



Educational Safeguarding DSL newsletter

Academic year 2025/2026

Edition: 5

Date 12 January 2026



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Important Updates, Information and resources

Joint Herefordshire and Worcestershire Multi Agency Levels of Need

Updated September 2025 the guidance will help support children, young people and families in Herefordshire and Worcestershire

[Joint Herefordshire and Worcestershire Levels of Need](#)

Com Networks: Alert for Safeguarding Children Partnerships

Worcestershire Safeguarding Children Partnership (WSCP) have been asked to share to all School DSL / Deputy DSL's the following to resources

- [Com Networks – An Alert for Local Safeguarding Children Partnerships](#)
- [Graffiti Examples](#)

They have been designed to inform, raise awareness and assist safeguarding partnerships/practitioners in recognising and responding to the emerging threat of Com Networks and are not for sharing with parents / carers or students.

Updated DfE guidance on 'restrictive interventions, including use of reasonable force, in schools'

- To download the [Use of reasonable force in schools guidance, from GOV.UK](#)

Headline changes in the guidance, which is effective from 1st April 2026:

- Recording and reporting – now statutory (p.14-18)
 - Schools to record and report to parents/carers each significant incident in which a staff member uses force on a pupil, including any incident involving the use of seclusion or restraint.
 - Record incidents (in a bound and numbered book or electronic recording system). Minimum requirements
 - Report incidents to parents/carers as soon as practicable after the event, ideally on the same day as the incident.
- **Clarifications on terminology**, such as 'seclusion' and 'significant incident' (p.5).
- A new section on **seclusion** – 'a non-disciplinary intervention involving keeping a pupil confined to a place away from others and prevented from leaving - should only be used as a safety measure to protect others from harm when a pupil is experiencing high levels of emotional or behavioural dysregulation.' (p.8).
- **Fostering a 'culture of continuous improvement'** through pupil and staff support.
- Considerations for pupils with **special educational needs and/or disabilities** (p.11-12).
- **Guidance for governing bodies and proprietors** on regularly reviewing and interrogating data and ensuring that the school's procedures for recording and reporting are complied with.

Families First

The Families First reforms provide an opportunity to improve how we receive and respond to both referrals and information sharing from partners, families, and members of the community.

Following increased demand through our Children's Families Front Door since Covid-19, we have reviewed our processes in line with Working Together 2023, our Worcestershire levels of need guidance, and the Social Care reforms to ensure we identify safeguarding concerns quickly and connect families with the right support at the right time.

The [partnership document \(opens in new window\)](#) will provide details on:

- Worcestershire Families First Strategic Partnership
- Changes to the Children's Family Front Door from December 2025
- New Family Connect Team
- Early Help Family Support Team changes
- Children's Services referral portals – changes / open cases

Creating the right culture – managing conduct and allegations

During the Managing Allegations Conference which took place in November 2025, we launched the latest resource available to all DSL / Deputy DSL's

- [Creating the right culture – managing conduct and allegations](#)

For those schools with the Safeguarding SLA for 25/26, the above resource has been automatically added into the SLA 25/26 Google drive that has been previously shared to you.

If you have the Safeguarding SLA for 25/26 and cannot find the Google drive link then please contact the Training Team on 09105 844 420 / workforcesupport@worcestershire.gov.uk for it to be re-sent.

If your School / College IT systems restrict access to Google Drive, resources can be shared via the Children's Services Portal. To arrange this, please contact Rachael via the Training Team email provided above.

DSL / Deputy DSL's - access to CPD

As DSL / Deputy DSL's we fully appreciate that when it comes to booking Safeguarding training you do need the ability to book as and when required, without a delay waiting for someone else to undertake this for you.

As such we'd recommend that where there are several DSL / Deputy DSL's within your school at least one has access to CPD for booking.

Centre of expertise on child sexual abuse are delivering training for DSL's

Worcestershire are pleased to welcome CSA (Centre of expertise on child sexual abuse) to deliver Identifying and responding to child sexual abuse in education settings – for School Designated Safeguarding Leads.

Identifying and responding to child sexual abuse in education settings for School DSL

This one-day course will equip School DSL / Deputy DSL's with:

- A better understanding of
 - the scale and nature of child sexual abuse
 - how the impact of child sexual abuse presents in children and young people, with particular focus on how it may present in an education environment
 - how education professionals can build a picture of their concerns of child sexual abuse, and when a referral to children's services should be made

- how children communicate their experiences of sexual abuse, and the role that education professionals can play in helping them do this.
- Greater confidence in identifying and responding to concerns of child sexual abuse.
- Greater confidence in identifying and responding to harmful sexual behaviour between children.

