

ISSUE 13 - SUMMER TERM 2014

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NEWSLETTER

Last Edition

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The Education Safeguarding Team will cease to exist in its present form after August 2014. The council have redefined the role carried out by the department and has incorporated some of the functions into the existing multi agency safeguarding hub.

The MASH Schools Team will consist of two safeguarding officers, one link officer and two administrative supports.

The MASH Schools Team will be available for telephone advice and guidance as and when needed regarding specific child concerns. They will provide an interface between schools and the MASH to ensure effective communication. MARAC, MAPPA & SEAM will continue to be the focus of the link officer.

These services are not part of the statutory functions of the MASH team and this new SLA is being offered to schools as an enhanced function. Should schools decide not to take up the SLA these functions will not be available within MASH.

Au Revoir not Goodbye....

As you may have also heard Pam Gartland is leaving the Council to expand her private safeguarding company.

Pam Gartland has been working in the authority for 23 years helping schools, settings and the Council to keep children safe.

We are delighted that we still have the opportunity to continue working with Pam as she offers schools and settings a complimentary service to the above SLA.

Thank you Pam for all your hard work you will be greatly missed



Education Safeguarding Officers:

Pam Gartland
pam.gartland@sunderland.gov.uk

Helen Hogan
helen.hogan@sunderland.gov.uk

Dianne Stockdale-
dianne.stockdale@sunderland.gov.uk

Julie Lane
julie.lane@sunderland.gov.uk

School Link Officer for MARAC, MAPPA & SEAM:

Claire Calvert
claire.calvert@sunderland.gov.uk

Tel: 0191 561 2251

Carol Stafford
carol.stafford@sunderland.gov.uk

Business Support:

Kay Stone: 0191 561 2252
kay.stone@sunderland.gov.uk

Lorraine Johnson: 0191 5612250
lorraine.johnson@sunderland.gov.uk

Supporting the Families of Offenders

It has been estimated that at any one time 200,000 children a year in England and Wales experience the imprisonment of a parent.

In Sunderland alone it is thought that 300 children at any one time may have a parent in prison, and annually this figure could be as high as 700.

Fear of stigma or bullying can result in children hiding their situation from friends and schools even though research says they are more likely to suffer from mental health problems and an increased likelihood of experiencing poverty. Children's attendance may cause a problem due to unauthorised visits to imprisoned parents during the school day. Other children may begin to show disruptive behaviour. Of course this isn't the case for all children of imprisoned parents, for some the period of imprisonment will be a period of stability and safety and these children may only show signs of needing help when release is imminent. Although schools are in the best position to be able to identify and help these children and young people they often fall under the radar as there is no routine identification system to establish and record this.

With this in mind the EST have commissioned NEPACS to deliver two sessions of their 'Hidden Sentence' training to Sunderland schools. The sessions are being held:

Thursday 22nd May 2014—09:00—12:30—Sandhill Centre

Thursday 19th June 2014—09:00—12:30—Sandhill Centre

The EST are offering these session **FREE**, but numbers are limited so please Reserve your place via the Training Hub as soon as possible.

(Because the spaces are limited—only one person from each school please)

There are twice as many children experiencing parental imprisonment as there are children in care

NEPACS

building bridges for prisoners, their families and the community.

Tel: 0191 375 7278 Email: info@nepacs.co.uk



Are You 'App-solutely' Aware?

Snapchat: Age Limit: 13

A way of sending messages video and pictures. These messages are only displayed for a pre-set amount of time before they delete themselves. The person sending the message chooses how long the message displays for. The person receiving the message can however take a screen shot (the sender is informed of this but cannot do anything about it) this allows them to use the message or image in any way they want. Because the sender knows the message will delete may lead them to share more than they normally would.



Instagram: Age Limit: 13

Users can upload and share photos. Other people can then leave comments. The privacy settings allow pictures only to be seen by approved followers. If these settings are not on then all users can view the pictures. Pupils should also be advised that they should not turn on the 'geotagging' feature which allows other users to know where the pictures were taken

Vine: Age Limit 18

This app has been called the 'video version of Instagram'. It allows users to share video footage of up to six seconds. Again the privacy settings are very important and need to be reinforced with pupils



iMeetzu: Age Limit: 18

This app uses the tag line 'meet a stranger' and 'trolls are welcome, don't be courteous'. It allows users to chat with people all over the world via text, webcam and chat-room.

