



Designated Safeguarding Lead Support Hub Meeting
Wednesday 15th July 2020 at 8.30am, 11.00am and 3.30pm
Venue: Virtual Meeting Room

1	<p>Due to numbers on the call, we have been unable to go round and do a wellbeing roundup, but if anyone is feeling that they'd like to share anything or wants to chat through any support that they need, please feel free to stay on the line afterwards, or email into GSEP@gloucestershire.gov.uk</p> <p>As ever, if you have queries, or need any support or guidance please email the team at gsep@gloucestershire.gov.uk</p> <p>Notes from today's meeting will be available on the Education pages of the GSCB website along with links to all documents referenced.</p>
2	<p>INTRODUCTION</p> <p>A recap of previous issues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ongoing plea! Emergency Contact Numbers - There is a notice on the bulletin board from MASH. Schools' information can be crucial in the decision making. They are working with very short time scales in the MASH and the Social Workers usually have to make their decisions within 1 working day based on the information available from all the agencies within the MASH, which include Education in order to ensure that children, young people and their families receive the right response at the right time. Whilst it is appreciated that it is not always possible to obtain the information within a few hours during the school holidays, it is extremely helpful to be able to include it wherever possible, especially under the current circumstances.• Please check the bulletin board on Schoolsnet for all info and guidance – this is the “go to” place at the moment.• We need to keep talking with you! Please tell us what resources would be useful to you, in your role at gsep@gloucestershire.gov.uk <p>For previous updates, please refer to minutes of earlier meetings which are available on the GSCE website www.gscb.org.uk</p>

Summer Reading Challenge

Join the 'Silly Squad'! Children in Gloucestershire are invited to take part in the Summer Reading Challenge 2020. Gloucestershire Libraries is encouraging children to sign up online at www.silysquad.org.uk with parental consent to create their Silly Squad account and record the books they have read. The site also includes games and activities and a 'book sorter' to help select their next book. Children can set their own challenge this year, although the recommendation remains at six books. The challenge started online on 5 June and runs until 5 September.

- Gloucestershire Libraries will be launching the Summer Reading Challenge locally on 13 July, followed by an online programme of activities and ideas, to keep children busy and reading over the summer holidays. More details will be available soon at: www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/libraries
- This year, physical resources are being focused on vulnerable children who may not have digital access. Packs containing free materials connected to the challenge and gifted books will be going to children in care in the county.
- A limited number of packs will also be distributed to those families who access foodbanks for regular food parcels. By encouraging library membership for those who would benefit the most, we hope to form new partnerships with organisations linked with those most deprived in Gloucestershire.

Support through the summer available from the Mental Health Support Team – produced by Gloucestershire Health and Care NHS Trust.

Wellbeing Poster attached with the notes for this meeting giving contacts for a [Wellbeing Chat Line for children and young people](#) over the age of 12, and a [Parent/Carer Advice Line](#) for parents and carers of children under 12, plus TIC+ and Kooth websites.

Barnardos See, Hear and Respond Programme

The service is open to any child who does not have other support networks at this time who you are concerned about. There is no threshold of need or harm that has to be reached to receive a service.

Free phone: 0800 157 7015

Operate between Monday – Friday 9am – 9pm and Saturday and Sunday 10am – 6pm.

Online self-referral: <https://www.barnardos.org.uk/see-hear-respond>

Please note that this service is not a substitute for existing statutory support. If you are concerned that a child is at risk of significant harm then a referral should be made to The MASH.

<https://www.barnardos.org.uk/see-hear-respond>

Poster included with these notes on the Education pages of the GSCB website.

Record numbers contact NSPCC with concerns for children

Recent data shows that in April, May and June there were more than 22,000 contacts to the NSPCC helpline from adults with concerns for the wellbeing of a child.

This is an increase of almost a third (32%) on the monthly average for the three months prior to lockdown.

