

# Child Protection Newsletter

ISSUE NO. 78 May 2021

## IN THIS ISSUE

- [Welcome](#)
- [The Education People](#)
- [Education Safeguarding Service](#)
- [Covid 19 advice & Support](#)
- [Updates & Resources](#)
- [Early Years & Childcare](#)
- [Training](#)
- [Online Safety](#)
- [A Longer read](#)
- [Contacts](#)

## Welcome

As the UK continues to ease restrictions in relation to Covid-19 we continue to try and support all our settings in matters relating to safeguarding and the ongoing pressures that arise out of the pandemic.

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)

As you will be aware, Ashley Assiter, Online Safety Development Officer is currently on Maternity leave and her post is now being covered by Emma Jenkins. We are delighted to announce that Ashley has recently welcomed a new baby boy into her family and are sure you that all share our warmest congratulations to her and her family!

As a reminder, we continue to update our [safeguarding pages](#) on The Education People Website to act as a one-stop shop for DSLs. 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.

### **Updated Child Protection Policy Templates**

We need to make you aware that our School and Early Years exemplar child protection policy templates have been updated following the creation of the NSPCC 'Report Abuse in Education helpline' (see Updates and Resources Section and a longer read).

Additional in-depth statements specifically relating to peer on peer abuse have been provided to help settings document their approaches, however these will need to be amended accordingly. All new, moved and condensed content for April 2021 has been highlighted in yellow. The new templates are available to download on the [TEP website](#).

## **Covid-19 Advice and Support**

At the time of writing the opening back up of schools has not seen a surge in Covid-19 infections so the situation is likely to remain until the end of this academic year. That being said 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; these include an updated addendum child protection policy template and remote learning considerations and guidance.

National guidance for education settings in response to Covid-19 is still being 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.

## Care and Court Proceedings

As highlighted in the last newsletter there have been increased cases where social workers have had to go to court on cases where children are unsafe. As a result some schools have been approached to complete reports for court and in some cases asked to prepare to appear in court as a witness. The prospect of this can be daunting so we have included some helpful hints and websites that may be able to assist you. Some of this advice can also be useful when it comes to private family disputes that do not involve social workers such as contact and residency disputes.

Should a matter end up in court (either as a civil claim about the school, as a witness in a criminal issue, or as a witness in determining what is right for a child in a family matter) you should try to maintain this calm and balanced approach. In contested hearings involving a social work team Family courts will usually ask the applicant (the person bringing the case to court) for a [Scott Schedule](#). This is in effect a table setting out exactly what is being alleged and the key things that have happened (e.g. child has been hit, approximate dates, who may have witnessed this etc.). This then provides the basis for the court to make decisions about what evidence they may need to hear.

In the first instance speak to the social worker concerned in relation to what it is they want from you in your report. Camden & Islington have produced a [really useful guide to the submission of evidence to court](#). Have a look through Part II. There is also a set format for all court reports that can be found [here](#).

In terms of content as with safeguarding records it is advisable to stick to the facts and relate matters to subjects such as attendance and educational attainment. Only if asked by the court would you offer opinion about the child's welfare and even then, it may be advisable to confine it to "X was quiet/tearful on that date when they came into school after seeing parent A". Remember, whatever you write you could be asked about in court by a barrister or solicitor.

The court is not looking for you as the teacher to be conducting a parenting assessment or making statements about your view of the relationship between the adults involved. This can be difficult as you will often have views about many of these things. It is, however, crucial that your statement is very much along the lines of 'what did I see, hear' and 'what did x and y say', and that you stay within the boundaries of what you are qualified and experienced to say.

This may well be the end of your role in proceedings but if you are called to give evidence it will be your report that will form the basis of any questions you are asked. There will be several parties involved depending on the proceedings. There will be a legal representative for parents (together or separate reps), the local authority and

children's solicitor. You will always have your statement available to refer to when being asked questions in court.

We would direct you to a website called [Advice Now](#) aimed mainly at parents but has a link to a [video](#) that anyone going to court can have a look at.

This is just a whistle stop tour of some of the issues but as with all safeguarding issues if you have any concerns please speak to your safeguarding advisors who are experienced in the court process.

