

LADO Education Safeguarding Advisory Service Child Protection Newsletter

2024-25: Term 6

Welcome

Welcome to the final Child Protection Newsletter for the 2024-25 academic year. We hope that the following articles and information we share will be useful for you.

This newsletter is published by the LADO Education Safeguarding Advisory Service and issued to schools, early years providers and local authority staff.

This newsletter aims to help DSLs keep up to date with key local and national safeguarding guidance and procedures, to support them in carrying out their role.

For this newsletter to be effective, please ensure that it is shared with all Designated Safeguarding Leads in your organisation and other staff as appropriate. DSLs may also wish to extract and share content with their wider staff group as part of providing at least annual safeguarding updates.

We include links to external websites in our articles; we try and provide useful resources but cannot be responsible for their content and advice and some information/events are time limited so may have expired.

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LADO Education Safeguarding Advisory Service (LESAS) Updates

LESAS Child Protection Policy Templates 2025-26

Our School/College and Early Years Child Protection Policy Templates for 2025-26 have been published on The Education People website: [LESAS | Template Policies and Guidance](#)

Where possible, new, updated, or relocated content for 2025-26 is highlighted in yellow. These templates are intended as a starting point to support education settings in implementing policies in line with national guidance; DSLs and leaders should ensure they are adapted to reflect their local context and specific safeguarding arrangements. Our service makes every effort to ensure the accuracy and currency of these templates, however, the responsibility for ensuring that individual policies are appropriate and compliant rests with the DSL and leadership team.

Please note: The DfE is expected to publish revised guidance on Relationships, Sex and Health Education (RSHE) and on gender-questioning children later this summer which will be added to KCSIE when available. DSLs and leaders will need to review and update their policies accordingly once this guidance is released.

To ensure full compliance with EYFS/KCSIE 2025:

- **Customise** all placeholders with school/setting-specific information (e.g. DSL names, contact details, local procedures).
- **Remove** guidance notes and irrelevant sections.
- **Ensure integration** with other safeguarding policies (e.g. behaviour, allegations).
- **Review updates** in KCSIE/EYFS 2025 and ensure they are reflected in your final version.
- **Ratify** the final policy through the governing body or equivalent and publish it as required.

All other LESAS produced content, including eLearning and other templates and products/will be reviewed and updated over the summer so it is ready for use from 1st September 2025.

LESAS DSL Staff Training Packs for 2025-26 Available now

Our DSL staff training packs have been updated for 2025-26 and are available to purchase now:

- **Whole School Safeguarding Training Pack for DSLs 2025-26** – includes a scripted template training presentation, staff induction leaflet template and training guidance, as well as an updated KCSIE staff training quiz.
- **Whole School Online Safety Training Pack for DSLs 2025-26** - includes a scripted template training presentation, guidance document and online safety training activities for staff.
- **Staff Safeguarding Training Pack for DSLs in Early Years Settings 2025-26** – includes a scripted template training presentation, staff training guidance document, an EYFS staff training quiz and a child protection induction leaflet for new staff.

These products can be accessed alongside our other products and resources on [The Education People Website](#).

Help Shape the Future of LESAS – We Need Your Feedback!

As we mark the first full year of the LADO Education Safeguarding Advisory Service (LESAS) in practice, we're inviting all Designated Safeguarding Leads (DSLs) to share their experiences and insights.

Your feedback is vital in helping us understand what's working well and where improvements can be made, as well as any additional support that could be offered by LESAS. The survey will remain open until the 31st October 2025, and your responses will directly inform future updates and support.

Please take a few minutes to complete the survey here:

<https://forms.office.com/e/xgbWN6kdd2>



National Safeguarding Updates

Keeping Children Safe in Education 2025

The Department for Education (DfE) has published an 'information only' version of [Keeping Children Safe in Education 2025](#) (KCSIE) on the 7th July, confirming that the final version will be published and come into force on 1st September.

The changes from KCSIE 2024 are relatively minor, but there is an indication that there will be more substantial changes for future editions following the passage through Parliament of the Children's Wellbeing and Schools Bill and The Crime and Policing Bill, as well as the work of the Casey Audit on Group-based Child Sexual Exploitation and Abuse amongst other things.

For now, DSLs should be aware of the following:

- There are **no changes to Section 1** of KCSIE since last year's update.
- DfE have indicated that the final version in September should include links to updated guidance due to be published over the summer on RSHE, and new guidance on Gender Questioning Children. In both cases the guidance is 'expected' to be published, and links will be included in September if it is.
- The definition of 'Content' in the **'4 Cs' of Online Safety** has been expanded to make explicit reference to misinformation, disinformation and conspiracy theories as safeguarding harms.
- There are some slight **changes in wording** to clarify and reflect existing guidance on Alternative Provisions. Similarly, to clarify that 'Working Together to Safeguard Attendance' is now statutory, and that the role of the Virtual Head now includes promoting the education of children in kinship care.
- **Links** have been updated throughout the document, especially in Safer Recruitment.
- In the section on Online Safety in part two, there is a link to the [Plan technology for your school](#) service and to the DfE [Generative AI: product safety expectations](#) guidance which will support schools to use generative artificial intelligence safely, and explains how filtering and monitoring requirements apply to the use of generative AI in education.
- One specific link added is to the Lucy Faithfull Foundation's ['Shore Space'](#), offering a confidential chat service for young people with concerns around sexual thoughts and behaviours.

