

Child Protection Newsletter

ISSUE NO. 69 September 2019

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Welcome and Team Update

Welcome to the first safeguarding newsletter of this 2019/2020 academic year. We hope you had a restful summer and are raring to go!

As stated in previous newsletters we will ensure that you receive the relevant guidance and updates that you need to continue providing high quality safeguarding practice in your organisations. We will continue to update policy templates to reflect any national updates and changes as they arise. These are currently available on [Kelsi](#).

We are now aiming to increase the frequency of these newsletters with our next one being sent to you around October Half term.

The Education People

The Education People provide services to support early years through to young adults with over 800 products and services available. For more information, visit www.theeducationpeople.org.

Reminder: Register on the Education People Blog for Safeguarding Updates

DSLs can register on the Education People website to receive an email when a new Safeguarding [blog post](#) is added. If you are already registered, you can opt to add email notification under your 'my account' settings.

Education Safeguarding Service

There have been some changes to the service. It is with sadness and celebration that we need to inform you that one of our advisors, Julie Maguire will be leaving us in November to pastures new. She will be taking the role of Service Manager within the Safeguarding, Professional Standards & Quality Assurance Unit in children's services for Kent County Council. We wish her all the best and thank her for all the hard work she has done over the last two years for ESS. We are seeking to recruit to her post as soon as possible.

Training

Over the summer period the ESS have been updating our various training packages to reflect the numerous changes in legislation and guidance that have occurred since Summer 2018. Consequently, all Designated Safeguarding training, including refreshers, for both Early Years and Schools has been modified. We have also revamped our Whole School Training to include new case studies and scenarios.

Can we remind all existing DSLs that if they are approaching the two years when they need to update that they ensure that they access the refresher training. If you are having difficulty accessing this, please let CPD online know and we may have to add further training if demand requires it.

Education Safeguarding Conferences 2019-20: book your place now!

The 2019-20 Education Safeguarding Service conferences for DSLs are now available to book. The conferences aim to help DSLs access appropriate safeguarding updates and provide a local focus on safeguarding practice.

Sessions at the conference will cover domestic abuse (including information about Operation Encompass), managing allegations, working with the Front Door and a short update on national and local policy changes. The February and June dates will also feature a session on trauma informed practice in schools.

Spaces are available now and DSLs can book [via CPD online](#)

30/10/19 – Tudor Park Marriot Maidstone
26/02/20 - Mercure Brands Hatch
03/06/20 - Ashford International

Online Safety Live



Although not explicitly school specific there are a programme of events nationwide exclusively for those working with children and young people. It is run by the UK Safer Internet Centre and offers the very latest in online safety, including the latest issues, trends, research, resources and advice. They have been delivering

this programme up and down the country for the past 5 years to over 15,000 professionals.

These sessions are free and are approximately two hours long and all delegates receive exclusive access to an online resources area following the session.

For Kent there is a session happening on 24th September from 14:30—17:00 at Sessions House, County Hall, Maidstone ME141XQ. To register for free go to www.onlinesafetylive.com.



New safeguarding arrangements

The new safeguarding arrangements are now available [online](#) and become effective from 17th September 2019. This document explains the new Kent children's safeguarding partnership arrangements, known as the Kent Safeguarding Children Multi-agency Partnership (KSCMP). The implementation of the new KSCMP arrangements "is a clear indication of Kent's intention to take forward a shared and robust partnership arrangement which is a revised way of working

across the safeguarding landscape. These arrangements also re-affirm KCC's commitment to working collaboratively across local agencies and organisations to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and improve outcomes for children and families". The new arrangements supersede the previous Local Safeguarding Children Board.

The document details the arrangements regarding the three Safeguarding Partners: Kent County Council, Kent Clinical Commissioning Groups and Kent Police. All three safeguarding partners have equal and joint responsibility to make local arrangements for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children. In addition to this there are the relevant agencies. Relevant agencies are those organisations and agencies whose involvement the safeguarding partners consider is required to safeguard and promote the welfare of local children. These agencies will include Education, Health providers, District Councils, Social care providers, National Probation Service, Cafcass, Kent Fire and Rescue Service and others.

