

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

Contents:

1. Training Offer & Dates - SCIE (Safeguarding Children In Education)
2. Training Offer & Dates – Safeguarding Partnership
3. Termly Data collection from education settings for Public Health and Halton Health Improvement Team – [action required](#).
4. Prejudicial / discriminatory incident reporting link – [action required](#).
5. Safeguarding Partnership – Briefing 60 – [action required](#).
6. Data collection of escalations – [action pending](#).
7. Free Mental Health first Aider Training – [book now](#)
8. Cheshire and Merseyside Children and Young People's (CYP) Mental Health Plan
9. The Young Carer in Schools Award (YCiS)- [action required](#).
10. Interpreter Services
11. RSE Free Support Schools
12. FREE Financial Support for Families
13. Free CPD training for education staff on Healthy Relationships
14. Children's Mental Health Week - resources
15. Contact Details – report any changes
16. LADO (Local Authority Designated Officer) details
17. Multi-Agency Forum – NEW
18. Virtual School
19. Game Safe Festival - NSPCC
20. Barrier's children might face when disclosing abuse.
21. Understanding AI (Artificial Intelligence) for Educators - Better Internet for Kids
22. CSA – FREE Webinars
22. Safer Internet Day 7th February 2024

Hello, everybody a busy newsletter this month with lots of great links to resources for children, young people, parent/carers and school staff. Please block sometime in your diary to ensure you are able to digest and plan how to use the information within the newsletter.

1.Training Offer & Dates

[Safer Recruitment Refresher](#)

Please note to access this training we must see evidence of attendance at the full one-day Safer Recruitment training delivered by the Local Authority.

29th February 12.30 – 4.00pm face to face at Brookfield’s School Widnes - [click to book](#)

Network Meetings for DSL/DDSL/Pastoral Staff

The last network meetings have enabled a lot of effective networking and collaborative work to take place. Some great ideas and discussions have taken place about solutions to possible issues we are all facing in the education sector. I am excited to be support settings with some of the ideas discussed at the last meetings in the New Year. It was fantastic to hold the first Specialist Network Meeting which was a huge success. Thank you to all who attended the last network meetings for anyone new to the role these are informal meetings held face to face to share knowledge, experience and good practice and discuss current challenges and brainstorm solutions.

7th March 24 Primary Settings Widnes (9:30am – 11:00am) venue All Saints Upton [Click to book](#)

6th March Primary Settings Runcorn (1:15pm – 2:45pm) venue Windmill Hill Primary School [Click to book](#)

8th March - All Secondary & Post 16 (9.30am – 11.30am) venue Wade Deacon [click to book](#)

8th March - Specialist Education Settings (1pm – 3pm) venue Brookfield School Widnes [Click to book](#)

Safeguarding Training for Governors

Safeguarding training for governors providing you with the knowledge and skills you need to understand your statutory safeguarding requirements as a school or college governor or trustee.

15th March 24 – 12.30 – 4pm via Microsoft Teams online. [Click to book](#)

CPOMS Best Practice Workshop

A face-to-face workshop that will provide settings with an informal opportunity to share good practice and learn new tips and advice to support making the CPOMS system work for your settings. Hosted by Dave Paton.

18th March 2024 9.30am – 11.00am Widnes Stadium. [Click to book](#)

18th March 2024 11.30am – 1.00pm Widnes Stadium. [Click to book](#)

Safeguarding Whole Staff Training Materials

A reminder that whole staff training materials are available free of charge for any new staff and/or whole staff safeguarding refresher training. **Please contact Maria Needham for these resources.**

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 (Designated Safeguarding Lead) workshops). ‘Working Together’ training is delivered by the Safeguarding Partnership & spaces can be reserved

3Click here to enter text.

via the new Safeguarding Partnership Training Portal. Training available through the partnership is listed below. Spaces need to be reserved via [the new Safeguarding Partnership Training Portal](#).

Mar-24	5th	10:00-012:00	Web -Teams	Mental Health Disorder and Parenting Capacity	Merseycare
	7th	09:30-16:30	Web -Teams	Intra-familial Child Sexual Abuse- An introduction for multi-agency staff	ESM Social Work Teaching Partnership
	12th	11:00-12:30	Web -Teams	Sexual Violence Awareness	RASAC & SARC
	7th	09:30-16:00	Web -Teams	Working Together to Safeguard Children L3	HCYPSP

Additional date added for Working Together to Safeguard Children Level 3 on **27th Feb 24 9.30am – 4.00pm – face to face** at The Grange School, Runcorn. Please book through the Partnership Website.