## Updates and Resources

### The Front Door

We are pleased to advise that the Children's Portal is now available for making referrals into the Front Door Service, so you will now be directed to the portal 'Request For Support' Form via the KELSI or KSCMP websites.



- <https://www.kelsi.org.uk/special-education-needs/integrated-childrens-services/Early-Help-Toolkit>
- <https://www.kscmp.org.uk/>

Remember that you will need to enter your password and email address to receive your authentication code. Any forgotten passwords can be reset via the portal page - full Guidance is available [here](#).

The front door service thanks everyone in settings for their patience over the last few months.

### Domestic Abuse Bill

The Domestic Abuse Act was passed by both Houses of Parliament and signed into law on 29<sup>th</sup> April 2021. It will provide further protection to the millions of people who experience domestic abuse and strengthen measures to tackle perpetrators.



For the first time in history there will be a wide-ranging legal definition of domestic abuse which incorporates a range of abuses beyond physical violence, including emotional, coercive, or controlling behaviour, and economic abuse.

The measures include important new protections and support for victims ensuring that abusers will no longer be allowed to directly cross-examine their victims in the family

and civil courts and giving victims better access to special measures in the courtroom to help prevent intimidation, such as protective screens and giving evidence via video link.

Other measures included in the act are:

- extending the controlling or coercive behaviour offence to cover post-separation abuse.
- explicitly recognise children as victims if they see, hear or experience the effects of abuse.
- establish in law the office of Domestic Abuse Commissioner and set out the Commissioner's functions and powers
- placing a duty on local authorities in England to provide support to victims of domestic abuse and their children in refuges and other safe accommodation.
- provide that all eligible homeless victims of domestic abuse automatically have 'priority need' for homelessness assistance
- place the guidance supporting the Domestic Violence Disclosure Scheme ("Clare's law") on a statutory footing.

Further information is available from the [Government website](#). Over the coming weeks, we will be working closely with colleagues in KCC to provide more advice and support to schools in relation to the changes in the Act.

### **Report Abuse in Education NSPCC Helpline**



The Department for Education has commissioned the NSPCC to establish a dedicated independent [helpline](#) for people who have experienced abuse in education. The Report Abuse in Education helpline comes after a high number of anonymous testimonials were submitted to the Everyone's Invited website, documenting abuse in all types of schools, colleges, and universities.

The helpline went live on 1 April and will provide both children and adults who have experienced sexual abuse in schools with support and advice, including onward action such as contacting the police if they wish to. The helpline will also provide support to parents and professionals. Anyone who gets in touch through this dedicated helpline will also be signposted to other relevant support services available, including Childline, which provides ongoing support and counselling to children and young people.

**The dedicated and confidential NSPCC helpline – Report Abuse in Education can be reached on 0800 136 663 or by email at [help@nspcc.org.uk](mailto:help@nspcc.org.uk).**

Please share these details with children, young people, parents and carers and other partner organisations as appropriate

- All audiences, including parents and staff – please share these posts through your own social media platforms:
  - [Twitter](#)
  - [Facebook](#)
  - [Instagram](#)
  - [LinkedIn](#)
- Children and young people – please our Instagram posts with the children and young people you work with:
  - [Childline Instagram](#)
- Schools and other professionals:
  - You can also follow [@NSPCCLearning](#) on Twitter which will share information and resources to support practitioners to tackle sexual abuse in education.

Again we are working closely with our multiagency colleagues to respond to any reports about schools in Kent, made both via the helpline and on the Everyone's Invited website. If you have been made aware of issues about your school, or have had concerns raised by other means, please contact your area advisor for further advice.

### **Ofsted Inspection Handbooks Amended**

Ofsted have updated the [Education Inspection Framework](#) (EIF). The changes have been made to 'reflect the COVID-19 context that education providers are operating in and the disruption the pandemic has caused to them.' There is a new section on returning to inspections post-Covid, which includes examination of the school's approach to remote education.

A new paragraph has been added which highlights the importance of pupils understanding safeguarding and reporting procedures and feeling safe: "If inspectors cannot corroborate the evidence that they gather about the effectiveness of the school's arrangements to safeguard pupils, by talking to pupils on inspection, then safeguarding will likely be judged ineffective." This is also explored in '[Inspectors talking to pupils on inspection](#)'.

