

## DIARY DATES

### Safer Internet Day

Tuesday 6 February 2018

### ATT Safeguarding Conference

Thursday 22 March 2018

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## Keeping Children Safe in Education Consultation for 2018

It was launched on 14 December 2017, there would be a consultation regarding the Keeping Children Safe in Education document. The key proposals for the new document include:

- Ensuring that schools have more than one emergency contact number for pupils
- Ensuring that safeguarding and welfare concerns are taken into account when restraint is used on children with SEND
- Clarifying that when 'home stays' are arranged by schools in the UK that parents (and others over 18) hosting children are subject to an enhanced DBS and barred list check (and that the DBS will process without charge)
- Schools should have their own Child Protection Policy that reflects local circumstances
- Clarifying that MATs do not need to maintain separate Single Central Records for each school
- Ensuring that the role of the Deputy DSL is included in their job description
- Ensuring that in sole proprietor schools, the DSL can perform their duties with 'sufficient independence' from proprietor and their family (for example, writing into the job description that they may need to call the LADO for advice and that such schools should consider engaging external safeguarding consultants to support them)
- Adding in new information about country lines, honour-based violence and sexual violence and sexual harassment between children.

The Keeping Children Safe in Education consultation asks for opinions on further clarity about the contents of the SCR, references and on carrying out overseas checks. The consultation also asks for comments about the length of the document.

The consultation ends on 22 February 2018, please follow the [link](#) to contribute any comments and for the consultation document, please follow this [link](#).



## Children to be taught transgender issues in sex education lessons

Children will be taught about transgender issues as part of compulsory sex and relationship education classes, the DfE has confirmed as it launches a call for evidence. The classes, which will be made statutory for all primary and secondary schools from September 2019, as part of this move statutory guidance on the subject is being updated, amid concerns that the current advice is out-of-date and fails to address modern-day issues such as cyber-bullying, sexting and online safety.

Peter Tatchell, the veteran gay rights campaigner, wrote to the Education Secretary Justine Greening earlier this year to ask her a series of questions about what children will be taught in the classes. Officials from the DfE responded by telling him: "With regards to your concerns about RSE (Relationships and Sex Education) not including LGBT issues, I can assure you that the department expect all schools to ensure that young people, whatever their developing sexuality or identity, feel that RSE is relevant to them and sensitive to their needs".

The Government said it wants mothers and fathers as well as teachers and young people to give their views on what should be included in a new curriculum on the subject. The DfE is launching an eight-week call for evidence (starting 19/12/2017), asking for views on age-appropriate content on topics to be included in sex and relationships education, including mental wellbeing and LGBT issues.

For more information and the full article from The Telegraph, please follow this [link](#).

## 'Come out in class – if you want to' – teachers urged

Guidance from the Heads' Union NAHT urges all schools to be supportive of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender staff who want to reveal their sexual identities in classrooms. Billed as the first of its kind in the UK and endorsed by the campaign group Stonewall, the guidance covers key issues faced by LGBT staff – such as harassment, discrimination, bullying and lack of visibility. The guidance advises Heads to take personal responsibility for promoting inclusion and tackling bullying based on sexual orientation, this includes:

- Zero tolerance of homophobic, biphobic and transphobic bullying or banter
- Supporting staff to teach about LGBT issues
- Modifying dress codes to avoid gender stereotypes
- Sex and relationships education to include LGBT experiences
- Not allowing complaints or fear of complaints to hamper moves towards an inclusive school environment.

For the full article from BBC, please follow this [link](#). This guidance is now available on the [ATT Safeguarding Portal](#).

## Primary schools should use books that feature transgender parents, Government-backed guidance says

Primary schools should include books that feature transgender parents in the curriculum, according to new Government-backed guidance for headteachers. School leaders must celebrate transgender people, encourage their staff to teach children about trans issues and ensure the visibility of trans perspectives in the classroom.

Primary school leaders may want to ensure books featuring transgender parents or celebrating gender identity and difference are included in the curriculum. The NAHT, which represents around 30,000 school leaders, told its members to 'forbid' any complaints from parents, Governors or staff that may 'interfere' with the school's commitment to creating an inclusive environment for transgender people.

For the full article from The Telegraph, please follow this [link](#).

## Anti-Radicalisation scheme to be rolled out in schools

An online programme aimed at preventing young people being radicalised is to be rolled out across the country. The Home Office is backing the development of the programme, designed by the University of Kent, which will be used in schools from 2018. Behind Closed Doors uses real news footage and stimulated social media-style clips to highlight the dangers of grooming for radicalisation. It explores subjects including far right extremism and terrorism.

The programme follows the online social media life of 15-year-old Maryam and her sisters, and the online and personal relationships of Joe, 20 and his family. Both stories focus on grooming processes and what to do to help safeguard the young people. Participants will be asked how the characters are being groomed.

