



[Safeguarding Children Partnership NSSCP](#)

Spring Edition

**North
Somerset
Safeguarding
Children
Partnership**

**Safeguarding
Newsletter**

Spring Edition

SAFEGUARDING UPDATE FOR ALL

April 2024

Welcome to this spring edition of our safeguarding children newsletter. Please share widely within your organisation.

This and previous newsletters are available on the North Somerset Safeguarding Children website.



Introducing Claire Shiels, DCS

Hello everyone,

I am delighted to have joined North Somerset Council as the new Director of Children's Services in January this year. I started my career working with children and young people in the voluntary and community sector in Northern Ireland and have been passionate about improving outcomes for children ever since. Before joining North Somerset, I spent seventeen years working in Children's Services in Dorset, most recently as Corporate Director for Commissioning and Partnerships. In that role I had the privilege of working across a broad range of services including social work, early help, special educational needs and disabilities, early years and commissioning. I am deeply committed to relationship-based practice; driven by making a difference to the people we serve and a strong believer in the power of partnerships to deliver. I have been spending some time getting out and about meeting teams working in Children's Services and getting to know partners in health and education settings. I am looking forward to working with you all and very much looking forward to our engagement day on April 22nd, where we will get chance to talk about the future of the Partnership and our priorities for next year.

Claire

SPOTLIGHT BULLETIN PLEASE NOTE!

Exciting news! ✨

NEGLECT CONFERENCE

There is a multi-agency Neglect Conference for all front-line practitioners on 23rd April from 9:00-4:30 (including lunch) at the Winter Gardens, Weston-super-Mare.

The day will include a series of presentations and workshops from external speakers: Dr K Treisman and Research in Practice, in addition to local experts. 🍕

Booking link here...

[Responding to Neglect with North Somerset Safeguarding Children Partnership · Eequ](#)

ICON Training



| | |
|----------|---|
| I | Infant crying is normal and it will stop! Babies start to cry more frequently from around 2 weeks of age. |
| C | Comfort methods can sometimes help to soothe the baby and the crying will stop. |
| O | It's OK to walk away if you have checked the baby is safe and the crying is getting to you. After a few minutes when you are feeling calm, go back and check on the baby. |
| N | Never, ever shake a baby. It can cause lasting brain damage and death. |

FREE ICON training is now live!

Click the link on the **attached poster** to book your place – they are going fast!

Bristol, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire Children's Safeguarding Partnerships are offering FREE multi-agency training around ICON.

ICON is an evidenced-based programme aimed at preventing abusive head trauma injuries to babies caused by shaking - also referred to as 'shaken baby syndrome'. Knowing and understanding the ICON message will help you as professionals deliver key messages to parents and carers, to help them understand the normal crying pattern of young infants and give them the tools and interventions to develop successful coping mechanisms to deal with this.

This training is FREE to all and we want to reach a wide variety of professionals and volunteers. If you work with families, children, carers, parents or even briefly come across these groups of people, this training is for you.

Each session is delivered by Microsoft Teams and will be easy to engage with and last no longer than an hour. These sessions will be offered every other month and across a variety of times.

14th of May at 13:00

17th of July at 17:00

19th of September at 10:30

12th of November at 17:00

Please share this course with any colleagues that you think it will be relevant to. We look forward to seeing you there and being able to share with you the ICON message.

Working Together to Safeguard Children 23

In December 2023, the Government published the updated guide to multi-agency working to help, protect and promote the welfare of children which can be found here. [Working together to safeguard children 2023](#)

The summary of changes is listed in this document, [Summary of changes](#)



Last Minute Spaces! Run don't walk ...

Multi-Agency Workforce Development CPD

There is an ongoing workforce development review to improve the partnership's multi-agency training offer. We already have an inspiring new trainer who has joined the team delivering many sessions.

[Click here for links to below courses](#)

Not yet booked a place? See below for details:

There are some remaining places available on the following events:

2024

April

- NSSCP Partnership Event (safeguarding leads only) – 22nd April - see details below
- NSSCP Neglect Conference for frontline practitioners – 23rd April - see details above in spotlight bulletin
- Managing Allegations, James McMillan Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) 23rd April - 09:30 – 10:30 (Teams online)
- Young People and Substance Misuse legal Drugs Training – 24th April – 9:30 – 12:00 – Campus – CR3
- Effective Support Document Training (previously The Threshold Guidance) – 25th April - 09:30 – 12:30 – Campus – CR3
- Safeguarding in Education Basic Awareness (schools/colleges only) – 30th April - 09:30-12:30 - Campus – CR1

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May

- Advanced Inter-Agency Child Protection UPDATE – 1st May - 09:30 - 13:00 – Campus – CR2
- Domestic Abuse Advanced – 3rd May - 09:30 – 16:30 – Campus – CR3
- TBC Inter-Agency Child Protection Introduction – 8th May - 09:30 - 15:00 – Campus – CR2
- Advanced Inter-Agency Child Protection – 20th May - 09:00 - 16:30 - Campus – CR2
- Managing Allegations, James McMillan Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) 21st May - 09:30 – 10:30 (Teams online)
- Effective Support Document Training (previously The Threshold Guidance) – 22nd May - 09:30 – 12:30 – Campus – CR2
- Child Sexual Exploitation (Awareness Raising) – 23rd May - 09:30 – 12:30 – Campus – CR2

