

# Child Protection Newsletter

**ISSUE NO. 82**  
**January 2022**

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## Welcome

Happy 2022 everyone! With the continued presence of COVID-19 and a new variant, the challenges continue, mostly it seems to staff having to isolate. As we approach almost 2 years of this pandemic it can never be underestimated how this is impacting on all of us and the children who you work with. Previous newsletters and guidance is out there regarding the emotional impact of Covid and we urge you to re-visit some of that if need be. As a service we remain here for advice and support as always.

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](#) provides 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 Updates

As a reminder, we continue to update our [safeguarding pages](#) on The Education People website regularly to act as a one-stop shop for DSLs. Make sure you visit the site and bookmark it for future reference!

Although safeguarding is a competitive market, we believe we provide guidance, advice, training and support unique to working within Kent which cannot be offered by other providers. If you are unable to find a training product or service that meets your needs on this [link](#), please [contact us](#) and we can look at designing something bespoke for your setting.

## Learning from Reviews

We will have all read the upsetting news stories relating to two children that were killed by their parents and carers before Christmas. Inevitably, at these times focus will be on those agencies that may have had contact with those children to explore whether anything was missed. It appears that for one of these children, Arthur, that not being in school had a significant impact on his ability to be seen and kept safe.

There will be the appropriate investigations and reviews in due course. As professionals we can always learn and improve our practice. However, we must recognise that those who seek to hurt children will obfuscate, lie, manipulate professionals, and give the appearance of working in partnership. Sadly, research from the NSPCC tells us that in the last five years there is an average of 58 child deaths annually by assault or undetermined intent in the UK. Child homicides are mostly caused by the child's parent or stepparent.

As DSL's working in the field of safeguarding children, please think about the number of children you do protect by your actions. This is hard to quantify, and success stories are not reported. Hold onto the thought that every intervention you make in a child's life may have prevented matters getting worse and in some more serious circumstances, where they are living with abusive carers, possibly saved them from being irrevocably harmed. Positive stories are never on the TV or in the papers only when things go wrong. This will have caused lots of anxieties for all settings and understandable worries so please keep consulting and talking to us.

## Peer on Peer (Sexualised Behaviour) Toolkit

This free toolkit has been designed by the Kent Safeguarding Children Multi-Agency Partnership (KSCMP) and The Education People collaboratively to help schools and colleges assess strengths that can be built upon, as well as weaknesses that should be addressed, to tackle peer-on-peer sexual abuse and inappropriate sexual behaviours.

We encourage you to use this audit toolkit so that, as a school, you can be assured you are being as robust and thorough as possible when addressing any issues relating to harmful sexual behaviour and peer-on-peer sexual abuse.

Feedback from schools that have been inspected by Ofsted, primary and secondary have indicated that it will be something that will be explored on an inspection.

The link to this document can be found [here](#).

## Updates and Resources

### Youth Mental Health First Aid

This free face to face two-day course trains you as a Mental health First Aider. You will get a range of training that includes but is not limited to; an in depth understanding of young people's mental health, and factors that affect wellbeing, practical skills to spot triggers and signs of a mental health issue. Everyone who completes the course, will receive a certificate to say you are a Youth Mental Health First Aider, an in-depth manual to refer to whenever you need it and a workbook that includes some helpful tools to support your own mental health. Book your place using the links below:

- [18 and 19 January 2022 - Canterbury](#)
- [8 and 9 February 2022 - Tonbridge and Malling](#)
- [22 and 23 March 2022 - Canterbury](#)
- [21 and 22 April 2022 - Tonbridge and Malling](#)

### Review of the children and young people's mental health Single Point of Access

The Kent and Medway Clinical Commissioning Group have commissioned an independent review of the children and young people's mental health Single Point of Access service. You can contribute to the review and have your say by taking part in a [short, anonymous survey](#). And, if you would like to contribute further, you can sign up for a confidential interview at the end of the survey.

