 **Newcastle Safeguarding Children Partnership**

Briefing for all schools

*Supporting children experiencing peer on peer sexual abuse and harassment in schools and colleges and our communities*

Newcastle Safeguarding Children Partnership (NSCP) recognises the risk and potential impact of peer-on-peer sexual abuse and harassment in schools and colleges. NSCP understands that the risks apply beyond the school gates and often take place online. The Partnership will continue to work with schools, colleges and other stakeholders to understand the risks facing children and to ensure our children’s workforce has the knowledge and skills required to identify and address these concerns.

Schools and colleges are already working hard to address these issues and are supporting children, young people, parents and carers. This includes the delivery of high quality RHSE (relationships, health and sex education) that promotes healthy behaviours and relationships. Schools and colleges have also been successful in ensuring children and young people’s voices are heard and to ensure they have safe places within schools and colleges.

NSCP wants to ensure schools and colleges are aware of the broader supports in place and how they may be accessed. As such we are setting out our local offer to you. This will be kept under regular review to ensure it remains pertinent to the challenges we face.

Whilst we have support in place, we know we must continue to engage with children and young people, families and practitioners to learn and to improve our service offer.

**What do schools need?**

The Newcastle Education Safeguarding Partnership (NESP) has highlighted some areas where schools and colleges require support. These are outlined below along with services currently in place and plans for service development.

*1. Increased understanding of the law and potential consequences for children & young people, their families, and staff*

Schools and colleges can seek support and guidance from local police, and this may include targeted sessions for Designated Safeguarding Leads. This will also be covered through the provision of training accessible through the NSCP website. Please see details below which describe some of the services available from Northumbria Police.

Attached below is a letter to parents and carers that was shared recently with schools on the topic of sharing indecent images by Northumbria Police and the Violence Reduction Unit (VRU); this formed part of a campaign highlighting this subject. Also attached is the VRU’s education brochure with information on relevant learning tools.

 

*2. Support and guidance for schools and colleges in maintaining safety online – including effective and accurate record keeping*

NSCP will continue to work with schools and colleges to ensure they have access to the resources they need to keep children and young people safe online. The VRU Education Team have provided some useful information on a range of resources around online safety. These are summarised in the attached document.



*3. Training on how to speak to a victim or a perpetrator to avoid the risk of dealing with situations/disclosures incorrectly*

Schools and colleges have access to online and face to face training accessible through the NSCP website and through schools/colleges internal training programmes. NSCP will work with NESP and Designated Safeguarding Leads within schools and colleges to identify specific training needs and how these may be met.

*4. Education for parents and wider family members and the community*

NSCP will work with schools and colleges to develop a series of online briefings / school/college-based events to ensure parents carers and members of the community have the information they need to keep their children and young people safe. The letter provided above (point 1) may also assist with this.

*5. Increased awareness of where to report perpetrators and victims*

All schools and colleges can contact their colleagues in Children’s Social Care and Police in order to seek advice and guidance on action they need to take when dealing with disclosures and matters that might require a social care and / or police response. Newcastle’s Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) should be the first point of contact via the Initial Response Service (IRS) using the contact details below and request to be redirected to MASH.

**NSCP commits to providing the following as our local offer to schools and colleges:**

* Accessible guidance and support through NSCP’s website, procedures and training. This can be accessed via the NSCP website [www.newcastlesafeguarding.org.uk/safeguarding-children/](http://www.newcastlesafeguarding.org.uk/safeguarding-children/)

Further advice and guidance can be accessed through the NSCP Coordinator Alison Fry [alison.fry@newcastle.gov.uk](mailto:alison.fry@newcastle.gov.uk)

* The coordination of supports for schools and colleges through a robust Education Safeguarding Partnership – facilitating best practice and effective information sharing

Contact Chair of NESP Stuart Pickup via [stuart.pickup@newburnmanorprimary.newcastle.sch.uk](mailto:stuart.pickup@newburnmanorprimary.newcastle.sch.uk)

* Guidance and supports provided through the Council’s Education and Skills teams, within the Children, Education and Skills Directorate

Contact Alyson Barrett, Senior Advisor [alyson.barrett@newcastle.gov.uk](mailto:alyson.barrett@newcastle.gov.uk)

or Ian Dawson, Head of School Effectiveness [ian.dawson@newcastle.gov.uk](mailto:ian.dawson@newcastle.gov.uk)

