

# LADO Education Safeguarding Advisory Service Child Protection Newsletter

2024-25: Term 3

## Welcome

Welcome to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Child Protection Newsletter for the 2024-25 academic year. We hope that the following articles and information we share will be useful for you.

This newsletter is published by the LADO Education Safeguarding Advisory Service and issued to schools, early years providers and local authority staff.

This newsletter aims to help DSLs keep up to date with key local and national safeguarding guidance and procedures, to support them in carrying out their role.

For this newsletter to be effective, please ensure that it is shared with all Designated Safeguarding Leads in your organisation and other staff as appropriate. DSLs may also wish to extract and share content with their wider staff group as part of providing at least annual safeguarding updates.

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 are time limited so may have expired.

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**KENT LADO EDUCATION  
SAFEGUARDING  
ADVISORY SERVICE**  
KEEPING CHILDREN SAFE IN  
THE CHILDREN'S WORKFORCE

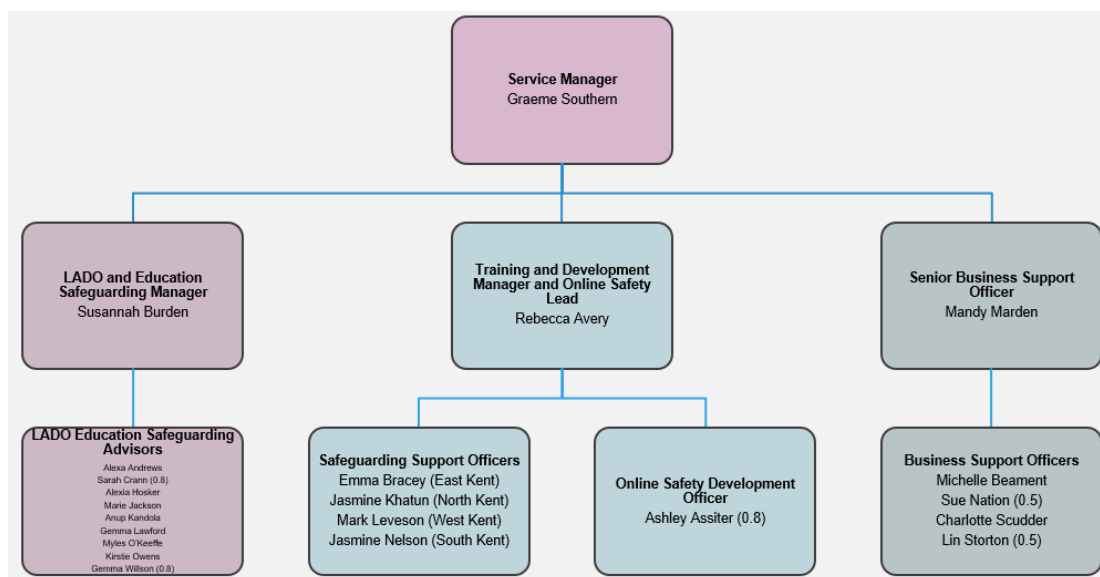
## LADO Education Safeguarding Advisory Service (LESAS) Updates

### New: LESAS Staffing Updates

We are excited to welcome two new Safeguarding Support Officers to our team at LESAS. Emma Bracey will be covering East Kent, and Mark Leveson is covering West Kent for training and Ofsted complaints.

Emma's career started in Early Years before she then went onto gaining QTS. She worked in a local primary school for 10 years working across key stages. Prior to joining the LESAS team Emma was the Inclusion Lead at a local primary school, overseeing SEND and Medical needs. Emma also held responsibility as a deputy DSL during this time.

Mark has a varied background, spending seven years as CEO and DSL for a charity, working in schools to support children and young people with a variety of needs. He has also worked as a church minister for 19 years. He and his wife were Foster Carers for KCC, and he has served as a school governor for 13 years in total. During this role, he acted as the Chair of Governors taking on the responsibility for Safeguarding and SEN.