Local Safeguarding updates

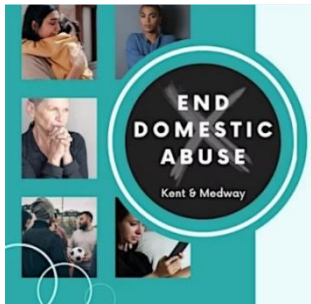
Support for schools following a suspected suicide

Kent County Council and NHS Kent and Medway commission Amparo to provide intensive practical and emotional support to all individuals (parents, siblings, friends, partners, school teachers etc.) who have been bereaved by suicide.

[Refer - Amparo](#) or 0330 088 9255.

KSCMP recently produced a SWAY entitled - Support and Guidance for Kent Schools after the Suspected Suicide of a Pupil. [Safeguarding in Education - Kent Safeguarding Children Multi-Agency Partnership \(kscmp.org.uk\)](#)

The Step by Step programme from the Samaritans [Step by Step | Samaritans](#) support organisations working with young people so that they can respond effectively following the suspected or attempted suicide of someone from within their community; taking practical steps to reduce the risk of further deaths in the area.



End Domestic Abuse - Partnership Learning Webinars

Free webinars from the Kent and Medway Domestic Abuse Partnership focus on a range of domestic abuse related topics, with new subjects being added regularly. [Register](#) for their latest webinar on recognising stalking and its link with domestic abuse.

As part of the Kent and Medway Domestic Abuse Strategy, the Early Intervention & Prevention Domestic Abuse Subgroup is exploring the issue of under-16s experiencing abuse in intimate partner relationships. This work is in response to growing national concern, including high-profile cases such as the tragic death of Holly Newton, which has sparked a national campaign to improve early identification and support for young people.

We are asking all Designated Safeguarding Leads to complete a short survey to help us:

- Understand the scale of the issue in Kent schools
- Identify the challenges professionals face in trying to support this area of work
- [Map out](#) internal and external interventions currently in use, so that we can identify gaps
- Learn where young people are being signposted for support

Click the link to complete the survey: <https://forms.office.com/e/kqbdCZ5Pcf>

The new Therapeutic Support Service

Kent County Council (KCC) is setting up a new Therapeutic Support Service to help 4 to 19-year-olds living in Kent with mild to medium emotional wellbeing and mental health support needs, which will replace the current (Kent School Public Health) CYP (Children and Young People's) Counselling Service.

From now to the start of the new service, there is a period of transition, and we are requesting

your support. Following Kent County Council's public consultation and as part of a gradual transition toward the eventual closure of the CYP Counselling service you will no longer be able to refer into the CYP Counselling Service.

The new service will start to accept referrals from November 2025 and will be fully operational before 31 March 2026. Details of [alternative provision during the transition period](#) is available.

Core Safeguarding Training for DSLs

Our training courses for the 25-26 academic year are now available to book on The Education People website:

- [Early years training](#)
- [Schools/colleges training](#)

Term 1 Core Training Dates

16/09/25	DSL Refresher	Ashford International Hotel, Simone Weil Avenue, TN24 8UX
17/09/25	New to Role DSL	Eastgate, 141 Springhead Parkway, Northfleet DA11 8AD
18/09/25	DSL Refresher	Bridgewood Manor Hotel, Walderslade ME5 9AX
24/09/25	Early Years DSL Refresher	Bridgewood Manor Hotel, Walderslade ME5 9AX
25/09/25	Early Years Basic Awareness	Virtual (Teams)
26/09/25	New to Role Early Years DSL	Ashford International Hotel, Simone Weil Avenue, TN24 8UX
30/09/25	New to Role DSL	Kent Event Centre, Kent Showground ME14 3JF
02/10/25	DSL Refresher	Mercure Maidstone Great Danes, ME17 1RE
07/10/25	New to Role DSL	Howfield Manor Hotel, Chartham, CT4 7HQ
14/10/25 & 15/10/25	New to Role Early Years DSL	Virtual (Teams)
16/10/25	New to Role DSL	Singleton Environment Centre, Ashford, TN23 5LW

The service also has a number of '[on demand](#)' e-Learning courses available for DSLs and staff. These courses will be updated over the summer ready for 2025-26, and include:

- Safeguarding Basic Awareness for Induction (School Staff)
- Kent Designated Safeguarding Lead Refresher
- Strategic Safeguarding for Governors
- Safeguarding Record Keeping for Designated Safeguarding Leads
- Early Years Designated Safeguarding Lead Refresher
- Child Protection and Designated Safeguarding Lead Training for Childminders
- Online Safeguarding for Early Years DSLs and Managers
- Online Safeguarding for Early Years Practitioners

For any queries relating to our core or bespoke training offer, please contact our [Training and Development Team](#) or use our [LESAS enquiry form](#).

