

Safeguarding in Education Summer Term 1 Bulletin

2020 – 21 HT 5 (May 2021)

INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the Summer Term edition of the Safeguarding in Education Bulletin. This term's bulletin contains some really important information regarding sexual abuse in schools and is packed full of free resources to support staff and pupils with their mental health and wellbeing.

As always, staff in schools should speak to their setting's Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) if they have any queries about any of the information contained in this bulletin.

Thank you for your continued hard work in keeping the children of Sunderland safe. I hope you all have a successful and enjoyable Summer Term.

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 (DSL) in the first instance.

PART 1 – ALL STAFF

SEXUAL ABUSE IN SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES

On 31st March 2021, the Department for Education (DfE) [announced](#) a major review into sexual abuse in education settings, alongside a dedicated helpline to provide support and guidance to children and adults who have been victims of abuse.

The review will be undertaken by OFSTED. It will conclude by the end of May 2021, and will look at the extent and the severity of the issue and ensure schools have appropriate processes in place to allow pupils to report concerns freely, knowing these will be taken seriously and dealt with swiftly and appropriately.

It will also make sure there is sufficient guidance on how schools should deal with sexual harassment and violence allegations, and whether the current inspection regimes in both state and private schools are strong enough to address concerns and promote the welfare of children.

The helpline is run by the NSPCC and is available to current or past victims as well as parents, carers or professionals with concerns. The helpline is free and anonymous and will be open Monday to Friday from 8am – 10pm and Saturday to Sunday from 9am – 6pm. **The number is 0800 136 663.**

KEY POINTS TO REMEMBER

- It is essential that all victims are reassured that they are being taken seriously and that they will be supported and kept safe.
- A victim should never be given the impression that they are creating a problem by reporting sexual violence or sexual harassment. Nor should a victim ever be made to feel ashamed for making a report.
- The starting point regarding any report should always be that sexual violence and sexual harassment is not acceptable and will not be tolerated.
- Any sexual violence or sexual harassment should not be passed off as 'banter', 'part of growing up' or 'having a laugh'.
- Treat this like all other safeguarding concerns e.g don't promise confidentiality, be supportive and respectful and share it with the school's Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) ASAP.

Source: Keeping Children Safe in Education 2020



Report Abuse in Education

- ☎ Call 0800 136 663
- ✉ Email help@nspcc.org.uk
- 🚨 In an emergency, call 999



Women's Aid have produced a very helpful 'Expect Respect' prevention toolkit designed to help staff lead sessions around healthy relationships for children and young people aged 4-18. It contains age-appropriate activities that can be used in a range of spaces, but it can also be used with adults. It will help staff hold conversations about the root causes of violence and educate young people on gender-based violence.

To access the tool kit, click here [Expect Respect - Womens Aid](#)

FREE ONLINE CPD FOR MENTAL HEALTH CHAMPIONS



Place2Be is offering an online children's mental health training course developed from their work in schools.

The course aims to enhance teachers' understanding of children's mental health and introduces approaches that foster positive wellbeing in schools and communities.

Over a 5-week programme, the course covers:

1. Understanding mental health & wellbeing
2. Nature and nurture
3. How can I help?
4. Mental health: everybody's business

Due to generous funding, the programme is offered free to UK qualified teachers and school-based staff in open groups. To be eligible for the funded programme, you need to have UK QTS, be an NQT or have a permanent role in-school.

For more details visit: www.place2be.org.uk/our-services/services-for-schools/mental-health-champions-foundation-programme/

Source: Place2Be

FREE BEREAVEMENT CPD FROM WINSTON'S WISH



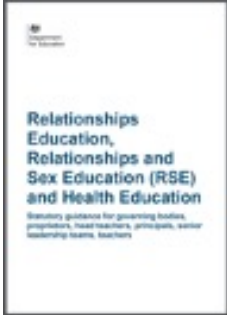
Winston's Wish is a charity that supports children who have suffered a bereavement.

They run training for professionals to help them to understand children's grief and better support bereaved young people. Part of this training includes a free virtual offer, which is comprised of two courses specifically aimed at schools.