### DSL Network Meetings

The DSL catch ups for March are as follows all at 11am via Teams with the LADO Education Safeguarding Advisor:

North Primary	11.03.25	(Anup Kandola)
South Primary	12.03.25	(Gemma Wilson)
West Primary	13.03.25	(Kirstie Owens)
East Primary	14.03.25	(Alexa Andrews)
South Secondary	17.03.25	(Gemma Lawford)
North Secondary	18.03.25	(Marie Jackson)
West Secondary	19.03.25	(Alexia Hosker)
East Secondary	20.03.25	(Myles O'Keefe)

## Local Safeguarding updates

### Front Door 'No Named' Consultations



From February 2025, the Front Door service will be offering 'no named consultations' to provide advice when you believe that a child or children may be in need of support from integrated children's services, but you are not clear whether to submit a Request for Support.

Your call will initially be taken by a member of the contact centre team (**03000 411111**) where a brief summary of the reason for your call will be taken and passed on to an experienced social worker. **No child details** will be shared and therefore you do not require consent from the parent or carer.

These consultations will then allow the consultee to decide upon the most appropriate course of action, following the advice given. Following the consultation, you will receive an email with a unique number for your records to confirm the FDS have provided a No Named Consultation.

## Core Safeguarding Training for DSLs

Our training courses for terms three and four of the 24-25 academic year are published on The Education People website:

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

28/01/2025	New to Role DSL Training	Eastgate DA11 8AD
04/02/2025	New to Role DSL Training	Singleton Env Centre, TN23 5LW
4 & 5/02/2025	New to Role Early Years (EY) DSL	Virtual - Zoom
06/02/2025	DSL Refresher Training	Eastgate, DA11 8AD
11 & 12/02/2025	New to Role DSL Training	Virtual - Zoom
25/02/2024	DSL Refresher Training	Howfield Manor Hotel, CT4 7HQ
04/03/2025	New to Role Early Years (EY) DSL	Eastgate, DA11 8AD
06/03/2025	Early Years Basic Awareness	Virtual - Zoom
11/03/2025	New to Role DSL Training	St Augustine's College CT8 8NL
11 & 12/03/2025	New to Role Early Years (EY) DSL	Virtual - Zoom
13/03/2025	New to Role DSL Training	Eastgate, DA11 8AD
18/03/2025	DSL Refresher Training	Mercure Tunbridge Wells, TN2 4QL
19/03/2025	DSL Refresher Training	Singleton Env Centre, TN23 5LW
25 & 26/03/2025	New to Role DSL Training	Virtual - Zoom
27/03/2025	Early Years DSL Refresher Training	Howfield Manor Hotel, CT4 7HQ
01/04/2025	Online Safety for DSLs	Singleton Env Centre, TN23 5LW
02/04/2025	DSL Refresher Training	St Augustine's College CT8 8NL
03/04/2025	DSL Refresher Training	Holiday Inn, TN15 7RS

Dates for the remainder of the academic year will be published as soon as venues are provisionally booked.

The service also has a number of '[on demand](#)' e-Learning courses available for DSLs and staff. These courses have all been updated over the summer ready for 2024-25, and include:

- [Safeguarding Basic Awareness for Induction \(School Staff\) 2024-25](#)
- [Kent Designated Safeguarding Lead Refresher 2024-25](#)
- [Early Years Designated Safeguarding Lead Refresher 2024-25](#)
- [Safeguarding Record Keeping for Designated Safeguarding Leads](#)
- [Strategic Safeguarding for Governors 2024-25](#)
- [Safeguarding Basic Awareness for Childminders 2024-25](#)
- [Online Safeguarding for Early Years DSLs and Managers 2024-25](#)
- [Online Safeguarding for Early Years Practitioners 2024-25](#)

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

## Early Years and Childcare

### Water Safety

How often do children in your setting engage in water play activities? There are many educational benefits for children when learning and exploring with water, so it is important that as professionals we also consider any potential safety risks alongside this.

We also have a duty to share our knowledge of how to keep children safe with our families. Unfortunately, research published by the Royal Life Saving Society UK reports that children under the age of five are most at risk of drowning. The statistics tell us that one child a month drowns at home in England.



So, a new campaign, [Splash Safety at Your Pad](#) has been designed to help children and families enjoy water play safely at home. Check out the variety of resources that can be shared.

### Looking after our workforce in the Early Years

It is important to recognise the stress and demands that come with working in an early years setting. By recognising this, it means that we can draw attention to providing and targeting the support and encouragement our staff team need. A setting which prioritizes staff well-being will be a happier and safer place for all.

