

# Child Protection Newsletter

ISSUE NO. 72 June 2020

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## Welcome

As stated in previous newsletters we will ensure that you receive the relevant guidance and updates 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.

In all the articles below we include links to external websites. These will often be in [blue text](#) for you to click on so you can then read the full information regarding that topic. Please tell us if you have any issues with any of the links provided.

## The Education People

[The Education People](#) provide services to support early years through to young adults with over 800 products and services available.

### **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

A reminder that all our services and products we offer to educational settings can be found on the [TEP website](#). Although safeguarding is a competitive market we feel that we can provide training, assessments and guidance unique to working within Kent that cannot be offered by other providers.

If you are unable to find what you would like on this link please contact us and we can look at designing something bespoke for your setting.

## Covid-19 specific advice

As the advice and situation remains ever changing we urge you to visit [Kelsi](#) on a daily basis, where possible, to keep up to date with news and changes. At the time of writing schools will have welcomed back some pupils from 1<sup>st</sup> June onwards. As always if there are any safeguarding issues, please do consult with your safeguarding advisor. We are still available to take enquiries and urge you to call.

As settings, you will have been sent the return to school guidance which will be referred to periodically through this newsletter. The [Phased Return Safeguarding toolkit](#), embedded in the guidance, outlines the key areas for consideration and provides links to other guidance, for example health and safety and emotional wellbeing resources, to aid leaders and governors in assessing the safety of their provision.

On the 20<sup>th</sup> May 2020, the DfE updated '[Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): safeguarding in schools, colleges and other providers](#)'. The document now provides guidance on what schools and colleges should be thinking about as they plan for more children to return from week commencing 1 June - especially around updating the child protection policy, designated safeguarding lead arrangements, protecting vulnerable children and mental health. An updated addendum policy can be found on the Kelsi Covid-19 pages <https://www.kelsi.org.uk/news-and-events/news/primary/coronavirus>

### **Safeguarding and social distancing**

It is acknowledged that schools are practicing this where they can and with a variety of systems in place. However, the usual ad-hoc and spontaneous interactions that you would normally have with parents should still be maintained where possible. This often provides a valuable opportunity to find out what is happening in the lives of our families and establish whether there are any safeguarding concerns that you should be aware of for a child and their family. Although parents/carers may be dropping children off at a distance and not coming into classrooms or even playgrounds as they normally would, you still need to be certain that key members of staff can be easily accessed. Having to pre-arrange a meeting with staff may mean parents and carers are not talking to you when they urgently need to. Whatever process you have in place for this please be mindful of some of those difficult to reach parents who may be dissuaded in talking with you if the process is a little more complex than it was before Covid-19.

## Emotional wellbeing issues and Covid-19

The current measures in place limit our usual actions and response to stress. Social distancing and self-isolation brings unprecedented challenges to our well-being as we learn to adapt to the new normal!

In an attempt to provide emotional wellbeing support to staff/parents and carers and students themselves, a wealth of information and guidance that will assist in supporting individuals and/or signposting them to other organisations has been collated. It has been categorised into nine resource documents that are listed below. The information contained in the documents is not just relevant to emotional wellbeing following Covid-19 but might also be useful as reference documents for pastoral staff to use when necessary.

In Section 7, which starts at page 84 of the Return to School document, you will find these documents embedded. The direct links to the documents are attached below.

## [Return to School Guidance Document](#)

- [Staff Wellbeing](#)
- [Emotional Wellbeing Vulnerable Pupils](#)
- [CYP Kent Emotional Wellbeing flow chart](#)
- [Emotional Wellbeing in Schools including Universal and Transition Covid-19](#)
- [Emotional Wellbeing Support for Primary School Aged Children - Covid19](#)
- [Practical Resources for parents and carers](#)
- [Practical and Emotional Wellbeing Support Following Bereavement](#)
- [Emotional Wellbeing – Highly Anxious Pupils](#)
- [Emotional Wellbeing - Youth](#)

In addition, there is a useful article from TES [here](#) about a teacher's experiences in the Netherlands when preparing to welcome students back after the lengthy lockdown.

## **KOOTH**

Matt Cowlam (KOOTH) has recently contacted schools via email in order to offer the following to those pupils aged between 10 and 16:

- [KOOTH](#) presentations to students - These presentations are delivered **VIRTUALLY** and will introduce the service and give young people the chance to discuss their upcoming transition to secondary school.
- Physical resources - Kooth cards, posters, leaflets.
- Digital resources - e-posters, images for website/social media, parent letter, video links.
- Staff training via [webinar](#) detailing the services offered by KOOTH is available to those interested on:
  - Wednesday 10th June at 10.30am
  - Tuesday 16th June at 11.00am
  - Wednesday 17th June at 1.00pm
  - Monday 22nd June at 10.00am

## **ALL OF THE ABOVE ARE COMPLETELY FREE OF CHARGE TO SCHOOLS**

Matt is keen to assist schools with any questions they may have or to provide any of the resources listed. Please contact him on: [mcowlam@xenzone.com](mailto:mcowlam@xenzone.com) or 07538 395501

## Training and support

We are continuing to explore ways we can carry out face to face training but dependent on government advice we are exploring alternatives, such as online/eLearning provision.