[Click here to see the training offer.](#)

Source: Winston's Wish

'BEING SAFE' TEACHER TRAINING MODULE



The Department for Education (DfE) have produced a series of presentations to support schools in delivering training for teachers delivering the new Relationship and Sex Education (RSE) curriculum.

The presentations aim to help schools improve teacher knowledge and confidence when teaching this curriculum and support in the development and planning of the curriculum.

[Teaching about relationships, sex and health - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/teaching-about-relationships-sex-and-health)

RESEARCH INTO COUNTY LINES DURING THE PANDEMIC

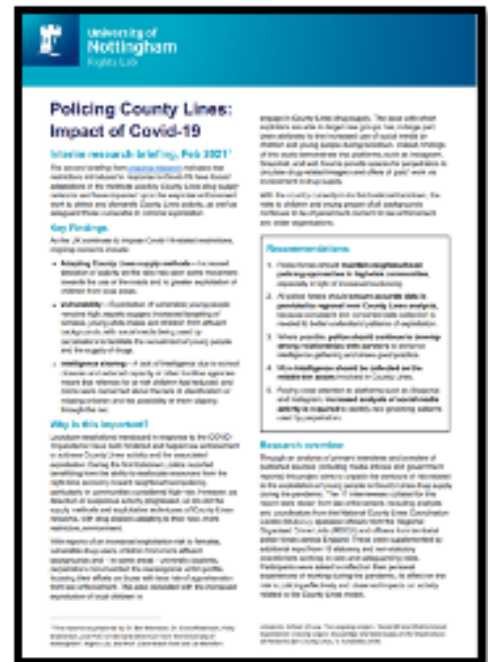
The University of Nottingham Rights Lab have released their latest research into Child Criminal Exploitation / County Lines activity during the pandemic.

It highlights how drug dealing operations have changed over the last 12 months. The report gives lots of examples of how groups are operating, which is important for all staff to be aware of to support them in spotting the signs and indicators of child criminal exploitation.

Some of the main findings include:

- Groups have been using supermarket and NHS uniforms to disguise people to make it less likely they will be challenged by the police.
- A variety of transport methods are being used - including drones and barges on canals and waterways.
- Some regions have seen a decrease in 'cuckooing' (where a house is taken over for use by the county lines gang) and an increase in 'day-tripping' - where people travel for one day to sell drugs and then return home.
- There are concerns that social media - including Instagram and Snapchat - is used in the early stages of grooming for criminal exploitation.

[To read all of the findings, click here Policy briefing 2_FINAL_clean.docx \(nottingham.ac.uk\)](#)



If you have concerns for a child that you suspect is being exploited, please speak to your Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) or Northumbria Police by calling 999/101.

PART 2: DESIGNATED SAFEGUARDING LEADS (DSLs)

SEXUAL ABUSE IN SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES

Following the Department for Education's (DfE) announcement regarding the review into sexual abuse in education setting, DSL's should:

- Review the school's child protection policy.
- Review the school's peer-on-peer abuse policy.
- Review and revisit staff training on identifying and responding to sexual violence and sexual harassment.
- Review the school's curriculum, culture and pupil reporting.
- Review any current risk assessments in place or the need to carry out individual risk assessments.

Other sources of information:

[Sexual violence and sexual harassment between children in schools and colleges \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://publishing.service.gov.uk)

[Keeping children safe in education \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://publishing.service.gov.uk) – Part 5: Child on Child Sexual Violence and Sexual Harassment

National Police Chief's Council (NPCC) [When to call Police guidance](#)

Department for Education's (DfE) [Sharing nudes and semi-nudes: advice for education settings working with children and young people - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

STAFFING AND EMPLOYMENT ADVICE FOR SCHOOLS (JANUARY 2021)



**Staffing and
employment advice
for schools**
Departmental advice for school leaders,
governing bodies, academy trusts and
local authorities

January 2021

The DfE have updated the 'Staffing and employment advice for schools' to reflect legal changes following EU exit.

DSLs should replace any previous versions of this guidance with the new guidance available here: www.gov.uk/government/publications/staffing-and-employment-advice-for-schools

SCHOOL CLOSURES AND CHILDREN'S EMOTIONAL AND BEHAVIOURAL DIFFICULTIES

The Nuffield-funded study by researchers at the Universities of Essex, Surrey and Birmingham found a significant rise in emotional and behavioural difficulties among primary school children following the 2020 spring and summer term school closures, a rise that was greater for children who were not prioritised to return to school for six weeks before the summer holiday.

