



**Designated Safeguarding Lead Support Hub Meeting**  
**Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2020 at 8.30am, 11.00am and 3.30pm**  
**Venue: Virtual Meeting Room**

Welcome to all

As ever, if you have queries, or need any support or guidance please email the team at

[gsep@gloucestershire.gov.uk](mailto:gsep@gloucestershire.gov.uk)

Notes from today's meeting will be available on the Education pages of the GSCB website along with links to all documents referenced.

#### **INTRODUCTION**

- Last time we heard about the changes to the way in which the Community Social Work teams will be contactable. Please check the notes from last week that are available on the Education pages of the GSCB website. **The number to call is 01452 426263.**
- Last time we shared the information that the Neglect Toolkit should be used every time a referral to the MASH is made concerning neglect. Please see last week's notes for full details of this process.
- Last time we gave advanced warning that the S175 Safeguarding audit would be with you in early December, so plenty of time to re-visit last year's action plan and speak with us if you would like a support visit.
- Last week we delivered a webinar around making a referral, and what a good MARF looks like. The link to the recording of this session has gone out, but if anyone has missed this, please email us at [gsep@gloucestershire.gov.uk](mailto:gsep@gloucestershire.gov.uk) and we'll get the link to the recording out to you. HUGE apologies that the original link sent out had no sound!!
- **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](mailto:gsep@gloucestershire.gov.uk)

For previous updates, please refer to minutes of earlier meetings which are available on the GSCB website [www.gscb.org.uk](http://www.gscb.org.uk)

### **Elective Home Education**

Sian Edwards is the lead for EHE within the LA, although everyone in the Education Inclusion Team and the 3 Parent Advisers are all EHE Officers

EHE has come up a lot recently, and Sian is making sure that our partners have all the information that we are sending out, as rising numbers are a huge concern as schools return. It is important that we have a shared message and you know where to point schools and families to if necessary.

Below you will see several links to a number of pages where the attached information can be found. You can contact Inclusion Officers with queries and they will know if something needs to be escalated to Sian.

- [Schoolsnet EHE page](#)
- [GCC Home Education Public Page](#)
- [Bulletin Board – EHE Guidance for Schools](#)
- [Schools reopening FAQ's for parents/carers](#)

Additionally, these documents will be available as PDFs with the notes from this meeting, through the Education pages of the GSCB website.

### **Training Update**

As you will be aware multi-agency training (face to face) has been suspended since lockdown and the decision has been made to extend this period until the end of the year 2020.

However, as a practitioner in Gloucestershire working to safeguard children and young people you will be able to stay up to date with your safeguarding training through our NEW virtual training courses which will be online.

We are in the process of re-designing our multi-agency courses to ensure they are relevant, inter-active and engaging, and ensuring that learning from Serious Case Reviews, Rapid Reviews and Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews are embedded. This we will deliver through a well-established, web-based teaching tool called the Big Blue Button.

In the following months we will begin by offering our mandatory Child Protection courses and courses linked to the priorities of the GSCE i.e. neglect, domestic abuse and child sexual exploitation, gradually bringing on board all of our other training courses in a phased plan. We will also offer a range of safeguarding e-learning programmes which form part of a blended learning approach and support internal training that practitioners receive in their own agencies or organisations.

- During this Covid-19 period, the GSCE has developed an online Learner Management and booking system, which will support practitioners in upskilling their knowledge by offering a range of blended learning opportunities in the form of a Library of virtual multi-agency training courses, recommended e-learning courses, complementary 40 minute to one hour themed webinars, which are either 'live' or pre-recorded; and links to safeguarding briefings, videos and other useful resources.
- In addition, we will offer briefings and online webinars on the findings from selected local Rapid Reviews undertaken in the county in the last six months and Local Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews.

**Webinars:**

- Going forward, we have a webinar due for delivery on October 14th around the Rapid Reviews held in the county recently. This will be delivered by the Business Manager of the Safeguarding Support Unit for the GSCE. Joining instructions will come out to you w/c 5th October.
- There also are three free webinars in the pipeline from GCC to support schools through the process of long term recovery. Once we are able to share further details of these, we will.
- **The International Organization for Migration** cultural awareness webinars began on the 17th September, with a session on Afghanistan. Please see below for the four registration links for the remaining sessions:

15 October 2020: IOM UK Iraqi Information Session (South West)

<https://iom.webex.com/iom/onstage/g.php?MTID=e9f9637fdeb84e6d8448f5afa0311eefb>

2 November 2020: IOM UK Somali Information Session (South West)

<https://iom.webex.com/iom/onstage/g.php?MTID=e54ed9845637b79a7801596563ffb3c28>

1 December 2020: IOM UK Syrian Information Session (South West)

<https://iom.webex.com/iom/onstage/g.php?MTID=e9aeb4ffdcfc432ac728636831d7e5827>

**Domestic Abuse -**

Please see below link to **an article from The Guardian** about the work of an IDVA (independent Domestic Violence Advocate) which may be of interest and give some insight into the work that Domestic Abuse Services (GDASS and West Mercia Women’s Aid) do day to day in Gloucestershire:

(made me shiver when I read it)

Something to think about:

“A client has a meeting with social workers. Her children are on the child protection register due to domestic abuse perpetrated by their father. The social worker is reviewing the list of things their mum must do under the safety plan. There are 14 things on the list. The father, the reason we are all there, isn’t even required to turn up to the meeting.