### **DSL Training - Schools**

Current DfE [Covid-19 safeguarding in schools](#) guidance states that DSLs (and deputies) whose training has expired recently are still classed as DSLs and can continue in that role. We do not believe this guidance is going to change in the immediate future however DSLs may find it helpful to gather evidence to demonstrate how their knowledge and skills are being kept up to date during this time, for example accessing newsletters, e-bulletins, eLearning and reading about safeguarding developments.

Following requests from schools, we will be offering an interim (valid for 1 year) DSLR Schools eLearning course for those who want to access it. This will be launched before September on the CPD online website and will be offered alongside face to face. Whilst there are other providers out there, our eLearning course is very much Kent specific and is tailored to what we know are concerns relevant to schools in our area.

### **Training for new DSLs**

Due to the nature of the training and the need to safeguard delegates we believe that training for new DSLs still needs to be delivered face to face – a core offer for schools and early years settings will available via CPD online soon.

We recognise that some settings may need to train more DSLs than usual to ensure an onsite presence in response to Covid-19. It is for this reason that we are asking whether schools and settings would be interested in our team exploring the possibility of offering local face to face DSL training during the summer term and over the summer holiday.

- We would need schools/settings to provide a venue which can safely accommodate numbers in line with the current social distancing requirements.
- We would require a minimum of 12 delegates and the maximum number would be dependent on venue capacity in line with Government advice.
- If setting have less than 12 new DSLs to train, they may need to partner locally with other settings e.g. MATs or local partnerships.

We cannot commit to being able to offer this currently but if your school/MAT/partnership would be interested, please email your local ESS admin and indicate how many new DSL staff you need to train and if you can offer a suitable venue space.

### **Bespoke Whole School/Setting Training**

Whilst we have made the decision to cancel bespoke whole school/setting training booked between now and the Summer holiday, we are currently reviewing how we can deliver this safely from September.

We will be contacting schools and settings over the summer term who have already booked inset or twilight sessions for Autumn 2020 to discuss options for delivery, but it is likely that bespoke training will only be offered where the government guidance regarding social distancing can be achieved; this may mean reducing numbers or holding multiple sessions or sessions in larger rooms.

## **Support**

It was due to our difficulties in delivery training and getting out into schools that we decided to hold DSL catch up meetings in each area to give schools the opportunity to share with us how they are managing at this time. In the meetings we have been joined, where possible by colleagues from the Front Door, Early Help, District social work teams and the police. These are held remotely via a telephone/video call which presents its own challenges, but we hope you have found them useful.

It has been a huge task arranging 36 individual meetings over a fortnight and then repeating that feat again later in the month. Our thanks go out to admin staff for getting the invites to as many of you as possible. If we have missed you or your school please notify your local advisor.

As the weeks progress and the changes to school provision potentially come into focus early in Term 6, we will review if we are able to continue to offer this kind of support in some form until the end of the academic year. It is likely to continue in some form so watch this space.

## **Early Years**

### **Actions for early years and childcare providers during the coronavirus outbreak**

At the time of writing, the government has updated their guidance for early years settings to confirm that paid childcare can be provided to the children of one household from Wednesday 13 May 2020. This includes childminders, who may choose to look after the children of one household if they are not already looking after vulnerable children or those of critical workers. From 1 June 2020, childminders can look after children of all ages, in line with their current Ofsted registration, and within usual limits on the number of children they can care for.

As with all advice in this newsletter the guidance is subject to change and may change once more is known about the spread of Covid-19. Therefore, we urge you to check the government [advice](#). Also, on [Kelsi](#) is an FAQ's around this particular area of provision.

The most recent Government updates include clarity for where Out of School provision is operating on your school site. Ofsted registered out of school provision can only provide childcare to the children who are currently attending school. This provision must operate on the school premises, be able to follow the same health protection procedures as the school and the headteacher must be satisfied with the arrangements. The out of school provision that operates within your school can only provide childcare to the children of your school. All other out of school settings are not able to reopen at this time.

If you have an out of school provision operating on your school site you must be working with them to ensure they follow the same arrangements as your school, such as keeping children in the same small consistent groups that they are in during the school day.

Childcare providers should not be offering care for school aged children (regardless of year group) during the school day, this includes out of school and early years providers (excluding childminders).