HCYSP schedule runs from April-to-April dates. New dates beyond April 24 have not yet been released. **Please keep checking the website for new dates.**

Please note it is **essential** that post evaluations are returned by email to the partnership to enable a certificate of completion to be issued.

We understand that not all professionals are able to access learning during traditional training times. We have therefore included a number of learning topics that can be accessed through digital learning and are available to view through a Sway link on the website page <https://hcyfsp.haltonsafeguarding.co.uk/training/>

3. Termly Data collection from education settings for Public Health and Halton Health Improvement Team

Thank you for all the settings who have submitted their suicide attempt, suicide ideation and self-harm data for Public Health and Halton Health Improvement Team to help shape future services to ensure the correct support is available for our children and young people of Halton.

I am fully aware that many secondary settings have included categories within cpoms so this data can be easily collected each term and if anyone would like support with this please email to let me know.

In case you have missed the deadline please use the link below and submit the data.
[Link to form](#)

4. Prejudicial / discriminatory incident reporting link

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

Have you reported all cases from within school from the last half term?

5. Halton Children and Young People Safeguarding Partnership – Briefing 60 – [action required.](#)

Escalation and Professional Challenge – the briefing has been produced in response to national and local case reviews and recent audits which highlighted professional challenge and escalation are common areas that require further learning for practitioners.

The Partnership has produced a SWAY to help disseminate the Procedure for Multi-agency Professional Challenge and Escalation and is accessible through this link here; <https://sway.office.com/8LHpax2OiDAbdvEw?ref=Link> additionally they have produced a 7-minute guide to support practitioners with professional challenge (see briefing).

It is **essential** that all education settings share the partnership briefing with all staff to improve knowledge, skills and confidence in relation to professional challenge and escalation.

6. Data collection of escalations from individual settings – termly

Furthermore, our agency (education) has a responsibility to ensure that staff are supported, and know how to appropriately challenge, escalate and resolve intra-agency concerns and challenges about a child or young person’s wellbeing and the response to their safeguarding needs. Each agency **should have a recording system** that can demonstrate the use of the professional challenge and escalation procedure from step 1 to step 3. Alongside an entry in the child’s record, agencies should be able to report to the local Safeguarding Partnership the outcomes of escalations at step 2 and 3. The Safeguarding Partnership will be seeking assurance this practice is in place. To support this request a Microsoft form will be distributed quarterly requesting data on the outcomes of escalations at step 2 and 3.

7. Train to be a Mental Health First Aider through the Halton Family Hubs Program for FREE – see attached leaflet to book

Mental Health First Aid (MHFA) is a training course which teaches you how to help and support someone who may be experiencing a mental health issue.

This training course will teach you how to recognise warning signs of mental ill health, it will help you to develop the skills and confidence to be able to approach and support someone that is struggling, it could be a friend, colleague, or family member.

You will also learn how to look after your own mental health and wellbeing.

“The course was one of the best in terms of how much I have learnt and how much it will support me in my current role, that I have ever been on. Lynn was fantastic and created the perfect environment for us to learn and be confident to contribute!”

8. We want to hear from you - Cheshire and Merseyside Children and Young People's (CYP) Mental Health Plan

NHS Cheshire and Merseyside is asking those with experience of children and young people’s mental health services and those partners organisations who also support CYP in our communities to share their views to help inform our new ICB wide plan.

The six-week engagement exercise begins today the 19 January and will run until 1 March (2024). It will involve gathering feedback from local partners and stakeholders across Cheshire and Merseyside, including people who work in services, Local Authorities, Healthwatch, and the Voluntary Sector.

It's designed to understand more about what people feel currently works well, where there are opportunities for improvement, and where potential barriers to accessing services might exist for our Children and Young People.

We are asking professionals to share their views in an online questionnaire, <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/W5LRKLG-CYPMH> . Please can I ask you to kindly cascade this opportunity to your colleagues/partners on our behalf so we can gather as much feedback and input as possible. You can do this by forwarding this survey monkey link or via the attachment to this email (and QR code). It won't take long to complete, and we really want to hear your views. Please note that the QR code and survey are for professionals only.

Engagement activities will be taking place with CYP, Parent and Carer Forums across our Places via group activities led by engagement leads. If you have existing groups where engagement/participation could take place please let us know and we can try to support engagement@cheshireandmerseyside.nhs.uk. If you have existing engagement groups within your portfolio of work, we would welcome your support to hold a conversation around our key questions and feedback to us (using the discussion guide attached).

