

## Safeguarding Update 24<sup>th</sup> November 2022

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### 1. Multi-Agency Early Help Standards

Dear Partner Agency

St Helens Multi Agency Early Help Standards & Criteria for Expected Practice have been developed by a multi-agency working group and are intended to replace the St Helens Think Family Procedures. The St Helens Multi Agency Early Help Standards & Criteria have been developed following review of best practice guidance and should not be considered in isolation. They should be reviewed in conjunction with St Helens Descriptions of Need (threshold document), along with other associated documents detailed.

Early help is the term used in St Helens to describe our approach on a whole range of individual social, health and educational issues when providing support to children, young people and their families as soon as problems emerge or re-emerge. Families should be enabled and supported to have the right conversations, with the right people and at the right time about their needs or concerns, so that statutory interventions can be avoided where this is appropriate.

Intervening as early as possible, regardless of the age of the child or young person, can positively improve their outcomes. Early help is a collaborative approach not a provision and relies on local agencies working together effectively with families to identify who needs help and then to meet their varied needs.

Quality work with families already takes place across St Helens, the attached practice standards are intended to support this work. Providing a framework for early help and support when working with children and families. We are asking all partners, as well as reviewing the practice standards, to book onto one of the online sessions briefing sessions detailed below. The briefing sessions are intended to provide an increased understanding of the practice standards and opportunity to ask any questions.

## St Helens Multi Agency Early Help Standards & Criteria for Expected Practice briefing dates:

30<sup>th</sup> November 2022, 10-11:30am & 1:30-3:00pm

6<sup>th</sup> December 2022, 3:30-5:00pm

12<sup>th</sup> January 2023, 9:30-11:00am

These can be booked via the Safeguarding Partnership Website:

<https://sthelenssafeguarding.org.uk/events/event/st-helens-multi-agency-early-help-standards-criteria-for-expected-practice-briefing>

Vicky Velasco  
Early Help Head of Service



Multi%20Agency%20  
Early%20Help%20Star



GCP2 Guidance.pdf



4.%20Early%20Help%  
20Assessment%20To

**PLEASE CAN THE STANDARDS BE UPLOADED ONTO YOUR SCHOOL WEBISTE**

## 2. Training Places

Please see below for information in relation to free training opportunities in December.

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/building-bonds-breaking-cycles-parent-infant-mental-health-training-tickets-444715484987?aff=ebdssbonlinesearch>



['Building Bonds & Breaking Cycles'  
Parent Infant Mental Health Training -  
eventbrite.com](https://www.eventbrite.com)

Eventbrite - Building Bonds presents 'Building Bonds & Breaking Cycles' Parent Infant Mental Health Training - Thursday, 8 December 2022 | Friday, 9 December 2022 - Find event and ticket information.

[www.eventbrite.com](https://www.eventbrite.com)

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/o/hmg-forced-marriage-unit-33095672291>



[HMG Forced Marriage Unit Events | Eventbrite](https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/o/hmg-forced-marriage-unit-33095672291)

The Forced Marriage Unit (FMU) is a joint Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) and Home Office unit which leads 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).

[www.eventbrite.co.uk](https://www.eventbrite.co.uk)

[Discover Kooth - For Professionals in Cheshire & Merseyside Tickets, Thu 1 Dec 2022 at 10:00 |  
Eventbrite](https://www.eventbrite.com)



[Discover Kooth - For Professionals in  
Cheshire & Merseyside](https://www.eventbrite.com)

Eventbrite - Kooth presents Discover Kooth - For Professionals in Cheshire & Merseyside - Thursday, 1 December 2022 - Find event and ticket information.

[www.eventbrite.com](https://www.eventbrite.com)

### 3. Andrew Hall Safeguarding Breifing

## Safeguarding Briefing - 21st November 2022

Dear Colleague,

### **The Importance of Being Confident When Teaching Sex & Relationship Education (NSPCC)**

The NSPCC has begun a campaign to aid teachers to feel more at ease when teaching sex and relationship education to pupils. The decision has come off the back of a NASUWT survey finding 46% of secondary school teachers don't feel confident on teaching the subject. However, teaching young people what to expect from relationships, what's normal and what to be aware of is crucial to creating pupils armed with the ability to tell when they're subject to abnormal or unlawful behaviour. Safeguarding has to be a dialogue between adolescents and teaching staff, if the teaching staff don't feel confident addressing the issue then those they protect will feel even less sure. To aid teachers in increasing their abilities in this area, the NSPCC has launched a UK-wide service called Talk Relationships, if you want to find out more please follow the link below:

[https://learning.nspcc.org.uk/services/talk-relationships?\\_ga=2.121326464.988371137.1668783365-840600739.1668783365](https://learning.nspcc.org.uk/services/talk-relationships?_ga=2.121326464.988371137.1668783365-840600739.1668783365)

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### **An Increase in Child Protection Enquiries (Community Care)**

Official figures published at the beginning of the month, show that a 10% increase in Section 47 (The legislation enshrining LA's responsibility to investigate child abuse allegations) has been observed over the past year. The findings are a reminder to safeguarding staff across the education sector to be particularly vigilant at the present time. For a breakdown of the full report see:

<https://www.communitycare.co.uk/2022/10/31/child-protection-enquiries-reach-record-levels-reveal-official-figures/>

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### **Safeguarding in the Online Learning Space (LGfL)**

The rise of online learning during the pandemic, and the increased use of 'catch-up' tutors the need to safeguard children outside of the school building has never been greater. Fortunately the London Grid for Learning has published some handy material to help make sure children stay as safe as possible outside school. You can find out more here:

<https://www.lgfl.net/default.aspx>

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### **TikTok has now raised its Livestreaming Age Requirement to 18 (BBC News)**

TikTok has frequently been called out for its glaring failures to protect under 18s which use its service. With its flashy images, easily digestible content and 'childlike' feel it has always been popular among school aged children. A fact which has made its safeguarding failures all the more worrying. The platform's attempt to ban under 18s

seems to be unfeasible however, and so it is as important as ever to be aware of its usage in the classroom. In particular, its gift function can easily be manipulated in order to commit criminal acts against children. As such wariness around the app should not be lowered as a result. To find out more about what motivated their decision, and its potential outcomes head over to the page linked below:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/technology-63262102>

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### **A Guide to Education Data Processing (ICO)**

The Information Commissioner's Office has published detailed guidance to education providers on the correct processing of vital education data. As navigating the many legal and practical requirements of secure information processing can be a murky affair, this guide is very welcome. Seeking to make sure all members of staff are across data security, the document takes the reader through several topics such as who should have right of data access, or how to recognize a valid subject access request. With online safety more crucial than ever this handy document has a lot of good advice. If you're interested in the full document please go to the link below:

<https://ico.org.uk/for-organisations/guide-to-data-protection/guide-to-the-general-data-protection-regulation-gdpr/right-of-access/how-should-we-prepare/>

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### **What to look for in Unsuitable Apps – A Guideline (ICO)**

In addition to looking at how to store data concerning young people, the ICO has also published guidelines for app developers vis a vi their suitability for children. The document – 'Age Appropriate Design' can also be used by educational professionals to become better acquainted with what to look out for whilst executing safeguarding duties. Duties which today require a serious examination of mobile applications and the vulnerabilities they can impose on young users. If you're interested in reading more about their views on what makes an app acceptable for children please follow the link below:

<https://ico.org.uk/for-organisations/guide-to-data-protection/ico-codes-of-practice/age-appropriate-design-a-code-of-practice-for-online-services/>

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### **Guidance for Teachers giving Online Safety Lessons (DfE)**

Online safety is now paramount to safeguarding, as is teaching safe internet use to young people. This may seem a daunting task, particularly as the technological skill of pupils themselves can be intimidating. Fortunately the government has published their own guidance as to how online safety lessons should be taught. You can find that information by following the link below:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/teaching-online-safety-in-schools>

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### **Recently Published Case Reviews Now Online (NSPCC)**

It is important to remember that although internet safety takes up an ever greater portion of safeguarding, it is offline and away from school where vulnerability can often

be at its peak. For those charged with safeguarding children, or those interested in learning from what has gone wrong in the past the NSPCC's archive of case reviews is an excellent resource. Find out more here:

<https://learning.nspcc.org.uk/case-reviews/recently-published-case-reviews>

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## Forthcoming Courses

### Implementing the role of the Senior Mental Health Lead (DfE Course Code SMHL105)

This is our DfE Quality Assured course for Senior Mental Health Leads. The course offers self-paced learning using the resources in our SMHL.Pro Hub, which is available for 12 months. Each month there is a live online member check-in to catch up with your tutors and each other. The course cost £397+VAT, some schools are eligible for a grant to cover this cost.

