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Welcome to our September 2025 Newsletter

In this newsletter, we bring together information which we hope you will find useful and we highlight how the Partnership continues to communicate and keep in touch with all our agencies and provide guidance to support you in your role working with children and adults. In this edition, we bring you information in the spotlight about Elective Home Education, updates and also information about Partnership work, important safeguarding updates and new training dates.

Me Learning

Don't forget to log in to your Me Learning account and see our new e-learning courses on a range of safeguarding topics

In the Spotlight..... Elective Home Education

Safeguarding Children who are Elective Home Educated

There has been a significant increase in recent years in the number of children who are Elective Home Educated (EHE) both locally and nationally, recent statistics indicate that as many as 111,700 children in England were being taught from home in Autumn of 2024, this increase has received considerable national attention. EHE is when parents decide to educate their child at home instead of in a school setting and there are many reasons why parents decide to home educate their children.

The Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel published a briefing in May 2024 on [Safeguarding Children in Elective Home Education](#) to share the learning from analysis of rapid reviews and local child safeguarding practice reviews to help partners help and protect children who are electively home educated. Whilst, EHE is not in itself a safeguarding risk, there may be some children who will require the attention of safeguarding agencies because they are at risk of harm and may not be visible to services.

DSP agreed it should consider what is needed from a multi-agency partnership perspective to support practitioners across the wider partnership in understanding the processes, pathways and the powers held by Local Authorities in respect of Elective Home Education (EHE). A task and finish group of key partner agencies considered what was currently in place and what was needed from a local perspective.

It was highlighted there were already a number of good practice measures in place and the partnership should look at what can be done to strengthen those processes to ensure they are more coordinated. The welfare and protection of all children, both those who attend school and those who are educated at home, is of paramount concern and the responsibility of the whole community. All agencies have a responsibility in ensuring the safety of children and young people and it is in everyone's interest to ensure relevant sharing of information between local agencies is a vital part of this which may ultimately increase that line of sight on EHE children.

DSP agreed to develop and publish guidance to help and support practitioners across wider partner agencies in understanding the local processes and pathways along with the powers held by local authorities when parents choose to electively home educate their children. The guidance outlines what you as a practitioner should do if you have any safeguarding concerns or concerns about the education provision for a child.

DSP Guidance – [Safeguarding Children who are Electively Home Educated](#)

#LookCloser Programme of Learning

The
Children's
Society

October 2025- December 2025

We're delighted to invite you to join us for our latest #LookCloser programme of learning. These sessions draw from The Children's Society's expertise working around child exploitation and abuse and the rich insights gained from consulting with strategic partners and young people across England and Wales.

All sessions are free of charge and delivered on Microsoft Teams Live which means:

- Interaction with the presenters and participants will be limited
- There will however, be a Q&A function
- We will use tools such as Menti to provide opportunities for engagement and discussion.

The timetable below has links to each learning event on EventBrite, where you can book on to as few or as many events as you please. All of our sessions have been designed for various professional audiences, so please share these events with anyone you think would benefit from attending.

If you have any questions about our learning events, please contact prevention@childrenssociety.org.uk

Date	Time	Session
Tuesday 14 October	13:00 - 15:00	Language Matters
Tuesday 18 November	10:00 - 12:00	Safeguarding Transgender Young People from Exploitation
Thursday 11 December	13:00 - 15:00	Anti-racist practice to tackle child exploitation

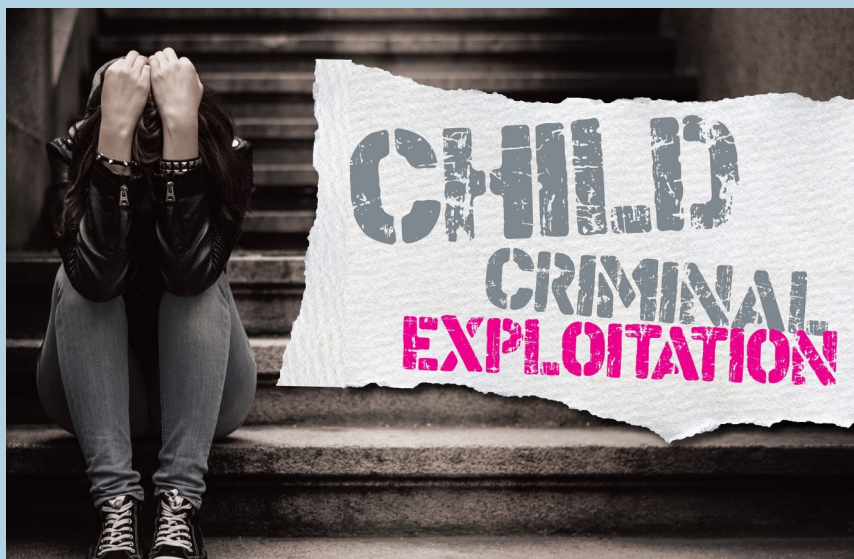
Learning Session Information: These sessions are aimed at upskilling professionals in the topic area and identifying points of reflection for individuals' own practice and to take back to their wider teams and networks. The audience is expected to be varied and therefore the session has been written to engage professionals at different levels of knowledge and seniority and across a range of setting and sectors.

You may want to read some of our [resources](#) prior to attending our sessions in order to get the most out of these, but this is not a requirement.

Child Criminal Exploitation

The Alliance for Youth Justice (AYJ) has published a briefing looking at the criminal justice response to exploited young people as they transition to adulthood in England and Wales. The briefing drew on an evidence review, a consultation session with professionals and meetings with practitioners. Issues highlighted include: safeguarding and support often ends at 18-years-old for young people who have been criminally exploited; and a lack of transitional safeguarding and support for young people who are more vulnerable to criminal exploitation, such as those with care experience, special educational needs and disabilities, and Black and mixed heritage children, risks further criminalising young people from these groups. The briefing calls for safeguarding and support for criminally exploited young people to extend beyond 18; a cross-governmental taskforce to tackle criminal exploitation; and more support for police, prosecutors and courts to recognise young adults' continued vulnerability.

Read the briefing: [Exploited to exploiter? Preventing the unjust criminalisation of victims of child criminal exploitation in the transition](#)



OUR PLEDGE

To have open, honest, bold conversations with each other as multi-agency partners in order to do the very best we can for adults and children in Darlington.

For many families across Darlington, multi-agency working is vital to maintain a focus on children and adults while also keeping them at the heart of all decisions.

Our Pledge is an opportunity to:

- Seek out professional conversations with each other at the earliest opportunity
- Have a shared understanding of the strengths and risks within a family
- Actively listen to each other and share important information
- Respect each other's expertise
- Be open and empathetic to the professional views of others
- Be professionally curious and evidence what we say
- Use common language that everyone understands



Concerned about a child?

Contact the Children's Initial
Advice Team
Professionals on **01325 406252**
Public on **01325 406222**

**Concerned about an
adult?**

Contact the Adult
Contact Team
on **01325 406111**



PARTNER SHIPS

Statutory Safeguarding Partners

James Stroyan, Executive Director of People

Nicola Lawrence, Detective Chief Superintendent

Hilary Lloyd, Chief Nurse