### Uncovering Rape Culture BBC Documentary



Before Christmas many of you may have seen the documentary on the BBC and I-Player regarding peer-on-peer sexual harassment and assaults. Titled “Zara McDermott: Uncovering Rape Culture” there is an accompanying article on the [BBC website](#). The original documentary is [here](#), and we urge you to watch it.

# Elective Home Education Survey

Find attached the link to a survey completed by The Association of Directors of Children's Services Ltd to capture the number and characteristics of children and young people who are known to be home educated. The headlines from the survey are that the three main reasons this year for the choice to home education are in this order:

1. the largest group chose health reasons relating to Covid as a reason for taking their child out of school
2. in the second largest group it was very much a philosophical/lifestyle choice
3. the next significant factor was for health/emotional health.

The full report can be read [here](#).



## Domestic Abuse (DA) Needs Assessment Update

The [Domestic Abuse 2021 Needs Assessment Update](#) is now live on the [Kent Public Health Observatory website](#). The key objectives of the update are to update key metrics around prevalence and profile of DA in Kent; and to develop an understanding of available safe accommodation, exploring who can access support, how people are referred, why people cannot access support (gap analysis) and any issues around 'moving on'.



## NEW 'Act Early' Videos



Some clips from the new ACT Early 'Letters to my Younger Self' videos

Counter Terrorism Police (CTP) have recently launched three new 'letters to my younger self' films as part of its 'ACT Early' campaign, aiming to bring to life real stories of extremism and radicalisation. You can watch the new films [here](#), alongside accessing other resources such as social media copy in the campaign's partner [toolkit](#).

The new films tell the stories of John, who fell into the extreme right-wing through social media and was helped through Prevent; Michael, who became involved with Islamist extremism and tragically lost his life; and Mustafa, who followed multiple radical clerics and is now a spoken word artist working within the NGO sector.

Please share these films through your own networks as appropriate. To help support any outreach, CTP have updated their promotional toolkit, which contains some blurb around the stories, and suggested social media copy. You can find the toolkit [here](#).

## Virtual School Kent



Virtual School Kent (VSK) are looking to develop good working relationships with the Designated Safeguarding Leads within schools and would like to invite you all along to some virtual meetings in January where they would like share with you the work they are doing and to listen to your ideas and practices and any worries you may have around this cohort of vulnerable young people.

The dates for the DSL updates are:

- West Kent 11th January 3.30-4.30pm (Tunbridge Wells, Tonbridge and Malling, Sevenoaks, Maidstone and Ashford)
- East Kent 12th January 3.30-4.30pm (Thanet, Canterbury Coastal)
- North Kent 13th January 3.30 – 4.30pm (Gravesham, Dartford and Swale)
- South Kent 17th January 3.30 – 4.30pm (Canterbury Central, Dover, Folkestone and Hythe).

If you are interested in attending, please email [VSKAdvisoryTeam@kent.gov.uk](mailto:VSKAdvisoryTeam@kent.gov.uk). If you are unable to attend the update for your area, please feel free to join a different session. VSK value your opinions and look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at one of the sessions.

Resources and newsletters can be found on [www.virtualschool.lea.kent.sch.uk](http://www.virtualschool.lea.kent.sch.uk)

## Early Years and Childcare

### Free Early Years Training from I CAN children's communication charity

Free online sessions from [I CAN](http://www.ican.org.uk) starting January 2022. If you would like an introduction to supporting speaking and understanding needs in early years settings, the introductory (core) training is for you. Start by watching the module one and module two webcasts on the [I CAN website](http://www.ican.org.uk), then book yourself a place on one of the follow-up [coaching webinars](#). If you have previously received training in supporting speaking and understanding needs in early years settings (whether from I CAN or another provider), their advanced (in-depth) training is for you. This training is provided in the form of a [two-part webinar booking](#).

## ESS Safeguarding Training Offer for 2021-22

As a reminder, we are providing a blended core training offer for 2021-22, incorporating different options to accommodate different preferences and budgets.



All core training dates (and some venues) are published and available to book via the [CPD website](#). Whilst we are planning to offer face-to-face training, this will depend on Covid-19 restrictions at the time and may be subject to change. If delegates are unable to attend face to face training, virtual options are available as an alternative.