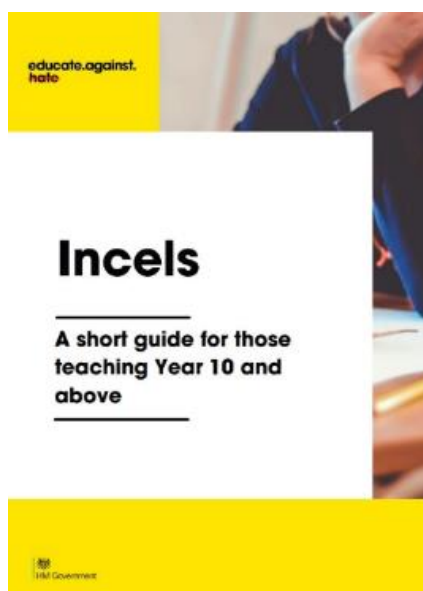
Research by Anna Freud National Centre has helped developed [resources](#) and tips on how to create a supporting, working environment and embed this into everyday practice. These four key components were highlighted to help improve mental health for staff:

- Supporting each other
- Supportive management
- Physical environment
- Support from outside your setting



## Online Safety

### New! DfE Guide on Incels



DfE has published a new guide on Incels for those teaching Year 10 and above. This guide provides a basic overview of Incel online subculture, signs that a young person may be engaging with it and what to do if you are concerned about a child. This guide is for:

- teachers of key stage 4 and older students
- school leaders
- designated safeguarding leads
- those working in education settings with a Prevent Duty

The Kent and Medway Prevent Team deliver training around this subject, for free; to arrange bespoke staff training, please contact the Prevent Education Officers directly (see details on page 12).

### NEW DfE Guidance on Generative Artificial Intelligence (AI) in Education

*“AI has the power to transform education by helping teachers focus on what they do best: teaching. If used safely, AI can ensure that every child and young person, regardless of their background, is able to achieve at school or college and develop the knowledge and skills they need for life.”*

[This new guidance](#) published by the DfE outlines some considerations for education settings wishing to use generative AI safely, effectively and responsibly.

KSCMP have put together a factsheet on [Artificial Intelligence \(AI\) technology and potential safeguarding risks to children](#) which may support your risk assessments and decision making.

## FREE staff training Webinars from Cyber Choices



Colleagues from the [Eastern Region Special Operations Unit's](#) Cyber Protect and Cyber Choices Team will be delivering their popular **free** education focused webinar events at multiple dates throughout the next academic year. These include:

- [Cyber Security](#) and an introduction to the [National Crime Agency's Cyber Choices Programme](#) for UK Education Staff:

Wednesday 5 <sup>th</sup> February	16:00 – 17:00 - <a href="#">Link</a>
Tuesday 29 <sup>th</sup> April	16:00 – 17:00 - <a href="#">Link</a>
Wednesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> July	16:00 – 17:00 - <a href="#">Link</a>
Tuesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> September	14:00 – 15:00 - <a href="#">Link</a>
Wednesday 5 <sup>th</sup> November	16:00 – 17:00 - <a href="#">Link</a>
Tuesday 13 <sup>th</sup> January 2026	16:00 – 17:00 - <a href="#">Link</a>

- Two-hour Cyber Security Awareness Session for UK School Governors / Senior Leaders:

Thursday 6 <sup>th</sup> February	16:00 – 18:00 - <a href="#">Link</a>
Wednesday 7 <sup>th</sup> May	18:00 – 20:00 - <a href="#">Link</a>
Wednesday 11 <sup>th</sup> June	10:00 – 12:00 - <a href="#">Link</a>
Tuesday 23 <sup>rd</sup> September	10:00 – 12:00 - <a href="#">Link</a>
Tuesday 18 <sup>th</sup> November	16:00 – 18:00 - <a href="#">Link</a>
Wednesday 21 <sup>st</sup> January 2026	18:00 – 20:00 - <a href="#">Link</a>

- Parents / Carers Cyber Choices and Online Safety: *Pt1 - Introduction to Cyber Choices and Online Risks.* (Suitable for parents/carers of children in Year 5 (age 9) and above)

