

Edition 6



All Children
deserve to feel...



A way for our Trust community to stay
updated with Safeguarding news.

Most of all- a place to get ideas and
build confidence & positivity!

MESSAGE FROM THE TRUST SAFEGUARDING TEAM

Thank you for ensuring all pupils and staff continue to feel safe.
Contextual safeguarding continues to be a focus for Rivermead Inclusive Trust. It is important to remember that our young people are vulnerable to abuse in a range of social contexts beyond the family environment.

Contextual Safeguarding



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

[Homepage \(cscnetwork.org.uk\)](https://cscnetwork.org.uk/)

Contextual Safeguarding is an approach to understanding, and responding to, young people's experiences of significant harm beyond their families. It recognises that the different relationships that young people form in their neighbourhoods, schools and online can feature violence and abuse. Parents and carers have little influence over these contexts, and young people's experiences of extra-familial abuse can undermine parent-child relationships.

Sign up to access training and webinars [Training resources and webinars \(cscnetwork.org.uk\)](https://cscnetwork.org.uk/)



Useful websites:

Medway Safeguarding Children Partnership's (MSCP)
<https://www.medwayscp.org.uk/mscb/info/4/advice-resources-professionals>

MSCP Free e-learning courses

A selection of course linked to safeguarding for professionals
https://www.kscmp.org.uk/data/assets/pdf_file/0006/105279/KSCMP-and-MSCP-E-Learning-Courses.pdf

NELFT

The Medway Young Persons' Wellbeing Service provides emotional wellbeing and mental health advice and support for young people and their families across Medway.

<https://www.nelft.nhs.uk/services-medway-young-persons-wellbeing>

Child Protection and Safeguarding;

Everybody's business,
Everybody's concern,
Everybody's responsibility

Worried about a learner or child?

Don't assume that someone else will do something. Speak to a DSL immediately.

If a child is in immediate danger, call 999



CHILD ACCIDENT PREVENTION TRUST

CHILD SAFETY WEEK 2021

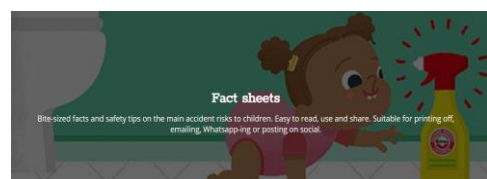
Child Safety Week runs from Monday 7th to
Sunday 13th June with the theme **Share because you care.**

Child Safety Week is an annual community education campaign run by the Child Accident Prevention Trust (CAPT). This year the theme is 'share because you care'.

A range of resources are available from CAPT including translated fact sheets in Urdu, Bengali, Punjabi, Polish and Arabic.

The Parents' Pack is filled with information for parents/carers and children. It includes fact sheets, safety quizzes and activities for children with spot the difference, word searches and colouring in.

<https://www.capt.org.uk>



Kent and Medway Eating Disorder Service

The service provides a range of support for any child or teenager who requires support for an eating disorder. They also provide specialist inpatient care.

Eating disorders include:

Anorexia Nervosa (AN)

Bulimia Nervosa (BN)

EDNOS (eating disorders not otherwise specified)

You can email nem-tr.eds.kentandmedway.referrals@nhs.net or call 0300 300 1980 for more information.

Open Road Offer substance misuse support and advice for young people. You can [visit the Open Road website](#) or call them on 01634 366 285.

METRO promotes health, wellbeing, equality & participation through youth services, mental health & wellbeing services, sexual & reproductive health & HIV services, and community participation & involvement. They work with anyone experiencing issues related to gender, sexuality, diversity or identity.

<https://getit.org.uk/about/kent-medway-get-it-video/>

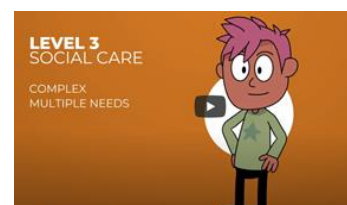


Medway Threshold Criteria for Children in Need

Most children and young people have a number of basic needs that can be supported through a range of universal services. These services include education, early years, health, housing, youth services, leisure facilities and services provided by voluntary organisations.

The document below provides guidance for professionals and service users, to clarify the circumstances in which to refer a child to a specific agency to address an individual need, to carry out an Early Help Assessment (EHA) or refer to Children's Services in Medway.

[mscp-threshold-guidance-2021](#)



Introductory Threshold video for all professionals in Medway
[threshold-guidance-2021 - YouTube](#)



GANGS

GANGS AND YOUTH VIOLENCE

Gangs and youth violence are a growing problem across the country. Membership of gangs and associated youth violence can have a devastating impact on children and young people and their families.

