

# Child Protection Newsletter

ISSUE NO. 77 March 2021

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## Welcome

As we approach a year since the first lockdown in March 2020 we continue to try and support all our settings in matters relating to safeguarding with the additional pressures related to Covid-19.

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.

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)

We have some updates to our team personnel this term.

Ashley Assiter, Online Safety Development Officer will be taking Maternity leave from the start of April and we are sure you will all join us in sharing our congratulations and well wishes! We are delighted to

announce that we have appointed Emma Jenkins, as part time secondment cover. Many of you may know Emma from her role as Manager of Kent Children's University, which she will continue to offer in tandem. Rebecca Avery remains the overall online safety lead for the service but will be taking a more strategic focus as she is now the Training and Development Manager for the team. If you have any online safety related consultations please contact the team on 03000 415797 or for general online safety enquiries, email [esafetyofficer@theeducationpeople.org](mailto:esafetyofficer@theeducationpeople.org).

We continue to update our [safeguarding pages](#) on The Education People Website to act as a one-stop shop for DSLs. The updated pages include information about the training and services we offer to educational settings, local information, including our policy templates, as well as links to national guidance and resources. Make sure you visit the site and bookmark it for your future reference!

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.

We 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 remote alternatives.

## Covid-19 Advice and Support

Covid-19 has now been with us for a year and its impact on the families we work with has been felt. While there is disruption to education, to the economy and to family life we see stressors increase and services that are less effective at monitoring and intervention. This led, for example, to a [27% spike in serious incident notifications](#) during the first lockdown.

Hopefully, as vaccines begin to make an impact and life slowly returns to some form of normality as DSLs you will need to consider how to move from crisis management to begin to think strategically about what may need to be done in your setting. All the safeguarding priorities identified in KCSIE 2020 take on an added significance with the pandemic increasing the risks in our vulnerable families but also affecting all types of families from very different backgrounds.

As the advice and situation remains ever changing we urge you to visit [Kelsi](#) and the [Education People website](#) on a regular basis, to keep up to date with news and changes. Our resources can now all be found on [the Education People website](#), including updates for 2021; this includes an updated addendum child protection policy template and remote learning considerations and guidance.

National guidance for education settings in response to Covid-19 continues to be updated and published on the [gov.uk](#) website. The [National Governors Association](#)

(NGA) have updated their information on governance during this new lockdown period.

Even though schools have now re-opened fully some families may still be reluctant to return their children to school or their attendance will remain poor. In terms of whether matters need to be escalated it would be useful in these situations to consider completing the [Safeguarding Toolkit](#) to help you decide.

As always, if you have concerns about children from your school, please contact your [area safeguarding advisor](#) for support regarding the next steps.

## Operation Encompass

As you will be aware Covid-19 has led to a sizeable increase in domestic abuse being reported throughout the UK and with that, you as a setting, will have received an increased number of Operation Encompass notifications.

There is a [national helpline](#) open 8-1, Mon-Fri and run by educational psychologists who are completely independent of education, SS or police. They offer advice and support to education staff who have received a notification and want to talk through how they can best support a child and/or family. They are not able to access any information relating to incidents and do not record any specific details of the caller, it is general advice. Many have found it useful just to have a space to talk things through.

<https://www.operationencompass.org/covid-19>

## Updates and Resources

### Working Together to safeguard Children updates

A summary of the changes to WTSC 2018, made in December 2020. They include:

- The term 'contextual safeguarding' has been changed to 'assessment of risk outside the home'
- The importance of children's mental health concerns has been emphasised
- The impact of domestic abuse, including controlling or coercive behaviour, has been integrated throughout the revised guidance
- Criminal exploitation has been added to the areas of risk
- The information sharing chapter has been refined in response to the Data Protection Act 2018 and GDPR, explicitly stating that this does not prevent the sharing of information to keep children safe
- The homeless duty has been added



Al-Anon family Groups are available to anyone whose life is or has been affected by someone else's drinking. Call the

free helpline 0800 0086 811 10am to 10pm to speak to someone who understands or find a meeting. **Teachers are often the first to become aware of students affected by drinking in the family home and the website has resources for schools and other settings to use.** <https://www.al-anonuk.org.uk/>

We get many calls from settings related to parental discord so with that in mind it is useful to find out if the family have accessed mediation. Kent Family Mediation is the largest and most widely recognised family mediation service in Kent. They offer clients of varying income levels, the option of legally aided mediation or affordable private mediation fees.