A Home Office spokesperson said: "It is important that schools make sure young people and teachers are properly equipped to build resilience to radicalisation. We know that individuals are increasingly being targeted by terrorists online and that is why it is incredibly important to safeguard young people on the internet".

In 2014 three young people from Brighton were killed fighting in Syria after being radicalised in the UK, including Abdullah Deghayes, 18, from Saltdean and his brother, 17-year-old Jaffar Deghayes. Ibrahim Kamara, 19, from Brighton is believed to have been killed in a US airstrike in September 2014. His mother, Khadijah Kamara said: "Any programme that can prevent kids from going is a good one. In my experience they haven't gone to the root cause of the problem. Most of the kids that are going don't know the proper Islam – to them it's seen as glory".

For more information and the full article from BBC, please follow this [link](#).

## Ofsted confirms changes to short inspections following consultation

Under the new plans, set out in September, inspectors will continue to convert short inspections into full inspections, usually within 48 hours, if they have serious concerns about safeguarding, behaviour or the quality of education provided. However, if there is no 'significant issues' with safeguarding or behaviour, but inspectors have concerns about the quality of education, leadership or management, instead of converting the inspection Ofsted will publish a letter outlining areas for improvement.

A full inspection will then take place within one to two years, to give the school time to address weaknesses. Ofsted said that in the meantime, its letter will make it clear that the school's overall rating has not changed. If inspectors believe a school is moving towards an Outstanding judgement, Ofsted will publish a letter confirming the school is still Good and setting out how it can improve. A full inspection will then take place in one to two years, but these schools can apply for an early inspection.

For more information and the full article from Schools Week, please follow this [link](#).

## Ofsted hopes to move away from Safeguarding 'compliance' checks

Ofsted wants its safeguarding procedures to have 'impact', rather than merely checking that schools are compliant. Lee Northern, a Specialist Advisor on Inspection Policy, hopes his employer will do away with its 'compliance-checking function' and move to an 'impact-checking function' in future. Mr Northern said: "We've got increasingly drawn down a list of statutory functions around safeguarding we've felt obliged to check. Focusing on this 'checklist' has cut opportunities to test the impact of safeguarding. Schools have become accustomed to showing inspectors their safeguarding procedures are merely compliant with requirements".

Schools should all have a Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) and all staff should be able to identify pupils who might be at risk and report them to the DSL. The Designated Safeguarding Lead should know the proper referral process with the LA.

For the full article from Schools Week, please follow this [link](#).

## Child abuse and neglect investigations surge by 60% over 10 years as services reach ‘tipping point’

The number of investigations into child abuse and neglect started by local authorities has soared by 60% in the last decade, as councils warn children’s services are reaching ‘tipping point’. An analysis of new government figures by Local Government Association (LGA) shows more than 500 child protection inquiries began each day last year, compared to around 200 a day 10 years ago.

The findings indicate that a growing number of children in England and Wales are being referred to children’s social care services because of concerns over domestic violence, parental mental health, neglect and physical abuse.

Council leaders say there are a number of reasons for the rise, including increased public awareness and reporting of potential abuse, the impact of poverty and deprivation on families and a lack of funding to help families early on before problems escalate. But they warn that children’s services – which the LGA says face a funding gap of £2 billion by 2020 are reaching ‘tipping point’ and urge that the figures must be a wake-up call for ministers to inject more funding into early intervention services.

For the full article from The Independent, please follow this [link](#).

## Sexual Violence and Sexual Harassment between Children in Schools and Colleges (DfE, 2017)

This is new guidance that has been heralded for a number of months, especially when managing situations where victims and alleged perpetrators are being placed in classrooms together.

This document covers:

- What sexual violence and sexual harassment is
- What schools’ and colleges’ legal responsibilities are
- Creating a whole school or college approach to safeguarding and child protection
- How to respond to reports of sexual violence and sexual harassment.

The documents starts off with definitions to develop a shared understanding. In the document there is an emphasis of seeing sexual violence and harassment in the context of developing a whole-school safeguarding culture where sexual misconduct is seen as unacceptable and not ‘banter’.

This guidance is now available on the [ATT Safeguarding Portal](#).

## Child sex abuse referrals soar by nearly a third in a year, warns NSPCC

Child sexual abuse referrals have soared by nearly a third in the past year, the UK’s leading children’s charity has revealed. The NSPCC said it is making on average 90 referrals to police and children’s services each week from members of the public reporting concerns that a child is being sexually abused.

The charity’s free and confidential helpline referred 4,677 calls and emails to local agencies in 2016-17, an increase of 31% on the previous year. There were also a further 3,912 contacts where helpline staff gave advice about sexual abuse against young people.

An estimated one in 20 children aged between 11-17 in the UK have experienced sexual abuse, according to previous research by the NSPCC. Child sexual abuse is defined by a child being forced or persuaded to take part in sexual activities, either through physical contact or online.

For the full article from The Independent, please follow this [link](#).