

Safeguarding Briefing

Edited by Andrew Hall
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Monday 6th October 2025

Crime and Policing Bill - NSPCC

The Crime and Policing Bill will introduce a new statutory duty for people in key roles to report child sexual abuse when they are made aware of it. This new duty will implement one of the key recommendations from the [Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse \(IICSA\)](#).

The NSPCC have produced free recorded webinars about the proposed duty that explore:

- the story so far and what's happening now
- who the new duty will apply to
- what you should report
- what stops children speaking out
- the process for reporting
- survivor stories and what we've learnt

For more information: <https://learning.nspcc.org.uk/training/mandatory-reporting-webinars>

Safer Internet Day 2026 - UK Safer Internet Centre

The UK Safer Internet Centre has announced its theme for this year's Safer Internet Day coming up in February. We've covered the Safer Internet Day over the past few years and it remains an excellent initiative. The project launched in 2004 by the EU Safer Borders organisation, is aimed at mutual learning and connecting over current issues in internet security. Each year the event gets bigger and bigger and this year their chosen theme is 'smart tech, safe choices and exploring AI and its responsible use.' In the past few years AI has been the only word on anybody's lips. Children and young people have been delving into AI at

an exponential rate, it is important that they have the skills and knowledge to make choices when using said programmes. The Safer Internet team have released new educational resources addressing chatbots, AI ethics, parental advice when it comes to AI and on the safe use of emerging technologies. To find out more follow the link below:

<https://saferinternet.org.uk/blog/safer-internet-day-2026-theme-announced>

Question of the Week

Question

"If a child discloses something worrying to you, what are the two most important things you must (and must not) do in that moment?"

Here's one answer, what's wrong with it?

"I'd reassure the child and promise to keep what they say secret so they don't lose trust in me. Then I'd ask lots of questions to get all the details and jot down the main points before deciding whether it's serious enough to tell the DSL later."

Answer

Never promise secrecy

You must never promise confidentiality. You must explain that you will need to share the concern with the DSL to help keep the child safe.

Don't ask lots of questions

We are not investigators. You should only listen and, if necessary, ask a simple clarifying question. Asking too many questions risks confusing or muddling the child's account.

Don't summarise 'main points'

Don't rewrite in your own words. Record factually, as soon as possible, using the child's exact words.

Don't consider the seriousness yourself or delay reporting

It's not your role to judge whether it's "serious enough". Always pass it on to the DSL immediately using the school's procedures.

Correct Approach

- Listen, reassure, explain (you must share with the DSL).
- Record in the child's words.
- Report immediately to the DSL.

Children in Gangs - LSCB

In safeguarding we often talk about gangs and gang involvement, but what do we actually mean by “gangs,” and when should we be worried? The Lambeth Safeguarding Children Board has a clear and practical article that explains why adolescents may be drawn to gangs, the risks involved, how to recognise the signs, and where to seek help.

Key points to be aware of include:

- Gangs often thrive on secrecy, making involvement difficult to detect.
- Adolescents may be attracted by a sense of belonging or control.
- The risks include criminal activity, violence, and exploitation.
- Warning signs can include changes in behaviour, peer groups, or appearance.

To read more go to:

<https://www.lambethsab.org.uk/children/carers/gangs>

Safeguarding Handbook

I've been writing and updating the Safeguarding Handbook for over ten years. It remains the only comprehensive guide for headteachers, DSLs and senior leaders.

The Safeguarding Handbook is practical, easy to read and will help you quickly find the answers you need.

This edition of the Safeguarding Handbook includes new sections on:

- Artificial Intelligence and Safeguarding
- Cumulative Harm
- Seasonal Safeguarding
- The Manosphere and Incel culture

and the following sections have been updated:

- County Lines
- Domestic Abuse
- Staff and Social Media

This is a hardcopy spiral-bound A4 book (220 pages) and includes a downloadable .pdf file.

To purchase your copy, click the link:

[Order your Safeguarding Handbook](#)

WEBINAR: Creating Safe Spaces: Introducing Therapeutic Supervision in Schools with Kate Hall

Online using WebinarJam | Monday 20th October 2025 4:00 - 5:30pm | £59+vat

Staff wellbeing sits at the heart of safe, thriving school communities. In this 90-minute webinar, Child and Adolescent Psychotherapist Catherine Hall (MEd. Cantab) will introduce therapeutic supervision — a relational, person-centred way to support staff working in the high-pressure world of education.

This session is ideal for school leaders, Designated Safeguarding Leads (DSLs), SENCOs, wellbeing leads, teachers, and school-based counsellors. Catherine will share practical strategies, real-life case studies, and a clear framework to help you explore how therapeutic supervision could work in your setting. Together, we will look at the Therapeutic Supervision Triangle, think through ethical considerations, and consider ways to measure the impact.

Join us for an opportunity to rethink how we support staff — not just as a ‘nice to have’, but as an essential part of building strong relationships, resilience, and reflective practice across the whole school community.

To book, go to:

<https://www.tickettailor.com/events/harbourcounselling/1892906>

Forthcoming Courses

Advanced Safeguarding for Designated Safeguarding Leads

"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."

Next live online Advanced Safeguarding Courses:

Friday 10th October 2025 [Book Online](#)

Wednesday 26th November 2025 [Book Online](#)

The on-demand version is available year-round and is updated regularly [Book Online](#)

Take a look at our other courses here:

<https://www.safeguardingschools.co.uk/availablecourses>

Many of our online courses are available in [Safeguarding.Pro](#) with full-year access included.

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!