June

- Advanced Inter-Agency Child Protection UPDATE – 3rd June - 09:30 - 13:00 (Teams online)
- Effective Support Document Training (previously The Threshold Guidance) – 5th June - 09:30 – 12:30 – Campus – CR2
- Advanced Inter-Agency Child Protection – 6th June - 09:00 - 16:30 - Campus – CR1
- TBC Inter-Agency Child Protection Basic Awareness– Refresher – 10th June - 09:30 – 11:00 (Teams online)
- Designated Safeguarding Lead Network (for schools) – 11th June - 09:00 – 11:30 – Campus – CR3
- Designated Safeguarding Lead Network (for schools) – 12th June - 14:00 - 16:30 (Teams online)
- **NEW** - Child protection Conference Training – 13th June – 13:00 – 16:00 – Campus CR1
- Safer Recruitment for Schools and Early Years Colleagues – 17th June – 9:30 – 16:45 – Campus – CR3
- Inter-Agency Child Protection Basic Awareness – 18th June - 09:30 - 12:30 – Campus – CR3
- Safeguarding in Education Basic Awareness (schools/colleges only) – 19th June - 09:30-12:30 – Campus - TBC
- Inter-Agency Child Protection Introduction – 20th June - 09:30 - 15:00 – Campus – CR2
- Managing Allegations, James McMillan Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) 25th June - 09:30 – 10:30 (Teams online)
- Domestic Abuse Basic Awareness – 26th June - 09:30 – 16:30 – Campus – CR2

New Website

The all new NSSCP website will be ready to launch at the beginning of May.



Please bear with any anomalies in the meantime.

Partnership Event 22nd April 2024, 9:00 – 1:00 at the Winter Gardens

Please sign up **if you lead safeguarding** in your agency or organisation.

[SIGN UP AVAILABLE HERE NSSCP Partners' Event · Eegu](#)

From 9:00 – 9:30 there will be breakfast available.

Between 11:00-12:30, there will be 6 different workshops/engagement sessions available. Sessions will run simultaneously, and attendees must register for 2 sessions on arrival at the event.

NOT TO BE CONFUSED WITH THE NEGLECT CONFERENCE ON 23rd!

Child Exploitation Awareness Campaign

Monday 18th March was [National Child Exploitation Awareness Day](#). The NSSCP & Risk Outside the Home (ROTH) team are committed to raising awareness and working to support this critical issue, encouraging everyone to know how to spot the signs and report this. We acknowledge that the content may be distressing or triggering. If you wish to discuss any concerns, you are welcome to contact the [@ROTHteam](#).



The ROTH team spent Monday 18th March leafleting and visiting businesses on the High Street and in the Sovereign Centre.

We also visited every secondary school in North Somerset across the week to provide resources. Some of the team also attended a drop-in at the Healthy Living Centre on Wednesday 20th March, where they provided information and advice about exploitation and other risks outside the home to members of the public (both children and adults).

Child exploitation is a form of child abuse. It occurs when an individual or group takes advantage of an imbalance of power to coerce, control, manipulate or deceive a child under the age of 18. There are different forms of child exploitation, including sexual, criminal and financial. It's important to remember that these forms of exploitation can overlap, and so children can experience various forms of exploitation at one time.

Child exploitation can happen anywhere, to any child and at any time, which means that keeping children safe from exploitation is everyone's responsibility. The first step in being able to prevent child exploitation is being able to spot it. Some of the key signs of child exploitation are highlighted on the poster and videos **below**.

Many thanks to Ruth Sutherland, Rhiannon Stott, Ang Blewitt and Lauren Hill (ROTH Team). ROTHTeam@n-somerset.gov.uk
Special mention to Harriet Cornish (YISP), Carly Butchers (Student Social Worker), Chris Olive (Community Response Team Leader) and Christine Simpson (Community Response Officer) for their support. 😊

Some of the team also joined Andri Nicolaou (Operation Topaz, Avon & Somerset Police) in promoting the campaign to local hotels on Tuesday 19th March. 🍷



These are just some examples of the warning signs, as exploitation can look different for every child. This means we need to stay alert. If something doesn't feel right, it might not be. Even if you're unsure, it's always safer to report your concerns. They might help to form part of the bigger picture. If you see something, say something.

If a child is in immediate danger or at immediate risk of harm, please contact emergency services via 999. Any urgent safeguarding concerns should be reported to Children's Services via 01275 888 801.

You can report non-emergency concerns about exploitation to the police via 101, or through CrimeStoppers at 0800 555 111 or [crimestoppers-uk.org/give-information](https://www.crimestoppers-uk.org/give-information).

You can also contact the NSPCC Helpline for advice by calling 0808 800 5000, emailing help@NSPCC.org.uk or completing their online form: [nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/reporting-abuse/report/report-abuse-online](https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/reporting-abuse/report/report-abuse-online).

Share the message with family, friends and colleagues!

If you'd like to find out more about exploitation and how to stop it, we've created a list of resources.

If you are short on time, **the first video** is recommended – you might be surprised what you miss!

- [Did you see that coming? | Surrey Police](#) 🌟
- [Are You Listening? | Leicestershire Police](#)
- [See. Hear. Stop the abuse. Learn how to spot the signs of child sexual exploitation | The Children's Society](#)

National Updates

Following a successful bid by the North Somerset Violence Reduction Partnership (VRP), the '[Knife Angel](#)' will visit North Somerset next spring as part of a nationwide tour to highlight the issue of violent crime. The iconic 27-foot-tall statue has been created from over 100,000 knives and blades confiscated by the UK's 43 police forces. It was designed by Alfie Bradley at the [British Ironwork Centre \(BIC\)](#) as a national monument against violence and aggression. The Knife Angel will be on display at the Italian Gardens in Weston-super-Mare's town centre throughout May 2024.



We're looking for films made by young people that inspire their friends and others to create positive changes in online spaces! If they've got something original to say about creating a better and safer internet, then we'd love to know about it!

Film Competition launches, **26 September 2023** Last date for ALL film entries, **22 April 2024**