



Educational Safeguarding DSL newsletter

Academic year 2025/2026

Edition: 3

Date 03 November 2025



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## Important Updates and Information

### Spy Dogs/Pups and Spy Cat book written by Andrew Cope – 09.10.2025

On 09 October we made DSL / Deputy DSL's aware of the following

The children's book series 'Spy Dogs/Pups' and 'Spy Cat books', written by Andrew Cope, contains a link to a website which contains highly pornographic content. The book asked children to explore the website to find out more about the characters. It appears the website (identified on the back or inside page) [www.spydog451.co.uk](http://www.spydog451.co.uk) has been compromised and takes users to a pornographic website with no age verification.

It seems this matter is circulating on Tick Tok with a lot of attention being given to the issue and to help you manage a response accordingly.

Actions for schools:

- Check your libraries and reading areas for these books and remove any copies immediately.
- If you use an online reader programme, disable the access to this series here also.
- Using the attached template, circulate a communication to parent/carers today.
- Should you have an electronic library system, see who may have these books out on loan and request they be returned immediately.

Should you have any questions, or any further support please do not hesitate to contact the team and our details can be found at the end of the DSL newsletter

### Education Safeguarding Section 175/157: 2024-2025 Declaration

A different approach in 2024 -2025 Section 175/157 quality assurance to WSCP on the effectiveness of safeguarding in schools.

In light, of the changes due for KCSIE 2025 and Children's Wellbeing and Schools Bill it is likely that schools will make a number of changes to safeguarding procedures through the course of the next academic year. To simplify the assessment for 2024/25 and to act as a baseline, schools will be asked to self-assess their safeguarding using the questions from 2023-2024 Section 175/157.

School leaders will be asked to declare that they have completed the self-assessment audit form and give assurance that the self-assessment audit has been signed off by the schools Full Governing Body FGB, with an overall outcome of effective or ineffective safeguarding and that any necessary actions for improvement are planned to be undertaken

The education safeguarding team will produce a report for WSCP based on the outcome of the Section 175/157 declaration returns from schools and that includes - quality assurance and evaluation outcomes from schools and findings from complaints made to Ofsted regarding schools. The report will also include a training report and will be presented to WSCP November 2025 by the education safeguarding team.

Thank you to schools that have submitted the below forms. If you did not submit the below forms by 31 October please complete and return immediately to Denise via [Dhannibal@worcestershire.gov.uk](mailto:Dhannibal@worcestershire.gov.uk). If you have any questions contact please contact Denise directly on 01905 844436

- [Section 175 Safeguarding Audit](#)

- [Education Safeguarding Section 175 157 declaration](#)

## Steer Clear Training update

We are pleased to announce that Rachel Barry, Steer Clear Service Manager at The Children's Society, will be delivering a 90-minute workshop on knife crime awareness. The Children's Society are keen to ensure Worcestershire Schools are aware of the early intervention programme and resources so they can become pro-active rather than re-active in dealing with a situation.

### Steer Clear – Knife Crime Awareness Workshop

Steer Clear is an early intervention knife crime programme in West Mercia.

During the 90-minute workshop we will provide an overview of the Steer Clear programme and discuss what support we can offer as well as insights into:

- the latest knife crime statistics
- emerging trends and themes
- practical steps we can take as professionals to talk to young people about knives and safety in the community
- local signposting

Audience: DSL, Deputy DSL's, Pastoral Staff

Cost: Free

- 10 December 2025, 9.30am to 11am, virtual delivery, course code: 10649

### How to book:

- Bookings are made via CPD using your school CPD Leader login details (usually with the office)
- <https://capublic.worcestershire.gov.uk/LearnCPD/CoursesSearch.aspx>
- Confirmations with links to join are issued at the point of booking
- If you encounter any issues when booking please contact the Training Team on 01905 844 420 / [workforcesupport@worcestershire.gov.uk](mailto:workforcesupport@worcestershire.gov.uk)

## Resources

### Worcestershire Safeguarding Children Partnership Newsletter

This issue includes:

- Publication of our Annual Report
- Upcoming events and training opportunities
- Resources to support your work with children and families

[October WSCP newsletter \(opens in new window\)](#)

### Anti-Bullying Week 2025: Power for Good

Anti Bullying Alliance (ABA) are official organisers of Anti-Bullying Week and Odd Socks Day in England, Wales and Northern Ireland. Anti-Bullying Week 2025 will take place from Monday 10th - Friday 14th November, with the theme: Power for Good. The week will kick off with Odd Socks Day

on Monday 10th, with adults and children being encouraged to wear odd socks to celebrate what makes us all unique.