For more details, go to: <https://www.smhl.pro/course>

### Advanced Safeguarding for DSLs

This is a four-session course for DSLs over a full-day. The course is offered live and as a recorded replay. When the course is live, there are plenty of opportunities to contribute with observations, questions or answers. As a recording, the interactions from other people are included and feedback notes that this makes it feel like you are not on your own.

*"I came to a session in Birmingham back in 2019 (the day after the GE I think) and it was superb. Today [online] was just as good, if not better. The use of video mixed with live speaking was excellent and goes way beyond what other safeguarding courses provide. You've been there and done it, and your openness with your own story is inspirational."*

**LIVE ONLINE** Thursday 8th December 2022 **BOOK NOW**

...and available online 24 hours a day, 7 days a week for your convenience **BOOK NOW**

**LIVE ON LOCATION** remember that you can book Andrew to visit your school, cluster or MAT to share his DSL course. Please contact us for details and bookings.

### Whole School Safeguarding CPD Online Session for 2022/2023

In this two and half hour online presentation aimed at staff in all roles, specialist safeguarding consultant, Andrew Hall, explores important aspects of safeguarding in schools including child protection, learning from case studies and the latest version of Keeping Children Safe in Education.

*"In my excitement, I forgot to add our star rating to the Safeguarding training we have just watched. If we could, we would give it 10 stars! That was the best Safeguarding training we have ever had, thank you so much. Feedback from staff has, so far, been overwhelmingly positive...I can't thank you enough."*

*"I would like to extend my thanks to Andrew for his fantastic online training. It was filmed so well - almost as if he were here with us! We were kept engaged throughout and felt so well informed - a huge thank you. It was a real success, and we look forward to booking you again in the future - with the staff team saying it was the best safeguarding training they have ever had. We really appreciated Andrew's real-life*

*storytelling and the way such sensitive information was shared - it was excellent training."*

You book your online session

here: <https://www.safeguardingschools.co.uk/availablecourses>

Until next time, keep safe and thank you for all the work you're doing,

Andrew Hall  
Specialist Safeguarding Consultant,  
Success In Schools Ltd.

## 4. S128 Barred List

The full list of people prohibited under s128 has been published along with their hearing records.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/individuals-prohibited-from-managing-or-governing-schools>

## 5. NSPCC CASPAR Update

*Current awareness for policy, practice and research (CASPAR)*

Welcome to NSPCC Learning's CASPAR email for week commencing Monday 21 November 2022

### Sex and sexuality education

**Source:** NSPCC Learning

**Date:** 17 November 2022

NSPCC Learning has conducted a literature review into young people's experiences learning about relationships, sex and sexuality in the UK. The review summarises 11–to 25-year olds' views on what, where and how information is communicated to children and young people. The review also highlights the need for better understanding around children and young people's different learning experiences including understanding how they seek information.

**Read the literature review:** [Children and young people's views on learning about sex, sexuality and relationships](#)

## Domestic abuse

**Source:** NSPCC

**Date:** 17 November 2022

The NSPCC has highlighted concerns around domestic abuse during the World Cup. Data from the NSPCC shows that, during the last World Cup in 2018, the number of contacts to the NSPCC helpline about domestic abuse was 33% higher than the monthly average for the year; whilst the number of Childline counselling sessions was 17% higher. Alcohol, betting on the games and tension during the tournament were highlighted as potential triggers.

**Read the news story:** [Children face greater risk of domestic abuse during World Cup](#)

**Visit Childline:** [Childline](#)

## See also on NSPCC Learning

> [Protecting children from domestic abuse](#)

## Looked after children

**Source:** Department for Education

**Date:** 17 November 2022

The Department for Education (DfE) has released statistics providing information on looked after children in England in 2021/2022. The figures reveal the number of children looked after by local authorities in England stood at 82,170 in 2022 compared to 80,780 in 2021, an increase of 2%.

