



[North Somerset Safeguarding Children Partnership website](#)

Winter Edition

SAFEGUARDING UPDATE FOR ALL

March 2025

Welcome to this winter edition of our safeguarding children newsletter. Please share widely within your organisation. This and previous newsletters are available on the NSSCP website.

Introducing Kevin Gibbs

Hello everyone, I am really pleased to have the chance to introduce myself to you as the new (and first...) Independent Scrutineer for the Safeguarding Children Partnership. This is a crucial role in making sure that the children and families in North Somerset are supported to achieve the best outcomes for their future lives.

I've been fortunate to have had a range of working experiences in multi-agency safeguarding and social work including in the Probation Service, clinical practice, child protection, family justice and the voluntary sector. I spent a number of years as the senior leader for Cafcass in this area and have kept an interest in the services being delivered in North Somerset.

In my safeguarding career, I've seen the benefits of agencies and organisations coming together to deliver the best possible services for children, young people and families and am committed to making this happen here.

I've got a strong interest in working to identify strengths in families and in existing professional practice across all agencies. The importance of listening to children, being clear on what improvements need to take place, measuring progress, and celebrating when we get there are a crucial part of what the Partnership can achieve in the future. I'm looking forward to being part of the journey with you.



SPOTLIGHT BULLETIN PLEASE NOTE!

Exciting news!

DEVELOPMENT DAY

In February 2025, the newly formed Operational Safeguarding Group met for our annual Development Day.

As part of the new Multi-Agency Safeguarding Arrangements (MASA) [NSSCP MASA](#), this group is made up of Delegated Safeguarding Partners (DSPs), and leads for safeguarding across a wide range of agency partners including police, health, probation, education and the voluntary sector.

The group met to review the achievements and progress of the NSSCP and to agree priorities for moving forward which will be shared from April 2025.

National Child Exploitation Awareness Day

The National Child Exploitation Awareness Day (Tuesday 18th March) aims to highlight the issues surrounding Child Exploitation (CE), encouraging everyone to **think, spot and speak out against abuse** and adopt a zero-tolerance to adults developing inappropriate relationships with children or children exploiting and abusing their peers.

[National Child Exploitation Awareness Day - NWG Network](#)

Together, we can work to inform, educate and prevent child abuse through exploitation within the UK.

Government Safeguarding Reports:

[The Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel - I wanted them all to notice](#)

Protecting children and responding to child sexual abuse within the family environment

[The Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel - Annual Report 2023 to 2024](#)

Patterns in practice, key messages and 2024 to 2025 work programme

[Children's Wellbeing and Schools Bill - policy summary notes](#)

[Multi-agency responses to serious youth violence: working together to support and protect children - GOV.UK](#)

Strategic partners need a collective ambition and drive to address serious youth violence if they are to achieve a 'whole system' approach.

["It's Silent": Race, racism and safeguarding children – Panel Briefing 4](#)

Safeguarding Adults' Board Newsletter

[NSSAB issue 2 March 2025](#)



Multi-agency audit group

The NSSCP has a new multi-agency audit group who meet monthly to review different themes within the work of the Partnership. Quarterly reports will be shared with the Operational Safeguarding Group.

Free Gaming and Gambling Harm Prevention Workshop

for all youth facing professionals including teachers, youth workers, safeguarding leads and volunteers

[Home | Ygam](#)

Award-winning education to safeguard our digital generation.

Free Webinars: County Lines and Gangs

Free professional awareness webinars hosted by St Giles Trust and funded by North Somerset Violence Reduction Partnership. The webinars will take place on Wednesday **26th March 2025** at the following times:

- 10:00 am - 12:00 pm
- 4:00 pm - 6:00 pm

Speakers with first-hand experience of the criminal justice system will explore **how county lines operate, how young people are groomed and exploited, and the risk factors that make them vulnerable**. The session will help professionals **recognise the signs of exploitation** and understand the **links between county lines and other forms of criminal activity**, such as serious violence, modern slavery, and child sexual exploitation.

These sessions are identical, so you only need to attend one. We encourage all professionals working with young people in our area to join us for this informative webinar. To secure your space, please email us at VRP@n-somerset.gov.uk - **please share this reminder with your colleagues and partners.**

Multi-Agency Workforce Development CPD

Keep checking this page [Training events](#) for the latest updates.