Kik: Age Limit: 18

Users can share messages, videos, pictures and files. This is done by 'username' and login. The conversations on her can be seen as more like personal adverts and can be graphic.





Ask.fm: Age Limit: 12

Marketed as a question and answer app, users can anonymously post on other users' profiles as well as share questions, pictures and videos.

Tinder: Age Limit: 12

This app works by creating a library of Facebook profile pictures. Other users can then 'heart' pictures. If two users 'heart' each other they are deemed a 'match' and can then send messages to each other. The app reveals the location of the users and allows users to 'match' with others up to 100 miles away




Tumblr: Age Limit: 18

Although this app has now removed sexually explicit tags (e.g., #porn) there is still a lot of harmful content. By using the '#' sign before a word lets you see what others have posted using that particular word or phrase.

General Advice:

Keep reminding and encouraging pupils not to share any personal information online.

Pupils need to be aware that the information and pictures that they see online may not be genuine pictures of the person they are communicating with

Remember, what is illegal in the real world is illegal in the virtual world too

Review the schools list of 'blocked websites' regularly to add anything new that may pose a risk

Useful sites:

<https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/Teachers>

http://www.nspcc.org.uk/help-and-advice/for-parents/for-parents-hub_wda96726.html

<http://ceop.police.uk>

E-mailing Conference Reports

Further to some recent queries regarding e-mailing 'conference reports', we can confirm that '@schools.sunderland.gov.uk' to 'sunderland.gov.uk' **is secure** and can be used.

Therefore you can send your reports by e-mail to: childrens.services@sunderland.gov.uk

Should your school use an external e-mail supplier (your address is **not** 'schools.sunderland.gov.uk'), you will need to post or fax the reports through:

CHILDREN SAFEGUARDING

People Services
Sunderland City Council
Room 2.4
Civic Centre
Sunderland SR2 7DN
Fax: 0191 561 7185



Are Your Agency Staff Certified..?

Further to recent queries raised by schools regarding third party companies and agencies that supply workers to schools and settings, can we remind everyone that all third party companies and agencies should all have had their safeguarding policy ratified by Sunderland Safeguarding Children Board to say that their practices and procedures meet the minimum standard in respect of safeguarding children work. This confirms that they have:

- Designated Safeguarding Leads appointed and trained around their responsibilities in respect of safeguarding children
- Staff who have received awareness raising in safeguarding children training/keeping children safe

All staff who have substantial contact with children and young people (regulated activity) will have an enhanced criminal records check with children's barred list information (Enhanced DBS and if teaching since 2013 a prohibitive order check)

Reporting Hate Incidents & Anti-Social Behaviour

From the 1st April 2014 the Sunderland Partnership are introducing a new and improved service for reporting incidents of hate and anti-social behaviour.

Customers and partners can now report any incidents of hate or anti-social behaviour directly onto the website www.sunderland.gov.uk/report-asb.

Alternatively customers can telephone Sunderland Council between the hours of 8:00 am and 6:30 pm Monday to Friday on (0191) 5205550 or use any of the reporting centres listed at the end of this email.

Further details about hate and anti-social behaviour are available at

www.sunderland.gov.uk/hate-crime

www.sunderland.gov.uk/asb

www.sunderland.gov.uk/noise

The new system should be used to report incidents if they require follow up work while any emergency incidents should be referred directly to the police as they are now.

If any school requires information advice and guidance around policy or wider community issues please email Alan.Caddick@sunderland.gov.uk

Reporting Centres:

Sunderland Libraries

Northumbria Police

North East Refugee Service (NERS)

International Community Organisation
of Sunderland (ICOS)

University of Sunderland

Gentoo

Sunderland Bangladeshi Centre

Sunderland College

Sunderland Pride

Wear Out

Young Asian Voices

TWAFA

Age UK

Closure of the Safeguarding Hub



The end of the current SLA will also see the closure of the Education Safeguarding Team website also known as the Safeguarding Hub.

