

June 2023 – Safeguarding School Newsletter

FAO Headteacher's, DSLs, Designated Teachers and Wider School Safeguarding Teams

Contents:

1. [Training Offer & Dates – SCIE](#)
2. [Training Offer & Dates – Safeguarding Partnership](#)
3. [KCSIE 23](#)
4. [Safeguarding emails@](#)
5. [Contact Details – Updates - ACTION REQUIRED](#)
6. [Pilot Peer Group Support – book a place](#)
7. [LADO](#)
8. [Prejudicial / discriminatory incident reporting link](#)
9. [Safer Recruitment and HR requests](#)
10. [Virtual School](#)
11. [SEND/Vulnerable Pupils Key Stage 2 to Key Stage 3 Transition Event](#)
12. [School attendance conference at the Stadium on 27th June am](#)
13. [Short Breaks and CHAPs newsletter](#)
14. [SWGFL - Harmful Sexual Behaviour Support](#)
15. [Online searches of shortlisted staff](#)
16. [School and College Security Guidance - UK Government](#)
17. [Omegle Guidance - Internet Matters](#)
18. [School Health and Safety](#)
19. [Water Safety](#)

Welcome to the June newsletter. What amazing sunshine over the half term, I do hope you have been able to re-charge and spend quality time doing the things you enjoy.

1. [Training Offer & Dates](#)

THIS WEEK!!!! DSL Workshop - ongoing CPD and essential updates for all DSLs and DDSLs will be on **Wednesday 7th June** at 1pm via Teams, **please sign up using the booking form via the following [link](#).**

DSL Networks Meetings

Please book on via the links below to support venue planning. We have secured CPOMS best practice training which will be part of the network agenda at each venue. The sessions have limited face to face spaces so we will be offering a Microsoft team's link as well (this will be sent out separately).

Thursday 22nd June – Widnes Primary Schools – 9.30am – 11.00am – St Michael and St Thomas Primary School (15 face to face spaces available). [Please click to book](#)

Thursday 22nd June – Runcorn Primary Schools – 1.30pm – 3.00pm – Castleview Primary School (15 face to face spaces available). [Please click the link to book](#)

Friday 23rd June – Secondary and Post 16 Schools – 9.30am – 11.30am – Riverside College. [Please click to book](#)

New to the role of DSL Training –

This training will equip those new to the role of DSL to be aware of the roles and responsibilities of a Designated Senior Leader for Safeguarding within a school setting, to become more familiar with some specific areas of safeguarding and to feel more confident and equipped in leading on safeguarding concerns within a school.

Thursday 6th July 9.30am - 4.00pm face to face at DCBL Stadium Widnes. Please book via [link](#). Please note– bring lunch!

Safer Recruitment Training

Full Safer Recruitment Training 8th June (full day) - virtual. Fully Booked.

Safer Recruitment Refresher Training 21st June (pm) – virtual. Please [Click to book](#)

Please note to be able to access this training we must see evidence of attendance at the full one day training delivered by the Local Authority and not other companies.

Full Safer Recruitment Training 18th July – Widnes DCL Stadium. [Click to book](#). Please note– bring lunch!

Single Central Record Training

Training to support schools in maintaining: a Single Central Record & pre appointment checks, personnel files, staff induction and exit interviews, as well as scrutiny, gaps, issues and risk assessments.

5th July via Teams 1pm – 3pm Please [click link](#) to book

17th July via Teams 9.00am – 11.00am Please [click link](#) to book.

Governor - Safeguarding Training

Level 2 Governor Safeguarding Training

Basic safeguarding training for any members of the governing body. Tuesday 10th July 9.00am – 12 noon via teams [Please click link to book](#).

Designated Safeguarding Governors Training –

This training is specifically for those who have responsibility as the Designated Governor for Safeguarding within school settings. The training will support those in role to be familiar with some specific areas of safeguarding which schools may have to manage and enable delegates to feel more confident and equipped in being a ‘critical friend’ to schools. Please note both sessions must be attended to obtain a certificate.

Thursday 27th June and 4th July 5.30pm - 8.00pm via Teams. Please note both sessions must be attended. Please [click link to book](#).

Multi Agency Plan (MAP) training face to face

All professionals working with children, young people and their families play a valuable role in ensuring MAPs are offered when required. If you’re feeling daunted with this task the locality team are now able to offer face to face MAP training, answering many common questions such as:

What do we do once we receive an ICART referral asking us to initiate a MAP?

Do I have to complete all the paperwork myself?

Who do we invite to meetings?

