

Safeguarding in Education Autumn Term 2 Bulletin

2020 – 21 HT2 (December 2020)

INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the second edition of the **Safeguarding in Education Bulletin for 2020-21**. Thank you for all your hard work this term so far, I know it's not always easy.

In this edition of the Safeguarding in Education Bulletin, there is information from our Change Council about an important and exciting campaign they have just launched called **#ChangeTheLanguage**. There's also information from our partners in Counter Terrorism Policing and the NSPCC about some of the impact the pandemic is having on our children's safety.

As always, if you have any queries in relation to safeguarding, please speak to your school's Designated Safeguarding Leads. Our School Improvement Team are also on hand to support DSLs and Headteachers where required.

As we rapidly approach the festive season, I want to thank you all again for all your hard work. Have a wonderful Christmas and I wish you all the best for the new year.

Best wishes,

Simon Marshall
Director of Education



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If you have any queries about any of the information contained within this bulletin, please speak to your Designated Safeguarding Lead in the first instance.

PART 1 - INFORMATION FOR ALL STAFF

#CHANGETHELANGUAGE



Our Change Council have recently been working hard on a campaign to #ChangeTheLanguage. The Change Council have identified some of the language often used by adults that can be unhelpful to young people. The young people are asking adults to help #ChangeTheLanguage.

- Instead of “Contact”, children and young people prefer “Family Time.”
- Instead of “Placement” or “Unit”, children and young people prefer “Home” or “House.”
- Instead of “Looked After Children”, children and young people prefer “Cared For.”
- Instead of “Care Leavers” children and young people prefer “Care Experienced.”

Help us to #ChangeTheLanguage

Source: TfC – Participation and Engagement Team / Change Council

WHATSAPP: DISAPPEARING MESSAGES



WhatsApp have launched a disappearing messages feature similar to Snapchat within its app. Disappearing messages are videos, images or text which will automatically ‘delete’ after a set amount of time.

Disappearing messages present a safeguarding risk. Children and young people can often get a false sense of security and may send more risky messages as they think it will be kept private – this is not the case.

Staff should:

- Remind pupils that disappearing messages are not always kept private.
- Help pupils understand the limits of disappearing messages.
- Support pupils to understand what they should and shouldn’t share.
- Advise pupils who to speak to if they have any issues with social media.
- Speak to their Designated Safeguarding Lead if they have any concerns.

Source: Ineqe Safeguarding Group

PREVENT - COUNTER TERRORISM POLICING LAUNCH A NEW ACT EARLY SAFEGUARDING WEBSITE

The impact of Covid-19, social isolation and a rise in hateful extremism online is creating a 'perfect storm' which is making more young people vulnerable to radicalisation and other forms of grooming.

Counter Terrorism Policing (CTP) have launched ACT Early - a new dedicated safeguarding website and advice line for parents, friends and families who can now get specialist support to stop their loved ones being drawn into harmful activities or groups. The resource provides advice, guidance and support for anyone who is concerned that someone they know may be at risk from being radicalised by terrorists or extremist content online.

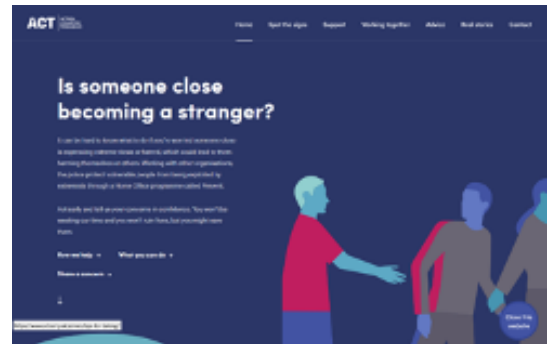
Between 1st January 2019 and 30th June 2020, 17 children were arrested in relation to terrorism offences. Some were as young as 14-years-old, and nearly all will have been radicalised entirely online. In the same time period, more than 1,500 children under the age of 15 were helped by the Prevent programme to choose a different path, away from hatred and violence.

The ACT Early site is designed specifically to enable concerned members of the public to visit and learn what the PREVENT world is all about. It also provides guidance on how they can seek help to safeguard their friends and relatives if they have concerns about a risk to them being radicalised by terrorists or extremist content, particularly online.

