

# Educational Safeguarding DSL Newsletter 2025 / 2026



Educational Safeguarding DSL newsletter

Academic year 2025/2026

Edition: 1

Date 10 September 2025

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## Important Updates and Information

### Safeguarding SLA for 25/26

We are pleased to confirm that the Safeguarding SLA for 25/26 is now available to purchase via eStore. To download the latest Education Services Directory and see exactly what our SLA covers, visit our [Support Services website and click on the Education Services Directory 25/26 button](#)

For 25/26 year we have some **incredible** discounts available:

- if you have continuously bought into the Safeguarding SLA for the last 4 years (since September 2021) then get a 10% discount: OR
- if you bought into the SLA for 3 consecutive years (aka didn't buy 24/25) then if you buy back in 2025 -2026 you get 5% discount: OR
- if you are completely new to buying the Safeguarding SLA (never bought back in previous years) – 3.5% discount.

All discounts are applied once the order has been purchased via eStore.

### Safeguarding Core Resources for 25/26

The Core Resources for the Safeguarding SLA have been shared to all schools who have purchased the 25/26 Safeguarding SLA.

For ease the resources went to either office@, finance@ or the email address of the person who organised the SLA purchase via eStore.

If the SLA core resources have not been shared to you from your colleagues, then please contact Rachael in the Training Team by emailing [workforcesupport@worcestershire.gov.uk](mailto:workforcesupport@worcestershire.gov.uk) with the subject title Safeguarding SLA Core Resources.

Please be aware that Rachael will double check the list of the schools who have purchased before forwarding onto you.

### Safeguarding Training for 25/26

The Training team are pleased to confirm that the training offer to support the Safeguarding SLA for 25/26 is now on CPD to book.

Further details on the training can be found in the Safeguarding Training section, don't forget the training is open to ALL schools / colleges across the county, however if you do not have the Safeguarding SLA for 25/26 higher charges are in place.

### Safeguarding website

During the school holidays the team have been reviewing and updating the specific website pages relating to safeguarding that support Schools and Settings. These are a fantastic resource to support staff.

- [Safeguarding support for teachers and education professionals \(Schools\)](#)
- [Early years safeguarding | Worcestershire County Council](#)

## Introduction and Implementation of Children's Wellbeing and School Bill Reform

As of 1 April 2025, all local authorities are required to begin working with partners to design and start transforming the way we work together.

### Introduction – what is the reform?

In February 2023, the Government published Stable Homes, Built on Love - an implementation strategy and consultation outlining reforms to children's social care. This was in response to several key reviews from 2022:

- The Independent Review of Children's Social Care
- The Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel's investigation into the deaths of Star Hobson and Arthur Labinjo-Hughes
- The Competition and Markets Authority's market study into children's social care

These reviews are driving changes in how children's services and our multi-agency partners work differently with children, young people, and their families.

Further information is available from: [Children's Social Care Reform – 'Families First for Children' | Worcestershire County Council](#)

### Appropriate Language: Child Exploitation

When talking about children and exploitation, language matters. It can be the difference between a child being properly safeguarded or put at further risk of exploitation.

We hope the [Child Exploitation Language Guide from The Children's Society](#) will influence the direct practice of professionals as well as the wider culture of safeguarding children.

## Resources

### Get Safe Risk Assessment

From the Get Safe Operational Group, we wanted to share the following reminder / prompt about the use of the risk assessment in your organisations.

- West Mercia Police and WCC Safeguarding in Need team need to see an increase in submissions over 2025 as there is clearly more going on out there that we are not aware of
- The risk assessment and guidance document are available below:
  - [Get Safe initial risk assessment toolkit](#)
  - [Child Exploitation Assessment Tool Practice Guide](#)
- Always consider who is best placed to submit the form. It may be that completion needs to be a combined effort at times, but we need to ensure submissions are detailed. What we don't want is sanitised versions being submitted by a 'SPOC' based on a verbal handover when the best placed person to complete the submission is those who have witnessed the concern.
- Remind colleagues that this form does not replace a referral via the front door to Children's Services. Front door referrals still need to be completed where appropriate for immediate review and action.

