

Safeguarding In Schools

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



Safeguarding Briefing - 17th March 2025

Parents with Mental Health Problems - NSPCC

Mental health is a broad term that covers many complex diagnoses and symptoms. Parental mental health problems are not in themselves a child safeguarding concern. However, a parent with poor mental health can sometimes struggle with providing safe and loving care for their children without the right support. In the world of case reviews professionals sometimes lacked knowledge about mental health. They were not always aware of parents' mental health concerns or did not fully understand how poor mental health was affecting parenting capacity. This meant that the impact on children went unrecognised, and potential safeguarding issues were not identified. Learning from case reviews can highlight the need for adult and children's services, to work better together to safeguard children. If interested in finding out more about case review based learning, please follow the link below:

https://learning.nspcc.org.uk/media/3160/learning-from-case-reviews_parents-with-a-mental-health-problem.pdf

Exam Self Care - Young Minds

We all know that exams are extremely challenging, not only because of what we have to learn, but also because they can affect our mental health. We're told to take regular breaks, but some find it hard to know how best to use them. Exam pressure is a rich topic for which there is plenty of advice. However, much of this advice focuses on study techniques to memorise exam topics. The reality is that much of the most vital revision is executed when one is not revising. Sometimes this aspect of revision can be more important than the active element. If interested in

finding some top tier self-care tips to share with your class, please follow the link below:

<https://www.youngminds.org.uk/young-person/blog/exam-self-care/>

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 for this live online seminar.

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.

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

Cost: ~~£97~~ £77+vat for readers of the Safeguarding Briefing

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

Question of the Week

How should schools respond if a pupil discloses that they have been communicating with an AI chatbot about their mental health struggles?

Answer

- **Acknowledge the disclosure** sensitively and reassure the pupil that they have done the right thing by speaking up.
- **Assess the risk** – consider whether there are any immediate safeguarding concerns (e.g., self-harm, suicidal thoughts) and act accordingly.
- **Follow child protection procedures** in line with *Keeping Children Safe in Education (KCSIE)*, ensuring concerns are recorded and shared appropriately.
- **Educate on digital resilience**, discussing the limitations of AI chatbots, data privacy risks, and the importance of seeking support from trusted adults.
- **Signpost to appropriate support**, such as pastoral teams, school counsellors, or external services like CAMHS or helplines.

NEW Success with AI Briefing

I've decided to create a new briefing to help DSLs stay ahead in Safeguarding and AI. In this essential email briefing I'll offer helpful insights, practical guidance and the latest updates on AI's impact on schools. I'll help you get to grips with AI, so you can spend more time on being the human in the room. To join me, go to: <https://www.successwithai.co.uk/join/>

Introducing HeyDocs - HeyDocs

Introducing HeyDocs, the streamlined document and policy management system for schools and Trusts-built by the founders of SCR Tracker. Beyond robust version control, automated compliance reviews, and powerful read tracking, HeyDocs also lets you onboard and induct new staff, request and collect their documents, and ensure everyone's fully compliant from day one. Use our built-in editor or simply upload files, then distribute policies to staff with an instant read-tracking overview. Sync your staff via Wonde or Google to maintain accurate records, and manage permission levels to ensure secure, role-based access.

Try HeyDocs free for 14 days, and take advantage of our exclusive education offer: 3 months free on an annual subscription (15 months for the price of 12). Visit <https://heydocs.com/education>

Nearly 40,000 Child Sexual Abuse Offences Committed by Children

A new report has revealed that nearly 40,000 child sexual abuse offences were committed by children in just one year. Analysis of police data from England and Wales found that 115,489 crimes linked to child sexual abuse and exploitation were recorded in 2023. In cases where the offender's age was recorded, 52% (39,049) were children aged 10 to 17, according to the Vulnerability Knowledge and Practice Programme (VKPP).

The report highlights the role of technology in facilitating abuse. Assistant Chief Constable Becky Riggs, the UK's policing lead for child protection, stated that unrestricted internet access has exposed children to harmful content. Gareth Edwards, VKPP director, noted that peer influence, home and school environments, and online exposure all contribute to offending behaviour.

Of 375 sample cases, four in five involved self-generated indecent images, with a third classified as non-aggravated—meaning images were shared willingly, while others involved coercion or blackmail. Social media apps such as Snapchat and Instagram were frequently used in these offences.

The report estimates that 500,000 children experience sexual abuse annually, with many cases going unreported.

- **Child-Initiated CSAE:** Over half (52%) of CSAE offences involved children aged 10 to 17 displaying harmful sexual behaviour, most commonly 14-year-olds. This highlights the need for early intervention and education.
- **Schools' Role in Detection:** CSAE reports drop during holidays, highlighting schools' crucial role in identifying and supporting disclosures.
- **Self-Generated Indecent Imagery (SGII):** 80% of child indecent imagery cases involved self-generated content, with 62% linked to blackmail or coercion, reinforcing the need for digital safety education.
- **Gendered Nature of CSAE:** In reported cases, 82% of children displaying harmful sexual behaviour were male, while 79% of those harmed were female, necessitating targeted safeguarding strategies.

- **Familial Abuse:** 31% of CSAE crimes occurred within families, 93% involving direct contact abuse. Nearly half (45%) of those harmed were under 10, requiring vigilance in younger children.

Read the full report: <https://www.vkpp.org.uk/vkpp-work/analytical-capability/national-analysis-of-police-recorded-child-sexual-abuse-and-exploitation-crimes-report-2023/>

Shore - Lucy Faithfull Foundation

Shore, launched in 2023 by The Lucy Faithfull Foundation, is an anonymous support platform designed to assist teenagers concerned about sexual thoughts or behaviours. It offers guidance on managing these concerns and promotes safe living both online and offline.

The website provides resources on topics such as healthy sexual relationships, understanding and changing harmful behaviours, and supporting others facing similar issues.

Shore features real-life stories to help users navigate their challenges. For those seeking direct assistance, confidential expert advice is available via email. By addressing these sensitive matters, Shore aims to prevent harmful sexual behaviours among young people.

<https://shorespace.org.uk/>

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](https://safeguarding.pro) These courses can be accessed for a full year.

Current courses include:

- Safeguarding Refresher
- An Introduction to Cybersecurity
- Safeguarding and AI: Risks and Rewards
- 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!