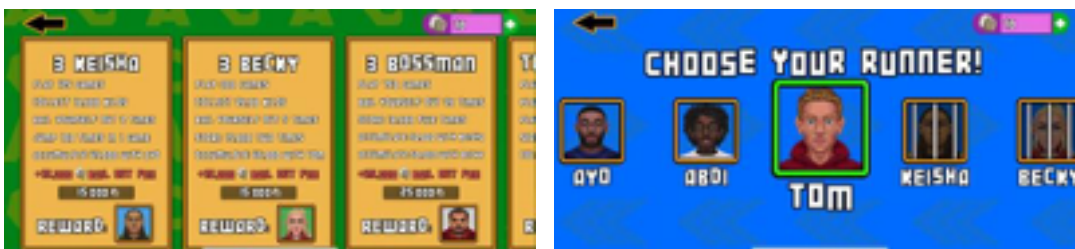
With online usage being more prevalent at the moment it would be useful to promote this new website to your parents and community through your website, newsletters and social media.

www.actearly.uk

Source: Counter Terrorism Policing website



NEW 'COUNTY LINES' STYLE GAME



Cunch-Line Chronicles is a game/app that can be downloaded on phones and other devices that is based on County Lines and drug distribution. It uses themes and language associated with criminal exploitation, County Lines and gang culture.

Schools should be aware of the app but not warn children and young people about it, as the research shows when we highlight it to children and young people it can often raise their awareness and encourage them to download the app.

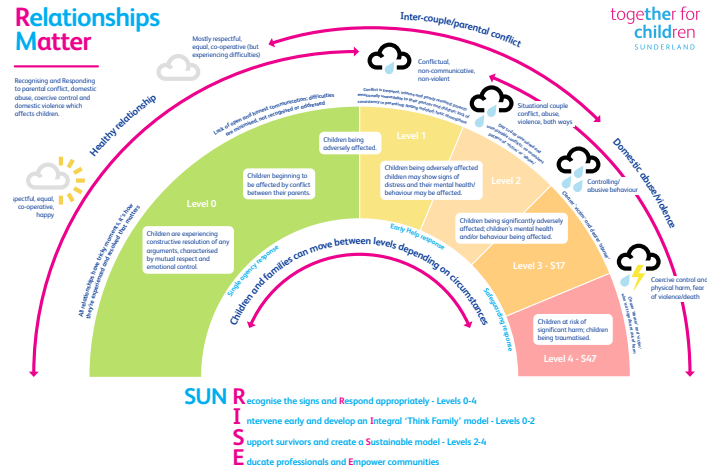
Source: MSET / Sunderland SCP

RELATIONSHIPS TOOLKIT – THE SUNRISE APPROACH TO RELATIONSHIP SUPPORT

Together for Children have recently launched a 'Relationships Toolkit' to support professionals in recognising and responding to parental conflict, domestic abuse, coercive control and domestic violence. The purpose of the toolkit is to support frontline practitioners in responding to all levels of concern from inter-couple/parental conflict through to domestic abuse/violence.

Visit the Together for Children website to access the toolkit www.togetherforchildren.org.uk/professionals/early-help

Source: Director of Early Help, TfC



INSTAGRAM MOST RECORDED PLATFORM USED IN CHILD GROOMING CRIMES DURING LOCKDOWN

The NSPCC are calling for tougher legislation after 1,220 online grooming offences against children were recorded in just 3 months of lockdown.

Freedom of Information responses from 38 police forces in England and Wales show that 1,220 offences of sexual communication with a child were recorded in the first 3 months of lockdown. The figures show Instagram increasingly being used in online grooming offences.

