

Child Protection Newsletter

ISSUE NO. 75 Nov 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 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 an email notification under your 'my account' settings.

Education Safeguarding Service (ESS)

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

As the advice and situation remains ever changing we urge you to visit [Kelsi](#) on a regular basis, to keep up to date with news and changes.

We encourage you to seek additional advice where possible from our service and make sure you keep up to date with any initiatives in your local area. There is likely to be more children needing to be assessed but we need to ensure they are supported in the right way and that any concerns haven't already been dealt with by our partner agencies earlier on in Lockdown.

Remote Safeguarding Reviews

The Education Safeguarding Service have revised the Desktop Safeguarding Review process in line with the current changes brought about by Covid-19 and social distancing. We can complete face to face reviews where it is safe to do so but we continue to offer two remote alternatives.



A full day virtual review would entail the school completing a self-review tool devised by the Education Safeguarding Service. A meeting via Skype or Microsoft Teams will then be completed within a month of your self-review. The meeting itself takes about half a day (3-4 hours) and focuses on going through the findings with the ASA, the Head and/or DSL and the ASA making recommendations where appropriate. There will be no separate report but recommendations, including useful links and tools would be noted on the review tool for the school's records.

The alternative to this would be a half day review whereby the ASA would make recommendations, links to resources etc. based solely on the completed self-review tool but without conducting a half day meeting.

If Headteachers would like more information about a Remote Safeguarding Review,

contact your ASA.

DSL Cover

We know that DSL cover for any setting will vary from place to place. In small settings there may only be two but in large secondary school there are several. What is vital that no matter how you refer to them be they deputy or assistant DSLs all of them need to be equally trained and skilled at how to respond in an emergency.

All DSLs need to be familiar with the support level guidance in Kent and be able to recognise an immediate safeguarding situation. Our service covers this on all our courses using case scenarios and the appropriate response, however we are mindful that not all settings access our training.

Therefore, as DSLs you must be certain that your team in your setting are confident in identifying significant safeguarding issues and know what to do. This is also vital when attending child protection case conferences where the expectation is that you will be offering your expert view so decisions can be made.

Updates and Resources

Child Protection Case Conferences

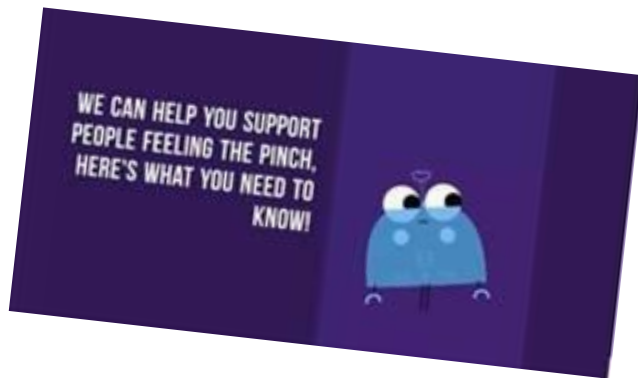
Kent County Council child protection services are currently transforming their child protection experience for families, this includes reviewing and testing out how they use technology, the forms and templates used to further embed a Conference experience that is family focussed.

KCC have four pilot sites across the county and you may attend a Conference which feels slightly different to what you are used to or be asked to use a template for reports which is different to the one you usually use.

The CP service is keen to hear about your experiences as a partner agency in the Conference process. If you attend a Conference at one of the pilot sites or if you have any feedback you wish to share about your experiences of Conference (ICPC & RCPC) please use the link below.

The service looks forward to working with you over the coming months as they reshape their Child Protection Conferences in Kent.

[Click here for Project Feedback Form for Professionals](#)



Emergency assistance and support - how you can help

The Government has allocated KCC £1,669,165.92, a one-off contribution to support households experiencing financial hardship as a result of COVID-19.

We have all witnessed the impact COVID-19 has had on our family, friends and communities and support is available to help those who need it most, so don't worry alone. If you know of someone, at home, at work or in the community, who is struggling to afford food and other essentials, we can help through our emergency assistance grant and the support of our [Kent Support and Assistance Service \(KSAS\)](#).



Tackling Serious Youth Violence

A project funded by the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government has recently gone live. The North Kent and Medway Serious Youth Violence and Prevention Project is a two year project to support young people under the age of 18 who are either involved in gangs or violence, including carrying knives, or who are vulnerable to exploitation and at risk of being involved in youth violence. Salus have been commissioned to support these young people, and to raise awareness in North Kent and Medway about the risks of serious youth violence.