If you have queries or comments about our training offer, please contact your Area Safeguarding Advisor or the [Training and Development Manager](#).

Our core training offer is made up of the following options:

<b>New to role DSLs</b>	<p>New DSLs in schools and settings can access live training via two options which can be booked via the <a href="#">CPD online</a> website.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Virtual training via zoom - two half day sessions.</li> <li>• Face to face training - one day.</li> </ul>
<b>Refresher Training for existing DSLs</b>	<p>Existing DSLs who require refresher training can either access our E-learning refresher course, or face to face training (subject to restrictions).</p> <p>E-learning courses are available via <a href="#">The Education People website</a> and can be accessed at any time. Because E-learning does not allow for delegate interaction, this certificate received after accessing this training is valid for one year.</p> <p>Alternatively, a one-day course, valid for two years, is available to book on the <a href="#">CPD online</a> website.</p>
<b>Online Safety for DSLs in Schools</b>	<p>Our online safety training for DSLs in schools is available via two options on the <a href="#">CPD online</a> website.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Virtual training via zoom - two half day sessions.</li> <li>• Face to face training - one day.</li> </ul>
<b>Early Years Basic Awareness (EYBA) Training</b>	<p>Core EYBA training is available for early years practitioners virtually via Zoom and can be booked on the <a href="#">CPD online</a> website.</p>
<b>Early Years Online Safety Training</b>	<p>Two online safety E-learning courses are available for early years settings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Basic Online Safeguarding for Early Years Practitioners</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Strategic Online Safeguarding for Early Years Designated Safeguarding Leads and Managers.</a></li> </ul>

## DSL Webinars

As part of our Safeguarding Support package, we are offering DSL twilight webinar briefings. Access to the webinars is included for package members, however they are also available for schools on an ad hoc basis.



DSLs can book to attend twilight webinar briefings (all running 4pm-5pm) via the CPD website, and the dates and topics currently planned for 2021-22 are:

Course	Course Code	Date
<a href="#">Online Safety</a>	SCH 22/099	08/02/2022
<a href="#">Safeguarding Priorities</a>	SCH 22/100	24/03/2022
<a href="#">Supervision in Schools</a>	SCH 22/101	11/05/2022
<a href="#">Management of Safeguarding</a>	SCH 22/102	05/07/2022

## Safeguarding Package for Schools

Our '[Safeguarding Support Package for Schools](#)' is available for schools! We believe this offer provides DSLs and school leaders with a range of up-to-date advice and resources, as well as exclusive access to content from our service and a range of cost saving benefits. We have received positive feedback from schools who have been making use of the resources, especially with regards to staff training.

Membership includes:

- access to staff training resource for DSLs to use with staff
- access to a staff basic safeguarding awareness induction e-learning course
- access to a downloadable resource library, including guidance and time-saving templates
- annual update service, with regular updates to existing content (all existing documents have now been updated for 2021-22), plus a minimum of 6 new resources added library per year – so far for 2021-22 we've added cyberbullying guidance and a confidentiality policy template and additional online safety policy guidance will be added shortly
- 1 free place at each of our six annual DSL Webinar Briefing twilight sessions.

The cost for an annual subscription to the '[Safeguarding Support Package for Schools](#)' is £510 plus VAT ([credits](#) can also be used to purchase this package) which provides schools with a significant saving compared to purchasing content on an individual basis.

## Online Safety

### KCSIE 2021: The 4Cs - Spotlight on 'Commerce'



Keeping Children Safe in Education 2021 now references four areas of risk online within part two: content, contact, conduct and commerce. Some DSLs have spoken to the Online Safety team to say that they would like a deeper understanding of the newly added 'commerce' as well as

appropriate resources to use to support children, young people, staff and parents/carers.

We have a selection of helpful links on our [website](#) but will also explore commerce further during the Online Safety DSL webinar briefing on the 8<sup>th</sup> February 2022. This webinar, which coincides with Safer Internet Day, is part of the [Safeguarding Support Package for Schools](#) membership but can also be attended by DSLs on an adhoc basis. More details and booking information can be found here: [Online Safety webinar \(SCH 22/099\)](#).

