doing a lot of work around this subject, including training and consultations for schools.
- The team has been working to meet with every school in the district and wider area to facilitate Targeting Support Meetings (TSMs) in line with the guidance requirements. These meetings were initially focused on ensuring schools felt confident in what the guidance changes mean for them, particularly the role of a designated senior leader in the school with responsibility for championing attendance if not in place already. Future meetings will be more pupil focused and the priority will be pupils with attendance of 50% or less, now referred to as 'severe absentees.'
- The team ran an Attendance Network Meeting in January via TEAMS for all South Kent primary schools to discuss the key features of the DfE guidance. These meetings will be held three times per year as required in the guidance with a view to future meetings being face to face and an opportunity to share effective practice, invite guest speakers from other services etc.
- Some of the pathways on the Digital Front Door on KELSI are being amended in line with the terminology in the DfE guidance and to improve the information we collect in order to screen referrals as effectively as possible. This will be live later this term or at start of Term 5 as it is currently in the testing stage.
- Contact details for all PIAS staff are up to date and on KELSI. Every school has a link PIAS Officer for attendance as well as a link for Inclusion/Exclusion queries.
 - www.kelsi.org.uk/pru-inclusion-and-attendance-service-pias/pias-officer-contacts
 - www.kelsi.org.uk/pru-inclusion-and-attendance-service-pias

Finally, if you have any questions on the articles, or the need for safeguarding advice, please contact the team using the details provided.

This newsletter is published by the Education Safeguarding Service and issued to schools, early years providers and local authority staff. For this newsletter to be effective, please ensure that it is shared with staff, including all Designated Safeguarding Leads.

Education Safeguarding Service Contacts

Head Office: Room 2.30 Sessions House, County Hall, Maidstone ME14 1XQ	
Claire Ray Head of Service	03301 651 200
Rebecca Avery Training and Development Manager	03301 651 110
Robin Brivio Senior Safeguarding Advisor	03301 651 200
Online Safety	03301 651 500
<p>For advice on safeguarding issues please call your area office on the numbers listed below.</p> <p>If a child may be at risk of imminent harm, you should call the Integrated Front Door on 03000 411 111 or the Police on 999</p>	
Ashford	03301 651 340
Canterbury	03301 651 140
Dartford	03301 651 240
Dover	03301 651 340
Folkestone & Hythe	03301 651 340
Gravesham	03301 651 240
Maidstone	03301 651 440
Sevenoaks	03301 651 240
Swale	03301 651 140
Thanet	03301 651 140
Tonbridge & Malling	03301 651 440
Tunbridge Wells	03301 651 440

Kent County Council Key Contacts

Integrated Front Door: 03000 4111 111 (outside office hours **03000 419 191**)

Early Help Contacts (district teams) can be found on www.kelsi.org.uk

LADO Team contact number: 03000 410 888

If your call is urgent i.e., a child is in **immediate danger and you cannot be connected to the team, call the Integrated Front Door on 03000 411 111**

Email: kentchildrenslado@kent.gov.uk

Kroner House, Eurogate Business Park, Ashford, Kent, TN24 8XU

Area Education Officers

South Kent – David Adams 03000 412 309

East Kent – Marisa White 03000 418 794

West Kent – Nick Abrahams 03000 410 058

North Kent – Ian Watts 03000 414 302

Prevent Education Officers

North/West/ Medway - Sally Green sally.green2@kent.gov.uk 03000 413 439

South/East - Jill Allen jill.allen@kent.gov.uk 03000 413 565