



[North Somerset Safeguarding Children Partnership website](#)

## Winter Edition

### SAFEGUARDING UPDATE FOR ALL

**Welcome to the winter edition of the NSSCP newsletter. Please share widely within your organisation. This newsletter alongside the previous editions are available on the NSSCP website linked above.**

### Introducing Victoria Caple

Dear All – and a Happy New Year to you! I'm really pleased to write to introduce myself to you, as the recently appointed Co-Chair of the Risk Outside the Home (ROTH)

Subgroup for the North Somerset Safeguarding Children's Partnership.

Some of you will already know me; I've been working in and around North Somerset for some time now. I'm the Head of Victim Care, Safeguarding & Vulnerability for Avon &

Somerset Police, a role which means that I am proud to lead the Lighthouse

Safeguarding Units, the Disclosure Teams, and the Disclosure & Barring Unit, right

across our force area. I started my policing career in North Somerset, in 2009, working closely with safeguarding partners and have continued in this arena ever since. I have

always been proud of the relationships I've developed with partners and know that together we can achieve great things – we are greater than the sum of our parts!

Having lived in Weston-super-Mare for most of my life, I understand both the strengths

and the challenges of living and working in North Somerset. Although my role spans

five local authorities, I am particularly passionate about championing the needs of

vulnerable communities here and ensuring that residents receive a high standard of service aligned with our shared values.

For those of you less familiar, the ROTH Subgroup is accountable to the NSSCP and is

the link between the strategic safeguarding partners and the operational MACS

Panel. As Chairs, our priorities are ensuring that the vision for contextual safeguarding is safely and consistently implemented across the statutory safeguarding partnership,

and that the risks towards our children and young people, from exploitation, are

recognised, understood and collectively addressed. The nature and scale of

exploitation - especially technology-enabled harm - continues to evolve, making

effective partnership working essential. Together, we must focus on targeting

perpetrators, enabling early intervention, and ensuring that victims and their families

receive the support needed to cope with and recover from trauma.

We are keen to hear from those who feel they can contribute to the work of the ROTH Subgroup or support the MACS Panel. I really look forward to continuing to work with

you all throughout the coming year.

January 2026



### SPOTLIGHT BULLETIN PLEASE NOTE!

#### ❖ Key NSSCP Documents ❖

- Issue Resolution Policy –for all agencies across the Partnership to facilitate agency to agency resolution: [NSSCP issue resolution policy \(formerly escalation policy\)](#)

- Family Strengths & Needs Toolkit: [family strengths and needs toolkit - neglect](#)

 **Government Safeguarding Reports**  
[child sexual exploitation and abuse](#)

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

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

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

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



## NSSCP Learning Event

We want to take a moment to express our sincere gratitude to everyone who joined us for our event in November. Your presence and participation helped create an atmosphere of collaboration and learning, and we truly appreciate the time you took out of your busy schedules to be with us.

Thank you to our presenters for sharing your knowledge, insights, and expertise. Your contributions sparked meaningful discussions and provided valuable takeaways that will benefit us all moving forward. We are grateful for the depth and quality of your presentations.

To those who completed the feedback form, your input is incredibly important to us. It helps us understand what worked well and where we can improve, ensuring that future events are more impactful and tailored to your needs. Thank you for taking the time to share your thoughts.

We look forward to seeing you at the next one as we continue to grow, learn, and strengthen safeguarding together.

### Feedback:

*"each of the sessions were extremely valuable and provided a much-needed insight into multi-agency working across North Somerset"*

*"The day helped me understand how the partnership works together and what the key messages are"*

*"I will be able to share a lot of the learning"*

### What was covered:

- ◆ *Effective Safeguarding in Partnership*
- ◆ *Strategy Meetings*
- ◆ *Vulnerable Children & Safeguarding*
- ◆ *Evolving Our Front Door*
- ◆ *Language That Cares*



## Safeguarding Adults' Board



[Adult Safeguarding Board](#)

## The Hangout

A dedicated space for **11 – 16 year olds** to come and let off steam, unwind, peruse interested and meet new people.

Offering games and activities, snacks and drinks, gym equipment, specialist visitors, an opportunity to learn new skills and to just chill out!

**Thursdays at 3:15-5:15pm**

**The Hangar Gym  
1-2 Rector's Way, BS23 3NP**

## Safer Internet Day 2026

Safer Internet Day 2026 will take place on the 10<sup>th</sup> of February 2026, with celebrations and learning based around the theme **'Smart tech, safe choices – Exploring the safe and responsible use of AI'**.

