



Safeguarding Briefing - 9th December 2024

Last Briefing of the Year

Today marks the last Safeguarding Briefing of 2024. We've covered a lot of topics this year. From cybersecurity to administrative topics like staff wellbeing, but throughout it all we've strived to bring you the latest information. The courses we've promoted have no doubt enhanced your ability to deal with the ever-more difficult realities of modern education. We will continue to do that into 2025, and I hope you'll join us for a coming year that promises to be as dynamic as ever. For now it's time to polish off the festive lesson plans, get the snowflakes out of the supply cupboard and frantically search for a Christmas tree. Have a good break and we'll see you next year.

Victoria Climbié graphic

Thank you to everyone that emailed a suggestion as to where the graphic we published last week came from. It seems most likely that it was included in the original serious case review (not the later Laming Report) that was published, but unfortunately I can't find a copy on the internet.

The Victoria Climbié Inquiry chair reflects on social work, 21 years on (Community Care)

Incidentally, earlier in the year, Lord (now Baron) Laming was interviewed by Community Care magazine and he reflects on changes to child protection since his landmark 2003 report on the murder of eight-year-old Victoria Climbié. You can read the article here:

<https://www.communitycare.co.uk/2024/04/11/the-victoria-climbié-inquiry-chair-reflects-on-social-work-21-years-on/>

Synthetic Media: Support and Advice for Schools - SWGfL

The world of technology is moving again. Throughout the year this has been a regular theme in the briefing. The proliferation of cheap 'AI' software through 2024, has continued a trend from the previous annum and has only accelerated. Although this variation of 'AI' is not the AI of 1960s and 70s science fiction, it has nonetheless enabled the creation of a new draft of manipulative software. The advanced auto-generative algorithms that makes up this faux-AI, have massively sped up the learning process of computer programmes. This has permitted the growth of sophisticated voice cloning and self-replicating imagery. Consequently what previously required expensive technology, or that which when bought cheaply rendered poor results, now can often be done for free. Pornographers, scammers and infiltrators now have the tools to make your life as an educational institution, infinitely more difficult. The South-West Grid for Learning, has produced an article seeking to support your efforts to mitigate this emerging risk. If interested, please follow the link below:

<https://swgfl.org.uk/topics/synthetic-media-deepfake/support-and-advice-for-schools/>

Resources to support regulation, connection and rest during December (Beacon House)

Beacon House have published a brilliant collection of resources specially designed by their therapists to support regulation, connection and rest during December. Take a look here: <https://beaconhouse.org.uk/winter-resources/>

Resources to Support Contact After Adoption - Research in Practice

Christmas brings into view issues that may otherwise rumble under the surface. For the vast majority of children Christmas is what they've waited for all year. Presents, distant family, hot home cooked food and all the festive trimmings of the Christmas period. However, it is important to remember that not all children have that luxury. Adopted children form an anomaly in this group. As they get older they may become aware that the family they live with, was not the one they originally had. Christmas is one of the time's that this fact may come to impact them. It may become a moment that spurs them to seek out their original family unit. To search for a mother or a father that for whatever reason, and there are many, were not able to provide a home for them. Research in Practice has provided new resources to support contact with birth families. This issue is one that must be handled with care and you may find this guide vital to your efforts, to aid adopted individuals. If interested, please click on the link below:

<https://www.researchinpractice.org.uk/children/news-views/2024/december/staying-in-touch-new-resources-to-support-contact-after-adoption>

Question of the Week

Each year NHS England publish a survey into the smoking, drinking and drug use of secondary school pupils in England in years 7 to 11. The latest edition looks at data collected during 2023 from 13,000 young people.

1. What percentage of 11 - 15 year olds told researchers that they were 'current smokers'? Answer = 3% (the same as in 2021)
2. What percentage of 11 - 15 year olds said they had ever tried e-cigarettes (vaping)? Answer 25%
3. What percentage of 11 - 15 year olds said they are currently vaping? Answer = 9% (the same as in 2021)
4. What percentage of 15 year olds said they usually drink alcohol at least once a week? Answer = 11%
5. Of the pupils who had taken drugs on more than one occasion, what percentage said the drugs they had most recently used, had obtained them at school? Answer = 11%

Source: Smoking, Drinking and Drug Use among Young People in England, 2023 <https://digital.nhs.uk/data-and-information/publications/statistical/smoking-drinking-and-drug-use-among-young-people-in-england/2023>

Do you have new staff joining next term?

Remember that our safeguarding.pro website has the CPD you need to share with new staff at the start of their employment with you. The ideal first course is 'Safeguarding Induction for new staff. To join safeguarding.pro go to: <https://safeguarding.pro/> or contact our team on office@safeguardingschools.co.uk

Teacher Wellbeing Index - Education Support

In your position as a school administrator or an educator, it is sometime easy to focus solely on the children in your care. This is particularly true when it comes to well-being. Teachers and support staff, take on an immense volume of work. Aiding children in their transition to become young adults, is not an easy task. Caring for staff and their levels of burnout, in a particularly emotional and difficult environment is consequently a vital ingredient to running a good school. Excellent performance only comes from excellent staff care. With that in mind, Education Support has published a raft of information designed to provide you with the data you need to reinforce this aspect of institutional management. If interested, please follow the link below: <https://www.educationsupport.org.uk/resources/for-organisations/research/teacher-wellbeing-index/>

Have you ordered your copy of the Safeguarding Handbook yet?

You can order the latest copy of the Safeguarding Handbook by going to: <https://checkout.safeguardingschools.co.uk/sh2024>

Supporting Children Through Bereavement - Place2Be

When someone close to you dies, it can be a difficult process. For adults this process, whilst painful, can be digested by using the mechanisms we all develop through our early years. That first experience with

bereavement, is a necessary but undeniably painful experience which will produce resilient adults. However, it is a process that must be dealt with delicately. For pupils the first death will likely be a grandparent, or an uncle. Individuals that usually have played an immense role in the formative years of that child or young person. Since the processing of death is an intensely private thing for adults, it may not be obvious how to support someone experiencing it for the first time. Place2B has published a guide to handling this occurrence in children and young people. For more information, please follow the link below:

<https://parentingsmart.place2be.org.uk/article/supporting-your-child-when-someone-dies>

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."

Next live online course - 15th January 2025

Wednesday 15th January 2025 [Book here](#)

The on-demand DSL 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/>

Implementing the Role of the Senior Mental Health

This DfE-assured course is for people new to the role of Senior Mental Health Lead who need to better understand the role, audit their school's current Mental Health approach, and feel more confident in their work.

The course is online, self-paced; and is aimed at new leaders who are at the beginning of their SHML journey.

For more information, go to: <https://www.smhl.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!