Referrals to Salus will come from Kent Police, Youth Offending Services, Early Help and Children's Social Work teams and some schools. Project Co-ordinator James Hensman has been attending various briefings and team meetings to talk with partners and services about the focus of the project. If you would like to arrange a briefing for your team or would like more information about how to refer a young person you work with, please email the team at syvteam@kent.gov.uk.



Harmful Sexual behaviour Toolkit- Stop it now!

Research shows that around a third of child sexual offences in the UK are carried out by under 18s.

Covid-19 restrictions mean that many children are spending more time unsupervised offline and online, so made a toolkit to spread awareness of the signs of harmful sexual behaviour, and help adults take action to prevent abuse happening.

stop it now have

harmful sexual behaviour, and help adults take action to prevent abuse happening.

We encourage you to share it with parents and carers, your friends, family and wider professional networks, so that support reaches as far as possible, helping to protect children.

Download the toolkit and explore their other useful resources here:

<https://www.stopitnow.org.uk/concerned-about-a-child-or-young-persons-sexual-behaviour/preventing-harmful-sexual-behaviour/>



The Office of the Kent Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC) is a non-political, impartial organisation which exists to support the work of the elected PCC. The OPCC produces a regular free e-newsletters, which are available on the main website. Past editions of their newsletter are

published on their website. Of interest this month is the autumn newsletter linked here:

<https://www.kent-pcc.gov.uk/SysSiteAssets/media/downloads/newsletters/vru-autumn-2020-newsletter.pdf>



Introducing the new NELFT young people's wellbeing Instagram account

NHS Foundation Trust

On Friday 9 October a new Instagram account was launched, aimed at young people within NHS services and their peers; [@kentandmedwaycamhs](#) will be covering both CYPMHS and MYPWS in Kent. They have set up this channel to help better support and communicate with young people who might be struggling with their mental health or wellbeing. They want to raise awareness and understanding of various wellbeing challenges and empower young people to feel more in control of their own mental health.

Below are some of the key aims for the account:

- Improving service awareness
- Helping young people to build positive relationships with social media
- Improving participation and young people's involvement in service improvements
- Increasing young people's emotional resilience
- Removing the stigma around receiving mental health treatment.

For the Instagram account to achieve its full potential we need as many young people to know about it as possible. There will also be opportunities for young people to get involved with creating content, directing content and approving recommended resources. Please give a follow and share the handle with the young people you work with. Encourage them to like and follow!

Stress among children in England during the coronavirus lockdown



The Children's Commissioner's Office conducted a survey of 1,851 8-17 year olds living in England to better understand levels of stress. The research happened to coincide with the nationwide lockdown restrictions in March, and with this the impacts of Covid-19 on children's levels of stress became apparent. As a result, a second survey involving a similar sized group of children was undertaken in June to explore changes in experiences of stress since the start of lockdown.

Common causes of stress were

- completing schoolwork at home
- worries about exams, and
- being separated from friends and family
- concerns about their own mental and physical health
- parental unemployment

[the Children's Commissioner's Office survey](#)



BeFree is for 10-18 year old females, including transgender individuals, living in Kent, who are at risk of experiencing unhealthy or abusive relationships.

They offer one-to-one sessions that explore self-esteem, healthy/unhealthy relationships, sexual health & consent (age appropriate), child sexual exploitation and keeping safe. They also offer group work programmes. They aim to:

- > Deliver a non-stigmatising relationship & sex education
- > Build emotional health & resilience
- > Empower young people to make informed choices about emotional & physical relationships

They respond to referrals within 48 hours and, if accepted, the work commences within 6 weeks. For young people under the age of 16, parental agreement is required for the young person to take part.

Webpage & referral form: <https://www.barnardos.org.uk/what-we-do/services/befree-positive-relationships-service>

Email: befree@barnardos.org.uk

Phone: 01892 511468



Due to the effects of the Coronavirus (Covid-19) pandemic, the NSPCC have changed the way their *Speak out. Stay safe.* programme is delivered and therefore our staff and volunteers won't be delivering the programme in schools at the moment.

With the support of Ant and Dec they have launched a virtual version of their safeguarding programme for the autumn term - *Speak out. Stay safe.* online.

This offer, available for children aged 5 to 11, includes access to video assemblies and supporting resources for use in the classroom.

A BSL version is also available for d/Deaf children, and a specially adapted SEND version of *Speak out. Stay safe.* remains available as usual.