As detailed in the statutory guidance Keeping Children Safe in Education 2018, schools, colleges and other educational providers play a pivotal role in safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children, and as such their engagement in partnership arrangements is important. In recognition of this, the KCSMP document states that "Due to the large number of educational and early years settings, it is not appropriate to nominate or identify specific establishments as relevant agencies. However, it is essential that the involvement and engagement of all educational and early years settings take place. We will do so after a formal review of the existing arrangements and establish a new Education Safeguarding Partnership Group. We will also consider representation through nominated members of existing representative forums, such as the Kent Association of Headteachers."

In addition to the KCSMP arrangements, the new Kent and Medway Child Death Review arrangements supersede the previous process which operated under the previous Local Safeguarding Children Board. The link to that document can be found here [Kent and Medway Child Death Review Partners Arrangements - June 2019](#)

Information which is described in related documents, such as, the new Scrutiny and Assurance Framework and the Partnership Plan will also be published which will also help to improve understanding of the new arrangements.

DBS and Visitors

One of the many queries we receive from schools and settings and from other professionals is the requirement that those who wish to speak to children alone need to show their DBS certificate before they can be left alone with a child. Queries from Early Help workers and social workers

have indicated that on occasion they have been prevented from working with a child alone and have had to be supervised by a member of staff.

It is not a requirement for the setting to see visitors DBS, Ofsted advise the following: *For visiting staff who do have unsupervised regular access to children and young people – such as educational psychologists, social workers, supply teachers, trainee teachers, nurses, sports coaches, MOD personnel and inspectors – their 'providing' organisation (for example, the supply agency, the university, primary care trust, local authority and so on) should request the check. It is sufficient, for schools and colleges to seek written confirmation that appropriate checks, including DBS checks have been carried out and by whom – most commonly the relevant human resources department (it is not necessary to specify a named individual) – and to confirm the identity of these visitors.'*

Many professionals are unlikely to carry their DBS certificates with them to the school but should have photo identity badges to evidence who they are. We are working with KCC to provide you with a letter of confirmation that the required checks have been completed and will forward that to all DSL's when we have it.

Online Safety

Online Safety within 'Keeping children safe in education' 2019

On the 26th June 2019 the Department for Education (DfE) published the updated '[Keeping children safe in education](#)' (KCSIE) guidance ready for implementation from the 2nd September 2019.



Summary of key points and changes specifically relating to online safety in KCSIE 2019:

- DSLs have overall responsibility for online safety (Annex B) but are encouraged to work with other staff within the setting as appropriate.
- DSLs should be able to evidence that they have accessed appropriate training and/or support to ensure they understand the unique risks associated with online safety, including for those with SEND, and that they have the relevant knowledge and up to date capability required to keep children safe online.
- **All** staff should be provided with online safety training at induction and as part of regular child protection training and updates.
- Peer on peer abuse, including sexual violence and sexual harassment should be recognised as an issue which can occur both on and offline; additional content has been added to KCSIE 2019 regarding 'Upskirting'.
- Online safety should be taught to all learners as part of providing a broad and balanced curriculum including as part of the requirements for Relationships Education and Relationships and Sex Education.
- Additional links have been added to annex C, 'online safety'; including a link to new DfE non-statutory guidance regarding 'Teaching online safety in schools'.

Rebecca Avery, Education Safeguarding Adviser (Online Protection) has put together a [briefing](#) outline the specific online safety content for DSLs and leaders in schools and colleges. The briefing identifies possible action points and links to locally and nationally available resources.

New DfE Guidance Published: 'Teaching Online Safety in School'

The Department for Education have published '[Teaching online safety in schools](#)'; new non-statutory guidance which aims to support schools in



teaching pupils how to stay safe online within new and existing school subjects, such as Relationships Education, Relationships and Sex Education, Health Education, Citizenship and Computing.