**View the statistics:** [Children looked after in England including adoptions](#)

## See also on NSPCC Learning

> [Looked after children](#)

## Children's homes

**Source:** The Guardian

**Date:** 14 November 2022

The Guardian has published a news story on the number of children waiting for secure placements in England. Findings from a freedom of information request to the Department for Education (DfE) reveal: children who have been deprived of their liberty for their own protection are spending an average of 65 days waiting for a secure placement; there were 128 beds in 13 secure children's homes in England available to local authorities.

**Read the news story:** [Vulnerable children in England waiting months for secure homes](#)



## Pre-mobile bruising

**Source:** Community Care

**Date:** 15 November 2022

Community Care has published a news story on research into bruising in pre-mobile infants. The research explores local authority procedures in England, perceptions around non-accidental and accidental injuries and ways to achieve a balance between over-and under-reaction in order to prevent harm towards children and families.

**Read the news story:** [‘Why child protection policies on bruising to babies need to change’](#)

**Read the research:** [Bruises in premobile infants: a contested area of research, policy and practice](#)

**Read the Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel paper about bruising to children:** [The management of bruising in non-mobile infants paper](#)

## Early years

**Source:** Ofsted

**Date:** 14 November 2022

Ofsted has published the first in a series of research reviews into early years education in England. The report examines factors contributing to a high-quality early education and looks at curriculum and staffing in the sector. The report also presents guidelines for a high quality curriculum and pedagogy.

**Read the research review:** [Best start in life part 1: setting the scene](#)

### See also on NSPCC Learning

> [Early years sector: learning from case reviews briefing](#)

## School absences

**Source:** Children, Young People and Education Committee

**Date:** 14 November 2022

The Children, Young People and Education Committee in Wales has published its report on pupil absence from schools. The committee investigated factors contributing to sustained absence and the impact absence can have on a pupil’s learning and wellbeing. Findings from focus groups and interviews with parents revealed that mental health, additional needs, and poverty had some impact with respondents highlighting lack of support and Covid-19 anxiety as influencing factors.

**Read the report:** [Pupil absence](#)

### See also on NSPCC Learning

> [Education: learning from case reviews](#)

## Children and violence

**Source:** Youth Endowment Fund

**Date:** 14 November 2022

The Youth Endowment Fund has published a report examining the impact of violence on children's lives in England and Wales. The report looks at children's experiences of violence through a survey of 2,025 13- to 17- year olds. Findings include: 39% of teens had been a victim or witness of violence in the last 12 months; 55% of teens said they'd seen real life acts of violence on social media in the last 12 months; and 65% of teens said they'd changed their behaviour to keep themselves safe from violence in the last 12 months.

**Read the report:** [Children, violence and vulnerability 2022](#)

## Support for children with SEND

**Source:** The Children's Commissioner for England

**Date:** 14 November 2022

The Children's Commissioner for England has published a paper setting out ambitions for ensuring children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) are supported effectively by the system. Key objectives explain the SEND system should ensure: all children and young people get support that reflects their ambitions; children get timely and effective support, locally, with a focus on early intervention; and consistent, excellent experiences for all children wherever they are in the system.

**Read the report:** [Beyond the labels: A SEND system which works for every child, every time](#)

### See also on NSPCC Learning

> [Safeguarding children with special educational needs and disabilities \(SEND\)](#)

## Cost of living

**Source:** Children's Commissioner for Wales

**Date:** 17 November 2022

The Children's Commissioner for Wales has published the results of a national survey into issues facing children in Wales. The Commissioner interviewed 876 parents and 7,873 children aged t-18 and findings include: 45% of 7- to 11-year-olds said they worry about having enough to eat; 36% of parents said that they worry about their children having enough food; and 61% of 7- to 11- year olds worried about their families affording essentials.

**Read the news story:** [Children worried about having enough to eat](#)

### Bullying and mental health

**Source:** ACAMH

**Date:** 14 November 2022

The Association for Child and Adolescent Mental Health (ACAMH) has released a new podcast on bullying. The podcast looks at the link between bullying and mental health and discusses the impacts and effectiveness of anti-bullying interventions.