All feedback received will be used to develop a refreshed Children and Young People's Mental Health Transformation Plan for Cheshire and Merseyside, which is due to be published in summer 2024.

9. The Young Carer in Schools Award (YCiS)- [action required](#).

The Young Carer in Schools Award (YCiS) is being relaunched later this month by the Carer's Trust, in collaboration with The Children's Society.

The new Award follows a consultation over the last year with young carers, young carer services, and primary & secondary schools, which has fed into the updated award. It will consist of two levels, the Award and Award Plus (which will be launched in Spring 2024) and will be valid for 3 years from the date of achievement. With the launch of the new award, all previous awards will be no longer valid.

They are hosting a webinar to explain about the award on **31st January 2024 at 2pm**. (Launch of Young Carers in Schools Award Tickets, Wed 31 Jan 2024 at 14:00 | Eventbrite)

Further details around the changes to young carers (including how they are identified and recorded on the school census) will be shared at the upcoming DSL workshop.

10. Interpreter Services

I have had several enquires recently from settings who require an interpreter. I have been in contact with Children's Social Care, and they are currently using the service below.

UK Language Solutions - admin@uklanguagesolutions.co.uk

11. RSE support through ASH

Hayley Tooley - Specialist Education Practitioner is willing to offer support to any schools and/or professionals in Halton working with the children in the promotion and awareness of the RSE educational resource and professional training. Contact details: T: 01512826294 ext 10534
Email :hayley.tooley@liverpoolft.nhs.uk

12. Financial Support for Families

The Public Health team has funding available to help residents with free prescriptions, free monthly bus passes, food vouchers and free cookery sessions. Click the link to find out if you qualify: [15033 Household Support Poster \(halton.gov.uk\)](#) and there is further information here: [Cost of living | Help with food \(halton.gov.uk\)](#)

If you are unable to access the links and would like more information, please contact public.health@halton.gov.uk or call 0151 511 5200

13. Free CPD training for school, youth and education staff on Healthy Relationships

We are just reaching out to share the news that My CWA (Cheshire Without Abuse) is offering **Free CPD training** for school, youth and education staff to deliver the charity's excellent early intervention programme 'Reset' from within their settings. The training is for one session, which covers the whole of the Reset course. The dates and Eventbrite links to register are:

29th Feb - <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/reset-train-the-trainer-tickets-807900982587>

11th March - <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/reset-train-the-trainer-tickets-807976999957>

21st March - <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/reset-train-the-trainer-tickets-808001443067>

For anybody unfamiliar with My CWA, (formerly known as Cheshire Without Abuse) we are a Cheshire-based charity supporting families affected by domestic abuse. From crisis accommodation, practical support and a 24-hour helpline, to counselling & recovery programmes; the charity's whole family service is designed to [help everyone impacted by domestic abuse](#). My CWA believes in building a community where adults and children live free from the fear of domestic abuse and, for over 40 years, the charity's team of staff and volunteers has worked tirelessly towards this vision.

About Reset

Reset is a brand-new early intervention programme designed to educate teenagers on healthy relationship behaviours which can lead to domestic abuse, empowering them with knowledge of what makes a healthy and happy relationship, and promoting self-identification of both harmful and healthy behaviours.

The interactive programme encompasses 12 x one-hour interactive sessions delivered by professionals working with young people, and complimentary to PHSE. There are group activities and opportunities for discussion throughout the programme, designed to give young people space to share their thoughts and feelings on different topics.

This an exciting opportunity for schools Pan Cheshire to educate and empower young people to engage in healthy relationships and identify any harmful behaviours around them and even that they themselves may want to address. This programme is designed for and has been delivered to year 9 and 10s but could be amended for older or younger groups.

The breakdown of the Reset programme is as follows:

1. Understanding relationships
2. Unhealthy relationships
3. Power and control
4. Jealousy in relationships
5. Isolation and control in relationships
6. Consent
7. Sharing nudes/semi nudes
8. What are the effects of domestic abuse
9. How to keep yourself safe
10. Emotional regulation
11. Emotional regulation
12. Relationship boundaries

Training is 1.5 hours in duration and is delivered by our Reset and Training team, who have themselves all delivered this programme within schools. In the training, we will be covering the different types of domestic abuse, the Reset content, support around delivering it in your school and answering any questions you may have.

As well as taking bookings for in person sessions from within your school setting. We will be in touch again asap with further session dates. Please note, you only need to attend one session.