Key points for DSLs to consider:

- Schools should embed teaching about online safety and harms within a whole school approach as part of existing curriculum requirements.
- Schools should teach pupils about the underpinning knowledge and behaviours that can help them navigate the online world safely and confidently, regardless of the devices, platforms or apps they use.
- Some pupils may be more vulnerable online or have less support in staying safe online so schools should consider how they ensure those at risk receive additional or specific information and support.
- Schools should make informed decisions about which external visitors and resources are appropriate to use with their learners and should ensure they review resources and used, even when from a trusted source, as some will be more appropriate than others.
 - Schools should ask:
 - Where does this organisation get their information from?
 - What is their evidence base?
 - Have they been externally quality assured?
 - What is their background?
 - Are the resources age appropriate for our pupils?
 - Are the resources appropriate for the developmental stage of our pupils?
- Schools should create a safe environment in which all pupils feel comfortable to say what they feel. If a pupil believes they will get into trouble and/or be judged for talking about something which happened to them online, they may be put off reporting it and getting help.
- Staff should be aware that when delivering online safety education, there is a potential that a child (or more than one child) may have experienced or be suffering from online abuse or harm. The DSL should therefore be informed and involved to provide advice on known safeguarding cases, as well as any additional support required.

We recommend DSLs access this guidance and cascade it with staff as appropriate. Kent schools can access a range of training, guidance and support through the Education Safeguarding Service; please contact [us](#) directly to discuss your needs and the support available further.

'Harry Potter: Wizards Unite': Information for Education Settings

Following recent enquiries from schools and settings regarding the new 'Harry Potter: Wizards Unite' app, the Education Safeguarding Service have collated some [practical advice](#) regarding how to keep children safe when playing, which may be helpful to share with parents/carers if concerns are raised.



Reminder: National 'Sexting' guidance available



Recently the team have received several consultations from DSLs in both primary and secondary schools regarding youth produced sexual imagery, also referred to as 'sexting'. In some of these cases, DSLs and/or their staff were not aware of the national guidance available and this could have placed both children and staff at risk.

Although currently under review, the UK Council for Internet Safety (UKCIS) have published [national guidance](#) regarding responding to youth produced sexual imagery, which aims to support DSLs in tackling the range of issues which 'sexting' incidents present. This includes responding to disclosures, handling devices and imagery and risk assessing situations.

The advice contains information about preventative education, working with parents and reporting imagery to providers. It should be read alongside [Keeping Children Safe in Education statutory guidance](#), [Searching, Screening and Confiscation advice for schools](#) and [Sexual violence and sexual harassment between children in schools and colleges](#). DSLs should ensure they are familiar with this guidance as it can assist with decision making regarding involving other agencies.

DSLs should also ensure that all staff are aware of their setting's child protection policy and can recognise and respond to peer on peer abuse issues, including 'sexting' as part of implementing the statutory KCSIE 2019 guidance. UKCIS have published an [overview document](#) which might be helpful for DSLs to share with staff as part of child protection induction and training.

Our bespoke whole school online safety staff training as well as 'Online Safety for DSLs' training specifically address how DSLs and staff should respond to sexting concerns; please contact [us](#) directly to discuss training and support available.

Childnet: Myth vs Reality Toolkit

Brand new resources have been launched by children's charity [Childnet](#), as part of its work in the [UK Safer Internet Centre](#). The 'Myth vs Reality' toolkit covers the issues of pornography, healthy relationships and body image and is designed to be used with young people aged 11-14.

With Relationship and Sex Education (RSE) becoming statutory in all schools from September

2020, the toolkit provides secondary schools with a range of videos, quick activities and adaptable lesson plans based on the real experiences of young people, to support them in teaching RSE.



Internet Matters: New Resources for Parents



Internet Matters have published new research and resources to support parents and carers in dealing with online gaming and pornography. DSLs may find these resources helpful to share within their community.

- [Parenting Generation Game report overview](#)
- [Play your child at their own game this summer](#)
- [Parents say online porn gives children extreme unrealistic idea of sex](#)
- [Online pornography: protect your child](#)

Updates

As you are aware the new guidance **Keeping children safe in education' 2019** from the Department for Education (DfE) is now published. ['Keeping children safe in education'](#) (KCSIE) guidance is ready for implementation from the 2nd September 2019.

The NSPCC have provided a good pdf outlining the updates from the new policy and you will be pleased to read that the changes are not numerous. The online safety changes are detailed above but there are key updates around multi-agency working, opportunities to teach safeguarding and

Inspection. Annex A simply gives a better definition of Honour Based Violence. We know your time is precious, but these updates are vital for all DSLs to be able to perform their role confidently and we urge you to read the full text as soon as you can.