[Safer Internet Day 2026 - UK Safer Internet Centre](#)

## Youth Violence Consultation for Parents/Carers and Professionals

The Violence Reduction Partnership (VRP) remain committed to meeting our statutory responsibilities under the Serious Violence Duty (Chapter 1, Part 2 of the Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Act 2022) which requires the council to work collaboratively to understand types and causes of serious violence in our area and to develop and implement a strategy to prevent and reduce it.

As part of our preparation planning, we are pleased to launch a short consultation for **professionals** and **parents/carers** in North Somerset: [Violence Reduction Unit - 2025/26 Consultation](#) - we would appreciate your time is completing the consultation as a parent/carer or as a professional working with young people in North Somerset. We are consulting with young people separately.

**Education settings and those working with families** – please support us by sharing this link with parents and carers, as well as professionals within your networks.

## Multi-Agency Workforce Development/CPD

For the latest updates, please keep checking the NSSCP page: [Training events](#)

iLearn Together is available to access here: [iLearn Together](#)

If you experience any issues or have any queries, please contact the iLearn team: [ilearn@n-somerset.gov.uk](mailto:ilearn@n-somerset.gov.uk)

 **Now FREE to all!**

We are pleased to offer our *Cumulative Impact of Neglect on Children* training at no cost to participants. This offer is available until the end of this academic year - 23 July 2026.

Date	Title	Course leader	Time	Venue
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**January**

Tuesday 27 January 2026	Understanding domestic abuse	Next Link	9.30am to 4.30pm	Vision North Somerset
Thursday 29 January 2026	Understanding the impact of neglect and strengths and needs toolkit	Ellen Mutch	9.30am to 4.30pm	For All Healthy Living Centre

**February**

Tuesday 3 February 2026	Inter-agency child protection - intermediate - level 2	Ellen Mutch	9.30am to 4.30pm	The Campus
Wednesday 11 February 2026	Inter-agency child protection - advanced - update	Ellen Mutch	9.30am to 12.30pm	Vision North Somerset
Wednesday 11 February 2026	LADO - managing allegations against professionals	Local Authority Designated Officer	10.30am to 11:30am	Online
Thursday 12 February 2026	Understanding the impact of domestic abuse on children	Ellen Mutch	12.30pm to 4.30pm	Vision North Somerset
Monday 23 February 2026	Prevent - basic awareness	Ellen Mutch	1pm to 2.30pm	Oldmixon Children's Centre
Tuesday 24 February 2026	Prevent Specialist Webinar on Islamic extremism	Ellen Mutch	3.30pm to 4.30pm	Online
Thursday 26 February 2026	Inter-agency child protection - advanced - level 3	Ellen Mutch	9.30am to 4.30pm	For All Healthy Living Centre

**March**

Wednesday 4 March 2026	Understanding the impact of neglect and strengths and needs toolkit	Ellen Mutch	9.30am to 4.30pm	Vision North Somerset
Tuesday 10 March 2026	Understanding domestic abuse - coercive and controlling behaviour	Ellen Mutch	9.30am to 1.30pm	Weston Hospital Academy
Tuesday 10 March 2026	Inter-agency child protection - basic awareness - level 1	Ellen Mutch	3.30pm to 6.30pm	Online
Tuesday 17 March 2026	Inter-agency child protection - advanced - update	Ellen Mutch	9.30am to 12.30pm	Online
Thursday 19 March 2026	Inter-agency child protection - advanced - level 3	Ellen Mutch	9.30am to 4.30pm	For All Healthy Living Centre

**April**

Wednesday 1 April 2026	Inter-agency child protection - intermediate - level 2	Ellen Mutch	9.30am to 4.30pm	Vision North Somerset
Tuesday 21 April 2026	LADO - managing allegations against professionals	Local Authority Designated Officer	9.30am to 10:30am	Online

## Best Start Family Hubs

Best Start Family Hubs North Somerset are here to help families across North Somerset feel happy, welcomed and supported.

Our hubs are fun, friendly places where families with children can connect, play and grow together.

We provide government-funded activities and support as part of Best Start in Life.