How does *Speak out. Stay safe.* online work?

You will have access to pre-recorded *Speak out. Stay safe.* online assemblies, to show to your pupils. The *Speak out. Stay safe.* messages are delivered in a fun and interactive way with the help of our mascot Buddy and special guest appearances from Ant and Dec. The online assemblies include pause points to allow for teacher-pupil interaction.

They have also developed supporting resources to go alongside the online assembly. These consist of a Pre-Online Assembly Presentation Pack (Key Stage 2 only) to use before and a Lesson Plan to use after the online assembly. They provide fun and engaging classroom-based activities that prepare children prior to watching the online assembly and help reinforce learning after the assembly.

Here is a short film providing you with a little more insight as to how the programme will work, that you may like to share with your team.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZBqGXCJt0ko&feature=youtu.be>

Remember, SOSS assemblies help support key themes:

- KCSIE 2020 – “As schools and colleges increasingly work online, it is essential that children are safeguarded from potentially harmful and inappropriate online material”
- Ofsted ‘Inspecting Safeguarding’ 2019 – “Help prevent abuse by raising awareness among children and learners of safeguarding risks and how and where to get help and support if they need it”

What next?

There is no cost to access the resources. This fantastic resource is currently available to you across the Autumn Term, so please don't delay in getting in touch! Please email sarah.walker@nspcc.org.uk to access the resources.



Is this Coercive Control?

An excellent article and a link to a documentary from the perspective of some young people about identifying being in a controlling relationship can be found here.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bbcthree/article/f2b92a97-66d8-42b5-8d70-6a38c29b82e1>

Early Years and Childcare

The Education Safeguarding Service are currently in the process of producing two new online safety eLearning courses designed to support staff in Early Years Settings.

Our Basic Online Safeguarding for Early Years Practitioners and Strategic Online Safeguarding for Early Years Designated Safeguarding Leads and Managers will soon be available to access via the Education People Website.

TEP Safeguarding Training



Core Training

Due to current Covid-19 restrictions all Designated Safeguarding Lead training for schools and early years settings in terms 1 and 2 delivered by ESS has been moved to virtual training via Zoom.

We are offering interim DSL Refresher [eLearning courses](#) for schools (EL 20/025) and early years settings (EL 20/030). These comprehensive courses will act as an interim measure and will enable existing lead DSLs and Deputy DSLs in Schools and settings to refresh their knowledge and skills in line with 'Keeping Children Safe in Education' 2020 and the EYFS. The eLearning refresher courses should take approximately 4-5 hours to complete, but progress can be bookmarked so you can complete it at your own pace.

DSL Whole School Training Pack for DSLs

We are delighted to announce that our Whole School Safeguarding Training Pack is available for purchase on the [Education People website](#). The pack is entirely optional but will assist trained DSLs to deliver up-to-date and Kent specific staff training within their own school. By purchasing the resource pack, you will be granted access to a

PowerPoint presentation and a supporting guidance document to use for the Academic year 2020-21.

Online Safety



Internet Matters and South West Grid for Learning (SWGfL) have produced a new [Inclusive Digital Safety hub](#).

Research demonstrates that children experiencing vulnerabilities are more exposed to online harm; this brand-new resource aims to equip and empower professionals and parents and carers to support vulnerable children who are most likely to experience online risks. It includes targeted resources and guidance specifically designed to support children with [SEND](#), [care-experienced](#) children, or those who identify as [LGBTQ+](#).

The [Connecting Safely Online hub](#) provides tailored advice to support and empower parents, carers and young people with additional needs to connect safely across a range of social media platforms, including practical advice about setting up an account, navigating the online environment safely and how to tackle online issues together.

For professionals, alongside the advice hub, there is also a [resource centre](#) with recommended specialist resources to use with children and young people, including a new, SEND version of the [‘So you got naked online’](#) advice leaflet, which can be used directly with young people who have taken nude or semi-nude images.

Safer Internet Day 2021



Safer Internet Day will be celebrated on 9th February 2021, with the theme: *‘An internet we trust; exploring reliability in the online world’*.

The campaign focuses on how we decide what to trust online and explores how influence, persuasion and manipulation can impact young people’s decisions, opinions and what they share online.

It also looks at the emotional impact of navigating a misleading online world and the importance of creating a supportive, critical, questioning culture, and giving young people the skills to spot misleading content and support one another online.