Further information is available from the ABA website [Anti-Bullying Week 2025: Power for Good](#).

Useful resources:

- [Advice for GP's](#)
- [Kidscope Hopeful and Helpful brochure 2025](#)
- [Parent and Carer Anti-bullying week 2025](#)
- [Poster for Schools](#)
- [Primary School & Youth Setting Pack](#)
- [Purple Poster for Schools](#)

## Kooth

- [Suicide prevention and awareness for professionals](#)

## Togetherness from Best Start in Public Health

Best Start in Public Health would appreciate the below information being shared to all Worcestershire parents-to-be, parents, grandparents and carers of any child from pregnancy up to teenage years where they can find out how to access fully funded NHS-endorsed online courses covering emotional wellbeing, child development and positive family relationships.

Worcestershire County Council and the local Health and Care Trust jointly fund **Togetherness** (formerly *inourplace.co.uk*) to ensure that all parents and carers across Worcestershire can access free, NHS-endorsed online courses and wellbeing resources.

### What is Togetherness?

Togetherness is a digital learning platform developed by psychologists and health professionals. It offers a wide range of accessible, evidence-based courses designed to support:

- **Emotional wellbeing** for parents, carers, and children
- **Child development** from pregnancy through to the teenage years
- **Positive family relationships** and behaviour management

These resources are proven to improve mental health, strengthen family bonds, and empower parents and carers with practical tools and insights.

## Safeguarding Conference

### Final reminder: Managing Allegations – low level concerns masterclass

We look forward to welcoming you to our Virtual Masterclass around Managing Allegations and Low-level concerns.

Karen Green our practice manager will be doing a session on the LADO threshold and referral process. You will hear key messages from Management of Allegations Training. This will develop your knowledge of Management of Allegations against adults in a Position of Trust working/volunteering with children, support your application of LADO Thresholds and your role within the Management of Allegations process.

Denise Hannibal and Hayley Doyle from Our Education Safeguarding Team will also be taking you through a low-level concerns scenario workshop.

Mary Jones our WCC HR Team Leader will be presenting learning and outcomes from school referrals to the LADO to include themes in the academic year 2024-2025.

Cost:

- £40 + VAT per delegate
- One place will be **FREE** to those schools who sign up to the safeguarding SLA 25/26 and we unsuccessful in gaining a place on the 11 September Safeguarding conference.
- 26 November 2025, 9.30am to 12pm, virtual delivery, CPD code: 10607

### How to book

Bookings for any training offered via the Safeguarding SLA 25/26, and not otherwise indicated, need to be booked via CPD <https://capublic.worcestershire.gov.uk/LearnCPD/CoursesSearch.aspx>.

Each School has a CPD Leader login, this must be used to make the bookings and will generally be held by the Head / Deputy Head or SLT, Office /Business or Finance Managers.

Confirmations are issued immediately and go to the delegate email provided at the point of booking, please ensure that you check junk / spam folders for the email.

## Safeguarding Training

### WCC DSL network meetings

Cost: Free

Date	Time		CPD course code	CPD session code
11 November 2025	3pm to 4.30pm	Virtual Delivery	10438	91715
13 November 2025	3pm to 4.30pm	Virtual Delivery	10438	91716
18 March 2026 (**)	3pm to 4.30pm	Bromsgrove (face to face)	10438	91717
19 March 2026	3pm to 4.30pm	Worcester (face to face)	10438	91718
16 June 2026	3pm to 4.30pm	Virtual Delivery	10438	91719
18 June 2026	3pm to 4.30pm	Virtual Delivery	10438	91720

(\*\*) Please note that the 17 March 2026 DSL Network meeting has moved date to the 18 March 2026 due to the school that has agreed to host for us. Anyone who had booked the original date has been contacted and if you need to move then please let the Training Team know by emailing [workforcesupport@worcestershire.gov.uk](mailto:workforcesupport@worcestershire.gov.uk)

## Introduction to the Role of the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL)

A specific 6-hour course for NEW Designated Safeguarding Leads (DSL) and Deputy DSL's to support them in their understand of the role and responsibilities.

