

# Education Safeguarding Child Protection Newsletter

**July 2024**

## Welcome

Welcome to the 6<sup>th</sup> and final Child Protection Newsletter for the 2023-24 academic year. We hope that the following articles and information we share will be useful for you.

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.

We are aware that there is a lot of information but recommend that you try to find time to read and digest its contents as it will help you in your role as a Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL).

We include links to external websites in our articles; we try and provide useful resources but cannot be responsible for their content and advice and some information/events may have expired. Please contact us if you have any concerns.

If you have any questions regarding any of the articles, or the need for safeguarding advice, please contact the service using the details provided.

## IN THIS ISSUE

- [Welcome](#)
- [Education Safeguarding Service Updates](#)
- [National Safeguarding Updates](#)
- [Local Safeguarding Updates](#)
- [Core Safeguarding Training for DSLs](#)
- [Early Years and Childcare](#)
- [Online Safety](#)
- [National events and Resources](#)
- [A Longer Read: Front Door and KSCMP Support](#)
- [Contacts](#)

### Service Re-design

Following the Education Safeguarding Service returning to Kent County Council in April 2023, we have been undergoing a period of evaluation to explore best practice and value for money. Following this piece of work, a decision has been made to merge our team with the County Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) Service. The two services have always been closely aligned and it is a natural fit for education settings in terms of streamlining the response we can give. Therefore, as of 1<sup>st</sup> September there will be a new service known as the LADO and Education Safeguarding Advisory Service.

We will continue to offer many of the services we have before and will have more capacity to provide bespoke consultation work for schools and settings, and to complete more safeguarding reviews where needed. Our Child Protection newsletter will continue to be produced 6 times a year and emailed to all DSLs on our mailing list. DSL catch up meetings will also continue to happen in the next academic year, with one more due to take place in each area before the end of term. Our core DSL training programme will also continue and is detailed later in this newsletter.

### Advice and Support Line

The biggest change that will happen as of September 2024, is that schools and early years settings will no longer be able to access our advice and support lines for safeguarding advice. We are replacing the line with a joint ESS LADO portal; further details will be made available as soon as possible. Education settings can continue to request a consultation from the Front Door if required.

As an interim arrangement once school holidays have begun on 25<sup>th</sup> July, schools and settings will need to email the education safeguarding inbox if they have a non-urgent enquiry unrelated to individual children and an advisor will respond when available. **Please note, this relates ONLY to non-urgent, non-child related queries.**

Schools and setting are encouraged to follow existing guidance set out in KCSIE and supporting documents on KSCMP and KELSI to help decide next steps. The process of support and guidance from ESS remains a fluid situation which will be monitored and continually reviewed as we seek to find the best way to support our education partners.

# ESS Policy Updates and Safeguarding Support Package

## Child Protection Policy Templates 2024-25

Our School/College and Early Years Child Protection Policy Templates for 2024-25 have been published on The Education People website: [Template Policies and Guidance](#)

The ongoing restructure, however, means that some processes will not be confirmed until the end of 2024. We appreciate that schools and settings like to have the templates available before the summer holiday, so have published an initial draft which can be used in the interim. Schools and settings will need to keep their own policies under regular review and update them as/when further information is available.

Our remaining policy templates are under review and will be updated where appropriate, on our pages on [the Education People website](#), along with our [content on KELSI](#) over the summer.

## Safeguarding Support Package

Following the service restructure, we have made the decision to temporarily suspend our current Safeguarding Support Package offer. The decision to suspend the package has not been taken lightly and we believe it is important to ensure that our services provide the best value for money. We do understand this news may be disappointing, however we will continue to make the most popular resources available to purchase as standalone products via the Education People website in the interim. We will be reviewing our entire catalogue of products and are committed to finding new ways to support schools and settings.

Our DSL training packs are available to purchase now:

- [Whole School Safeguarding Training Pack for DSLs 2024-25](#) – we have added our induction leaflet template and KCSIE staff training quiz from the package to this resource
- [Whole School Online Safety Training Pack for DSLs 2024-25](#)
- [Staff Safeguarding Training Pack for DSLs in Early Years Settings 2024-25](#) – now includes an EYFS safeguarding and welfare staff training quiz and induction leaflet

By 1<sup>st</sup> September 2024, the following products will be updated and available to purchase:

- Official Use of Social Media Toolkit 2024-25
- Appropriate Filtering and Monitoring Considerations for Senior Leaders and Governors
- Safeguarding Basic Awareness for Induction (School Staff) eLearning 2024-25
- Online Safety Policy Toolkit 2024-25 - includes the online safety policy template and guidance and anti-bullying policy template
- The record keeping guidance document from the package will be added as a download to our 24-25 Record Keeping for DSLs eLearning course

We would like to invite existing and prospective Safeguarding Support Package customers to participate in our [customer survey](#). This information will be used to help us consider what current customers found the most valuable, together with exploring what resources and benefits schools and settings would like included in any future packages. We will also use the survey feedback to identify any resources not listed above that package members would like us to make available as standalone products/bundles in the interim.