Or to request that we come in to your school setting at a time of your choosing, please email training@mycwa.org.uk and we can add you to the list/arrange. If you have any questions, please also use the same email address (copied in).

14. Children's Mental Health Week

Children's Mental Health Week will take place from 5th to 11th February 2024, with the theme of My Voice Matters. It was set up by children's mental health charity Place2Be and shines a spotlight on the importance of children and young people's mental health.

Resources and top tips for primary schools and others who work with children aged 4-11

<https://www.childrensmentalhealthweek.org.uk/schools/primary-age-activities/#resources>

This pack contains everything you need to take part in the week – from group activities sheets, top tips for schools and an assembly guide, to lots of information on how to take part in My Voice Matters.

Resources and top tips for secondary or high schools and others who work with young people aged 11-18.

<https://www.childrensmentalhealthweek.org.uk/schools/secondary-age-activities/>

A fantastic way to keep children's mental health and wellbeing prioritised throughout the year is by achieving or renewing 5 ways to wellbeing Award!

This is a local award based on a framework of 5 everyday activities that boosts children's wellbeing, these activities are; be active, connect, give, keep learning and take notice. Schools are invited to

work towards achieving the award by embedding these activities into everyday school life along with promotion of the 5 ways to wellbeing message to pupils so they are aware of what types of activities can help them to feel good and cope better. The Health Improvement Team can provide support and guidance to help schools achieve this award. For more information email HIT@halton.gov.uk

To raise awareness of children and young people's mental health, the Health Improvement team are running **resilience workshops via Teams**. The Resilience Framework Workshop will look at different ways we can support a young person to be more resilient. It will cover examples of how teaching staff have used the 'Boing Boing' framework and will highlight practical tools and approaches that can be used to contribute to building resilience with children when times are especially tough.

Dates:

Tuesday 6th Feb at 15:30-16:15

Tuesday 20th Feb at 15:30-16:15

If you would like to book a place on the workshop, please email maria.mcnulty@halton.gov.uk

If you need information about mental health services locally and nationally, check out our Halton Mental Health Information Point. Here you will also find tips, practical tools and guidance for children, parents, carers and staff to look after their mental health.

15. Contact details – Change of contact details.

If your contact details change (email address/contact numbers) or you have a new member of staff join your team. 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.](#)

16. 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. [Link to LADO form.](#)

17. NEW - Multi-Agency Forum

A new multi-agency forum for external agencies to present any MAP cases that you may be struggling with. The forum will be offering MAP support and guidance around issues such as 'stuck' cases, Navigator support, MAP's open longer than 12 months, concerns that a case is escalating and may require social work oversight and any other issues.

The meeting will take place on a **Monthly basis – last Friday of the month - Friday at 10:30 – 11:30** via skype and will have key agencies attending to be able to give advice and guidance on MAP issues to support you in the best possible way.

If you wish to present a Runcorn case at the WTM, please email the Runcorn Locality inbox Runcornlocalityreferrals@halton.gov.uk with the family surname and confirm that you have consent from the family to present the case at the meeting. (Cases cannot be discussed without consent). You will then join the meeting at 09:30 via SKYPE using the details below. All cases to be discussed must be received no later than Tuesday pm to ensure they are included on the agenda.

If you wish to present a Widnes case at the WTM please email the Widnes Locality inbox Widnes Locality widneslocalityteam@halton.gov.uk with the family surname and confirm that you have consent from the family to present the case at the meeting. (Cases cannot be discussed without consent). You will then join the meeting at 09:30 via SKYPE using the details below. All cases to be discussed must be received no later than Tuesday pm to ensure they are included on the agenda.



Working%20Toget
her%20Meeting%20

See attached leaflet.

18. Virtual School - New into care – Initial Care Planning/PEP Meetings

It would be useful for DSLs who are not also the DT for CIC to be aware that social workers have been advised when a child comes into care their initial PEP meeting can be held alongside the initial care planning meeting to minimise the number of meetings needed to be held and prevent duplication of discussions where possible. Therefore, if a DSL is made aware of or invited to an initial care planning & PEP meeting, it would be beneficial to check if the DT has been included in the meeting invite and if not then to liaise with DT around this meeting.

If it has been agreed for this to be an initial care planning & PEP meeting but the meeting is attended by another member of staff (i.e. DSL, SENCO, FSW) rather than the DT – can it still be classed as a PEP meeting?