Clients eligible to claim legal aid will receive free family mediation, with the other party also benefiting from a free MIAM (mediation information and assessment meeting) and a free first mediation meeting once eligibility is confirmed.

<https://www.kentfms.co.uk/>

### Kent Road Safety



The team currently sits within casualty reduction and they offer a broad range of interventions that schools can access, more importantly...free of charge. These range from road safety interventions within EYFS through to Young Driver programmes for Years 12 and 13.

To date, they have primarily sought interest from schools via mailshots (via email) and through some Facebook advertising. This works extremely well in the Primary sector but is not so successful in the Secondary domain. The interventions are for the pupils but have been designed in order that teachers can sign up to the programme and facilitate it, usually they would go into schools and present. They have adapted the interventions in order that the young people do not miss out on vital aspects of PHSE curriculum.

Lorna Smith from the Road Safety Team wants to explore means of putting on free programmes, courses for young people and workshop opportunities which head teachers and interested schools can access. She can be contacted on L [Lorna.smith@kent.gov.uk](mailto:Lorna.smith@kent.gov.uk)

[www.kentroadsafety.com](http://www.kentroadsafety.com) |

## Look Closer Campaign

**#LookCloser** is a partnership campaign launched by The Children's Society, the National County Lines Co-ordination Centre and British Transport Police, aiming to raise awareness of child exploitation and abuse, with a particular focus on public spaces. The campaign also seeks to highlight that child exploitation can happen anywhere, and any young person can be a victim.



Despite the government lockdown and social distancing measures being in place, young people are still being groomed, exploited and abused. The campaign encourages everyone to consider focusing on the public spaces which are still open and where exploitation may be most visible to the public. This could include parks, supermarkets, transport, banks and online environments like gaming and social media platforms.

Partners can support by promoting the campaign - more information [is available online here](#) and a digital asset pack is available containing a number of resources.



### Psychological First Aid

People that care for or work with children and young people that have been affected by COVID-19 (or other emergencies or individual crises) will be able to access a [new online Psychological First Aid \(PFA\) training course.](#)

The COVID-19 pandemic has had a huge impact on children, with many reporting that it has made them feel more stressed, lonely and worried:

The online course, developed by PHE, offers training on how to provide practical and emotional support to children and young people affected by emergencies or crisis situations. Children and young people can be very resilient, but crises such as COVID-19 can severely impact their mental health. Getting the right support early on can help prevent problems occurring or worsening.

Those completing the training will be equipped to better identify those children that are in distress and provide support to help them feel safe, connected and able to take steps to help themselves during the pandemic or other crisis situations.

It is available for all frontline workers such as teachers, health and social workers, charity and community volunteers and anyone who cares for or is regularly in contact with children and young people aged up to 25, including parents and caregivers. It is free, takes about three hours to complete (split into three sessions that the learner can complete at their own pace) and no previous qualifications are required.

On completion, participants will have an understanding of what Psychological First Aid is, be able to identify who would benefit from support and how best to give help across the different age groups and also for those who might need extra support because of different needs.

[Free Counter Terrorism online event for parents/professionals](#)

### **Understanding a Child’s Digital World – Event, Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> 2021, 1800**

Counter Terrorism Policing East Midlands are [hosting a free online event](#) to encourage parents and professionals to talk to children about online safety. This sessions serves as an introduction to understanding the digital world and what risks are present for children.

The event will be interactive, open to everyone with questions encouraged – please join and circulate to anyone else who may be interested.

### **Fearless in Kent**

Please see below some new dates for the Professionals sessions, being held on both Zoom and MS Teams. These sessions are **FREE** to attend and are available for any professionals working with young people. In the past we have hosted sessions for Safer Schools Officers, teachers, sports coaches, school nurses, Safer Neighbourhood Teams, youth workers and YOT workers.



### **MS Teams Sessions:**

To sign up to any of the below sessions, please **email** [Lauren.Geater@crimestoppers-uk.org](mailto:Lauren.Geater@crimestoppers-uk.org) to let her know which sessions you would like to attend and Lauren will send across the calendar invite.

Session	Date/Time
Introduction to Exploitation	Wednesday 10 <sup>th</sup> March – 1:00 – 2:30
Introduction to Hate Crime	Monday 15 <sup>th</sup> March – 10:00 – 11:30

### **Zoom Sessions:**

To sign up to these sessions, there is no need to email her, just **click the registration links** below and fill out the registration form at the bottom of the screen.