<https://learning.nspcc.org.uk/media/1754/briefing-key-updates-draft-statutory-guidance-for-schools-england-keeping-children-safe-education-2019.pdf>

Guidance for Safer Working Practices (May 2019)(Safer Recruitment Consortium)



The Safer Recruitment Consortium has updated the guidance and published a revised version in May 2019. This document is non-statutory, but it is a useful document to read and helps in terms of thinking about your staff behaviour policy. Keeping Children Safe in Education (2019) states that schools should have staff behaviour policy or a code of conduct, which should, amongst other things, include – acceptable use of technologies, staff/pupil relationships and communications including the use of social media. As with many new policies there are certain sections that

have been tweaked and changed that you need to be aware of.

The updated guidance can be downloaded by clicking on the image.

“UK public struggle to identify child sexual abuse”- Barnardo’s

According to a new survey for Barnardo’s, members of the public struggled to identify what might constitute sexual abuse especially relating to a soap storyline. In Emmerdale a story line involved a female adult teacher having sex with a 16-year-old pupil and 16% of those surveyed not considering this a crime. Also, more than a third (35%) of people did not think an adult sending sexually explicit images to a 16-year-old over text was illegal or abusive.

The link is here: <https://www.barnardos.org.uk/news/uk-public-struggle-identify-child-sexual-abuse>

BBC Bitesize



As education staff you will be well versed with the numerous guides for pupils on this section of the BBC website. However, looking further under the support section there are some interesting guides and articles to access in relation to healthy relationships, mental health and stress management being just a few of the topics.

As many of our young people (and staff!) sat glued to Love Island recently the issue of Gaslighting has come up more than once and here is an article titled “Gaslighting: How to spot it and stop it” that is useful (<https://www.bbc.com/bitesize/articles/zvy3t39>). Along with this also is another “Six signs you are in a toxic relationship”

<https://www.bbc.com/bitesize/articles/zrd9y9q>). This is particularly relevant due to KCSIE 2019 and the requirements around Relationships Education and Relationships and Sex Education.

Knife Crime

The government has produced the Offensive Weapons Act 2019 as a central part in tackling what the government called the “scourge of serious crime”

On 15 July 2019 the Home Secretary announced a new legal duty on public bodies to prevent and tackle serious violence. The new ‘public health duty’ will cover the police, local councils, local

health bodies, education representatives and youth offending services. It will ensure that relevant services work together to share data, intelligence and knowledge to understand and address the root causes of serious violence including knife crime. It will also allow them to target their interventions to prevent and stop violence altogether. KCC are awaiting guidance as to when this legislation will be enacted and how they will collaborate across public bodies.

Kent Police, through the Police and Crime Commissioner, have submitted a bid for £1.16 million to set up a Violence Reduction Unit in the County. KCC await confirmation on the outcome of that bid and further information about how various agency's will be involved

A link to the Act as published by the Government is here:

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2019/17/contents/enacted/data.htm>

Contextual Safeguarding

Over the next 12 months you will hear more and more about contextual safeguarding from your multi-agency partners especially those working in children's services. Contextual Safeguarding has been developed at the University of Bedfordshire



over the past six years to inform policy and practice approaches to safeguarding adolescents. It is an approach to understanding, and responding to, young people's experiences of significant harm beyond their families.

It recognises that the different relationships that young people form in their neighbourhoods, schools and online can feature violence and abuse. Parents and carers have little influence over these contexts, and young people's experiences of extra-familial abuse can undermine parent-child relationships. As individuals move from early childhood and into adolescence, they spend increasing amounts of time socialising independently of their families. As those that teach in secondary schools know these peer relationships are increasingly influential during adolescence, setting social norms which inform young people's experiences, behaviours and choices and determine peer status.

The aim of contextual safeguarding is to work more effectively across partnerships including, social care, health, education, local councils, youth services, police, private and voluntary sectors. Some of the solutions may be quite easy to address such as youths congregating in areas which are not lit well by the council or an area, they can access due to a broken fence. This can be addressed quickly but other more complex issues will need careful co-ordination.

In simple terms it extends the notion of 'capacity to safeguard' to sectors that operate beyond families and will in time provide a framework in which referrals can be made for contextual interventions that, when delivered effectively, can complement work with individuals and families.