To read the report visit: [School closures hit children's mental health hard | Nuffield Foundation](#)

CLOSING THE LOOPHOLE: EXTENDING THE “POSITION OF TRUST” LAW IN FAITH-BASED AND SPORTS SECTORS

The government is extending the law that prevents adults from engaging in sexual relationships with 16 or 17-year-olds, over whom they hold a position of trust, so adults that lead activities in sporting and religious settings are included.

The exclusion of sports coaches and faith leaders from position of trust offences became increasingly controversial following numerous high-profile child sexual abuse cases in both sporting and religious settings. Concerns were raised both in Parliament and across wider society (for example, through the NSPCC’s Close the Loop campaign) as the exclusion was seen to be a legal loophole which allowed certain adults to sexually abuse children in their care.

Adults who regularly coach, teach, train, supervise or instruct a child in a sport or a religion are particularly influential over a child’s development. They have very high levels of trust, influence, responsibility, power and authority (especially religious leaders) and these figures are well established, trusted and respected in the community. As a result, there is a significant power imbalance between the adult and young person – even if the young person may not view the relationship as abusive or exploitative – which would amount to an abuse of the adult’s position of trust and leaves the child open to manipulation and grooming.

Headteachers and DSLs should ensure any sports or faith groups who use their premises are aware of the changes to the law and have updated their policies, procedures, and training to reflect the change.

If you are worried about a 16 or 17-year-old you should contact the Police. Any allegations against a member of staff or volunteer should be shared with the Designated Officer.

For more information about the role of the Designated Officer, please visit [Designated Officer | Together for Children](#)

Source: Farrer [Extending position of trust law: faith-based and sports sectors \(farrer.co.uk\)](#)

STAFF MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLBEING SURVEY

The Anna Freud Centre have produced a very helpful survey for schools to use to measure whole school staff mental health and wellbeing.

The document provides a set of questions to help schools better understand their staff and provide them with the support they need. It includes tools that can be used to measure wellbeing robustly and consistently.

The set of questions finds out:

- How teachers and school staff are feeling.
- What is driving good and poor mental health (including asking staff how they feel about work practices, culture, engagement and management.)
- How supported teachers and school/college staff feel.
- Whether staff feel equipped to support children and young people with their mental health.
- Any additional support they need for their mental health and wellbeing.

Schools may want to use the whole survey or may want to select sections from it, depending on priorities and needs.

Click here to view the survey: [Wellbeing Measurement for Schools Staff Survey \(annafreud.org\)](#)

Source: [Wellbeing Measurement for Schools Staff Survey \(annafreud.org\)](#)



SIGNS OF SAFETY PARTNER BRIEFINGS



Together for Children (TfC) has adopted Signs of Safety as their overarching practice framework for all of its work with children and their families from Early Help, Child Protection, Cared for Children and Fostering and Adoption.

Signs of Safety is a strength and question-based approach to working with children, young people, their families and networks. It aims to 'build up' families, children and young people and we work with them by acknowledging what is going well in terms of strengths, keeping a clear focus on what we are worried about for children and young people's safety and what needs to happen to manage these worries. Clear, jargon free language is used for everyone to understand clearly the risks, and the plan to manage this.

As part of our commitment to the best outcomes for children and young people, Together for Children and Sunderland Safeguarding Children Partnership (SSCP) are committed to working with all staff and key partners to receive Signs of Safety training.

Each Partner Briefing Session will last for 90-minutes and will provide you with an overview of the model, along with demonstrating some of the tools that will be used in our work using Signs of Safety. To book a session please visit: [SSCP Training Courses \(safeguardingchildrensunderland.com\)](https://safeguardingchildrensunderland.com)

Should you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact Natalie Hall - Signs of Safety Team Manager natalie.hall@togetherforchildren.org.uk

For further information about any of the information contained in this bulletin, please contact Ronnie Lynn – School Improvement Officer (Safeguarding) by emailing ronnie.lynn@togetherforchildren.org.uk

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