Delegates on completion of this course would be expected to progress onto the Full day Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) training course.

Cost:

- Free to schools who have purchased the Education Safeguarding Support SLA
- If schools have not purchased the Safeguarding Support SLA, then the price is £186 + VAT.

Date	Time		CPD course code	CPD session code
05 December 2025	9am to 4pm	Virtual Delivery	10590	91735
14 January 2026	9am to 4pm	Virtual Delivery	10590	91736
20 March 2026	9am to 4pm	Worcester	10590	91737
19 May 2026	9am to 4pm	Worcester	10590	91738
22 June 2026	9am to 4pm	Worcester	10590	91739

## Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) training

Aims and objectives:

- For Designated Safeguarding Leads (DSL), designed to **refresh and update** knowledge on the early help and child protection procedures.
- To understand DSL roles and responsibilities
- To understand how and when to make a referral to Family Front Door (FFD)
- To be confident when to share/not share and/or seek advice about information sharing.
- To be confident in undertaking an Early Help Assessment

**Cost:**

- Free to schools who have purchased the Education Safeguarding Support SLA.
- If schools have not purchased the Safeguarding Support SLA then the price is £186+ VAT.

**Autumn Term 2025**

Date	Time		CPD course code	CPD session code
26 November 2025	9am to 4pm	Virtual Delivery	10591	91752
02 December 2025	9am to 4pm	Virtual Delivery	10591	91753
08 December 2025	9am to 4pm	Virtual Delivery	10591	91754

Spring and Summer 2026 term dates are available on CPD – search CPD code 10591

## Early years and childcare designated safeguarding lead (DSL) training

This training is specifically for the Designated Safeguarding Lead, Deputy DSL or those who are looking to become the DSL / Deputy DSL in early years and childcare settings across Worcestershire. The training has been devised to support DSL's who are new to the role, experienced and extremely experienced.

Content is updated regularly and includes a detailed look at signs and symptoms, legislation, guidance and responsibilities, record keeping, making referrals, multi-agency working, child protection meetings, serious case reviews, and exploring barriers to good practice.

Cost: £50 + VAT

Cost: Free for schools who have the Safeguarding SLA for 24/25 academic year

- 09 and 16 January 2026, 9.30am to 12.30pm, virtual delivery, course code: 10052 / 91261
- 27 January and 03 February 2026, 7pm to 10pm, virtual delivery, course code: 10052 / 91262
- 25 February and 04 March 2026, 7pm to 10pm, virtual delivery, course code: 10052 / 91263
- 16 and 23 March 2026, 6.30pm to 9.30pm, virtual delivery, course code: 10052 / 91264

## Safeguarding Children in Education – Governors Roles & responsibilities

This course will:

- inform governors about recent legislative national and local developments in child protection.
- clarify the roles and responsibilities of governors in relation to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people in their schools.
- provide a basic awareness of child abuse and the effect it can have on children.

Cost: This course is heavily subsidised to schools who have purchased the Education Safeguarding Support SLA

- £63 + VAT for those who have the Safeguarding SLA
- £138 + VAT for those schools who have not purchased the Safeguarding SLA

<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Delivery style</b>	<b>CPD course code</b>	<b>CPD session code</b>
12 November 2025	6.30pm to 8.30pm	virtual delivery	10123	91726
22 January 2026	6.30pm to 8.30pm	virtual delivery	10123	91727

Spring and Summer 2026 term dates are available on CPD – search CPD code 10123

## Managing Allegations

This course is aimed at those head teachers, chairs of governing bodies and other senior managers with responsibility for dealing with allegations of abuse against teachers and other staff, including supply teachers and volunteers.