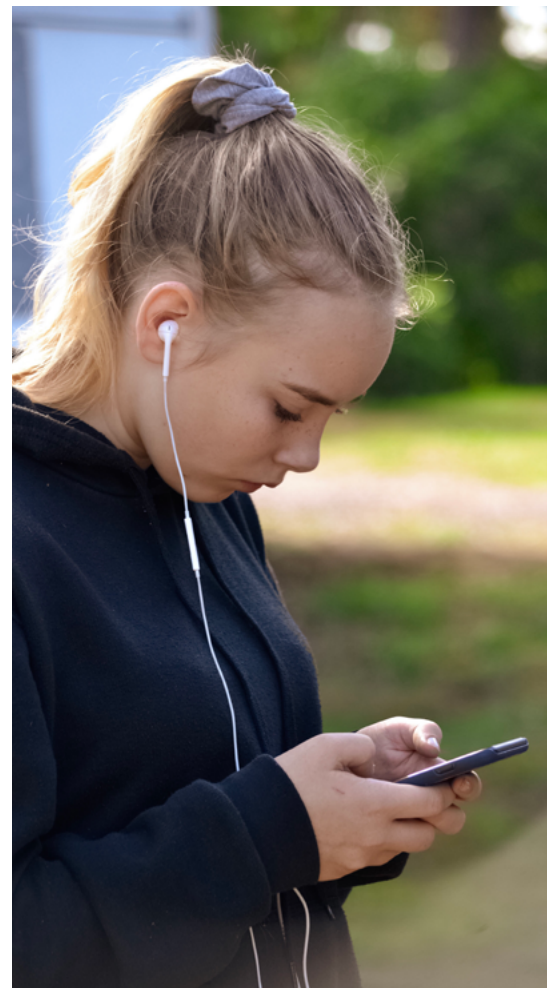
Data from the NSPCC's research shows:

- Instagram was used in 37% of cases where the platform was recorded, compared with 29% over the previous three years.
- Facebook-owned apps (Instagram, Facebook, WhatsApp) were used in 51% of cases where the type of communication was recorded.
- Snapchat was used in 20% of cases for which data was available.
- Offences have also increased annually in the 3 years before lockdown. In total there were 12,925 offences recorded by police in England and Wales from April 2017 to March 2020, with experts saying poorly designed social media sites are putting children at risk.

The NSPCC are calling for the Government to act and make tech companies more responsible for the abuse that's taking place on their platforms. To read more about their research and to sign the petition to call for the Government to act, visit the [NSPCC website](https://www.nspcc.org.uk/what-we-do/our-research/online-grooming/).

Concerns for children's online safety should be shared with your Designated Safeguarding Lead.

Source: NSPCC's CASPAR weekly update [23/11/2020]



ARE YOU READY FOR SUMMER? IS YOUR SCHOOL SUN SAFE?



Skin cancer cases have risen by 45% in the last decade and over 14,000 people die in the UK each year. 86% of skin cancer cases are preventable as they are largely due to over exposure to the sun/UV. Just one blistering sun burn as a child doubles your chance of getting skin cancer later in life. Skin cancer is becoming one of the most common cancers, so we need to act now.

National skin cancer charity Skcin offers a unique solution to teaching sun safety in primary schools. The new PHSE guidelines state that sun safety and the risks of over exposure to the sun/UV must be taught in schools from September 2020.

The Sun Safe school scheme is a national online accreditation for all primary schools and the only one of its kind in the UK. It is completely FREE to take part and includes everything a school needs to become sun safe and earn their Sun Safe Status.

The accreditation assists by implementing a suitable sun safe policy and reinforcement of sun safety at home. Schools are provided with a 68 page Teachers' Welcome Guide containing a high-quality comprehensive range of fun, engaging curriculum linked teaching resources for key stage 1 and 2, a George the Sun Safe Superstar illustrated book, stickers for children and information for parents.

Another way to teach your children about sun safety is with George the Sun Safe Superstar – [click here to take you to the video](#). This is the story of how a boy became known by a very, very special name. How he spread a message near and far and became a Sun Safe Superstar! It was written by Skcin, The Karen Clifford Skin Cancer Charity, to help children learn about the importance of sun safety in a fun and engaging way. Definitely worth a watch with your pupils.

Sun Safe School accreditation's key objective is to prevent skin cancer through education, evoking cultural change in sun habits by encouraging children to adopt sun safe behaviours. Over 4,700 schools are registered with 1000's of positive testimonials from teachers. Schools have a duty of care to keep children safe. Sign up today www.sunsafeschools.co.uk

Source: Skcin

REMINDER: SUPPORT FOR THOSE WHO WORK IN EDUCATION

Education Support provides mental health and wellbeing support to everyone working in education. At a time when staff are under immense pressure, taking care of your mental wellbeing is more important than ever. Education Support can provide advice and support on your personal wellbeing as well as tips for supporting your colleagues.

Visit www.educationsupport.org.uk to find out more or contact the helpline on 0800 562561.