Childminders can provide care for children of all ages from 1<sup>st</sup> June in line with their current Ofsted registration and within the usual limits on the number of children they can care for.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-early-years-and-childcare-closures/coronavirus-covid-19-early-years-and-childcare-closures#main-changes-to-previous-guidance>

## Updates

### DfE update on statutory PSHE requirements from September

The statutory requirement to provide these aspects of PSHE education is still in place from September, and schools should continue to prepare for this date where possible. Indeed, many schools are already offering high quality PSHE that covers, and exceeds, statutory content or will be prepared to do so by the beginning of the new school year. However, due to the coronavirus and closures, schools who are not able to implement fully from September have been granted some leeway — and now have until Summer term 2021 to do so.

The updated government advice says that schools consider prioritising curriculum content on mental health and wellbeing as the timescales and pressure to deliver on both aspects of the curriculum may be too great to achieve. See link for full guidance:

<https://www.pshe-association.org.uk/sites/default/files/u26918/Communication%20to%20schools%20on%20the%20implementation%20of%20Relationships%20Education%20Relationships%20and%20Sex%20Education%20and%20Health%20Education.pdf>

## Online Safety

### Local Support

The Education Safeguarding Service have published several online safety guidance documents and templates for schools to use following Covid-19 restrictions. We encourage DSLs and leaders to access the following:

- ✓ [Remote Learning Guidance](#)
- ✓ [AUP for remote learning and communication](#)
- ✓ [Online Safety links and resources to share with staff and parents/carers](#)

We will continue to update the above links with new resources as they are made available, or with revised guidance to help settings ensure they are compliant with current government guidance and good practice recommendations.

Schools and settings can continue to seek specialised online safety advice regarding child safety concerns or policy/procedural queries via the Education Safeguarding Advisor (Online Protection).

### National guidance on remote learning

The DfE have published guidance on remote education during coronavirus:

- [Remote education during coronavirus \(COVID-19\)](#)
- [Safeguarding and remote education during coronavirus \(COVID-19\)](#)

Other national resources regarding remote learning is available:

- [SWGfL](#)
- [LGfL](#)
- [NSPCC](#)
- [National Cyber Security Centre](#)



## New Think U Know Resource for KS3: 'Send me a Pic?'

'[Send me a pic?](#)', the new Thinkuknow online safety education resource from NCA-CEOP, has been launched. 'Send me a pic?' has been awarded the PSHE Association Quality Mark, demonstrating that it supports safe and effective teaching practice and meets the PSHE Association's 'Ten principles of effective PSHE education'.

This KS3 resource pack is free to access and contains a series of three lesson plans which centre around seven films depicting fictional online chats. The chats show young people requesting, receiving and discussing issues related to the sharing of nude images.

The resource aims to help young people to spot the signs of manipulative, pressurising and abusive behaviour, and helps them to develop the skills, knowledge and confidence they need to identify risk online and access help when they need it.

The resource pack contains a CPD presentation to help staff deliver 'Send me a pic?' safely and effectively in structured sessions in an education setting, and a factsheet on nude image sharing for parents and carers.

The resource is not designed for home learning, but will support Secondary Schools when planning the RSE aspects of their PSHE education curriculum for September.

## Online safety resources to share with parents/carers

Several recognised organisations are providing online safety related home learning for schools and settings to share with parents and carers. A more detailed list can be found [here](#) but below you can find our current favourites!



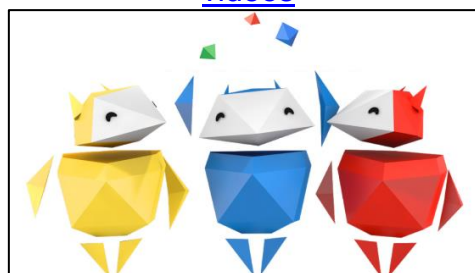
[NCA-CEOP: Think U Know Home Activity Packs](#)



[Childnet: Be Smart with a heart: Online videos](#)



[Children's Commissioner: Digital safety and wellbeing kit](#)



[Parent Zone: The Be Internet Legends Hub](#)

### Covid-19 is not an excuse for domestic abuse - spot the signs

Kent Integrated Domestic Abuse service have developed e-learning at <http://www.domesticabuseservices.org.uk/professionals/training/> covering what domestic abuse is, things you may notice, how to ask and advice you can give, along with useful signposting to further information. Remember, if you think someone is in immediate danger, call 999.



It's everyone's responsibility to know how to spot the possible signs of abuse and how to respond.

### Kent Safeguarding Children Multi-Agency Partnership

Given the fast-moving times in which we find ourselves, a '[News](#)' page has been developed on the KSCMP website. The aim of this page is to bring you any new information relating to safeguarding children and young people during these challenging times. The page currently includes information provided by partner agencies who wish to highlight and share key safeguarding issues with their multi-agency colleagues, as well as national information.

If you have any relevant information that you would like to share, please forward to [catherine.hampson@kent.gov.uk](mailto:catherine.hampson@kent.gov.uk).