Find out more about the services that we provide in the hubs, where they are and our

online digital calendar here: [Best Start family hubs | North Somerset Council](#)



## Fostering North Somerset

### Children in North Somerset Need You

Across North Somerset, children and young people are waiting right now for safe, caring foster homes. By fostering with North Somerset Council, you help children stay close to their schools, friends, and community during a difficult time, offering stability when they need it most.

### Why We Need More Foster Carers

There is a national shortage of foster carers, and this shortage is directly affecting children locally. With too few foster families, some children may need to be placed away from North Somerset, something we aim to avoid wherever possible. North Somerset Council always aims to place children with local carers first, ensuring better matches and more consistent placements.

### What Fostering North Somerset Provides

As a not-for-profit service, every penny is reinvested into supporting children and the foster carers who care for them. This includes strong local training, accessible support, and a welcoming community of fellow carers.

### Types of Fostering You Can Offer

- Short Term Fostering – Providing a safe home while long-term plans are made.
- Long Term Fostering – Supporting a child until adulthood.
- Day Care & Short Breaks (Sleepovers / Weekenders) Planned short stays to support a child's main carer.
- Emergency Fostering – Offering immediate safety at short notice.
- Fostering Children with Disabilities – Caring for children with additional needs, with full training included.
- Fostering Teenagers – Providing guidance and stability during key developmental years.
- Weekenders Project (Now Foster) – One weekend a month offering warmth, stability, and new experiences in a flexible, manageable format.

### You Can Make a Difference

Whether you can offer full-time care or one weekend a month, you could be the person a young person in North Somerset is waiting for. Your time, care, and consistency can shape their future in powerful ways.

Find out more about fostering in North Somerset using our website:

<https://fostering.n-somerset.gov.uk/>



## Children's online safety: managing habits and preventing risk

The Children's Commissioner has published a new guide for parents and carers, developed with children and young people: *What I wish my parents or carers knew: A guide for parents on managing children's digital lives.*

Supporting children's safety online is a shared responsibility for parents, professionals, politicians and wider society. For parents and carers, this responsibility has become increasingly complex as children's lives are now deeply intertwined with the digital world.

Many parents face difficult decisions about how to balance protecting children from online harm with enabling access to spaces that are now central to learning, socialising and play: [Read the guide](#)

## Prevent Week of Action

The VRP are pleased to announce a new Prevent Week of Action which is taking place from Monday 9<sup>th</sup> – Friday 13<sup>th</sup> February 2026. Please see the attached poster which details the training available throughout the week.

The week offers a unique opportunity to deepen your understanding of key Prevent topics through expert-led sessions and practical insights. Whether you're looking to strengthen your knowledge of Prevent, improve your confidence in making referrals, explore emerging risks like digital harms, or understand the links between misogyny and extremism, these sessions will provide practical guidance and real-world context to support your work. Please use the links to register for your place: [Prevent Week of Action, February 2026](#)

For any queries or questions please contact: [VRP@n-somerset.gov.uk](mailto:VRP@n-somerset.gov.uk)

## Children's Mental Health Week

Place2Be's official Children's Mental Health Week 2026 is taking place between 9-15 February and resources are now available for you to download! Whether you're a primary school, secondary school, family, community group or workplace, we've got activities and resources for you.

The theme for Children's Mental Health Week 2026 is 'This is My Place', and our aim is to support the systems around children and young people to help them feel they belong.

Children's Mental Health Week takes place every February. It was started in 2015 to give a voice to all children and young people and to raise awareness of children and young people's mental health.

[Place2Be's Children's Mental Health Week - Official site](#)

## Child Protection Authority consultation

The government is consulting on the Child Protection Authority (CPA), a national body to improve child protection. The CPA is envisaged as an expert, accurate and decisive body that makes the multi-agency child protection system clearer, more unified and ensure there is ongoing improvements through effective evidence-based support.

The consultation is open to education professionals, safeguarding partners, voluntary and community organisations, local authorities, inspectorates, families and those with an interest in child protection. The consultation closes on 5 March 2026. Feedback will help shape the future of child protection in England. [Find out more and share your views.](#)

## Early Help Connect + Support Team: Who are they?

As part of a developing pathways at Front Door, the Supporting Families Team within the Family Wellbeing Service will now be known as the **Early Help Connect and Support Team**. The team will be base at Town Hall with the Front Door Team.

If you have any questions about the team please contact: [laura.brain@n-somerset.gov.uk](mailto:laura.brain@n-somerset.gov.uk)