The Learning Hub will not be affected by this change and will still be available to schools as well as the Training Hub for booking courses or events. It is just the EST part that will disappear as the service to schools closes

Accessing Early help Through Strengthening Families

What is Strengthening Families?

Strengthening families is the Local Authority's strategy to assist and support families to access early intervention and appropriate early help in a timely manner.

Under the overarching banner of Strengthen Families lies the Common assessment Framework and Family Focus Processes, the benefit of this combined approach is the local authority and its partners can manage the planning and implementation of early intervention across the whole family age range.

How Do I access Strengthening Families?

Referring an individual or a family into the Strengthening family's process couldn't be easier. When you identify a family, child or young person as having outstanding or unmet needs which don't meet Social Care Child Protection or Child in Need threshold (see the Safeguarding Children's Board website). You need to complete a 'Strengthening Families referral form' which can also be downloaded from the Sunderland Children's Safeguarding Board website, Sunderland City Council Partnership Website or the Council Intranet.

As you complete the form you will be expected to include as much information you know about the young person and their family to assist in getting the right services allocated at the Strengthening Families panel. At the back of the form is a checklist of Family Focus Criteria that will help us to understand if a family meet the criteria to be worked with under Sunderland's Family focus initiative, Sunderland's branding of the Government's Troubled family agenda (you don't need to make a decision whether a case is CAF or Family Focus case as this will be checked when you submit the form).

Once you have completed the Strengthening Families form, we ask that you seek to get signed consent from the family before you submit the form, (if you know that the family fall within the Family Focus criteria you don't need signed consent to submit the form but it is desirable). Completed forms are emailed to ecaf@sunderland.gov.uk or strengthening.families@sunderland.gcsx.gov.uk or posted to:

Commercial and Corporate Services Directorate, Sunderland City Council, Room 1.83, Burdon Road Civic Centre, Sunderland SR2 7DN. Marked For the attention of Strengthening Families

On receipt of the form it will be checked to see whether it can be dealt with through family focus or CAF procedures then listed on the agenda for the relevant multi agency panels that meet weekly in each of the five locality areas (North, West, east, Washington and Coalfields). At the panel a multi agency round table discussion will be had to establish the best intervention for the young person or the family. The outcome of the panel will be recorded and as the referrer you will be notified in writing of the panel's outcome.

If it is felt that the identified needs can't be met by either a single or two agencies a Team Around The Family (TAF) will be convened to ensure the right services are co-ordinated and delivered with a suitable Chair person (CAF Cases) or key worker (Family Focus Cases) will be identified to facilitate this process.

So in summary. If you have concerns about a child, young person or a family which don't meet the Social Care child protection or child in need threshold, complete a strengthening Families referral form to access early intervention and early help intervention.

Clare's Law & DVPO's

After being piloted by four Police Forces over the last 14 months the Domestic Violence Disclosure Scheme, more commonly known as Clare's Law, was rolled out nationally on 8th March 2014.

Clare's Law is named after Clare Wood who was murdered by her ex-partner five years ago in Salford.

Clare was unaware that her ex-partner had a history of violence against women which included the kidnap of his former partner by knifepoint.

The scheme allows the police to disclose information about a partner's previous history of domestic violence or violent acts. The aim is to provide victims with information that may protect them from an abusive situation before it ends in tragedy.

The Government have also announced the roll out in England and Wales of the Domestic Violence Protection Orders (DVPO's).

DVPOs can be used to provide immediate protection to a victim where there is not enough evidence to charge an alleged perpetrator and provide protection to victims via bail conditions. A DVPO can last for up to 28 days, during which time the perpetrator can be prevented from having contact with the victim.

DVPOs are designed to give victims the time and space they need to make decisions about their options and future safety with the help of a support agency.



Forced Marriage

Parents who force their children into marriage are now committing a criminal act (previously it was a civil matter).