## National Safeguarding Updates

### Keeping Children Safe in Education 2024

The Department for Education published the 2024 draft version of [Keeping Children Safe in Education](#), which will come into effect on 1st September 2024.



Substantive changes from the 2023 version include:

- Updated definitions and terminology to reflect the updated Working Together 2023
- Increased references to exploitation
- Clarifying text added regarding gender questioning children, in line with guidance
- Further guidance added regarding the DSLs ensuring they record rationales for making decisions when holding and sharing information.

The NSPCC has published a [summary of key changes](#) and the Education Safeguarding Service has produced a [document and blog post](#) regarding the specific online safety changes for DSLs and leaders.

### CSA Mandatory Reporting

The government has published its [response](#) to the consultation regarding the implementation of the mandatory duty to report incidents of child sexual abuse in England. The response highlights key themes from the consultation feedback, presents proposals for the new duty and outlines the next steps that will be taken.

Some of the key responses include:

- Targeting punishment at those seeking to prevent the duty from being carried out.
- Keeping the scope of the duty to direct disclosures and witnessed incidents of abuse, and not including indicators or suspicions of abuse under the legal duty.
- Committing to a necessary time frame for implementation and to evaluate the impact of the new duty on outcomes for children and relevant settings.

### Self-harm Prevention Advice for Professionals, Families and Young People

New [self-harm prevention and advice for professionals, families and young people](#) has now been published. This guidance reflects the change in practice as outlined in the [NICE guidance](#) and is a collaborative effort between partners from across Kent and Medway's health and social care services, voluntary and charity sector, and educational providers.

The guidance is divided into three sections; one for professionals; one for parents, families and carers; and one for children and young people. Each section offers support and advice.

We encourage you to review the guidance and share it with others who may benefit from it.

### KSCMP: Introduction to Neglect for Children and Young People Training

KSCMP are running a course to build awareness and understanding of neglect and to explore approaches and next steps to better safeguard children and young people (CYP). The training will enable delegates to safeguard children and young people by early identification of neglect by reducing the impacts of neglect through early help approaches and the number of repeat cases of neglect for individual children and young people.

The learning outcomes are to:

- Recognise signs and symptoms of neglect drawing out the differences for children and adolescents
- Understand the definition and impacts of neglect and concept of cumulative harm
- Explore how we respond to neglect including early help and strength-based approaches
- Emphasise the importance and challenges of listening to CYP who are experiencing neglect
- Share learning from relevant Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews.

If you would like to attend this course, upcoming dates are as follows:

- Tuesday 16 July 2024 from 9:30am to 1pm at The Friars, Aylesford Priory, ME20 7BX
- Tuesday 17 September 2024 from 9:30am to 1pm on Microsoft Teams
- Thursday 28 November 2024 from 9:30am to 1pm on Microsoft Teams
- Tuesday 14 January 2025 from 9:30am to 1pm on Microsoft Teams
- Thursday 6 March 2025 from 9:30am to 1pm on Microsoft Teams

Early booking is advised as places are limited and will be allocated on a 'first come, first served' basis. To attend you will need an account on the training portal. The system will not allow you book a place on behalf of a colleague, all individuals wishing to attend must book using their own account. If you have any queries, please contact [kscmptraining@kent.gov.uk](mailto:kscmptraining@kent.gov.uk).

## EasyPeasy: Free parenting app available for parents of young children in Kent



As part of their commitment to supporting local families and parents in the early stages of their child's development, Kent Family Hubs has commissioned the [EasyPeasy app](#), which has now been launched to support parents, carers, and early years practitioners of babies and children aged zero to five-year-olds across the area and transform everyday parenting moments into playful learning activities.

EasyPeasy brings together ideas, advice, and inspiration from a diverse community of parents, experts, and brands, supporting families and their zero to five-year-olds during the crucial early years. Parents can access thousands of simple, fun, and educational parenting tips and activities, tailored to their child's age and development stage, designed to use everyday materials that families already have access to at home.