Source: Education Support

PERIOD PRODUCT SCHEME FOR SCHOOLS

If you have not yet registered to take part in the Government's free sanitary product scheme, which provides schools with free sanitary products, you should register with the scheme ASAP. [Further information can be found here.](#)

Source: www.gov.uk

PART 2 - DESIGNATED SAFEGUARDING LEADS

IMPACT OF BREXIT ON SAFER RECRUITMENT



From 1st January 2021, the Teaching Regulation Agency will no longer maintain a list of EEA teachers with sanctions.

The government has announced that 'from 1st January 2021 professional regulators in the EEA (EU, Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway) will no longer share information about sanctions imposed on EEA teachers with the Teaching Regulation Agency (TRA)'.

Schools must continue to carry out safer recruitment checks on all applicants.

When applicants have lived or worked outside of the UK, schools must make any further checks they think appropriate so that relevant events that occurred outside the UK can be considered, including obtaining an enhanced DBS certificate with barred list information (even if the teacher has never been to the UK).

Teachers may be able to provide proof of their past conduct as a teacher, issued by the professional regulating authority in the country in which they worked. Where available, such evidence can be considered alongside other information obtained through other pre-appointment checks to help assess their suitability.

Headteachers should speak to their HR provider for further information.

- [Recruit teachers from overseas](#)
- [Safeguarding checks for teachers from overseas](#)
- [Changes to checks for EU sanctions on EEA teachers from 1 January 2021](#)
- [View a job applicant's right to work details](#)
- [Data protection for education providers](#)
- [EU Settlement Scheme: looked-after children and care leavers guidance](#)

Source: www.gov.uk/guidance/changes-to-checks-for-eu-sanctions-on-eea-teachers-from-1-january-2021

NEW DBS FILTERING RULES



New DBS filtering rules came into effect on 28th November 2020. The Ministry of Justice (MoJ) has published amended guidance on The Rehabilitation of Offenders Act (ROA) 1974 to consider the impact the changes have on self-disclosure for roles on the ROA Exceptions Order which are subject to standard or enhanced DBS certificates.

[This guidance can be accessed here.](#)

The MoJ guidance makes it clear that under self-disclosure rules, **all unspent convictions and conditional cautions must be disclosed** just like any job or activity covered by the ROA 1974.

In addition, spent cautions and convictions **must be disclosed** if they meet the circumstances described below:

Disposal	Age when given/sentenced	How long since given/sentenced?
Caution for specified offence	18 or over	Any time
Caution for non-specified offence	18 or over	Less than 6 years
Conviction for specified offence	Any age	Any time
Conviction resulting in custodial sentence	Any age	Any time
Conviction for non-specified offence	18 or over	Less than 11 years
	Under 18	Less than 5.5 years

This means that **adult cautions and convictions cannot become protected until they become spent.**

Headteachers should speak to their HR provider for further information and to update their Application Forms.

Source: www.gov.uk/government/publications/filtering-rules-for-criminal-record-check-certificates/new-filtering-rules-for-dbs-certificates-from-28-november-2020-onwards

FUTURE TRAINING



The following courses are available to book on the [Sunderland Traded Services website](#):

Monday 11th January 2021	09:30 – 11:30	Mental health and wellbeing – Learning from the pandemic
Monday 11th January 2021	13:00 – 15:00	Mental health and wellbeing – Learning from the pandemic
Tuesday 12th January 2021	16:00 – 18:00	An Introduction to Keeping Children Safe in Education (Basic safeguarding and child protection)
Monday 18th January 2021	09:30 – 11:30	Mental health and wellbeing – Learning from the pandemic
Monday 18th January 2021	13:00 – 15:00	Mental health and wellbeing – Learning from the pandemic
Tuesday 19th January 2021	16:00 – 18:00	Enhanced Safeguarding (building on lessons learned from the Introduction to KCSIE)
Tuesday 26th January 2021	16:00 – 18:00	Effective Child Protection Recording
Thursday 28th January 2021	09:00 – 12:00	Designated Safeguarding Leads (DSL) Network Forum
Tuesday 2nd March 2021	16:00 – 18:00	An Introduction to Keeping Children Safe in Education (Basic safeguarding and child protection)

For further information about anything contained in this bulletin, please don't hesitate to contact Ronnie Lynn – School Improvement Officer (Safeguarding) by emailing ronnie.lynn@togetherforchildren.org.uk or by calling 07557 801 273

**WISHING YOU A MERRY CHRISTMAS
AND HAPPY NEW YEAR FROM ALL AT
THE SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT SERVICE**