A forced marriage is where one or both people do not (or in cases of people with learning disabilities, cannot) consent to the marriage and pressure or abuse is used. It is recognised in the UK as a form of violence against women and men, domestic/child abuse and a serious abuse of human rights.

The pressure put on people to marry against their will can be physical (including threats, actual physical violence and sexual violence) or emotional and psychological (for example, when someone is made to feel like they're bringing shame on their family). Financial abuse (taking your wages or not giving you any money) can also be a factor.

The Forced Marriage Unit (FMU) is a joint Foreign and Commonwealth Office and Home Office unit which was set up in January 2005 to lead on the Government's forced marriage policy, outreach and casework. It operates both inside the UK, where support is provided to any individual, and overseas, where consular assistance is provided to British nationals, including dual nationals.

The FMU operates a public helpline to provide advice and support to victims of forced marriage as well as to professionals dealing with cases. The assistance provided ranges from simple safety advice, through to aiding a victim to prevent their unwanted spouse moving to the UK ('reluctant sponsor' cases), and, in extreme circumstances, to rescues of victims held against their will overseas.



The FMU undertake an extensive outreach and training programme of around 100 events a year, targeting both professionals and potential victims. The FMU also carry out media campaigns, such as 2012's 'right to choose' summer campaign, where the FMU commissioned three short films to raise awareness amongst young people at risk of being taken overseas for forced marriage.