It is our view that settings such as schools are providing a large amount of this intervention already due to the requirements of the legislation to safeguard children. This will put them in a good position to contribute effectively to new plans and ways of working in their districts with their multi-agency partners.

To find out more about contextual safeguarding, visit the University of Bedfordshire's [Contextual Safeguarding Network's website](#). Sign up for free and you can access a plethora of guides and resources for you to use in your setting.

Reports for Court

We have had schools contacting us about having to provide statements for Court on request of parents. We would remind settings that the only people that can request a court report from a third party such as a school, in times of familial disputes or at any other time, is the court/judge involved in any court proceedings. In some circumstances you could be contacted by a CAFCASS worker appointed by the court to complete a section 7 report for information regarding a child's progress at school.

If pressed by a parent our advice would be to only provide basic information simply confirming the child is at your setting, how long the child has been with you and the level of attendance they have but no more than this. This information should then be shared with both parents.

In private law matters a school is unlikely to be routinely asked for a comprehensive report. This is more likely to occur if there have been significant safeguarding concerns and children's services have become involved leading to care proceedings. If you are in the situation of having to complete any reports for court or having to give evidence and are unsure of what to do, please consult with us.

Brexit Concerns

As in previous newsletters when we were first expecting a possible exit from the EU without an agreement it is timely for this to be re-visited. The planned leaving date is now 31st October 2019 and whilst all attempts are being made to find a deal, preparations from central government are being made to cover all eventualities. Therefore, it is prudent that schools, PRUs and Early Years settings begin to plan for the possibility of disruption that might follow our departure.

At the time of writing we would direct you to the previous briefing still available on [Kelsi](#) . It is acknowledged that many of the dates referred to in that document have now passed but the concerns and required responses from settings remains relevant. It advises the initial steps that should be taken to ascertain how ready you are to manage any challenges to your capacity to maintain a full service to your young people. Kent's position as host to Dover, Sheerness, Kent Thameside, Dartford crossing, Eurotunnel, two Eurostar stations, the M20, M25, M2/A2 and M26 might mean that any impact could be greater here than elsewhere in the UK. For example, if traffic increase and roads become gridlocked this may impact on staff being able to get to work. Kent County Council says it has employed extra staff and stockpiled supplies in preparation for six months of disruption in the event of no deal.

It may be that there is no disruption, but the suggested preparation would be beneficial as it is in other areas of resilience planning that you would do in times of disruption such as extreme weather issues.

...and finally, if you have any questions on the articles, or the need for safeguarding advice, please contact the team using the details provided, and we wish you all a safe and good term!

Head Office: Room 2.30 Sessions House County Hall Maidstone ME14 1XQ	
Claire Ray Head of Service	03000 415788
Peter Lewer Training & Development Manager	03000 418707
Online Safety	03000 415797
<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 411111 or the Police on 999</p>	
Ashford	03000 415648
Canterbury	03000 418503
Dartford	03000 412445
Dover	03000 415648
Folkestone & Hythe	03000 415648
Gravesham	03000 412445
Maidstone	03000 412284
Sevenoaks	03000 412445
Swale	03000 418503
Thanet	03000 418503
Tonbridge & Malling	03000 412284
Tunbridge Wells	03000 412284

Integrated Front Door: 03000 411111 (outside office hours **03000 419191**)
Early Help Contacts (district teams) can be found on www.kelsi.org.uk

Local Authority Designated Officer Contacts

If a call is urgent i.e. **a child is in immediate danger**, and the call **cannot** go through to the officer on **Duty**, the call should go through to the **Integrated Front Door on: 03000 41 11 11**

Calls for **child protection training, querying procedures and policies or general child protection concerns** should be transferred to the appropriate Area Safeguarding Advisor (see over page)

LADO Team contact number: 03000 410888

Now it's just one number for the whole LADO Team covering Kent Local Authority

Email: kentchildrenslado@kent.gov.uk

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

Area Education Officers

South Kent – David Adams 03000 414989

East Kent – Marisa White 03000 418794

West Kent – Nicholas Abrahams 03000 412209

North Kent – Ian Watts 03000 414302

This safeguarding 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.