The app includes information, activities, and tips on a range of topics including:

- wellbeing
- bedtime
- nutrition
- speech and language
- mindfulness.



The EasyPeasy app also allows parents and carers to create and share their own parenting tips and experiences, building peer-to-peer support systems in local communities.

Ronnie Armstrong, Family Hub Digital Delivery Manager said: *"Kent Family Hub are super excited to announce our new digital app EasyPeasy!!!"*

*"Kent has embarked on a journey to integrate digital solutions into our Family Hub delivery model. EasyPeasy is an integrated digital solution for the early years designed to enhance early years development from birth to age five, improve the home learning environment, and close the gap in school readiness. EasyPeasy will offer families a digital platform that provides engaging, and evidence-based support to encourage easy, positive interactions at home or in settings, improving family relationships, and support child development."*

For further details, please contact [Ronnie.Armstrong@kent.gov.uk](mailto:Ronnie.Armstrong@kent.gov.uk).

## Core Safeguarding Training for DSLs

Our training courses for terms one and two of the 24-25 academic year are now published on [The Education People website](#):

- [Early years training](#)
- [Schools/colleges training](#)

The Education People are currently working to secure venues, so some courses are currently published in areas without specific locations. We anticipate publishing dates for the remainder of the academic year in the autumn once the service restructure is complete.

The service also has a number of [‘on demand’ e-Learning courses available for DSLs and staff](#); these courses will also be updated over the summer, with 2024-25 versions being available for use from the 1<sup>st</sup> September.

For any queries relating to our core or bespoke training offer, please contact our [Training and Development Manager](#).

## Early Years and Childcare

### Emotional Support in Early Childhood



The Education Endowment Foundation (EEF) has created a valuable [resource](#) intended to assist in fostering self-regulation and cognitive processes during early childhood. The recommended approaches for early years educators to support children in managing their thoughts, actions, and emotional responses, include:

- creating and navigating challenges
- teaching self-monitoring and self-awareness
- establishing a community of collaborative learners
- promoting physical activity

### Early Words Matter

Young children need to develop crucial communication skills needed to share their voice and talk about any worries. The National Literacy Trust recognises the impact of a child's home environment on their communication and language development, so, they have developed a programme called [‘Early Words Together’](#) which focuses on supporting parents and raising awareness of the importance of providing a language-rich environment.

There are a variety of free resources available to download on their website, which you may find helpful to share with parents:

- [Chat, play, read booklets](#)
- [Walk and talk trail for 0-5 year olds](#)
- [Dual language booklet](#)
- [Five top tips for supporting communication in under twos](#)



## Online Safety

### Connect: New Teaching Resources from CEOP Education

[CEOP Education](#) have produced a [new teaching resource](#) to empower children aged 9-12 to develop online independence and help protect them from on and offline abuse by exploring the principles of healthy relationships.



The set of four lesson plans and five short situational films cover the following topics:

- Healthy, respectful relationships
- Safer socialising online
- Healthy and respectful online relationship behaviours
- Responding to harmful online behaviour, including grooming, and when and how to seek help

[Connect](#) has been awarded the [PSHE Association](#) Quality Mark and includes alternative and extension activities to support children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) and/or additional needs.

## Online Safety Training Sessions from UK Safer Internet Centre

In September, the [UK Safer Internet Centre](#) will be hosting their Online Safety Live events virtually; these sessions are aimed at professionals who work directly with children, and will explore the latest research, guidance and resources available from the UK Safer Internet Centre and their partners.



- [OSL England \(Online\) – 25th September, 9.30am](#)
- [OSL England \(Online\) – 25th September, 1.30pm](#)

[SWGfL](#) are also hosting virtual Online Safety Clinics in September, which will explore topics such as: generative AI in Education and responding to harmful sexual behaviour.

- [AI in Education – 10.09.24 - 9.30am](#)
- [AI in Education – 10.09.24 - 1.30pm](#)
- [Understanding and Responding to Harmful Sexual Behaviour – 18.09.24 - 10am](#)

## Think Before You Share: Campaign from the Internet Watch Foundation

**THINK BEFORE  
YOU SHARE**

'[Think before you share](#)' is a nationwide campaign from the [Internet Watch Foundation](#), aiming to encourage parents and carers to talk with their children about sharing nudes and sexually explicit images, both with each other and online. This campaign follows reports from the IWF of a significant increase in so-called '[self-generated child sexual abuse](#)' material, as well as a recent warning from the National Crime Agency regarding an increasing number of children being targeted/ victims of [financially motivated sexual exploitation \(sextortion\)](#).