* Access to high quality school nursing and specialist health interventions, including child and adolescent mental health to promote healthy behaviours and relationships and to respond to emotional and mental health difficulties

Information on School Nursing can be accessed via Jo McKenzie, [joanne.mckenzie21@nhs.net](mailto:joanne.mckenzie21@nhs.net)

For Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services contact CYPS at Benton House,

Duty Team and Out of Hours Team

Telephone number: [0191 246 6913](tel:0191%20246%206913)

Single Point of Access for making referrals

SPA: [0303 123 1147](tel:0303%20123%201147)  
Email: [ntawnt.NGSPA@nhs.net](mailto:ntawnt.NGSPA@nhs.net)

Universal Crisis Team

UCT on 03031231146

* Accessible Early Help services to identify and support issues quickly in order to prevent difficulties escalating. Information on Early Help can be accessed via [cathryn.elsy@newcastle.gov.uk](mailto:cathryn.elsy@newcastle.gov.uk)
* Timely and responsive support from Children’s Social Care, including consultation with safeguarding leads and the involvement of qualified social work support when required

Children’s Social Care can be accessed via [IRSADMIN@newcastle.gov.uk](mailto:IRSADMIN@newcastle.gov.uk) – Tel: 0191 277 2500 or via [warren.petitjean@newcastle.gov.uk](mailto:warren.petitjean@newcastle.gov.uk)

The Long-Term Social Work Teams can be accessed via – Tel: 0191 2115845 Email [andrew.burden@newcastle.gov.uk](mailto:andrew.burden@newcastle.gov.uk) or [melanie.kennedy@newcastle.gov.uk](mailto:melanie.kennedy@newcastle.gov.uk)

* Engagement with and support from Police, both around the impact, harm and consequences of sexual abuse as well as assistance in addressing potential crimes

For non-urgent matters police can be contacted via 101 or visit [www.northumbria.police.uk](http://www.northumbria.police.uk)

Northumbria Police Prevention through Education Team are keen to continue to support schools in their delivery of the PSHE curriculum relating to Safeguarding themes.

Although the team are only a very small resource, they have extensive knowledge to support schools with their deliveries both within the SafetyWorks! venue and in Outreach to schools.

Northumbria Police Prevention through Education Team have been delivering an outreach roadshow into schools since March 2021, targeting Year 8 pupils focussing on Online Exploitation, healthy relationships and the consequences of sharing indecent images. This roadshow has been well received in schools

The Prevention through Education Team can be contacted via their [website](https://beta.northumbria.police.uk/advice-and-info/parents-and-kids/education/) or directly by contacting Schools Coordinators

Miriam Harper [miriam.harper.9630@northumbria.pnn.police.uk](mailto:miriam.harper.9630@northumbria.pnn.police.uk)

Ian Wilkinson [ian.wilkinson.5105@northumbria.pnn.police.uk](mailto:ian.wilkinson.5105@northumbria.pnn.police.uk)

**Safeguarding Community Advisers (SCAs) – part of the Northumbria Police Prevention through Education Team delivering sessions in schools**

The SCAs are specialists in all aspects of exploitation of young people, as well as being experts in community safety-related subjects. Their role is to research and design educational resources and to deliver them to school children and young people. As well as providing outreach to schools, they deliver sessions on various safety-related topics to school children who visit the SafetyWorks! Information about SafetyWorks! can be accessed [here](https://www.safetyworks.org.uk/). Resources are written to support the PSHE curriculum, and the SCAs take note of trends in reporting and anticipate demand for topic content from schools; to do this, they use their extensive range of contacts both internally and externally in the safeguarding world.

* Support from the Violence Reduction Unit (VRU) including how to stay safe online and awareness of strategies and intelligence regarding gang activity and exploitation.

VRU Education Team – Nicola Johnson [nicola.johnson@northumbria-pcc.gov.uk](mailto:nicola.johnson@northumbria-pcc.gov.uk),

* Information on community and voluntary organisations to promote positive behaviour and to help to provide children access safe spaces and positive activities. Advice and guidance can be accessed via [joanne.taylor@newcastle.gov.uk](mailto:joanne.taylor@newcastle.gov.uk)

**29 October 2021**

**Content to be reviewed by 28 January 2022**