## STEPS service, delivered by Catch22.

STEPS is now available across all of West Mercia and is focused on supporting young people aged 8–18 to prevent and reduce the risk of exploitation. Essentially, the CLIMB service from The Children's Society and Purple Leaf education from WMRSASC have now combined to form STEPS (Support Through Exploitation Prevention Service).

Website: [STEPS \(Support Through Exploitation and Prevention Service\) | Catch22](#)

The STEPS service is comprised of three core strands:

### Child Criminal Exploitation (CCE) Support

- 1:1 early intervention and prevention support for young people at risk of child criminal exploitation, covering topics such as personal safety, exploitation, healthy relationships, and anti-social behaviour.
- Diversionary activities based on the young person's interests, such as sports or arts.
- *Please note:* Unlike the former CLIMB service, we are unable to accept referrals for young people currently open to statutory services, including Early Help or Social Care.

### Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) Support

- Operates similarly to the CCE support, with the key difference being that we can work with young people at any level of risk, including those already open to statutory services.
- For prevention and lower-risk cases, support is delivered across 12 sessions. For higher-risk or live cases, intervention can extend to around six months.
- Diversionary activities are also available.

### Awareness and Prevention

It offers a universal, whole-school approach designed to build awareness and strengthen prevention efforts across communities. We'll be working closely with schools to design bespoke packages that respond to the specific needs and themes they see emerging. We want the support to be purposeful and effective, so we're looking at a number of aspects:

- 6–8 week group programmes for young people (topics include consent, healthy relationships, and safety planning)
- Staff training workshops
- Parent engagement sessions
- Policy reviews and development

At the bottom of the website [STEPS \(Support Through Exploitation and Prevention Service\) | Catch22](#), in the 'Contact Us' section, are the referral forms for 1:1 work and Awareness and Prevention.

- [STEPS 1:1 Referral Form](#)
- [STEPS Awareness and Prevention Referral Form](#)
- [exploitation-toolkit.pdf](#)
- [parents\\_carers\\_cse\\_toolkit.pdf](#)
- [Appropriate Language Guide Final \(English\).pdf](#)
- [The Children's Society - Healthy Schools](#)

Our service email address: [Steps@catch-22.org.uk](mailto:Steps@catch-22.org.uk)



## Steer Clear's new delivery model as of September 2025. .

### Criteria:

- 10-17yrs across all areas in West Mercia
- Offered to YPs who are on the periphery of becoming involved/further involved in knife crime. ie showing an interest in knives, hanging around associates known to carry or YP who has been carrying a knife
- YP must have no knife crime related offences OR will be NFA'd if Steer Clear take the YP on (although please make this clear on a referral form so I'm aware!)
- We can work with YPs who are LAC, who have SGOs and social workers etc
- Other offences or bail - please get directly in contact to discuss first

### 121 support:

- We have 121 practitioners across West Mercia who will work with YP for up to 6 months.
- Topics which will be covered: dangers and consequences of carrying knives, developing self-regulatory skills, online harms/accessing violent content and building positive/healthy relationships.
- Practitioners will also support them into sustainable diversionary activities funded by The Children's Society.
- Referral Link: [Steer Clear | The Children's Society](#)

### **Group Work:**

Ahead of the next academic year we are looking to make some tweaks to some group workshop delivery to ensure we can offer more in-depth and more intensive intervention.

- 4 weeks intervention delivered in school (1x50min session per week).
- Topics which will be covered: risks/consequences of knife crime, the law on knife crime, hearing from somebody with lived experience, online harms, emotional regulation, resolving conflict
- We are aiming to deliver this to young people in groups of approx. 8-10 young people who are at risk of becoming involved in knife crime (ie are associated with other people who may carry, involved in ASB etc, but have not carried a knife themselves).
- Level of risk in these groups are generally very low. We would advise that young people who may be further involved in knife crime/would benefit from longer-term intervention go through our referral pathway for 121 support (up to 6 months)

### **Parent & Professional Support:**

This is not a part of our core offer, but we understand there may be groups of parents/professionals in schools and communities who would be keen to understand how to hold trauma-informed conversations with their children about knife crime. Therefore, we are happy to facilitate training if this is something of interest.