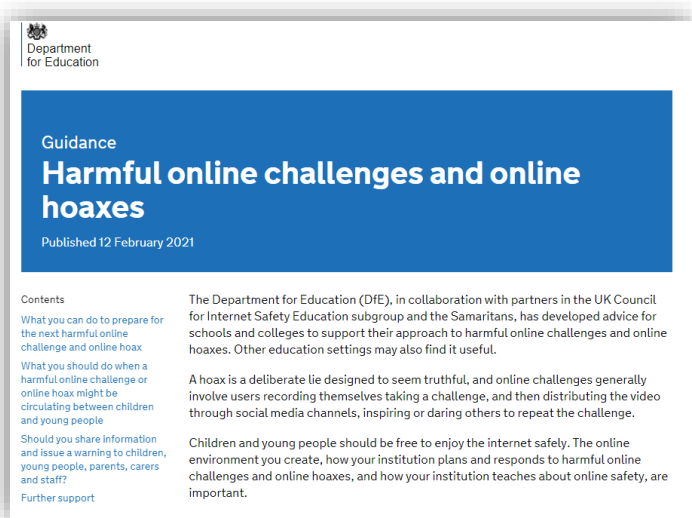
Session	Date/Time	Registration Link
Introduction to County Lines	Wednesday 17 <sup>th</sup> March – 1:00 – 2:30	<u><a href="https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZUtf-GurDgoH9DZJeLsCF1M_HCqIGshJGvF">https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZUtf-GurDgoH9DZJeLsCF1M_HCqIGshJGvF</a></u>



The team are currently planning our training programme for 2021-22 and course dates should be available during the summer terms. We are looking to adopt a blended approach with a mix of both online and offline training options for new and existing DSLs. Feedback from delegates has highlighted a preference for face-to-face courses, however we understand the value in providing different options to accommodate different needs. More information will be provided in future newsletters but we welcome comments via your area safeguarding advisor team or the [Training and Development Manager](#).

## Online Safety

### New DfE Guidance: Harmful Online Challenges and Online Hoaxes



The Department for Education (DfE), in collaboration with partners in the UK Council for Internet Safety Education subgroup and the Samaritans, has developed advice for schools and colleges to support their approach to [harmful online challenges and online hoaxes](#). Other education settings may also find it useful.

This non-statutory advice aims to support DSLs and senior leadership teams to respond effectively to incidents

involving harmful online challenges and online hoaxes. It includes advice on:

- preparing in advance for any online challenges and hoaxes
- safeguarding children and young people
- sharing information with parents and carers
- where to get help and support

### NCSC Consolidates Advice on Secure Home Learning

The National Cyber Security Centre (NCSC) – a part of GCHQ – has published three blogposts collating existing guidance to help families, school communities and charities support pupils learning away from the classroom.



The blogposts consolidate the most important advice to help manage remote education technology safely and present steps to take in a tailored, accessible format. They can be found here:

- [Home learning: Advice for parents and carers](#)



- [Securing tools for remote education](#) (for people responsible for managing schools' IT)
- [Erasing data from donated devices](#) (for charities)

## NCA-CEOP: Retiring Old Thinkuknow Resources and New Content



In supporting children and young people to be safer online, it is vitally important that we all provide the most up to date information and resources. As such NCA-CEOP are asking professionals to use up-to-date materials and 'retire' old resources from use.

We encourage DSLs to work with staff to review [the list of current Thinkuknow resources](#) and delete/remove any old Thinkuknow resources and content, references or links from any sites or platforms you use to promote online safety.

If your school still has any of the following resources: Lee & Kim, Hector's World, Jigsaw, Consequences, Tom's Story, Sam's Real Friends, please delete them and use the current resources for the age range.

The NCA-CEOP education team have published a helpful article which will be useful for DSLs to share with any staff teaching online safety education regarding '[challenging victim-blaming attitudes](#)'.

NCA-CEOP have also published a number of new resources to support schools engage with parents, including home learning resources and editable newsletters for primary and secondary schools. Please visit the professionals' section of the [Thinkuknow](#) website for more information.