The course will cover all aspects of Part 4 of Keeping Children Safe in Education (September 2024/2025), including your duties as an employer, initial considerations when an allegation is received, providing support and managing the situation.

It will provide information which will help you to better understand the Management of Allegations processes, the role of the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO), and the role of the multi-agency network.

It will provide you details on the legislation, procedures and processes; ensure you know what to do if there is an allegation against a professional; and better understand your role as professionals working in regulated activity.

The course objectives include how to identify children and young people who are suffering or likely to suffer significant harm and then take action with the aim of making sure they are kept safe.

Cost: This course is heavily subsidised to schools who have purchased the Education Safeguarding Support SLA

- FREE for those who have the Safeguarding SLA
- £138 + VAT for those schools who have not purchased the Safeguarding SLA
- £33 + VAT for PVI Early Years Settings

Date	Time	Delivery style	CPD course code	CPD session code
27 November 2025	1pm to 4pm	Virtual Delivery	10589	91705

Spring and Summer 2026 term dates are available on CPD – search CPD code 10589

## Safer recruitment in educational settings

This course covers the following areas.

- Safer recruitment and the wider context of safeguarding
- Prevalence of abuse and profile of abusers and how abusers operate within organisations.
- Features of a safer recruitment process and planning a safer recruitment process
- Making the right decisions: interview and selection
- Setting acceptable standards of behaviour and maintaining an ongoing culture of vigilance

Audience: DSL / Deputy DSL's, Head or Deputy Teachers, any staff involved in recruitment process in schools or settings

Cost: This course is heavily subsidised to schools who have purchased the Education Safeguarding Support SLA

- For schools with the Safeguarding SLA - £93 + VAT
- For schools WHO HAVE NOT purchased the Safeguarding SLA - £186 + VAT

<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Delivery style</b>	<b>CPD course code</b>	<b>CPD session code</b>
27 November and 04 December 2025	9.30am to 12.30pm	virtual delivery	10132	91722
05 and 12 February 2026	9.30am to 12.30pm	virtual delivery	10132	91723
23 and 30 April 2026	9.30am to 12.30pm	virtual delivery	10132	91724
11 and 18 June 2026	9.30am to 12.30pm	virtual delivery	10132	91725

## Understanding the Single Central Record requirements

A two-hour course delivered virtually that will look at what is a Single Central Record (SCR), why we need a SCR, who is responsible for the SCR and what are the statutory requirements from Ofsted.

Audience: Anyone reviewing or managing the Single Central Record (SCR) for example Business / Finance Manager, Safeguarding Governor, Head or Deputy Head, administrative staff.

Cost: This course is heavily subsidised to schools who have purchased the Education Safeguarding Support SLA

- For schools with the Safeguarding SLA - £53 + VAT
- For schools WHO HAVE NOT purchased the Safeguarding SLA - £105+ VAT

Safeguarding Governors will need to have places booked via CPD by their Clerk, or whoever within the school has responsibility for booking governor training.

Date	Time	Delivery style	CPD course code	CPD session code
10 December 2025	1.30pm to 3.30pm	virtual delivery	10174	91711

Spring and Summer 2026 term dates are available on CPD – search CPD code 10174

### How to book

Bookings for any training offered via the Safeguarding SLA 25/26, and not otherwise indicated, need to be booked via CPD <https://capublic.worcestershire.gov.uk/LearnCPD/CoursesSearch.aspx>.

Each School has a CPD Leader login, this must be used to make the bookings and will generally be held by the Head / Deputy Head or SLT, Office /Business or Finance Managers.

Confirmations are issued immediately and go to the delegate email provided at the point of booking, please ensure that you check junk / spam folders for the email.

## WCC Learning & Development training

### GET SAFE training

Safeguarding Children, young people and vulnerable adults is everybody's responsibility. This raising awareness of exploitation & vulnerability course aims to raise your awareness of: Vulnerability, adverse childhood experiences, organised crime groups/gangs; Modern day slavery, consent for sexual activity; Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE), criminal exploitation; Appropriate language and use of; National referral mechanism; GDPR/disclosure and Pathways/ diversionary/sharing of intelligence.