What are the timescales involved?

What if it’s just us and the family involved?

Is there any paperwork to support me?

Where can I go to for help?

12th June 1.00pm – 3.15pm face to face DCBL Stadium Widnes. Now fully booked.

12th June 3.30pm – 5.45 pm face to face DCBL Stadium Widnes [Please click link to book](#)

26th June 9.30am – 12 noon face to face Brookvale Children’s Centre [Please click link to book](#)

26th June 1pm - 3.30pm face to face Brookvale Children’s Centre [Please click link to book](#)

Operation Encompass Key Adult Training

This training will assist Key Adults in developing the skills and knowledge to fully embed Operation Encompass in your nursery, school or education setting.

29th June 9.00am – 10.30am – via teams [Please click link to book](#)

11th July 9.00am – 10.30am – via teams [Please click link to book](#)

Safeguarding Whole Staff Training Materials

A reminder that whole staff training materials (including L2 Safeguarding, Whole staff safeguarding refresher, Low Level Concerns, SVSH and Private Fostering) can all be found here. Materials will be updated for Academic year 23/24 in line with KCSIE 23.

2. Safeguarding Partnership Training

DSL's and Deputy DSL's must refresh their 'Working Together' Level 3 training once every 2 years (with regular updates during this time, such as the DSL workshops). 'Working Together' training is delivered by the safeguarding partnership & spaces can be reserved via **the new Safeguarding Partnership Training Portal**.

Please ensure the Safeguarding Partnership has your most up to date email address to enable them to send a reminder of training you may have booked and certificates on completion.

- Working Together - Refresher (To be repeated every 2 years)
30th June 9:30 – 15:00 via Teams
- Working Together To Safeguard Children level 3 full course
3rd July 9.30am – 16.00 via Teams
12th October 9.30am – 16.00 via Teams
- Managing Allegations Against People Who Work & Volunteer With Children
12th June 9.30am – 12.00 via Teams
9th October 9.30am – 12.00 via Teams
- Sexual Violence Awareness
13th June 9.30am – 12.30 via Teams
21st September 9.30am – 12.30 via Teams
- Domestic Abuse Awareness
21st June 9.30am – 12.30 via Teams
- *Intra-familial Child Sexual Abuse- An introduction for multi-agency staff
6th June 9.30am – 4.30pm via Teams
10th October 9.30am – 4.30pm via Teams

*This CSA Multi Agency training is not booked through the portal but through this link please;
<https://edgehill.onlinesurveys.ac.uk/cmswtp-reg-intra-familial-csa-multi-agency-staff>

[Please see the attached flyer for additional dates 'Intra-familial Child Sexual Abuse training – multi –agency.](#)

3. Keeping Children Safe in Education 2023

Whilst constructing this newsletter I am watching my emails and news streams for the release of KCSIE 23. As always it tends to come out in the month of June and probably will be released as the newsletter is distributed. As we know the document comes out as a draft first, with this in mind I have planned two briefings online to share with you any changes and the implications of the changes for education settings.

Tuesday 4TH July – 12 noon – 1.00pm - [Click the link to book.](#)

Tuesday 11TH July – 4.00pm – 5.00pm [Click the link to book](#)

Times may be adjusted dependant on the content and changes within KCSIE 23.

4. Safeguarding@ Emails

For advanced notice, following a recent safeguarding practice review, it has been identified that due to the wide range of email addresses being used across Halton, it can be difficult for agencies to get in touch with the right person in order to share vital information. Consequently, as agreed by the Education Sub-Group of the safeguarding partnership, we are going to move to a system of having a shared inbox for every school which uses the format safeguarding@ . This email address can be shared with all DSLs within your school so that they all have access. Halton IT will look to create these inboxes for those who use Halton IT. If you use a different IT provider, please could we ask that this be set up and then the email address confirmed with Maria and Ben. Maria will explain more at the DSL workshops and Ben will also discuss this at the HT Meetings this term, but please be aware that this change is coming....

We hope to have this system established for a September launch.

5. Contact details – PLEASE ACTION TODAY

Many thanks to the 43 schools who have already updated their contact details as requested. Can I please ask schools to fill in the form (link below and it only takes 4 minutes to complete) with the relevant contact details for the members of staff in your school for each area identified? - [Please click on this link to update details.](#)

Once I have all these details I will be able to set up the shared point for all school documents as discussed in the Network Meetings and Education Subgroup. I am hoping to launch this by September.