Wednesday 12 <sup>th</sup> March	10:00 – 11:00 - <a href="#">Link</a>
Tuesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> April	13:00 – 14:00 - <a href="#">Link</a>
Thursday 15 <sup>th</sup> May	16:00 – 17:00 - <a href="#">Link</a>
Tuesday 10 <sup>th</sup> June	10:00 – 11:00 - <a href="#">Link</a>
Wednesday 9 <sup>th</sup> July	19:00 – 20:00 - <a href="#">Link</a>
Monday 8 <sup>th</sup> September	14:00 – 15:00 - <a href="#">Link</a>
Thursday 16 <sup>th</sup> October	16:00 – 17:00 - <a href="#">Link</a>
Tuesday 25 <sup>th</sup> November	10:00 – 11:00 - <a href="#">Link</a>

- Parents / Carers Cyber Choices and Online Safety: *Pt2 - Tools and techniques to improve the cyber security of your family:*

Wednesday 19 <sup>th</sup> March	10:00 – 11:00 - <a href="#">Link</a>
Monday 28 <sup>th</sup> April	13:00 – 14:00 - <a href="#">Link</a>
Thursday 22 <sup>nd</sup> May	16:00 – 17:00 - <a href="#">Link</a>
Tuesday 17 <sup>th</sup> June	10:00 – 11:00 - <a href="#">Link</a>
Wednesday 16 <sup>th</sup> July	19:00 – 20:00 - <a href="#">Link</a>
Monday 15 <sup>th</sup> September	14:00 – 15:00 - <a href="#">Link</a>
Thursday 23 <sup>rd</sup> October	16:00 – 17:00 - <a href="#">Link</a>
Tuesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> December	10:00 – 11:00 - <a href="#">Link</a>



Schools must have appropriate filtering and monitoring systems in place and regularly review their effectiveness; [testfiltering.com](https://testfiltering.com) is a free tool we often recommend from SWGfL, which allows DSLs and schools leaders to periodically check their filtering system is blocking the [minimum required standards](#).

SWGfL have recently launched an extension to this platform called [Test Filtering+](#), a proactive system which will continuously monitor your school devices and provide you with alerts and reports if/when there are issues, ensuring that your filtering system is effectively safeguarding against illegal and harmful material. There is an annual charge for this service (based on the number of devices connected to your network) and it does not replace your [school's monitoring approaches](#).

## Don't forget- Safer Internet Day 2025!

Safer Internet Day 2025 is on Tuesday 11th of February 2025, with online safety celebrations based around the theme: 'Too good to be true? Keeping yourself and others safe from scams online'.

Access the new education resources and register as a supporter with the UK Safer Internet Centre to celebrate and explore topics such as:

- How is changing technology like generative AI going to impact the approach of scammers?
- What role can the government and internet industry take to tackle this threat?
- What changes would young people like to see to help protect themselves moving forward?



## National Research, Events and Resources



### Centre of Expertise on Child Sexual Abuse

A FREE webinar is being held on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> March, 9-11am, to help develop professionals understanding of what may be going on for children displaying and talking about harmful sexual behaviour. This webinar is for all professionals in schools or other places of learning for children, including pupil referral units and special schools; it is not just for Designated Safeguarding Leads (DSLs). Book your place [here](#).

## Keeping Young People safe in the workplace

NSPCC have developed a FREE webinar on [Safeguarding young apprentices](#) 16-25. The webinar will cover topics including:



- existing guidance and legislation
- recognising and responding to safeguarding concerns in the workplace
- additional vulnerabilities of young people and young adults
- responsibilities of employees to follow best practice
- guidance on developing policy and procedures
- how to establish a safeguarding culture in your organisation.

The session will also include a discussion from the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) on vetting requirements for employees and how the DBS can support employers in England and Wales.



### Children's Wellbeing and Schools Bill

The Term 2 Newsletter referred to the DfE policy statement, 'Keeping Children Safe, Helping Families Thrive.' The 'Children's Wellbeing and Schools Bill' has subsequently begun its journey through Parliament. Part 1 of the bill contains reforms to children's social care. Part 2 makes provision relating to education in England. Overall, the bill makes explicit the role of schools and education settings in safeguarding children and young people in a number of ways:

#### ***Safeguarding partners***

The bill seeks to amend the Children Act 2004 to make it a requirement for the three statutory safeguarding partners (the local authority, NHS integrated care board and Police) in each local area to include education and childcare "relevant agencies" as mandatory participants in their multi-agency safeguarding arrangements. Currently, safeguarding partners only need to make arrangements to work with a "relevant agency" if they consider it appropriate to do so. This aim helps to ensure the voice of education is heard and considered.