London Grid for Learning (LGfL) have produced a summary and videos which explore this in more depth:

- [April 2021 Updates](#)
- [Videos](#)

Please note that no changes have been made to Inspecting safeguarding in early years, education and skills settings.

## Our Streets Now: Our Schools Now Campaign



Our Streets Now have launched '[Our Schools Now](#)', a national campaign focusing on a demand to bring an end to public sexual harassment. It aims to achieve change through education and awareness, together with political and legislative change.

Their campaign aims to include public sexual harassment as part of PSHE/RSE lessons in schools and offer free workshop and lesson plans on their website. As with all services we advise caution in terms of whether you feel their resources meet your needs. It is very much focused on female victims whilst still useful, it needs to be acknowledged that sexual assaults and harassment does happen to all genders.

## New Adolescent to Parent Violence (APV) Programme for parents and carers is now available for referrals.

This is exciting news! KCC are able to offer four programmes from April to June for families to access a six week APV Parenting Programme. An online survey of 104 parents affected by APV found 70% had seen an increase in violent incidents during the lockdown, while parallel research with 47 practitioners working in the field found most had seen a rise in referrals and recorded increased levels of violence (Community Care online August 2020)



The [flyer](#) contains more details on the programme along with the [referral form](#) and [referral criteria and guidance](#). Please send your referrals to [parentingprogrammes@kent.gov.uk](mailto:parentingprogrammes@kent.gov.uk).

Further information about the programme can be found [here](#)  
At present these are still virtual programmes.

## County Lines/Gangs



To support discussions, there are some fantastic resources on the [Fearless website](#), which is essentially a young person's version of Crimestoppers. There is information covering gangs, County Lines, criminal and sexual exploitation and substance misuse amongst other things. It is really worthwhile promoting this service with your parents too as it not only is great educationally, but it is completely anonymous to report concerns which can ease the worry young people have about 'snitching'.



In addition, locally [Lauren.Geater@crimestoppers-uk.org](mailto:Lauren.Geater@crimestoppers-uk.org) provides training sessions to professionals and to young people in school.

Other useful links include:

- <https://benkinsella.org.uk/>
- <https://noknivesbetterlives.com/practitioners/resources/>

## Early Years and Childcare

### Early Years Foundation Stage Framework 2021

The [new framework](#), effective on 1st September has now been published.

The main changes are in learning and child development - the safeguarding changes this year are minor clarifications or the addition of links to guidance published since the last time the framework was updated in 2017 such as online safety, information sharing and criminal record checks.

## TEP Safeguarding Training



It continues to be the case that all Designated Safeguarding Lead training for schools and early years delivered by ESS has been moved to virtual training via Zoom or eLearning.

If you are a DSL requiring refresher training, please do not book onto the Zoom courses; this training is for new to role staff. DSLs requiring a refresher should access the interim DSL

Refresher eLearning courses for [schools](#) (EL 20/025) or [early years settings](#) (EL 20/030). These comprehensive courses 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.

We are planning to adopt a blended approach for 2021-22 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 when possible, 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 or the [Training and Development Manager](#).



### Reminder: Responding to concerns posed by new apps, online hoaxes and challenges

The service regularly receives consultations from schools and settings seeking template letters or leaflets to send out as warnings for parents/carers regarding new and re-emerging apps and games or viral concerns/challenges.

We encourage schools and settings to carefully consider if this is the best approach and to seek advice before sharing specific warnings with parents/carers as in most cases, we find this approach can be counterproductive and, in some cases, can sadly increase risks to children.

Schools and settings can seek advice from specialist advisors via 03000 415797 but as a reminder, schools and settings may find the following links to be helpful:

- The Education People: [Think before you SCARE](#)
- The Education People: [Engaging Parents and Carers with Children's Use of Apps](#)
- DfE: [Harmful online challenges and online hoaxes](#)

### Just a Joke? New Childnet resources for online sexual harassment with 9-12 year olds

Childnet's Project deSHAME has recently launched their [Just a Joke?](#) Toolkit which explores problematic online sexual behaviour with 9-12 year olds. Childnet's [Project deSHAME](#) also has similar free resources available for schools to use with young people aged 13-17 years old.