You can register as a [Safer Internet Day supporter](#) already and share your planned activities with the UK Safer Internet Centre.

Think U Know Online Safety Toolkits



The NCA-CEOP Education Team have published [4 online safety toolkits](#) contain short activities designed to be delivered by professionals across all education settings. The activities cover themes such as online friendships (being kind online), sharing pictures and videos, live streaming and gaming.

Toolkits are aimed at staff working with children aged 5 to 14+ and will help children to:

- understand healthy and unhealthy behaviours within online and offline friendships and relationships

- understand the importance of permission and consent in relation to sharing images and videos
- identify signs of manipulative, pressurising or threatening behaviour and respond safely to it
- understand the importance of seeking help from a trusted adult when they need it

The toolkits use existing Think U Know resources and are based on the [#OnlineSafetyatHome](#) activity packs produced during summer 2020.

A Longer Read – How to choose the best training provider

Working within any setting can be incredibly rewarding, but it also comes with an enormous responsibility. One of the most important aspects of this responsibility is your obligation as practitioners to keep those who are in your care safe from harm. Safeguarding training is the perfect way to ensure that you and your team have the skills needed to be able to provide a service that protects children.

As face to face training is a limited option in the current climate, settings are increasingly turning towards other options such as eLearning, to ensure Designated Safeguarding Leads and staff keep up to date with the safeguarding requirements. The question is which course do you choose? Finding the right training for your setting and staff is an important decision but can be fraught with complexities; the following guidance, written by the [Education Safeguarding Service](#), will help you find the right fit for you your setting.

Firstly, ask some key questions to explore your specific training needs and requirements. This could include:

- What do you need to achieve in relation to safeguarding training, for example who is the audience?
- What are the desired learning objectives and outcomes for the training? For example, training for a Designated Safeguarding Lead will need to cover different content to a basic child protection course aimed at new staff.
- What are you required to do by law?
- What level of understanding, skills and knowledge do you have in your organisation already?
- How can you evidence and/or evaluate the impact of any training provided?

Only once you have identified what your specific training needs are, can you find the right fit in terms of training provider. You should consider if an eLearning course is best suited to meet your needs or if you would benefit from a more interactive trainer led session. You should also consider if you need to use a training provider who knows the Kent safeguarding policies and procedures, as well as the specific trends in your area.

Secondly, if you are using an external trainer or package of materials, you need to ensure that they have the right understanding, experience, skills and knowledge which

fits with your identified training needs. The following questions can help you gather essential information to inform your decision making:

- Do they have any accredited or recognised training, teaching and/or safeguarding qualifications?
- Do they have an appropriate understanding of what it is like to run an organisation such as yours?
- Are the training resources up-to-date and aligned with your organisations safeguarding ethos?
- Is the content appropriate to your specific local needs? If not, can the content be adapted, or will you need to undertake additional work to ensure it is fit for purpose?
- Is the training certified and/or quality assured? If so, by who?
- Is the training provider able to put you in touch with other settings for testimonials?

Thirdly, value for money is key to many settings. Shop around and compare costs for different training approaches or products; as you research, you may identify a benchmark cost for a certain type of training, however, be wary of providers who have costs significantly lower than others. If you feel drawn to them because of this, please ensure that they meet the requirements identified above as sadly, reduced costs could mean cutting corners when it comes to quality. It is vital that you and your staff are well equipped and confident in your safeguarding role and responsibilities; if the training is poor, mistakes may be made, and this could mean you need to buy in additional resources later. Most importantly however, poor quality training could put children, your staff and your setting at risk of harm.

Lastly, it is vital that any training provider you choose strengthens your settings safeguarding approaches; the experience of training should not be a passive or 'tick box' experience. Whichever way it is provided, it needs to provide you and your staff with the knowledge and understanding required to ensure your setting is a safe place for the whole community. Once completed, safeguarding training should leave you and your staff encouraged to contribute to and shape your safeguarding arrangements and ultimately should help support your setting to establish safer practice which ultimately makes you a better provider.

If settings need to discuss their training requirements further, advice can be sought from the [Education Safeguarding Service](#).

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

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.

Head Office: Room 2.30 Sessions House County Hall Maidstone ME14 1XQ	
Claire Ray Head of Service	03000 415788
Rebecca Avery 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. 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.

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 – Celia Buxton 03000 414989
East Kent – Marisa White 03000 418794
West Kent – Nicholas Abrahams 03000 412209
North Kent – Ian Watts 03000 414302