If DSL or delegated member of staff who would usually attend PEPs is at the meeting rather than school's named DT then this can be classed as a PEP. However, there is an expectation that the DT will liaise around the information to be shared or questions to be asked at the meeting to ensure up to date information can be recorded on the PEP document including target setting, PP+ funding, the voice of the child/young person and comments/feedback from other relevant adults.

If this is not possible or if there is no representation from school at the meeting it would be expected that social worker liaises with DT and all relevant attendees to arrange an alternative PEP date/time.

If DSL/DT has been invited to an initial care meeting for a child who is new into care, can they suggest to social care for the initial PEP to be completed alongside this provided DSL/DT will be attending the meeting?

Yes, it may be that social worker has not thought to include the PEP alongside the initial care planning meeting so DT can suggest for this to happen.

For any further queries please contact the virtual school team at virtual.school@halton.gov.uk

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 20 days – this is a statutory timescale which we need to stick to and will mean we need to act quickly!

18. Game Safe Festival - NSPCC

From the 5th - 11th of February 2024 at 16:00 to 17:00 the NSPCC will be collaborating with developers, platforms, industry bodies, esports and influencers to play and act for a better way to game. As part of the Game Safe Festival, the NSPCC is encouraging those working with children and young people within the education sector to have conversations about online gaming.

On the 8th of February from 16:00 to 17:00 the NSPCC under the auspices of the Game Safe Festival, will be hosting a free webinar aimed at helping you understand how young people game online, discover what tools and resources are available to support safe play and how to help them stay safe.

To book your place on this webinar please go to: https://ww1.emma-live.com/GameSafe/purchase_tickets. For further information about the Game Safe Festival go to: <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/charity-events/game-safe-festival/>

19. Barriers children might face when disclosing abuse

The NSPCC has recently shared a research document from the charity. 'Listening to children and young people's experiences of disclosing child sexual abuse' by Dr. Debra Allnock and Joe Kiff from the Safer Young Lives Research Centre at the University of Bedfordshire and commissioned on behalf of the NSPCC can be downloaded here: <https://learning.nspcc.org.uk/research-resources/2023/disclosing-child-sexual-abuse-children-and-young-peoples-experiences>. I would strongly advice staff to take time to read this paper.

20. Understanding AI for Educators - Better Internet for Kids

Over the past year AI has been a hotly debated topic. AI has now actually become more sophisticated than ever. From increasingly realistic AI generated photographs to real photographs modified by AI all the way to AI enabled voice cloning. Everywhere you look AI lurks with another unforeseen usage. This brings new vulnerabilities and new risks to young people and children. Better Internet for Kids, has recently published an article laying out the ins and outs of AI and the impact its continued development, is having on children. It makes an interesting read for educators. <https://www.betterinternetforkids.eu/teacher-corner/deep-dives/generative-ai>

21. CSA – Response Pathway

From March, CSA we will be holding a series of free monthly lunch and learn webinars for anyone who wants to know more about the CSA Response Pathway: our online resource designed to help professionals understand the steps they can take to protect and support children, young people and families.

Free lunchtime webinars will help you learn how to start using the Response Pathway in practice, and understand the role you, and your colleagues, can play to best protect and support children:

- [Wednesday 6th March 2024](#)
- [Monday 15th April 2024](#)
- [Wednesday 15th May 2024](#)
- [Wednesday 5th June 2024](#)
- [Wednesday 3rd July 2024](#)
- [Wednesday 4th September 2024](#)

- Wednesday 9th October 2024

Additionally, CSA are offering another series of our popular **free one-hour webinars in 2024**, designed to equip professionals working with children with the knowledge and confidence to use our [practice resources](#) in their work. Join our next free session on **Speaking to children about SA** on [Tuesday 13th February](#), or view all our upcoming events on the CSA Centre website. Book now to avoid disappointment!

22. Safer Internet Day Tuesday 7th February

As pupils spend more time online, it's vital they know how to stay safe. The Safer Internet Day theme is "Inspiring Change? Making a Difference, Managing Influence, and Navigating Change Online,"

To help schools get ready, the UK Safer Internet Centre has recently released an exclusive collection of short films, designed to captivate and educate children and young people aged 3 to 18 years old. These films serve as starters for meaningful conversations, making them perfect for educators and professionals eager to participate in Safer Internet Day activities across various environments such as schools, nurseries, youth groups, libraries, and beyond.

You can access the films here: <https://swgfl.org.uk/magazine/uk-safer-internet-centre-releases-safer-internet-day-films/>