

# Safeguarding Newsletter 3

[www.boarding.org.uk](http://www.boarding.org.uk)

Welcome to the last newsletter before the Christmas break, and BSA wishes all colleagues, wherever you may be in the world, a happy and peaceful holiday and an excellent 2018.

## Live streaming

Many of you will have seen coverage of the current concern about live streaming. This was highlighted also by the BBC last week

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/av/uk-42243733/posing-as-a-schoolgirl-to-expose-online-groomers>

The real concern is that the dark and seedy world of grooming has changed dramatically. Having traditionally been seen as a process over time, some children are now groomed in minutes. This has been exacerbated by new apps and technologies, which make it even easier to send video footage in real time. The Safer Internet Centre is a good source of material relating to current trends

[www.saferinternet.org.uk](http://www.saferinternet.org.uk)

## Mobile phones

With this being such an important and regularly discussed topic with members, it was interesting to note that France, where mobile phones are already banned in lessons, is planning to ban them from schools altogether!

## England -

### Working Together to Safeguard Children

BSA Head of Safeguarding and Standards, Dale Wilkins, recently attended a consultation briefing on the proposed new "Working Together to Safeguard Children" document, as indeed did many colleagues from individual member schools. The new document will be the first major revision in five years (there were minor updates after that, most recently in 2015), and reflects the requirements of the Children and Social Work Act 2017, which recently found its way onto the statute books.

It became clear very early on that, this is a genuine consultation, and while colleagues' views will be taken seriously, there are certain matters which are pre-ordained by the Act itself, and thus not subject to alteration:

- That Local Safeguarding Children Boards will be replaced by statutory partnerships comprising the police, the local authority and the Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG)
- The involvement of schools and other education providers will still be considered a key element, of course
- Ofsted will not be responsible for inspecting the new arrangements - local authorities will need to make their own arrangements for independent scrutiny
- Arrangements for Serious Case Reviews will change, to be replaced by local and national reviews.



→ Other relevant items which were mentioned as part of the meeting were:

- The removal of a requirement for a threshold document (this will be subject to local management)
- Arrangements for those local authorities with multiple police forces or CCGs
- Current uncertainty around funding arrangements, in particular with regard to what costs, if any, might be levied from schools.

BSA will update on the progress of the new document, and its relationship to any future version of "Keeping Children Safe in Education". The consultation materials are available online, and the deadline for responses is 31 December.

## Abuse inquiries

The English Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse (IICSA) is in the final week of hearings into abuse in the Catholic Church, specifically the English Benedictine Congregation and associated schools. Some of the victims of abuse testifying have repeated the call for mandatory reporting of abuse to be brought in.

This strand of the inquiry concludes on Friday 15 December, and there is currently no indication of any focus on boarding schools in 2018. The Research Project is ongoing, and the Truth Project will be holding further sessions in major towns and cities in the New Year.

The Scottish inquiry has continued to hear about significant abuse in residential schools in Scotland, though "boarding schools" have not appeared as yet.

Dale Wilkins  
Head of Safeguarding and Standards, BSA

## Scotland - Named Person

The controversial "Named Person" initiative in Scotland has been pushed back even further. Scottish members will be aware that the original implementation date has already passed, but the education committee voted not to produce a report on the Children and Young People (Information Sharing) Bill until the Scottish Government has produced a new code of conduct for those expected to fill the Named Person role. Despite this the First Minister, Nicola Sturgeon, has promised to press forward.

## Social Gaming

Social gaming has been prominent in the news this week. This topic will be picked up in newsletter 4 but, in the meantime, [www.ygam.org](http://www.ygam.org) is a useful source of information.

## Peer-on-peer abuse

Times Educational Supplement, and indeed the daily news from Independent Schools Council, have reported that a guidance document from the DfE on peer-on-peer abuse is imminent. Clearly this will have a value beyond the geographical boundaries for which it is intended, BSA will email all those on the safeguarding mailing list as soon as it appears. TES reports that the imminent publication has been prompted by the threat of legal action. The full article can be read at [www.tes.com/news/school-news/breaking-news/exclusive-peer-peer-abuse-guidance-tackle-why-pupils-display-harmful](http://www.tes.com/news/school-news/breaking-news/exclusive-peer-peer-abuse-guidance-tackle-why-pupils-display-harmful)

BSA is grateful to all those colleagues who, under the terms of the BSA Charter, have made notifications of such situations in schools. A key focus from the eventual DfE guidance, but also for training, conferences and newsletters in the future, will be to share best practice of how such complicated and traumatic issues can best be tackled.