Change of contact details

If your contact details change or somebody changes roles or is new to post within school please fill in the form so I can inform all the necessary departments of the settings/persons new contact details. This will help keep databases up to date. [Please click link to complete the form.](#)

6. Pilot group peer to peer support

During network meetings and the education subgroup meeting schools have asked about supervision. Therefore, I have launched a pilot scheme for group peer-to-peer support to all settings. This will take place monthly via teams until the end of the Summer Term.

Peer to peer support will provide an opportunity for DSL's/DDSL's/or a staff member you feel would benefit from this support to anonymously discuss cases/practice/emerging areas of concern. In return the group will provide a safe space to encourage open and honest professional conversations to enable professional thinking, challenge, reflection and analysis. Those involved will maintain neutrality in the process and facilitate group discussion on how to approach an on-going issue with the case. All those attending the group on the set date will be following confidentiality statements and adhere to group expectations. Attendance at settings has been limited, I am open to feedback on how we can look at the times/days or how the process works to encourage take up by settings.

Next session – 7th July 1.30pm - 2.30pm [Please click link to book](#)

7. LADO

To ensure that the cover arrangements for LADO are consistently responded to all emails and or referrals should be sent to LADO@halton.gov.uk and safeguarding.adminteam@halton.gov.uk with immediate effect.

Please do not email the current LADO (Michelle McPherson) direct as this may result in a delayed response.

8. Prejudicial / discriminatory incident reporting link

Thank you to those schools who have submitted incident forms. We have seen a decline in the submission of forms across Halton and this is in contrast to rises in reported incidents within other Local Authorities. I will be discussing the background and purpose of these forms in more detail in the DSL Workshop. The forms will be reviewed on half termly basis and feedback given to education settings on trends and patterns we have identified. This enables the Local Authority and education settings to respond in an effective way in implementing measures to address local contextual issues.

Here is the link to be able to report any prejudicial incidents (such as racist or homophobic behaviours) to the LA: [Please click to report an incident.](#)

9. Safer Recruitment and HR requests

At this current time of year the Local Authority HR department and education settings are in their busiest period of recruitment. It is a priority for HR and settings to ensure that they have staff ready to commence employment at the start of the new academic year who have been through all the necessary pre-employment checks.

With this in mind, any education settings requesting historic information for personnel files may be experiencing some delays with HR returning the information. I strongly advise you make a note in the individual's personnel file of what you have requested from HR, the date requested and when sending the email request to HR ask the recipient to acknowledge your email through a read receipt.

If you are due Ofsted and receive a call HR have assured me that if you notify them and myself we will ensure documents are made available.

10. Virtual School

Save the date for the virtual schools conference (including external guest speakers) -suitable for all DSLs, Designated Teachers and Social Workers. Wednesday 27th September at Halton Stadium. Bookings will open soon.

Inform the Virtual School!

Please remember to inform the virtual school about all significant changes or requests for LAC. This includes holiday requests, possible moves and changes in circumstances.

If a Looked-After Child is at risk of exclusion – get in touch – we can help!

If a child becomes 'Looked After', an initial PEP must be completed within 10 days – this is a statutory timescale which we need to stick to and will mean we need to act quickly!

11. SEND/Vulnerable Pupils Key Stage 2 to Key Stage 3 Transition Event

Monday 26th June 2023. This event is designed to allow all relevant parties involved in supporting transition to Key Stage 3 to be able to come together at once to discuss children with additional needs and at risk of exclusion as they enter their secondary education. At the event information can be shared which will aid a smoother entry into Year 7 and also allow pre-planning of any support which may be required for September.

Event Audience - All SENDCOs, Year 7 leads and Pastoral Teams from all Halton Settings. Also present will be representatives from specialist teaching and EP service.

To book: <https://forms.office.com/e/8rzdDmWpmm>

12. School Attendance Conference presented by Halton LA

The Education Welfare Service are holding an attendance conference on the 27th June at the Widnes Stadium. Further details are available from Debbie Houghton via email debbie.houghton@halton.gov.uk

13. Short Breaks and CHAPs newsletter

I have attached both newsletter for your information. Moving forward in September these items will be added to our shared portal for information.