Contact

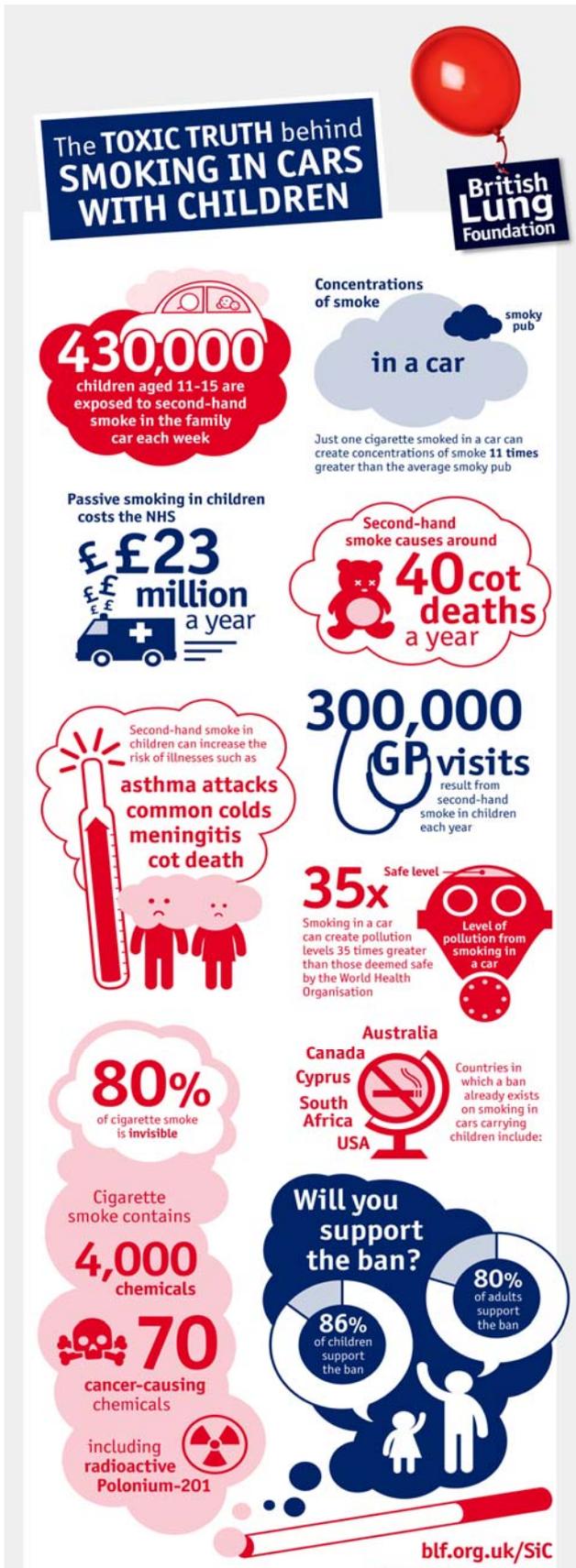
Telephone: +44 (0) 20 7008 0151

Email: fmu@fco.gov.uk

Email for outreach work: fmuoutreach@fco.gov.uk

Facebook: Forced Marriage page Twitter: @FMUnit

Smoking In Cars



Smoking in cars

For over three years, the British Lung Foundation have been campaigning for legislation to ban smoking in cars when children are present. More than 430,000 children are exposed to second hand smoke in the family car each week. On 29th January 2014 peers voted in favour of an amendment to the Children and Families Bill at Report Stage that would allow the Secretary of State to introduce such a ban.

Health dangers for children

Children are particularly vulnerable to second-hand smoke, as they have smaller lungs, faster breathing and less developed immune systems, which make them more susceptible to respiratory and ear infections triggered by passive smoking. Smoking near children can cause a range of respiratory illnesses such as asthma, bronchitis and reduced lung function. Passive smoking results in more than 9,500 hospital admissions and around 40 sudden infant deaths each year. In the confines of a car, the risks are even greater.

Could such a law be enforced?

This is an enabling amendment that gives the Secretary of State for Health the power to introduce a ban on smoking in cars when children are present. Specific details of how such a ban should be implemented will need to be considered further in order to reach a cross party consensus on the best approach.

Evidence from Australia, where similar bans are already in place, suggests that it is enforceable. A ban could be enforced through opportunistic policing, in the same way that existing laws about child car seats, smoking in a work vehicle, or not wearing a seatbelt are enforced.

This law is not designed to turn smokers into criminals. It is about protecting children by bringing about a change in smoking behaviour. With nearly half a million children being exposed on a weekly basis to second-hand smoke in the family car, this positive vote is a defining moment in the protection of children's health.

For more information visit: www.blf.org.uk

SCARPA in Sunderland



Safeguarding Children At Risk Prevention and Action



SCARPA provides support to young people who go missing or are at risk of sexual exploitation. The service in Sunderland is delivered from premises in the town centre but we also have a 'hub' team in Newcastle and other 'spoke' workers in South Tyneside and Gateshead.

a safe place | with safe people | helping young people to make safe choices

Service 1: Return Interviews

SCARPA visits young people who have been missing to talk to them about what happened, why they went missing and offer support if appropriate

Service 2: Targeted Youth Support

We build positive relationships with individual young people to come up with a plan of support to help them stay safe. The service delivery incorporates a wide range of tools and resources to help them achieve safer lifestyles and positive outcomes. SCARPA uses the Common Assessment Framework as well as our own organisational monitoring tools.

Service 3: Advice and Support

We recognise that some young people already have that one worker with whom they have a good relationship. We are happy to provide advice and support to agencies around resources for professionals working with young people around missing and CSE.

Service 4: Training and groupwork

Programmes of training or groupwork delivered to raise awareness and develop skills in response to the issues of going missing and sexual exploitation.

Tel: SCARPA Hub on 01912210836 or Gemma Doherty 07943872297

Email: gemma.doherty@childrenssociety.org.uk | Fax: 0191 221 0526

Child G Serious Case Review.

During 2012 a girl, Child G, became involved in a sexual relationship with a teacher at her school, Mr K. Anticipating that this relationship would come to light, they left the country together. Child G was fourteen years old when the relationship began and fifteen when they left the country. Mr K was subsequently imprisoned as a result of criminal charges arising from these events.

The review identified serious concerns regarding school management of the situation involving Mr K and Child G.

There was evidence that Mr K in 2010 had approached or considered approaching a number of young people. In 2012, although there was only evidence of Child G being targeted by Mr K, it was alleged that other pupils had seen inappropriate images of him.

School viewed Child G as having a "typical teenaged crush" and did not feel concerned about it. In the face of mounting evidence to the contrary, the child continued to be identified as the problem. Mr K became the victim.