This is twofold information.

v)

1. Firstly, we can see that people, members of the public, are prepared to voice their concerns and if you have an end of term newsletter you can highlight the NSPCC helpline, the MASH contact details, to let people know where to seek help for children about whom they are concerned. You may also have links within your community, perhaps to the local church, or with playgroups / sports association, and could share this information here.
2. Secondly, these figures back up the NSPCC research that underlines how
 - increasing parental and family stress
 - reductions in protective services
 - intensification of pressures on children’s emotional wellbeing caused by lockdowncan increase the risk of abuse and neglect. This is something to include in your safeguarding annual update to staff in September; consider the current climate of change in the country and impact on the children within your setting.

https://www.nspcc.org.uk/about-us/news-opinion/2020/2020-10-07--helpline-recovery-plan/?utm_source=Adestra&utm_medium=email&utm_content=Record%20numbers%20contact%20the%20NSPCC%20with%20concerns%20during%20lockdown&utm_campaign=CASPAR-2020-07-13

Social Survey open now which is looking to identify what the LGBT+ community, including allies, within and nearby the county are seeking. Looking to share this as widely as we can to get as much response to inform their findings and onward progress.

<https://www.lgbtchelt.co.uk/>

For those of you working with the 15-18 age range there is a new resource pack from CEOPs designed to support 15-18 year olds to identify and discuss online blackmail in a safe environment.

'*Online blackmail*' is free-to-access and aims to support young people to recognise key characteristics of how blackmail manifests online, including early signs of manipulative, pressurising and threatening behaviour. It also explores the potential impact of online blackmail and provides sources of further support for those who experience it.

The pack includes a lesson plan, worksheets and slides to support delivery. Note that '*Online blackmail*' is not designed for home learning, but will support you when planning the RSE aspects of your PSHE education curriculum for September.

<https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/professionals/resources/online-blackmail>

Rapid Review

Last week I outlined the Rapid Review process within the county, which is set in motion if a case for concern is submitted to the GSCE and I talked about the involvement that you may be required to have should the child / children attend your setting, or have previously.

Today, I'm going to share the learning from the first case of this year, in a brief overview summary.

The report from the Rapid Review will be available with the notes of this meeting.

Background The child has made an allegation of sexual abuse, including rape, perpetrated by her step-father. This abuse started when she was about 6 or 7, in 2003 (approx.). This has continued until she made the allegation on 10 March 2020. This child has been known to social care in 2013, where her case of physical harm, by the same perpetrator, was presented at ICPC but deemed not to meet threshold because the child said she lied. The child's case went to ICPC, but because she retracted her allegation of physical mistreatment the case did not proceed to CPP. She was also referred again in 2016 but no further action taken. The child has had an ABE interview and also forensic examination. She is now in care under s20.;

The child was known to agencies between 2008 and 2011 for neglect.

Key questions that emerged from the Rapid Review:

- Professional curiosity – looking at the disclosure itself; looking at the retraction of the allegations and challenging the circumstances of this (The Panel discussed and concluded that there is still not a very clear practice understanding about how the retraction of a disclosure of a criminal offence by a child is managed.); considering family circumstances such as the possibility of DA towards mum.
- Recognition and understanding (by professionals) of Domestic Abuse and its impact.
- Was the voice of the child heard? (The child's voice seems really clear in her disclosures and she described what happened to her in great detail. Professionals were taking notes but not hearing what she was saying. The information was available but it is not clear what agencies were doing about it). What did the child's lived experience look like? What is life like for them?
- Information sharing - Communication between the agencies stopped when the CIN plan ended. This might be a familiar situation to which you can relate. Along with the ICPC was held 23rd May 2013 but minutes were not made available until 14th November 2013.

The Panel concluded that this case does not need to proceed to CSPR, and the report outlines the rationale for this decision. Many of the themes raised are being addressed already by agencies, and changing culture and processes is becoming evident.

You may find the questions and themes that have arisen from this review can be well used in getting your staff team to consider them, and raising their recognition and awareness of

- Professional curiosity
- Disclosures / retraction of disclosure
- Recognition of Domestic Abuse, and the impact on the child
- What is life like for the child – their voice / their lived experience
- Information sharing – expectations / legislation / consent

vi)

NSPCC Learning has published an updated version of the factsheet on definitions and signs of child abuse. The factsheet sets out the different types of abuse and describes potential signs that a child is being abused.