Trainer: Lorraine Myles, CSA

Cost: Schools with the 25/26 Safeguarding SLA - £60 + VAT / Schools without the 25/26

Safeguarding SLA - £85 + VAT

- 22 April 2026, 9am to 4pm, Worcester (lunch is provided), Course Code: 10674 / 92852
- 23 April 2026, 9am to 4pm, Worcester (lunch is provided), Course code: 10674 / 92583

How to book: Bookings need to be made 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.

DBS Update Service: Workshop for West Midlands Local Authorities

The Disclosure and Barring Service are delivering a free one-hour workshop in February, open to all schools within West Midlands, on the DBS Update Service

The DBS Update Service is an online subscription that lets employers carry out a free, instant online check to view the status of an existing Standard or Enhanced DBS certificate.

This workshop will explore the benefits to organisations and will be of value to those who hold responsibility for safer recruitment and employment and who are interested in learning more about this service and how to use it.

- 11 February 2026
- 10am to 12pm
- Via MS Teams
- Booking direct via DBS using the following link - [DBS Event - 11 Feb 2026](#)

Safeguarding Training

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.

DSL Network Meetings – March 2026

Cost: Free

Date	Time		CPD course code	CPD session code
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

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
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.

Spring Term 2026

Date	Time		CPD course code	CPD session code
15 January 2026	9am to 4pm	Virtual Delivery	10591	91756
19 January 2026	9am to 4pm	Virtual Delivery	10591	91757
29 January 2026	9am to 4pm	Virtual Delivery	10591	91758
10 February 2026	9am to 4pm	Virtual Delivery	10591	91760
27 February 2026	9am to 4pm	Worcester	10591	91761
06 March 2026	9am to 4pm	Virtual Delivery	10591	91762
09 March 2026	9am to 4pm	Worcester	10591	91763
23 March 2026	9am to 4pm	Virtual Delivery	10591	91764

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

- 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

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 January 2026	9am to 12pm	Virtual Delivery	10589	91706
12 March 2026	1pm to 4pm	Virtual Delivery	10589	91707
15 May 2026	9am to 12pm	Virtual Delivery	10589	91708
09 July 2026	9am to 12pm	Virtual Delivery	10589	91709

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

Date	Time	Delivery style	CPD course code	CPD session code
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

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

Date	Time	Delivery style	CPD course code	CPD session code
22 January 2026	6.30pm to 8.30pm	virtual delivery	10123	91727

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
04 March 2026	9.30am to 11.30am	virtual delivery	10174	91712
06 May 2026	1.30pm to 3.30pm	virtual delivery	10174	91712
01 July 2026	9.30am to 11.30am	virtual delivery	10174	91714

Multi-agency training

The following course are offered via the WCC Learning & Development team, as such please follow the instructions below to book:

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@worcestershires.gov.uk

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

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

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.

Cut It Out - Raising Awareness of and Tackling Domestic Abuse

Cut It Out training on raising awareness of professionals about domestic abuse and how to help.

We are offering this vital training FREE to all professionals working in any sector.

#Cut It Out recognises that certain professionals are in a position of privilege with their clients, not only working physically close to them but also very often, they are someone trusted to talk to or confide in. This initiative aims to help professionals recognise the signs of domestic abuse, whilst raising awareness of where they can signpost clients to get help and importantly give professionals the confidence to start that difficult conversation.

Delivered by Martin Lakeman, (Domestic Abuse and Safeguarding Consultant), and funded by The Police and Crime Commissioner and Councillors from Worcestershire County Council, this training is to encourage those in positions of trust to be confident in having difficult, sensitive conversations, to be professionally curious and to be able to sign post clients/victims to specialist support agencies.

- 27 January 2026, 9.30am at Pershore Civic Centre
- 09 February 2026, 09.30am at Malvern Hills District Council

Bookings for #Cut It Out are being done via [EventBrite \(opens in new window\)](#)

Useful websites

- Education Safeguarding: [Safeguarding support for teachers and education professionals | Worcestershire County Council](#)
- CPD [Courses Search \(worcestershire.gov.uk\)](#)
- 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@worcestershire.gov.uk
- Telephone: 01905 844436

Hayley Doyle

- Area Safeguarding Officer for Safeguarding Education
- Email: Hdoyle@worcestershire.gov.uk
- Telephone: 01905 845230

Operation Encompass contact

Gem Rainsford-Grady

- Operation Encompass Schools: opencompasssch@worcestershire.gov.uk
- Operation Encompass Early Years: opencompasseys@worcestershire.gov.uk
- Email: Ggrady@worcestershire.gov.uk
- Telephone: 01905 728530