### KCF SEN Hardship Grants

Kent Community Foundation's (KCF) hardship grants for families with children with complex needs is a useful resource. KCF can provide cash hardship grants to families direct up to £1,000 to help with either buying essential things for the home or just to help pay the bills over the next few months.

It's a simple process; just an email to [Jo@kentcf.org.uk](mailto:Jo@kentcf.org.uk) from a professional. They aim to get money to families within two weeks (quicker if we can get the bank details).

### Toy Scheme



Many of the support services normally provided for our families, such as short breaks or respite have been closed or offering a restricted service due to the pandemic, considering this children's services have been looking at other ways of providing support. In collaboration with [We Are Beams](#) (a charity that supports disabled children and young people), to offer a new scheme to allow families to buy toys and activities to keep children entertained and help alleviate some of the pressures. They will be providing up to £250 for every child or young person who meet the eligibility criteria.

## A longer read - Request to access setting safeguarding files

In the Education Safeguarding Service, we often get queries in relation to whether a parent(s) can have a full copy of their child's safeguarding file. These requests will continue to happen even when schools are having to manage all that goes with Covid-19. Quite often such a request is on the back of some form of action you may have had to take in order to safeguard a child or an acrimonious split between two parents who may want to use the information you have to use as evidence in family court.

The first thing to remember is don't panic. As a setting you have nothing to hide; there should be nothing on your system that you should be afraid to share. These requests can provoke anxiety as



a parent will often infer that they are less than happy with your actions, whatever they may have been. Sometimes they will mention solicitors or MPs and Ofsted when making these requests.

This [guide](#) is essential for you to look at when it comes to sharing any kind of data with parents and other professionals.

As a rule, only those with Parental Responsibility will have the right of access to information about a child's educational, medical and Children's Services records. Although some education and family law provisions are relevant in understanding the legal position in this area, the [Data Protection Act 2018](#), General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) and the [Freedom of Information Act 2000](#) are the primary sources of legislation.

There are certain circumstances where the school can withhold an educational record; for example, where the information might cause serious harm to the physical or mental health of the pupil or another individual. It is vital that you clearly record your rationale as to why information was not shared at that time.

In maintained schools, parents have the right to access their child's educational record. In academies, free schools in England, or independent schools, there is no equivalent right of access and it is up to the school to make the decision to give access or not.

There may be a need to redact a record especially if the information pertains to one or other parent that is personal to them and not relevant to share. This is particularly an issue if parents are no longer presenting as a couple. The physical or mental health or personal circumstances of a parent may not be relevant to share so exercise caution around this.

Generally, once a child reaches the age of 16, they will be consulted before their personal information is released to parents/carers. There are instances, for example where an absent parent requests information, where the child does not wish for their information to be disclosed. The organisation to whom the request is made (whether it be the school, a medical practice or Children's Services) is entitled to act in accordance with the wishes and feelings of the child and refuse to disclose information where applicable. However, the requirement to act in accordance with the wishes and feelings of the child can be overridden if you believe that to not share that information places them at risk of significant harm.

Decisions around children consenting to their data being shared can be found in the DoH document titled [Understanding and dealing with issues relating to parental responsibility](#).

As with all matters relating to safeguarding if you have any queries around information sharing please consult with your education safeguarding advisor.

**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 rest of term!**

**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.**

<b>Head Office: Room 2.30 Sessions House, County Hall, Maidstone ME14 1XQ</b>	
<b>Claire Ray</b> Head of Service	<b>03000 415788</b>
<b>Training &amp; Development Manager</b> Rebecca Avery	<b>03000 418707</b>
<b>Online Safety</b>	<b>03000 415797</b>
<p><b>For advice on safeguarding issues please call your area office on the numbers listed below.</b></p> <p><b>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</b></p>	
<b>Ashford</b>	<b>03000 415648</b>
<b>Canterbury</b>	<b>03000 418503</b>
<b>Dartford</b>	<b>03000 412445</b>
<b>Dover</b>	<b>03000 415648</b>
<b>Folkestone &amp; Hythe</b>	<b>03000 415648</b>
<b>Gravesham</b>	<b>03000 412445</b>
<b>Maidstone</b>	<b>03000 412284</b>
<b>Sevenoaks</b>	<b>03000 412445</b>
<b>Swale</b>	<b>03000 418503</b>
<b>Thanet</b>	<b>03000 418503</b>
<b>Tonbridge &amp; Malling</b>	<b>03000 412284</b>
<b>Tunbridge Wells</b>	<b>03000 412284</b>

**Integrated Front Door: 03000 411111** (outside office hours **03000 419191**)  
**Early Help Contacts** (district teams) can be found on [www.kelsi.org.uk](http://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 Education Safeguarding Service (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](mailto: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