## Safer Internet Day 2022

With Safer Internet Day fast approaching we are looking at all of the ways you can help make 2022 even bigger and better than ever!

### Register as a Safer Internet Day Supporter

Last year over 2,000 organisations registered as supporters, and we can reach even more young people than ever if more organisations get involved, so please [register your support!](#)



### Share and use the Education Resources

The UK Safer Internet Centre have created [a range of activities, presentations and films](#) which can be used with young people aged 3-18 as well as resources for parents. There are conversation starters, quick activities, and a family internet safety plan to help you make the most of Safer Internet Day.

### Get involved on social media

Get involved in the conversation online using #SaferInternetDay and #PlayYourPart. The UK Safer Internet Centre have launched their first supporter's [social media pack for Safer Internet Day 2022](#). The pack is designed to help organisations celebrate the day on social media and includes information about the theme, as well as things you can post in the lead up to the 8<sup>th</sup> February.

The aim is for Safer Internet Day 2022 to reach more children, young people, parents and carers than ever before, and this can only happen with your support.

## Joint committee reports on draft Online Safety Bill

The draft Online Safety Bill has been heavily talked about over the past year. The Queen's speech in May committed that the UK would 'lead the way' in online safety whilst the draft Online Safety





Bill was put forward along with some new proposed laws to tackle harmful content online.

A joint committee of MPs and Lords then joined in summer to scrutinise the bill and to make further recommendations for improvement, having until December to put a report forward before it goes to parliament and finalised in 2022. The report on the draft bill has now been published and you can read the UK Safer Internet Centre's overview and the recommendations [here](#).

We will share more information, and its implications for education settings once the Online Safety Bill is published.

## SWGfL Launch Updated TikTok Checklist

SWGfL have produced an updated [TikTok checklist](#) which is now available to download and pre-order. The new checklist looks at the following areas:

- what is TikTok?
- how to stay safe on TikTok
- what about parental controls?
- how do I report a problem?
- blocking users on TikTok
- gifting on TikTok
- limit the content you see.



## Childnet Blog: Helping your Child with WhatsApp

[Childnet](#) have published a blog post regarding [safer use of WhatsApp](#) which schools and settings may find helpful to share with parents and carers.



WhatsApp is one of the most popular mobile and desktop apps and Childnet's blog post takes a closer look at the platform and how parents can help ensure their children have a safe experience when using it. The post explores key functions, potential risks and some useful approaches parents/carers can use to keep an open dialogue about online behaviour.

## NSPCC Net Aware Site Closing Soon

The partnership between the NSPCC and O2 is coming to an end and the [Net Aware](#) site will soon be closing down. This won't happen straight away so you will still be able to access the tips, advice, and reviews for a little while, however we would encourage schools and settings to remove and update any links on their website and remove the net aware link from any future communication to parents/carers etc.

The NSPCC logo, consisting of the letters "NSPCC" in a bold, white, sans-serif font, centered within a solid green rectangular background.

To continue to support parents with keeping their children safe online, once Net Aware has closed, online safety advice from the NSPCC can be accessed from their [website](#).

The Education Safeguarding Service website also signposts to a number of recommended [online safety resources](#) which schools and settings may find helpful to share with parents/carers.

## A Longer Read: Child Exploitation - Hidden Girls

It is suggested that there is an underrepresentation of females who are exploited by gangs and as such, producer Amanda Kiron aimed to “provide a voice for the voiceless” with her documentary, Hidden Girls, which aired on the BBC earlier this year. The documentary included the retelling of the harrowing experiences of Kendra Housman, Aliyah Morgan and Rita Jacobs who discuss their own experiences of the dark world of the criminal and sexual exploitation of girls.