#### ***Multi-agency child protection teams***

The bill would insert new sections into the Children Act 2004 to require safeguarding partners to establish and run at least one multi-agency child protection team in their area. The main purpose of these new teams is to support the local authority in delivering its child protection duties under section 47 of the Children Act 1989.

NHS Integrated Care Boards ('ICBs') will be required to nominate a health professional with experience in relation to children's health, while the police will be required to nominate an officer to be part of each multi-agency child protection team. The local authority is required to nominate someone with experience in education in relation to children and a social worker with experience in relation to children and may appoint other appropriate individuals after consultation with safeguarding partners.

#### ***Information sharing***

The bill would also amend the Children Act 2004 to impose a duty on specified persons and bodies to disclose information that may be relevant to safeguarding or promoting the welfare of a child, to other relevant persons in certain circumstances. The duty applies where the person considers that the disclosure may facilitate the exercise by the recipient of any of its functions that relate to safeguarding or promoting the welfare of children, unless disclosure would be detrimental to the child.

The duty to share information will apply to persons listed in section 11(1) of the Children Act 2004, including local authorities, ICBs, NHS trusts/foundation trusts, police forces, probation services and youth offending teams, along with education and childcare "relevant agencies".

#### ***Consistent child identifier***

The bill also makes provision, under the Children Act 2004, for a consistent child identifier (also known as a single unique identifier or SUI). Designated persons must include the consistent identifier when processing information about a child for safeguarding and promotion of welfare purposes. The idea is that a consistent identifier will allow those responsible for the safeguarding and welfare of children to better join relevant data and identify children who will benefit from additional support.

### ***Supporting educational achievement***

Under amendments to the Children Act 1989, local authorities would be required to take appropriate measures to support the educational outcomes of children in need, previously looked after children and children in kinship care.

The steps that can be taken under this duty include enabling children to overcome barriers to their educational achievement and improving educational attendance. The duty is a strategic duty, which does not extend to the educational outcomes of individual children. The local authority must appoint at least one person to discharge the duty (in practice this is usually the virtual school head).

### ***Children not in school***

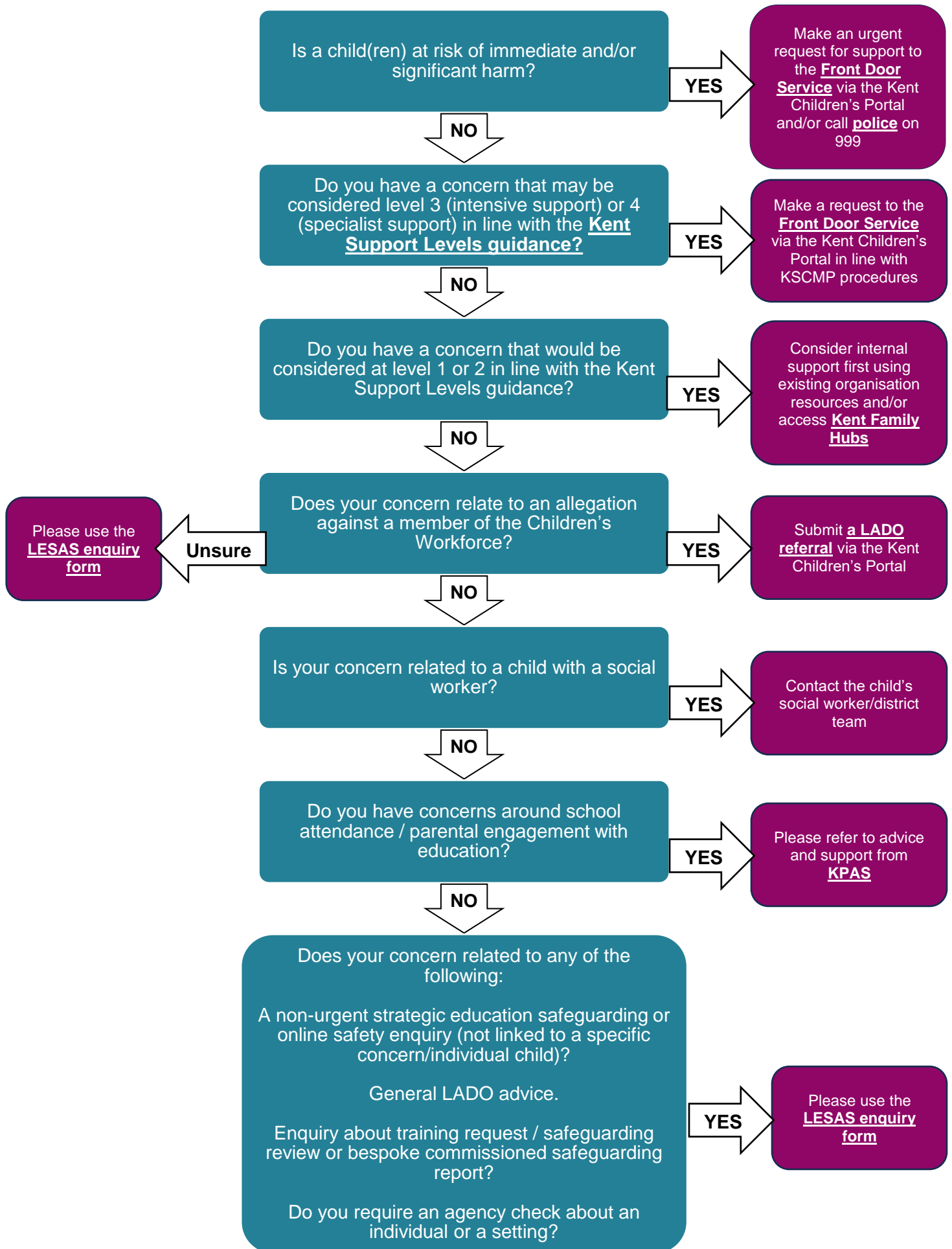
The bill proposes a number of reforms aimed at protecting children who are being educated at home. Most of these involve amendments to the Education Act 1996 and include:

- Compulsory registers of children not in school in each local authority area in England, and a duty on local authorities to support the children on their registers (should a parent request this).
- Changes to the school attendance order (SAO) legal framework, for example, by introducing statutory timeframes for issuing and processing SAOs and making it an offence for parents to withdraw a child subject to an SAO from school without following the proper procedure.
- A requirement for a parent to obtain local authority consent to home educate if a child is: (1) subject to an enquiry under section 47 of the Children Act 1989, (2) on a child protection plan, or (3) at a special school or academy.
- A power for the local authority, in cases where a child is subject to a section 47 Children Act 1989 enquiry or on a child protection plan and is already being home educated, to review whether it is in the best interests of the child to be in school and require that the child be registered at a school.
- A duty for local authorities to consider the home environment and other learning environments when determining whether or not children should be required to attend school.

The bill covers a number of other areas of relevance to schools, apart from safeguarding (eg limitations on branded uniform items, increased access to free breakfast clubs for primary school children, new powers for Ofsted to regulate 'parent undertakings' e.g, trusts).

The bill will be subject to debate in Parliament and will no doubt be amended during its passage. It is likely to become law sometime in spring 2025, although not all its provisions will be enacted immediately, with some coming into effect over the next 2 years.

# Local Support and Contacts



## Urgent Concerns and Making a Request for Support

If a child may be at risk of **imminent harm**, submit an **urgent request for support** via [the Kent Integrated Children's Services portal](#) or call **Kent Police on 999**

If your concerns may be considered level 3 (intensive support) or 4 (specialist support) in line with the [Kent Support Levels Guidance](#), submit a request for support to the Front Door Service via [the Kent Integrated Children's Services portal](#)

To request a 'no named' consultation with a social worker from the Front Door Service, call  
03000 411 111

If you need to make contact out of working hours, please call the Out of Hours Services via  
03000 41 91 91

**Early Help Unit Contacts** can be found at [Early Help and Preventative Services](#)

**Kent Family Hubs Information** can be found at [Kent Family Hubs](#)

## LADO Education Safeguarding Advisory Service

If you need to make a referral to the LADO regarding an allegation against a member of staff, please complete a LADO referral via [the Kent Integrated Children's Services portal](#)

**LADO or Strategic Education Safeguarding/Online Safety Enquiries**

[LESAS enquiry form](#)

## 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 412 431