Being part of a peer group is seen as a normal part of childhood development. Peer groups are however less defined and organised than gangs and membership of peer groups is fairly fluid, i.e. members can come and go as they please. It is also relatively normal for groups of children to get together in public places as this allows them to share news, ideas, etc. and also potentially do things that they would not be able to get away with whilst under the watchful eyes of adults. For some this may involve low level criminality, however this does not necessarily make them a gang – gangs, as we will see below have very clear structures and tasks.

Definition of a gang

A gang is a relatively durable, predominantly street-based group of young people who see themselves as a discernible group, engage in a range of criminal activities, identify or lay claim over territory, have some form of identifying structural feature, and are in conflict with other, similar gangs.

Children's Commissioner, 2019

Vulnerable groups

Chaotic home life where children are not priority

Poor supervision from an early age

Issues within home (e.g. domestic abuse, mental ill health)

Familial history of offending

Children with additional needs

Poor engagement with education

Poor self-image / self-worth

Looked after children



Reasons for joining a gang

gangs provide a sense of belonging and purpose
to get respect / status or power
recruited by other gang members and are pressured to join
boredom
poverty
feeling they will not find a better life or good job
financial gain (legal or otherwise)

Spotting the signs

aggression and / or non-compliance
difficulty concentrating
difficulty developing relationships
reduction in attendance and /or attainment / missing episodes
low self-esteem, depression or anxiety
self-harm
substance misuse
change in behaviour and appearance
unexplained possessions
refusal to enter certain areas



What you can do

Create an environment based on equality and informed choice – provide information to allow pupils to make informed choices. It is well established that success in learning is one of the most powerful indicators in the prevention of youth crime.

Check young people have safe relationships – in their family, with their peers and with your staff. Create the environment where it's ok to talk even about the most difficult things.

Spot the signs & know what to do – use the checklists above, your safeguarding procedures and be confident in raising gang and youth violence as a possibility.

Take action – and keep taking action until you know they're safe.

SPOTLIGHT ON BETTER MEDWAY SCHOOLS

https://www.medway.gov.uk/info/200221/a_better_medway/440/school_programmes

School programmes

All schools in Medway can access the programmes free of charge. These programmes cover a range of topics, including:

- Children and young people's mental health and emotional well being
- Personal, Social, Health and Economic (PSHE) education
- Relationship and Sex Education (RSE)
- Additional support available for Medway schools

Lesson plans

Medway Public Health Directorate has worked in close partnership with the PSHE Association to produce a quality assured suite of PSHE/RSE lesson plans and resources. Available at no cost to all Medway schools.

Extremism and Radicalisation

A series of four lesson plans for key stage 4 with a specific focus on addressing extremism and radicalisation of all kinds were produced in partnership with the PSHE Association.

Youth Mental Health First Aid (MHFA)

Our Youth MHFA course is an internationally recognised course designed specifically for those people that teach, work, live with or care for young people aged 8 to 18 years.

You will learn how to:

- provide information, tools and techniques to promote a young person's mental and emotional wellbeing
- support a young person who might be experiencing mental and emotional distress

MHFA won't teach you how to be a therapist, but you will be able to say you're a Youth Mental Health First Aider.

Smoke Free School Gates

Smoke Free School Gates provides schools with educational resources and the opportunity to have personalised no smoking signs for their school gates; encouraging parents and carers not to smoke in or around the school.

Youth Health Champions

The RSPH Youth Health Champions programme is an exciting and flexible approach to health education. The course aims to give young people the skills, knowledge and confidence to act as peer mentors, increasing awareness of healthy lifestyles and encouraging involvement in activities to promote good health.

This is a totally new approach to health education with the benefit of an Ofqual accredited qualification designed to support the Youth Health Champion programme.

Teacher Training

This two hour course is for senior leaders, PSHE Coordinators, teachers, HLTAs and support staff delivering or leading health and wellbeing education within the curriculum, in all education settings. It aims to provide participants with the knowledge, skills and confidence to plan and deliver high quality health and wellbeing education, that fully meets the needs of their pupils.

Parent Workshops

Medway's Child Health team are delighted to be able offer a new service to Medway schools. We are able to deliver brief workshops for the parents and carers of your pupils.

We can offer workshops on:

- Relationships and Sex Education (RSE)
- RSE and sexual health
- Puberty and how to support your child through the changes
- Transition to secondary school
- CSE and Internet safety



TRUST DSL FORUM

DSLs from each school attend a regular Trust DSL meeting- if you have anything that you wish to raise please speak to your Safeguarding Team or email me directly:

quare043@rivermeadinclusivetrust.org