- ✚ For Prevent training, please visit [Prevent duty training - GOV.UK](#)
- ✚ For colleagues within North Somerset Council, please use the iLearn platform. For all other bookings, please access via CPD online.

If you are NOT a North Somerset Council employee please read this important message

We are really pleased to let you know that soon we will be extending the launch of a new NSC learning platform. The platform will enable easier booking onto face-to-face courses and access to e-learning appropriate to your setting.

By early summer 2025 CPD Online will be decommissioned and will be fully replaced by iLearn.

Please keep a note of any training you have completed, or you have booked on to attend via CPD Online, as once our new system is launched you will NOT be able to access your training records stored on CPD Online.

For the next few months, you can continue to use CPD Online as normal. If you have any issues logging in to CPD Online please contact cpdonline.support@n-somerset.gov.uk.

Date	Title	Course leader	Time	Venue
March				
20 th March	Adolescent Safety Framework Training	Michael O'Connor & Laura Dixey	13:30 - 16:30	Castle Batch
20 th March	Advanced Update	Ellen Mutch	09:30 - 13:00	Teams online
25 th March	Managing Allegations Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO)	Allyson Donovan	10:30 - 11:30	Teams online
April				
1 st April	Advanced Inter-Agency Child Protection	Ellen Mutch	09:30 - 16:30	Campus
2 nd April	Understanding Domestic Abuse	Next Link	09:30 - 16:30	Campus
3 rd April	Cumulative Impact of Neglect on Children	Ellen Mutch	09:30 - 16:30	Castle Batch
25 th April	Advanced Update	Ellen Mutch	09:30 - 13:00	Teams online
29 th April	Advanced Inter-Agency Child Protection	Ellen Mutch	09:30 - 16:30	For All Healthy Living centre
29 th April	Managing Allegations Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO)	Allyson Donovan	10:30 - 11:30	Teams online

FREE Practitioner Training – fire safety



Avon Fire and Rescue Service (AF&RS) has TWO FREE practitioner training sessions on offer to all those working with young people, families and other vulnerable members of our communities. Training is held virtually via Teams, and tickets are booked via Eventbrite

Home Fire Safety:

This free training which will take around 1 hour 15 minutes, aims to help practitioners understand the risk and dangers of fire for those most vulnerable.

<https://avonfire.gov.uk/our-services/fire-safety-practitioner-training-sessions>

Addressing Fire Setting behaviour in children:

Our training aims to equip you with the knowledge to identify early warning signs and take proactive steps to offer support to those in need.

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/afrs-fire-safety-intervention-practitioner-training-tickets>

Fostering North Somerset

- **Did you know that North Somerset Council is a fostering friendly organisation?** This means that we are committed to supporting our foster carers, we recognise and value the incredible contribution that foster carers make to children's lives and we want to encourage our staff to consider this rewarding role. There is a national shortage of foster carers so we are doing everything we can to try and recruit them. Our vulnerable children deserve the very best care, and we are looking for nurturing, patient, and warm-hearted people to support them.
- **How can you help us?** We are asking all our local organisations and businesses to help us to highlight the importance of fostering in our local area and the difference foster carers can make. If your organisation became fostering friendly this would assist us to raise awareness of the need for foster carers, and we could work together to change the lives of our children and young people. The Fostering Network are championing a programme called the Fostering Friendly Employers Scheme to highlight fostering. Please support us by joining this programme [Fostering Friendly | The Fostering Network](#)
- **How do I learn more about this?** If you would like further help with developing your HR policy for this, please feel free to contact katie.bailey@n-somerset.gov.uk she would welcome a meeting with you to discuss further and is leading on this in North Somerset. It is vital that we work together to transform the lives of our vulnerable children.



- 8th March – [International Women's Day](#)
- 12th March – [Young Carer's Action Day](#)
- 17th-23rd March – [Neurodiversity Celebration Week](#)

NSPCC [NSPCC | The UK children's charity | NSPCC](#)

Lastly, please look out for an exciting opportunity to join the NSSCP as a business support officer. Details will be on the North Somerset vacancies site. [Job search](#)