**I am her voice when she feels unable to speak. I am a fierce advocate, articulating the level of responsibility they are placing on the survivor of abuse – and comparing it with that given to the perpetrator.”**

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If you have a domestic abuse champion within your setting, please share this with them to enable them to raise awareness within your setting.

<https://www.theguardian.com/society/2020/sep/14/working-week-cry-hearing-domestic-abuse-survivors-lucky-alive>

**From Unnoticed to Invisible: The Impact of COVID-19 on Children and Young People Experiencing Domestic Violence and Abuse**

This paper provides an overview of the impact that COVID-19 has had on specialist services delivering support to children and young people experiencing domestic violence and abuse (DVA). It draws upon the experiences of being the operational manager of two specialist children's services. *The target audience includes professionals working with young people in a range of settings including schools, youth clubs and statutory services.*

This document will be available with the notes from this meeting on the Education pages of the GSCB website.

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**Disclosure of domestic abuse from an employee, or advice and guidance around supporting employees affected by domestic abuse:**

Hestia have recently launched a new helpline for employers/business to support them in responding effectively to a disclosure of domestic abuse from an employee, or looking for other advice and guidance around supporting employees affected by domestic abuse.

**Advice Line on 07770480437 or via email [Adviceline.EB@hestia.org](mailto:Adviceline.EB@hestia.org) between 10am-3pm Monday to Friday for support.**

Further details of the advice line and toolkit can be found here:

<https://www.hestia.org/pages/category/everyones-business>

**The local guidance document on producing an organisational policy on DASV is attached with the notes for this meeting, on the Education pages of the GSCB website.**

6	<p><b>Safeguarding for administrators</b></p> <p>We've got quite a lot going on for your School Business Managers / administrators between now and when we next meet for a Hub.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Today and next Weds we are running virtual course purely for administrators. This is the second time we've run this course and it's proving an eye opener for everyone!</li><li>• W/C 28<sup>th</sup> Sept the team are running a full week of Single Central Record check in sessions and we are fully booked on each day 😊</li><li>• We plan to run SCR check in sessions monthly, as demand seems to require that, so further dates will be available soon.</li></ul> <p>Do check in with your admin teams and see if they need any support with safeguarding, or if there is anything they can do to support you with safeguarding within your settings.</p>
7	<p><b>Neglect</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Last time we heard from the Community Social Work team about raising the profile of using the GSCE Neglect Toolkit. Recent Serious Case Reviews and Rapid Reviews have identified that neglect of children and young people in the county is being un-noticed and un-reported, so it is a high priority issue for the GSCE to address.</li><li>• <b>The Community Social Worker, Nichola Spear advised that the toolkit should not be seen as a single agency tool and they are happy to help with talking to families and completing the toolkit. Email queries and toolkits to <a href="mailto:neglecttoolkit@gloucestershire.gov.uk">neglecttoolkit@gloucestershire.gov.uk</a></b></li><li>• The University of Bristol have produced a paper, drawing on research from a Health and Care Research Wales funded study into how schools identify and respond to child neglect. It provides recommendations for best practice for school staff and social workers in child protection teams, and broader messages for inter-professional safeguarding practice.</li></ul> <p>This document will be included with the notes for this meeting on the Education pages of the GSCB website. It's not an instruction manual, just a piece of reading for information!</p>
8	<p><b>Possible Scam – advised by Police</b></p> <p>A colleague whose wife is a Headteacher in another area contacted me last week as her school had received an unsolicited DVD named 'Respecting Relationships' a few months back via post. They thought nothing of it and stored it away but have now received an invoice for £68 for said DVD, and are concerned this may be a scam of sorts. It's not something we've come across before so we're unsure if it is a scam, or just unusual / questionable sales tactics.</p> <p>We have done some research on the company name to no avail – their website and social media accounts are dormant and there is no record of said company on Companies House, etc. The invoice didn't have any company / VAT numbers either.</p>

## ANY OTHER BUSINESS

### 1. Update from Early Help team

The Early Help Co-ordinators continue to work with school supporting families and young people with additional support needs.

### 2. Update from Education Research in MASH

Halah Shams El-Din, Senior Education Researcher, reminded everyone to ensure that their Operation Encompass alerts were being received by at least three people in school to avoid them not being picked up. She also asked schools to remind staff to not be too trusting. They have become aware that some schools are giving out information without being 100% sure who they are talking to. Most schools know Halah and her team but no-one will mind you double checking before giving out information. This is especially important for those new members of staff who don't know the team. Attached are two documents that explain Operation Encompass and the work of Halah's team.

### 3. Update from GHLL

Just a reminder that there are a number of new resources on the GHLL website to support young peoples mental health needs post lockdown as they return to school.

### 4. Update from CSW team

If you work with children and families and have safeguarding concerns which are not of an urgent nature and would like a conversation, please contact the Community Social Work Team on 01452 426263.

Further info in the attached including neglect toolkit information. *Copy of GSCE Alert - Seeking support when you have a safeguarding concern & Important Updates on the Gloucestershire - GSCE Neglect Toolkit and Checklist*

We have been having some problems with the phone line which are being sorted but advice is to stay on the phone as it can take time to connect and can also call MASH option 2 if not urgent

### 5. Update from Schoolbeat

The Schoolbeat officers are back working with schools. If you haven't heard from yours, do get in touch with them to arrange support.