School failed to involve Child G's mother in responding to these events was equally cause for concern. Even if her daughter were not being abused but was behaving in a way that was damaging to herself and to a blameless member of staff she needed to know that. She was denied the opportunity to assist her daughter.

Senior school staff became aware of Mr K and Child G using Twitter to communicate with each other. The content of those communications was clearly indicative of an unprofessional relationship. School staff discussed this with the LADO who, on the basis of the information shared, advised that it was not a matter of child protection, requiring a multi-agency response, but something which the school could deal with.

Young people who raised concerns about this situation were repeatedly dismissed. School failed to hear the "voice of the child"

No attempt was made by school staff to talk to Child G in a way that was supportive.

Over a period of some seven months there were a number of missed opportunities by school staff to recognise or acknowledge that there was a significant problem arising from Mr K's conduct, and that child protection intervention was necessary.

No records had been kept. Records had been made retrospectively but were supplied in a way which led the Panel undertaking the serious case review to believe that they were contemporaneous. It was confirmed by the school that all the documentation had been completed after Child G was abducted.



Drowning Prevention Week 21-29 June 2014



Drowning Prevention Week is a national campaign run by the RLSS (Royal Life Saving Society) to promote water safety messages and help reduce incidents of drowning. It is vital that everyone is aware of basic water safety skills to help reduce the number of accidental drownings.

More than 400 people drown in the UK each year. Nearly 60 of these are children and young people. It is estimated that for every death by drowning there are around 300 near-drowning experiences. Shockingly drowning is the Drowning Prevention Week encourages schools, clubs, leisure centres and communities to educate people about how they can have fun and stay safe around water. RLSS have produced a number of resource packs

If you would like more information or resources, visit:

www.drowningpreventionweek.org.uk

Remember . . .

water safety is something we need to be aware of all year round.

RoSPA (Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents) also provide useful resources and information for keeping children safe near water.

<http://www.rosipa.com/leisuresafety/adviceandinformation/watersafety/>



Keeping Children Safe in Education April 2014

The new statutory guidance contains details on what schools and colleges should do and sets out the legal duties with which schools and colleges must comply

Published 4 April 2014

'schools' does not include maintained nursery schools

It is stated in the guidance that

'all staff must read section 1'

This replaces Safeguarding and Safer Recruitment in Education 2006

But must be read in conjunction with

Working Together 2013

Education Act 2002 section 175/157 and the

Children Act 2004 10/14b

Whilst the guidance does not state that it replaces 'Dealing with Allegations Against Teachers and Other Staff 2012' this document has now been archived on the DfE website



Keeping children safe in education

Statutory guidance for schools and colleges

April 2014



“All courses can be booked through the Learning Hub....”

Roles & Responsibilities of a Designated Safeguarding Lead

The course aims to clarify the roles and responsibilities of the designated Safeguarding Lead for child protection / safeguarding

15th May 2014

09:00—16:00

This course is mandatory for all designated safeguarding leads

Please note there has been a change of venue to the Sandhill Centre

Managing Safeguarding for Experienced Designated Safeguarding Leads

The course aims to update experienced designated Safeguarding Leads to recent changes and policy developments

1st May 2014

09:00—12:30

This course is only for designated safeguarding leads who have completed all three mandatory multi-agency courses

Safer Recruitment

The course aims to increase understanding of the principles of safer recruitment for staff involved in recruitment

4th June 2014

09:00—16:00

This course is mandatory for all designated safeguarding leads

SAFEGUARDING LEADS TERMLY BRIEFINGS

The dates for the Summer Term meetings are as follows:

28th April 2014

19th May 2014

16th June 2014

All meetings will take place 09:00—12:30

at

The Leechmere Centre

Places can be booked via the Learning Hub

Safeguarding the Welfare of Children

For new staff or those members of staff who may have missed your whole school safeguarding training, the following 'wash up' sessions are available:

13th May 2014 - 14:30—16:00 at The Leechmere Centre

17th June 2014 - 16:00—17:30 at The Clough Room Sandhill Centre

Please note change of venue for 17.06.2014