The documentary covers a huge amount of information in its 40 minutes. There is reference to gang structure, including ‘tinies,’ children under 10 years old who are used to carry drugs, weapons or other parcels on behalf of older gang members. These children are targeted because they cannot be held criminally responsible for their actions. The documentary also explores the complex dynamic of how grooming victims can become perpetrators themselves. For example, Kendra was told that the only way to protect herself from rape, was to make sure there were other girls available to the boys and men. There is also reference to contextual safeguarding (the risks to children outside of their home) and the work being done to bring social care practice in line with the changing needs and risks to children in this online world.

Following the documentary, some staff from The Education People attended a webinar in early December, led by the team who created the programme. The webinar explored the ideologies and research behind the making of the piece, shared further personal anecdotes, and gave attendees opportunities to ask questions. The Education People staff asked Kendra, Aliyah and Rita; “We know all the ‘typical’ indicators of exploitation, the generic list of changes or concerns to look for, but in your experience was there anything your education setting could have done, or done differently, to help keep you safer?” Their answer was powerful, yet so simple; “Get to know us and our norms, so you can recognise the changes that are personal to us. Listen to what we *aren’t* saying. Don’t write us off, advocate for us. Refer to social services and push for us to get the help you know we need.”

The feedback was that it is easy for girls to slip through the net of support. There are many reasons for this, but they suggest that girls try to pretend everything is fine, and “keep their heads down” for fear of getting someone, or themselves, into trouble. This is what can make the victims hidden, their behaviour does not demand attention. During the webinar, the team explored the language professionals use when discussing exploited children. Phrases such as, “this underage girl is sleeping with multiple men” indicate a victim blaming ethos. What we should be saying is, “multiple men have raped this child.” He is not an “older boyfriend,” but an “adult perpetrator of abuse.”

The documentary has recently won “Most Impactful Multi-Platform Journalism” in the BBC News Awards and can be viewed on BBC iPlayer [here](#).

**Additional Resources:**

- KSCMP have a page dedicated to [exploitation advice and resources](#)
- The Education People have recently written a tool for schools to tackle sexual harassment inschools [here](#).
- [Contextual Safeguarding Network](#)
- ESS [Online Safety Guidance](#)

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

**This 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 Head of Service</b>	<b>03000 415 788</b>
<b>Rebecca Avery Training &amp; Development Manager</b>	<b>03000 418 707</b>
<b>Online Safety</b>	<b>03000 415 797</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 411 111</b> or the <b>Police on 999</b></b></p>	
<b>Ashford</b>	<b>03000 415 648</b>
<b>Canterbury</b>	<b>03000 418 503</b>
<b>Dartford</b>	<b>03000 412 445</b>
<b>Dover</b>	<b>03000 415 648</b>
<b>Folkestone &amp; Hythe</b>	<b>03000 415 648</b>
<b>Gravesham</b>	<b>03000 412 445</b>
<b>Maidstone</b>	<b>03000 412 284</b>
<b>Sevenoaks</b>	<b>03000 412 445</b>
<b>Swale</b>	<b>03000 418 503</b>
<b>Thanet</b>	<b>03000 418 503</b>
<b>Tonbridge &amp; Malling</b>	<b>03000 412 284</b>
<b>Tunbridge Wells</b>	<b>03000 412 284</b>

# Kent County Council Key Contacts

**Integrated Front Door: 03000 411 111** ((outside office hours **03000 419 191**)

**Early Help Contacts** (district teams) can be found on [www.kelsi.org.uk](http://www.kelsi.org.uk)

**LADO Team contact number: 03000 410 888**

**If your call is urgent i.e. a child is in **immediate danger** and you cannot be connected to the team, call the Integrated Front Door on  
03000 411 111**

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

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

## Area Education Officers

**South Kent** – Lee Round 03000 412 309

**East Kent** – Marisa White 03000 418 794

**West Kent** – Nick Abrahams 03000 410 058

**North Kent** – Ian Watts 03000 414 302

## Prevent Education Officers

**North/West/ Medway** - Sally Green [sally.green2@kent.gov.uk](mailto:sally.green2@kent.gov.uk) 03000 413 439

**South/East** - Jill Allen [jill.allen@kent.gov.uk](mailto:jill.allen@kent.gov.uk) 03000 413 565