- We can offer sessions in school/community which cover the following:
- Discussing why young people may choose to carry a knife
- Understanding the teenage brain in relation to knife crime
- Practical measures that could be actioned if a knife is found in the home – ie reporting/locations of knife bins
- Local signposting

For further information visit [Steer Cleer \(opens in new window\)](#)

## Safeguarding Conference

### 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
24 September 2025	9am to 4pm	Virtual Delivery	10590	91732
29 September 2025	9am to 4pm	Virtual Delivery	10590	91733
14 October 2025	9am to 4pm	Virtual Delivery	10590	91734
05 December 2025	9am to 4pm	Virtual Delivery	10590	91735

Further Introduction to the Role of the DSL dates for Spring and Summer 2026 terms are available on CPD – please search course code 10590

## 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
02 October 2025	9am to 4pm	Virtual Delivery	10591	91745
07 October 2025	9am to 4pm	Virtual Delivery	10591	91746
10 October 2025	9am to 4pm	Virtual Delivery	10591	91747
22 October 2025	9am to 4pm	Virtual Delivery	10591	91748
07 November 2025	9am to 4pm	Virtual Delivery	10591	91749
17 November 2025	9am to 4pm	Virtual Delivery	10591	91750
18 November 2025	9am to 4pm	Virtual Delivery	10591	91751
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

- 10 and 17 October 2025, 09.30am to 12.30pm, virtual delivery, course code: 10052 / 91258
- 13 and 20 November 2025, 6.30pm to 9.30pm, virtual delivery, course code: 10052 / 91259
- 04 and 11 December 2025, 7pm to 10pm, virtual delivery, course code: 10052 / 91260
- 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

## 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
24 October 2025	9am to 12pm	Virtual Delivery	10589	91704
27 November 2025	1pm to 4pm	Virtual Delivery	10589	91705

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

## 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
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

## 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
02 and 09 October 2025	9.30am to 12.30pm	virtual delivery	10132	91721
27 November and 04 December 2025	9.30am to 12.30pm	virtual delivery	10132	91722

Spring and Summer 2026 term dates are available on CPD – search CPD code 10132

## 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
15 October 2025	9.30am to 11.30am	virtual delivery	10174	91710
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 Public Health training

WCC's Public Health team offer a range of training to schools, all are bookable via our CPD site (please refer to the section on how to book above for support)

- Asthma Management in Schools – introduction to the new guidance (due summer 2025) webinar
  - [22 September, 3.30pm to 4.30pm, virtual delivery](#)
  - [03 October 9.15am to 10.15am, virtual delivery](#)

### Emotional wellbeing Teaching resource project

- Specifically for first and primary schools to join
- Part of our [Our Skills for Life programmes](#)
- Particularly suitable schools without a WEST team, not TI trained and without a whole school teaching programme on emotional wellbeing.
- Our first training session for this is 24<sup>th</sup> June.
- Public Health fund the 1<sup>st</sup> years access to the electronic teaching resources (224 x 45mins lessons up to Year 4 and then 18 x 45 min lessons in Y5 & 6) and we also fund training for up to 6 staff from each school.
- For further information contact Clare Charlton on 01905 846881 or email [CCharlton@worcestershire.gov.uk](mailto:CCharlton@worcestershire.gov.uk)



## 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 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 Country 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 \(worcestershire.gov.uk\)](#)
- 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](mailto:dhannibal@worcestershire.gov.uk)
- Telephone: 01905 844436

### Hayley Doyle

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

## Operation Encompass contact

### Gem Rainsford-Grady

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