**Cost:** Free to all schools, DSL and DDSLs to attend

### Reducing Parental Conflict

Harmony at Home is Worcestershire's approach to the Reducing Parental Conflict (RPC) initiative in partnership with the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) and organisations from our multi-agency Reference group.

- Cost: free to all Schools / DSL and DDSL's

### Providing Early Help in Worcestershire Workshops

This session will cover the four areas:

- What is Early Help?
- How to creatively gather the child's voice
- Completing an Early Help Assessment
- Holding a Team Around the Family meeting

### How to book via the L&D booking system

To book : [External agencies - WCC | L&D Booking system](#)

Instructions for completing:

- Do you have an account – No thanks
- Course price – as the course is free click in public circle
- Select organisation from dropdown box – Public
- Put in your address
- Then click book course

If you notice in the top right-hand corner, your name, then please log out. This should then allow you to make the booking.

If you require support with booking, please contact WCC Learning & Development team directly on 01905 844 544 or email [LAdmin@worcestershire.gov.uk](mailto:LAdmin@worcestershire.gov.uk)

## Externally provided Safeguarding Training

### Sarah Wigley – Domestic Abuse training

This (recently updated) training has been running since February 2019 and has been commissioned by Worcestershire County Council (Public Health) and is taking place online via zoom.

There are three modules of training, and the learning outcomes can be found on the attached flyer. This training is FREE.

The 3 modules of training are: -

- Module 1: Understanding and Responding to Domestic Abuse
- Module 2: Working with Domestic Abuse within the context of Multi Agency Working – promoting critically reflective practice
- Module 3: Understanding and Working with Perpetrators

The modules and dates available between September and December 2025 are on the [attached flyer](#).

To apply for a place please email: [bookings@sarahwigleyassociates.co.uk](mailto:bookings@sarahwigleyassociates.co.uk)

### Purple Leaf and Pathfinder

Hannah Cooper, Early Intervention and Prevention Services Manager at West Midlands Rape & Sexual Abuse Support Centre (WMRSASC) has shared the updated Purple Leaf and Pathfinder Project training schedule for September – December 2025.

- [Purple Leaf Autumn 2025 Training Schedule](#)
- [SBCCAS Training course](#)
- [Sexual Abuse in the Family Context Training course](#)
- [Understanding and responding sexualised behaviour](#)

### Centre of Expertise on Child Sexual abuse training

The Centre of Expertise on Child Sexual abuse specifically for West Midlands are offering a range of free webinars for DSLs during September to November 2025.

All webinars are delivered via MS Teams

For further information please download the [CSA training dates \(opens in new window\)](#) and links will take you through to MS Teams Events to book your space.

## Useful websites

- Education Safeguarding: [Safeguarding support for teachers and education professionals | Worcestershire County Council](#)
- CPD [Courses Search \(worcestershires.gov.uk\)](#)
- KCSIE [Keeping children safe in education - GOV.UK](#)
- Home Office (Prevent) [The Prevent duty: safeguarding learners vulnerable to radicalisation - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

## Education Safeguarding team contacts

### Denise Hannibal

- Education and Early Year Safeguarding Lead for Safeguarding Education
- Email: [dhannibal@worcestershires.gov.uk](mailto:dhannibal@worcestershires.gov.uk)
- Telephone: 01905 844436

### Hayley Doyle

- Area Safeguarding Officer for Safeguarding Education
- Email: [Hdoyle@worcestershires.gov.uk](mailto:Hdoyle@worcestershires.gov.uk)
- Telephone: 01905 845230

## Operation Encompass contact

### Gem Rainsford-Grady

- Operation Encompass Schools: [opencompasssch@worcestershires.gov.uk](mailto:opencompasssch@worcestershires.gov.uk)
- Operation Encompass Early Years: [opencompassseys@worcestershires.gov.uk](mailto:opencompassseys@worcestershires.gov.uk)
- Email: [Ggrady@worcestershires.gov.uk](mailto:Ggrady@worcestershires.gov.uk)
- Telephone: 01905 728530