14. SWGFL – Harmful Sexual Behaviour Support

Information regarding harmful sexual behaviour within schools continues to grow, as seen in the latest report by the Children’s Commissioner, which considers the links between harmful sexual behaviour and pornography. To address this growth and support service cases, we have released free resources and guidance on how to identify and address harmful sexual behaviour in schools. Based on the knowledge and experiences of the Service practitioners, the resources include a series of templates, guides, and advice to support professionals working with children:

- [Harmful Sexual Behaviour in Schools Resources](#), which include an FAQ and a series of templates to create school policies and risk assessments. These resources enable professionals to have a foundation to understand and assess harmful sexual behaviours, with further guidance on writing referrals to local children’s services.
- [Recognising Harmful Sexual Behaviour](#), to get advice and guidance on how to recognise and respond to harmful sexual behaviour in children and young people, and the different types of harmful sexual behaviours that can be identified.
- [Online Safety Policy Templates for Schools](#), designed by Online Safety experts, these adaptable templates on e-safety help schools create an online safety policy to fit their needs.

Alongside these resources, service practitioners have created a video training package to support teachers, safeguarding leads and professionals working with children. The training module consists of nine videos that consider what harmful sexual behaviour is, and how schools and other organisations can appropriately respond to cases. You can find out more about the Harmful Sexual Behaviour Support Service, our resources and supportive guidance by visiting our website.

Further Resources from SWGL

If you are a professional working with children who is concerned about any online safety issue, you can contact the Professionals Online Safety Helpline to access support, information and advice. The Helpline is open Monday to Friday, 10am to 4pm, and can be accessed by calling 0344 381 4772, or by emailing helpline@saferinternet.org.uk.

- [New guide: Managing risk and trauma after online sexual offending](#)

In 2021, there were over 850 arrests across the UK for accessing child sexual abuse material every single month. Many of these individuals arrested are likely to have children of their own or within their wider family, meaning hundreds of families will find out a parent or carer has accessed child sexual abuse material each month. As such, it's incredibly important that social workers and wider professionals are able to make considered decisions to protect children in the home.

Created in collaboration with [The Lucy Faithfull Foundation](#), our **Managing risk and trauma after online sexual offending: a whole-family safeguarding guide** is designed to help drive a confident professional response. To enable best practice in safeguarding and supporting the whole family, when a parent or carer has viewed and/or shared child sexual abuse material. [Click to access the guide.](#)

15. Online searches of shortlisted staff

Keeping Children Safe in Education 2022 included a mention of online searches as part of the appointment process. But what is actually expected of schools?

Not, as you will find out below, installing new social media apps and certainly not cyber-stalking potential new colleagues. See below the original KCSIE quote followed by a very helpful clarification from DfE about what it does and does NOT mean.

"KCSIE 22 is not prescriptive in detailing the manner in which this check ['online search' in para. 221] is undertaken but care has been taken not to use the term 'social media' as this could be seen as invasive. Our guidance requests that schools and colleges consider an 'online search'. This should be a quick and simple search, which can be conducted via an internet browser.

We do not wish to place any unnecessary burdens on schools and colleges, nor encourage them to breach any individual's private life."

This aspect of recruitment will be discussed further in the upcoming safer recruitment training. It is advised that if you conduct an internet search on any short listed candidate you will have informed all those shortlisted this is part of your recruitment process.

16. School and College Security Guidance - UK Government

Regionally, there have recently been a number of incidents in the proximity to schools that have led to them being put into lockdown. These events provide a timely reminder to ensure that our schools has effective lockdown procedures to keep children safe inside the school. Whilst it is important to know what to do in these rare incidents, often this will mean ensuring staff know what to do, without unduly alarming pupils, especially younger children. Non-statutory guidance for schools can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/school-and-college-security/school-and-college-security>

17. Omegle Guidance - Internet Matters

Omegle has been a headache for those concerned with protecting children for a decade and a half. On first glance the site is a simple internet chatroom, reminiscent of platforms from the internet's early years. It has no registration or account system. Being designed with the originally innocent objective of getting strangers to talk to each other, but this allows under-18s to easily use the platform, without needing parental assistance, money or even an email address. This already creates a dangerous situation to young pupils, but its insistence on users needing a webcam to chat places anyone underage in an extremely vulnerable place. To find out more about Omegle and the risks it poses, please follow the links below:

Internet Matters: <https://www.internetmatters.org/hub/news-blogs/what-is-omegle-what-parents-need-to-know/>

Childnet: <https://www.childnet.com/blog/what-is-omegle-key-things-parents-and-carers-need-to-know/>

18. Schools Health and Safety Meetings

The next health and safety meeting is on 20th June 23. If any schools have any matters in relation to health and safety they would like me to raise please submit these by email by 9th June 23.

19. Water Safety – update your students on how to stay safe in and around water

Teach the children in the classroom or youth groups how to stay safe in, on and around the water using free educational resources or by booking a visit by the RNLI. Use this link

<https://rnli.org/youth-education>