The learning objectives for the 'Just a Joke?' toolkit are to:

- o support educators in delivering high quality PSHE/PSE and relationships education lessons.
- o give children a safe space to discuss, explore and challenge peer to peer online sexual harassment e.g. bullying, or harmful behaviour online based on gender or sexual orientation stereotypes, body-shaming, nudity, and sexually explicit content.
- o discuss with children how they can be good friends online.
- o raise awareness of this issue to prevent it from becoming normalised.
- o give children the confidence to report unacceptable online behaviour.

We would urge all DSLs working with young people aged 9 to 12 to access the free Just a Joke? Toolkit, but **please note that this is not a resource about online grooming.** For further advice and resources to address adult sexual behaviour towards children online, please visit [ceop.police.uk](http://ceop.police.uk)



## **NSPCC SEND Online Safety Hub**

NSPCC has partnered with Ambitious about Autism to bring online safety tips, advice, and activities specifically for parents/carers of children with SEND. These resources have been designed to help parents and carers have regular conversations with their children about online safety, enabling more families to enjoy the digital world with confidence.

The [SEND Online Safety hub](#) is a great resource for schools to share with their parents/carers. Activities include 'One Page Profile', sharing personal details, online friendship, and an online safety quiz.

Parents and carers can find further Net Aware resources for supporting their child with SEND online wellbeing [here](#).

## **LGfL ParentSafe Portal**

The LGfL (London Grid for Learning) have just launched their new [ParentSafe](#) portal. It supports parental engagement with Online Safety, which is vital to reinforce key safeguarding messages. Their portal offers parents and carers support and advice on safe settings, parental controls and monitoring, apps and games, talking to children about life online, screen-time and key topics from bullying to accessing pornography, extremism and gangs, fake news and more.



## **A Longer Read: Harmful Sexual Behaviour**

Following last month's controversies surrounding the website 'Everyone's Invited' a light was shone on the responses that schools have in place to address an ever-increasing problem around the behaviour of some of our young people in our settings. Whilst it could be argued that some of the reporting and assumptions made about schools in the media were sensationalised and incorrect at times, it is useful to re-visit the subject in depth.

No matter how the account comes to your attention be it in an online forum/website, social media or directly from a child, the key is to treat any account seriously. Make a record and share it with your headteacher or principal as there is the potential for a community reaction. Consider whether media or legal action may be taken and seek advice accordingly.

Consider if this is information that you were already aware of or is this anything new? Record your analysis. For any new information, follow your child protection procedure and if involving a member of staff, the managing allegations procedures (LADO referral or Part 4 of Keeping Children Safe in Education)

For child on child abuse consider the allegation in line with the definitions within sexual [violence](#) and sexual harassment between children in schools and colleges as this will help you determine the appropriate level of response.

As with other publicly aired concerns, it will generate discussions amongst your students and their carers. The Education Safeguarding Service sent out a briefing last month to help you with any response to demonstrate that, as a setting, you have robust systems in place to address what is a very serious issue. Kent police have been made aware of all accounts that name a school and will investigate the most serious allegations made where possible.

Ofsted have [published the terms of reference for schools and colleges](#). The focus is on safeguarding policies and processes, the effectiveness of inspection, implementation, and impact of the RSHE curriculum, interagency communication where there are concerns, how the voice of young people who have been harmed is recognised and taken seriously and support arrangements that are put in place when things go wrong.

Ofsted will visit a sample of schools and colleges where cases have been highlighted, by the ISI where appropriate, to look at how well safeguarding is working and to discuss the wider issues raised by the evidence. The review is due to end in May 2021.

There are several useful resources that some of you may have already found but for ease we include some here. The contextual safeguarding network has a good toolkit located [here](#), as does [safer schools](#). Another site dealing with issues of exploitation is the [national working group](#).

**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.**

<b>Head Office: Room 2.30 Sessions House, County Hall, Maidstone ME14 1XQ</b>	
<b>Claire Ray Head of Service</b>	<b>03000 415788</b>
<b>Rebecca Avery Training &amp; Development Manager</b>	<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 <b>imminent harm</b> you should call the <b>Integrated Front Door on 03000 411111</b> or the <b>Police on 999</b></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 41 11 11**

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