

Safeguarding In Schools

*with Specialist Safeguarding Consultant, **Andrew Hall***



Safeguarding Briefing - 10th March 2025

Parenting Through Adversary - Foundations

Foundations has recently released a practice guide for working within the National Framework for Children's Social Care. The framework is aimed at the leadership, workforce and multi-agency groupings, within the children's care sphere. The guide aims to support the delivery of key principles and recommendations of the national framework. The guide is evidence based and looks at how best to support children aged 0 – 10, within situations where adverse circumstances can undermine parental support. These adverse circumstances can be those such as poverty, substance misuse, partner violence, couples conflict and parental mental health challenges. If interested in reading the guide in full then please click on the link below:

<https://foundations.org.uk/practice-guides/parenting-through-adversity-0-10/>

Official Data Trends - Centre of Expertise on Child Sexual Abuse

The Centre of Expertise on Child Sexual Abuse has released their report on trends from 2023/2024. Their reports are annual and focus on the collation of data from the previous year. Their latest report has identified a decline in child sexual abuse reported to children's services in that period. Their analysis shows that despite this news, the number of people charged and convicted following child sexual offences increased. In addition, the number of children coming under a protection plan fell to its lowest level in thirty years in England. As of December 2024 only 3.5% of new protection plans are related to child sexual abuse. Child sexual abuse is also being detected less, with the number of assessments

reaching a record low. Based on their report, the Centre of Expertise on Child Sexual Abuse estimates 500,000 children will experience sexual abuse every year. The report makes for compelling reading, to find out more please follow the link below:

<https://www.csacentre.org.uk/research-resources/research-evidence/scale-nature-of-abuse/trends-in-official-data/>

NEW DATE

Safeguarding and AI: Risks and Rewards with Andrew Hall

Wednesday 26th March 2025 (4:00 – 5:30pm)

Many safeguarding professionals feel uncertain about this emerging technology and how to navigate its challenges. I recently led an online seminar called Safeguarding and AI: Risks and Rewards. The recording of this webinar is now available in [Safeguarding.Pro](#). If you are not already a member of [Safeguarding.Pro](#) you can join us by going to:

<https://safeguarding.pro/plans/accounts/>

Unfortunately, not everyone who wanted to was able to attend, so I now have a new date and time.

What people said about the last seminar:

'WOW!! Lots to reflect on, I need to be more confident. I'm going to try and make a presentation in ChatGPT and look at the self-assessment as a place to start.'

'It was brilliant, thank you, I learnt so much.'

'The AI Safeguarding Readiness Tool is excellent, really helps galvanise schools to act and develop a strategic approach.'

In this seminar, I will share insights into concerns about AI, the risks schools need to manage, and even how you can benefit from using AI effectively.

What is Generative AI?

How can it be such a risk?

What impact has AI already had on young people's safety and wellbeing?

What do schools need to put in place?

How can we meet the challenge of AI?

Should children even be using AI in the classroom?

Join Andrew Hall on Wednesday 26th March 2025, from 4:00 – 5:30pm, from the comfort of your own device.

Cost: £67.00

To book, go to: <https://checkout.safeguardingschools.co.uk/250326ai>

Supporting SEND and Special Schools with Online Safety Workshop - UK Safer Internet Centre

Join Traci Gregory, founder of the Association of Adult and Child Online Safety Specialists for a 90 minute session on online safety in the context of SEND. The session will explore the unique challenges faced by children and young people with additional needs. The latest research on online exploitation, cyberbullying and inappropriate content will be presented. The session will include the highlighting of strategies to build digital resilience and how to examine key risks. The session will be held on the 11th March 2025, and will be held online. If interested, you can get your tickets by following the link below:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/supporting-send-and-special-schools-with-online-safety-tickets-1235722863349?aff=oddtcreator>

Question of the Week

This week's question aims to be more thought-provoking than many of our typical questions.

What is one safeguarding myth you used to believe, but now know isn't true?

Cybercrime and Harms - Russell Webster

Advanced technology has increased the breadth, scale and sophistication of cyber crime. The question of how can cyber security evolve to counter this advance, has now become mainstream. In Autumn last year, the Parliamentary Office of Science and Technology published their report on cyber crime and online harms. The report was based on a horizon scan consultation of researchers, which revealed significant expansion in the landscape of cyber-crime. Concern has come to centre around: online bullying, assault, cyberstalking, coercive control, the spread of disinformation and radicalisation. More entities than ever have been

gaining unauthorised access to digital devices or networks. As a result the potential to commit fraud or collect and leverage confidential data to extort money has increased. Entities working in this sphere include organised crime, foreign states and foreign aligned groups. Russell Webster has published a summary of the report's findings. If interested in the key findings of the report, please click on the link below:

<https://www.russellwebster.com/cyber-crime-and-harm/>

Advanced Safeguarding for DSLs

"I just wanted to say that I thought today's training was absolutely fantastic. By a mile it was the most engaging training I have done."

The on-demand course is always available and is updated after each live session [Book Online](#)

Other available online courses include:

- Whole School Safeguarding Course for 2024/2025 (2 hours of content plus a break)

Online courses - Safeguarding.Pro

All our other courses are now available in [Safeguarding.Pro](#) These courses can be accessed for a full year.

Current courses include:

- Safeguarding Refresher
- An Introduction to Cybersecurity
- Safeguarding for Governance
- Safeguarding Induction for new staff

For further details, go to: <https://safeguarding.pro/>

Until next time, keep safe,

Andrew Hall

Specialist Safeguarding Consultant,
Director, Success In Schools Ltd.

Are you a busy DSL with no time?

Need a place to ask questions. find support and download resources

Click here and join Safeguarding.Pro today!