**Listen to the podcast:** [Bullying and mental health: impact and interventions](#)

### See also on NSPCC Learning

> [Anti-Bullying Week 2022 resources](#)

### Bullying

**Source:** Anti-Bullying Alliance

**Date:** 14 November 2022

Anti-Bullying Alliance has published a new report looking at children's experiences of bullying in England. Findings from a survey of 29,308 children include: 24% of children revealed they were being frequently bullied face-to-face; 31% of children with special educational needs (SEND) or disabilities reported being frequently bullied; and both children who are bullied and children who bully others have comparatively poorer wellbeing.

**Read the report:** [A quarter of children are bullied frequently as anti-bullying campaigners call on adults to set a better example](#)

### See also on NSPCC Learning

> [Protecting children from bullying and cyberbullying](#)

### Denial, disbelief & delays: examining the costs of delayed CSA disclosures

This conference, organised by Survivors in Transition & the University of Suffolk, takes place on 19 January 2023 in Suffolk

**Find out more:** [Survivors in Transition & University of Suffolk](#)

## 6. Child Exploitation Survey

Please can all schools complete the below survey in order to highlight what work is completed by your school around CE

[Please click here to enter your CCE/CSE coverage.](#)

## 7. Victim Blaming Language Survey

Dear all

We want to gain an understanding around Victim Blaming Language and how this is tackled in schools.

Please can all schools complete the questionnaire linked below by Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2022 at 12pm

Thank you

<https://forms.office.com/r/fnQr1r37XJ>

## 8. Training Opportunities

Afternoon All

Please see below for the training opportunities available in the next four weeks.

Further information in relation to the courses is available on the SCP website (<https://sthelenssafeguarding.org.uk/events>)

[Early Help Assessment Training CPD Certified \(FULL DAY joint with Systems\)](#)

[Domestic Abuse: The Impact on the Child](#)

[Forced Marriage Online Workshop](#)

[Early Help & Domestic Abuse Group Work Programmes](#)

[Signs of Safety 2 Day Training](#)

[Merit & MARAC Awareness - Local domestic abuse referral pathways](#)

[St Helens Multi Agency Early Help Standards & Criteria for Expected Practice briefing](#)

[Discover Kooth - For Professionals in Cheshire & Merseyside](#)

[Private Fostering Briefing](#)

[Substance Awareness Training](#)

[Understanding Childhood Neglect & Responding Effectively \(incl. GCP2 Training for Practitioners\)](#)

[Signs of Safety Awareness Briefings](#)

[PREVENT Duty Briefing](#)

Any issues/queries in relation to bookings please contact me.

Best Wishes

**Madeline Jones**

**St Helens Learning & Development Officer (SCP)**

## 9. Domestic Abuse Charter for School

We developed a Domestic Abuse Charter for schools in 2020. As this was during the pandemic, it is understandable that this may have got lost or not have been a priority at the time.

Please can I ask that people adopt this charter and perhaps include it as an appendix within your Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy.



Domestic Abuse  
Charter.pub

## 10. NSPCC Learning

*Safeguarding resources to help you protect the children and young people you work or volunteer with*

### *What's new?*

Our latest language blog - 'sexting' or 'sharing nudes'?

**Our new blog focuses on the language behind 'sexting' and 'sharing nudes'. We look at the phrases young people are using and why it is important to check everyone has a shared understanding of the language being used.**

[Read the blog](#)

Learning from case reviews - online harms and abuse

**Our briefing looks at the key issues around online harm and abuse that have featured in case reviews: why some children are particularly vulnerable and how we can help prevent and respond to incidents.**

[Read the briefing](#)

### *Resources*

#### **New podcast on our Together for Childhood (TfC) work**

**5 years on since the launch of our innovative community-based approach to preventing child abuse and neglect, practitioners from our 4 TFC sites discuss practice examples of what's working.**

[Listen now](#)

#### **New posters for our new Childline campaign**

**Following the new Childline campaign, #TheFullStory, we have released new posters for you to display, to help encourage young people at risk of child sexual exploitation (CSE) to contact Childline.**

[View the posters](#)

*CPD-certified training*

Charity trustee training

**Our elearning course for charity trustees will help you understand the role and responsibilities, including supporting your management team to ensure your charity is operating a safe and trusted culture.**

[Buy now](#)

Harmful sexualised behaviour

**Our elearning course for schools will help you recognise healthy and unhealthy behaviours and build your confidence in responding to incidents of sexualised behaviour.**

[Buy now](#)