As a reminder, the [guidance for education settings on responding to incidents of sharing nudes and semi-nudes](#) was updated (March 2024) to include further guidance around AI-generated images and 'sextortion'. DSLs should be referring to this guidance if they have concerns about children sharing nude or sexually explicit content.

[Report Remove](#) is a service run by the IWF and Childline which enables young people (under 18) to confidentially report sexual images and videos of themselves and remove them from the internet.





[Take It Down](#) from the [National Centre for Missing and Exploited Children](#) allows young people to report and prevent their nude or sexual images (taken before they were 18 years old) from being uploaded online.

## NEW Resources from the NSPCC

[Techosaurus](#) is a new character from the [NSPCC](#) which aims to help parents and carers have positive conversations about online safety with young children.



The [Techosaurus Activity Pack](#) helps to make conversations with young children, about staying safe online, as easy as possible for parents and carers, with a colouring in activity, dot-to-dot and maze game. Each pack includes:

- Four Techosaurus activities designed to teach about online safety,
- An Online Safety Family agreement to complete together
- A digital certificate to celebrate completion of the training
- A parents guide to the activities, and how to talk about staying safe online

For parents of older children, who may be getting their first phone or a new device, the NSPCC have teamed up with [Vodafone](#) to produce their [Trust: phone safety toolkit](#). By exploring the different the sections of the acronym T.R.U.S.T, it aims to empower parents and carers to have [meaningful conversations](#) with their child and develop trust together, through a variety of activities and conversation starters.



Using the discussions and lessons they've learned through the toolkit, they can create a [digital family pledge](#), to agree rules and boundaries together for safe and acceptable use of their new phone.

## What Is Undress AI? Guidance for Parents and Carers



As artificial intelligence continues to increase in capability and popularity, so do the concerns around its potential misuse and [the possible implications for children and young people](#). Undress AI describes the latest online tools that uses artificial intelligence to remove clothes of individuals in images. [Read more from Internet Matters](#) about [the technology](#), [the law](#), and how we can support children to be [safer online](#).

## NEW- Snapchat Safety Features



[Snapchat have announced new safety features](#), designed to protect users from online harms and unwanted communications from people they don't know. Their new suite of tools includes expanded in-app warnings, enhanced friending protections, simplified location-sharing, and improved blocking capabilities – all designed to help ensure that Snapchat users can only be messaged by individuals they have added as friends or have added to their phone contacts.

For more information on using snapchat safely, see the [Snapchat Privacy Guide from Internet Matters](#) or the [Snapchat Checklist from SWGfL](#) which can be accessed online, or purchase printed copies to distribute to pupils, parents and carers.

## National Research, Events and Resources

### NSPCC Learning

NSPCC Learning has released a [podcast](#) delving into how the unique language and communication requirements of d/Deaf children impact their safety and the child protection assistance they access. The podcast includes a conversation with a group of specialists from the Social Workers with Deaf Children and Professionals Working Group, discussing various topics such as assisting a d/Deaf child in reporting abuse, obstacles in recognising safeguarding issues, and the importance of not making assumptions about the preferred communication methods of d/Deaf children and young people.



Also, the summer holidays will soon be upon us, and it's important to re-visit the issue of parents leaving children at home alone. You can signpost parents and carers to the [advice](#) from the NSPCC for more information.

### Supporting Mental Health in Educational Settings

Child of the North and the Centre for Young Lives have released a [report](#) detailing a strategy to bolster children's mental health within education settings in England. The report examines the potential impact of education settings on child mental health and urges the government to broaden mental health assistance within educational environments.



The recommendations encompass enhanced support for preschool children with neurodiverse conditions, implementing school-based surveys to collect local data on children's mental well-being and addressing workforce challenges in educational psychology services.

### Education, Children and Violence



A new practical [guidance](#) report from the Youth Endowment Fund (YEF) focuses on implementing effective strategies in schools, colleges, and alternative provision (AP) to prevent children from getting involved in violence.

The YEF consulted a group of school, college and AP leaders, academics, and policy experts to provide practical guidance based on their expertise. Its recommendations to protect children from violence include:

- keeping children in education
- providing trusted adults and creating trusted relationships
- developing children's social and emotional skills

## A Longer Read: Front Door and KSCMP Support for DSLs

### KSCMP Support and Resources

DSLs should ensure they have a current understanding of Kent's support levels, and we encourage DSLs to access the support level guidance specific training available [via KSCMP](#).