## Childnet 2021 Film Competition Launched

**Key dates for Childnet Film Competition 2021**

Competition opens:  
**Tuesday 16th February 2021**

Competition closes:  
**Tuesday 1st June 2021**

Finalists announced:  
**Thursday 1st July 2021**

**Enter now: [childnet.com/film-competition](https://childnet.com/film-competition)**

The 12th Childnet Film Competition has been officially launched and is open to all schools and youth groups across the UK.

Following the success of this year's Safer Internet Day on February 9th, Childnet are asking young people to create a short film or storyboard exploring the theme of: Separating fact from fiction - finding trustworthy information online.

Once again, there is a primary category for 7-11 year olds, a secondary category for 11-18 year olds, and a storyboard category for anyone with an artistic flair who prefers to draw their film idea. Schools and youth groups have until Tuesday 1st June to submit all film or storyboard entries.

Everything you need about taking part, together with information about prizes, categories and entry packs, can be found on the [Childnet website](#). Please email [film@childnet.com](mailto:film@childnet.com) if you have any questions.

## A Longer Read Elective Home Education

Elective Home Education (EHE) is the term used by the Department for Education (DfE) to describe parents' decisions to provide education for their children at home in place of sending them to school. This is different to home tuition provided by a Local Authority or education provided by a Local Authority other than at a school. There are currently 3126 children from reception age through to Year 13 being EHE.

The Department of Education believes that although the primary responsibility for ensuring that children are properly educated belongs to parents, a local authority has a moral and social obligation to ensure that a child is safe and being suitably educated. The current legal framework is not a system for regulating home education per se or forcing parents to educate their children in any particular way. Instead, it is a system for identifying and responding to cases where children who, for any reason and in any circumstances, are not receiving an efficient suitable full-time education.

In Kent we have a team who monitor EHE with the figures as follows.

Families visited/contacted = **1216**

Visits not home = **229 (Prior to second lockdown and despite being R/A the previous day)**

Visits Cancelled by parents = **635**

New notifications

**1<sup>st</sup> September 20 to December 20**

New notifications **Reception** – Year 11 = 1009

**Known to Children's Services**

New notifications **Reception** – Year 11 = 352

Kent's total (known) cohort of EHE CYP = 831

We recognise home education is not, in itself, a risk factor for abuse or neglect but children must be visible.

There are currently 8 EHE support and advice officers in Kent and they each have an average caseload of 400 CYP. They offer 'support and guidance' relating to the parents' plans for their child's education. They do not teach or provide resources.

They do not have regular contact with all families. Where no evidence is provided, or education is deemed 'unsuitable' a return to school is initiated. This is a lengthy process and during this period, the CYP remains without education.

Regarding vulnerable children subject to A Child in Need plan or Child Protection procedures KCC has a policy to ensure that professional curiosity and assessment of education provision is embedded into practice. It may well be that in these circumstances that the multi-agency group may feel that a parent's decision to EHE could be considered as an unsafe option for that child.

You may find it helpful to direct parents to the [advice on understanding what EHE is](#). Schools are not required to provide any support to parents that have withdrawn their child for EHE.

Useful documents for you to consider are as follows:

- KCC Elective Home Education Policy [www.Kent.gov.uk](http://www.Kent.gov.uk)
- DfE guidance <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/elective-home-education>
- Childrens Commissioner report February 2019 <https://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/report/skipping-school-invisible-children/>

**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.**

## Education Safeguarding Service Contacts

<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>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 <b>imminent harm</b> you should call the <b>Integrated Front Door on 03000 411111</b> or the <b>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>

## Kent County Council Key Contacts

**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)

**LADO Team contact number 03000 410888**

If your call is urgent i.e. a child is in **immediate danger** and you cannot be connected to the team you should call the **Integrated Front Door** on **03000 411111**

Email: [kentchildrenslado@kent.gov.uk](mailto:kentchildrenslado@kent.gov.uk)

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

### Area Education Officers

**South Kent** – Celia Buxton 03000 421415

**East Kent** – Marisa White 03000 418794

**West Kent** – Nick Abrahams 03000 410058

**North Kent** – Ian Watts 03000 414302

### Prevent Education Officers

**North/West/Medway** - Sally Green [sally.green2@kent.gov.uk](mailto:sally.green2@kent.gov.uk) 03000 413439

**South/East** - Jill Allen [jill.allen@kent.gov.uk](mailto:jill.allen@kent.gov.uk) 03000 413565