If your setting is undertaking the e-learning courses in place of Whole School Training, this can be used to compliment your team's learning.

You might want to use it as a basis for a quiz during staff meetings – it's really important to keep a focus on safeguarding throughout the academic year.

<https://learning.nspcc.org.uk/media/1188/definitions-signs-child-abuse.pdf>

Covers

vii)

- Physical abuse
- Emotional abuse
- Sexual abuse
- Neglect
- Child Sexual Exploitation (including grooming)
- Female Genital Mutilation
- Harmful Sexual Behaviour
- Domestic abuse
- Bullying and Cyber-bullying
- Child Trafficking

Staff code of conduct and behaviour policy

You will be asking all staff to sign to confirm that they have read and understood this policy, so it's worth being sure that the policy is actually reflective of what happens in your setting. For example – what does the policy say about friends on social media? Is it reasonable? Is it enforced? Are there any exceptions / risk assessments in place?

viii)

For example, do you need to make any amendments concerning how professionals conduct themselves outside of their school roles, bearing in mind the proposed amendment to part 4 of KCSiE 2020 about allegations towards people who work with children and young people.

Sometimes a peer review of policies is beneficial to promote understanding amongst the team about the scope of a policy, and also to ensure compliance and the consideration of the ramifications of non compliance.

Acceptable User policy – if posting pictures on the website, does consent form cover this? Is this something that's done once in a lifetime, annually? If parents send in pictures, is this likely to be covered under consent form? Have due regard to images placed on public website – using professional judgement.

ix)	<p>DSL cover over the summer holidays</p> <p>Para 65 of KCSiE 2019: During term time, the designated safeguarding lead and/or a deputy should always be available (during school or college hours) for staff in the school or college to discuss any safeguarding concerns. It is a matter for individual schools and colleges and the designated safeguarding lead to arrange adequate and appropriate cover arrangements for any out of hours/out of term activities.</p> <p>Make sure your setting has this in place, that all staff know the details, and that you have updated the emergency contact list through the post on the Bulletin Board.</p>
x)	<p>In the Net, the e-safety performance delivered by Alter Ego, has been rescheduled for Feb 2021 for current Year 4 students (will be Year 5s by then) then another run in June 2021 for your then Year 4 students. Schedule sent out for consideration.</p>
xi)	<p>Victim Support</p> <p>For more information and to access Victim Support’s services, visit www.victimsupport.org.uk/gloucestershire</p> <p>Victims will have access to a 24/7 live chat facility allowing them to get support, help and advice from trained support workers online. If they choose, victims can access this support anonymously. “Both adults and young people can talk to a trained support worker 24/7 through our live chat facility. This allows victims to safely and securely discuss their needs with us and receive immediate support and advice.”</p> <p>There is also a dedicated website www.ygtglos.org.uk that has been designed with and for young people. It is packed with useful resources and information and is designed to empower young people, give them a voice and move them beyond crime.</p> <p>A dedicated service for children and young people affected by crime: <i>You Got This Glos</i> is Victim Support Gloucestershire’s bespoke offer of one-to-one support for young victims. The accompanying website www.ygtglos.org.uk has been co-designed with young people and contains a range of resources, advice and information to help young people after crime.</p>
<p>ANY OTHER BUSINESS</p>	
4	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Update from Early Help team – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An ongoing reminder of the Parentline service available to all parents and carers who may need support – however small – during lockdown. You can find this free helpline through the FIS webpage. • Please also be aware that the FIS Facebook page is a wide reaching resource to reach parents and carers at this time, and your school social media could signpost parents to support resources by this method also. • Early Help Co-ordinators and Community Social Workers are all available for support and guidance as you would usually make use of them. Particularly, they are keen to help with transitions from Yr6 – secondary school, joining both schools in a TAF meeting to ease the transition for the young person. • Please use your CSWs if you need to talk through a concern, or seek guidance around levels of risk or thresholds. 2. Update from Police in MASH 3. Update from CSW team 4. Update from GHLL 5. Update from Education Research in MASH.
5	<p>FINISH</p>