DSLs can also access a number of free resources on the KSCMP website, including factsheets, multi-agency training and guidance:

- [Kent and Medway safeguarding children procedures and strategies](#)
- [Worried about a child](#)
- [Factsheets](#)
- [Video Explainers](#)
- [Supporting Resources](#)
- [Multi-agency training](#)
- [Guidance](#)

### Requesting a Consultation with the Front Door Service

Following changes to our dedicated advice and support line, we are working with our colleagues in the Quality Assurance unit and Front Door Service to review the consultation process for all agencies.

The current expectations regarding consultations with the Front Door Service, as outlined in their processes, is as follows.

#### Purpose of a consultation

The purpose of a consultation with the Front Door is to provide advice on the best action to take when working with a child and their family. A consultation should not be sought when you are clear that a Request for Support is appropriate (in line with the Kent Support Level Guidance) or has already been made through the portal.

#### Responsibilities

The consultee will be expected to seek advice from their own DSL before contacting the Front Door.

The consultee will be expected to have a discussion with the parent/carer or young person about their concerns before contacting the Front Door for a consultation. This discussion may lead to a better understanding of the concerns and enable identification of suitable support for the child, young person or family without the need for seeking a consultation.

When seeking a consultation, it will be helpful to share the identity of the child with the Front Door Social Worker. This will allow them to check systems held by Children's Social Work Services and Early Help to ensure that the most appropriate advice is provided. No information will be shared with the consultee about the history of the child, but if the child or a sibling is receiving support from either Children's Social Work Services or Early Help, the consultee will be provided with details of the allocated worker so direct contact can be made. The Front Door will not record any details of the consultation; this is the responsibility of the professional

seeking the consultation. However, if the concerns being raised are of a safeguarding nature, this will be recorded on the Children's Services system to ensure immediate appropriate action is taken. Under these circumstances, the professional will be required to subsequently submit their concerns via the portal.

## **Next Steps**

Please ensure you regularly review your settings child protection policies to ensure they reflect any changes to local Kent processes.

We know there is a high level of skill and knowledge among DSL teams all over Kent, and you should be empowered to apply this understanding and experience to your decision making. We would like to take this opportunity to reassure schools and settings that we are committed to continuing the positive working relationship we have with you all. We will be spending time over the summer and into the autumn and winter terms looking for different ways this can be achieved and to ensure we can support you in implementing effective safeguarding practice in your settings.

# Education Safeguarding Service Contacts

Head Office: Room 2.30 Sessions House, County Hall, Maidstone ME14 1XQ	
Claire Ray Head of Service	03000 423 169
Rebecca Avery Training and Development Manager	03000 423 168
Robin Brivio Senior Safeguarding Advisor	03000 423 169
Online Safety	03000 423 164
<p>For advice on safeguarding issues please call your area office on the numbers listed below until 31<sup>st</sup> July 2024; after this date, email non-urgent non-child related issues to <a href="mailto:edsafeguardinghq@kent.gov.uk">edsafeguardinghq@kent.gov.uk</a></p> <p>If a child may be at risk of <b>imminent harm</b>, you should submit an urgent request for support via <a href="#">the portal</a> or call the <b>Police on 999</b>. To request a consultation with a social worker from the Front Door Service, call <b>03000 411 111</b></p>	
Ashford	03000 423154
Canterbury	03000 423157
Dartford	03000 423149
Dover	03000 423154
Folkestone & Hythe	03000 423154
Gravesham	03000 423149
Maidstone	03000 423158
Sevenoaks	03000 423149
Swale	03000 423157
Thanet	03000 423157
Tonbridge & Malling	03000 423158
Tunbridge Wells	03000 423158

# Other Kent County Council 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)

## County LADO Service

[Local Authority Designated Officer \(LADO\) - Kent Safeguarding Children Multi-Agency Partnership \(kscmp.org.uk\)](http://www.kscmp.org.uk)

If your concern is urgent i.e., a child is in **immediate danger** and you cannot contact the County LADO Service, submit an urgent request for support and/or call the Front Door Service on 03000 411 111

LADO Team contact number: 03000 410 888

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

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

## Assistant Director of Education

**South Kent** – David Adams 03000 412 309

**East Kent** – Rob Veale 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** - Rachel Murray [Rachel.murray@kent.gov.uk](mailto:Rachel.murray@kent.gov.uk) 03000 412431