Early Years Foundation Stage 2025

On the 14th July, the DfE published a new version of 'EYFS statutory framework for childminders' and 'EYFS statutory framework group and school-based providers'. This follows their consultation in 2024 regarding reforms to the safeguarding and welfare requirements.

These include new or amended expectations in relation to:

- Safer Recruitment
- Child Absences
- Designated Safeguarding Lead
- New Safeguarding Training (Annex C)
- Paediatric First Aid (PFA)
- Safer eating
- Toileting and Privacy
- Whistleblowing

The new versions are effective from 1 September 2025. Until then, the current frameworks apply.

DfE: Giving Every Child The Best Start in Life

The Department for Education (DfE) has released its new [Child Development Strategy for England](#), setting out a national vision to ensure every child gets the best possible start in life. The strategy focuses on improving support for families and expanding access to high-quality early education and care.

A key initiative is the rollout of Best Start Family Hubs in every local authority. These hubs will be open to all families but will be prioritised in communities with the greatest need. They will work in close partnership with local children's services to safeguard children and provide targeted support to families facing complex challenges, particularly through the involvement of a dedicated family help lead practitioner.

The strategy also highlights plans to strengthen health services, with a particular focus on maternity care and health visiting, ensuring families receive consistent, joined-up support from pregnancy through to school age.

UK Safer Internet Centre updated filtering and monitoring definitions

[2025 Appropriate Filtering and Monitoring Definitions Published - UK Safer Internet Centre](#)

Following a public consultation earlier this year, the UK Safer Internet Centre (UKSIC) has now published the updated *Appropriate Filtering and Monitoring Definitions for 2025*. These definitions continue to support education settings and providers across the UK in understanding what should be considered 'appropriate' in the context of statutory safeguarding responsibilities—particularly in light of evolving technologies and updated government guidance.

"Filtering systems must effectively and reliably prevent access to harmful and inappropriate content generated by Generative AI systems. Monitoring systems must maintain robust activity logging procedures that capture interactions with generative tools." — 2025 Definitions

The UK Safer Internet Centre have also published [new guidance for schools: Safeguarding and Filtering on Apple iOS Devices](#). This is to support schools using Apple iOS devices, particularly iPads, to ensure they are meeting their statutory obligations regarding filtering and monitoring.



NEW research from Internet Matters: AI chatbots

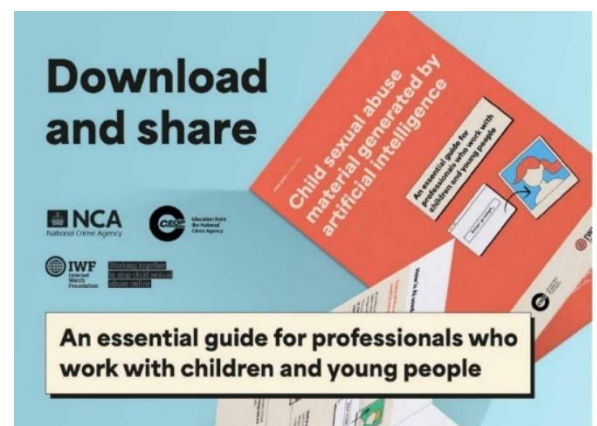
The [latest research from Internet Matters, 'Me, Myself and AI'](#), explores children's interactions with AI chatbots (built into most social media platforms) as both tools and companions, and aims to understand the benefits and safeguarding risks.

The research suggests that children would benefit from AI and media literacy being embedded in online safety education across all key stages, and parents/carers need support on guiding their child's use of AI.

New Guidance from CEOP and IWF: AI-generated child sexual abuse material

CEOP, in collaboration with the IWF, have produced a comprehensive guide for all professionals working with children and young people, to help them understand and respond to AI-generated child sexual abuse material.

The guidance includes an overview of the various ways AI can be misused to create child sexual abuse imagery, the legal implications of AI-child sexual abuse material, clear "dos and don'ts" when encountering such material and advice on providing wellbeing support to victims.



New Resources Available for Supporting SEND Learners



South West Grid for Learning have unveiled a dedicated SEND hub to support school leaders and Designated Safeguarding Leads (DSLs) build a whole-school approach to online safety that is inclusive, proactive, and sustainable for learners with SEND.

The hub provides practical, evidence-informed advice in key areas, including:

- **Building an Inclusive Online Safety Framework-** Aligning school safeguarding policies with approaches that specifically address the needs of SEND learners.
- **Understanding Online Risks for SEND Students-** Gaining insight into how risks manifest differently for children with SEND, enabling earlier identification and prevention.
- **Delivering Accessible Online Safety Education-** Adapting educational content to meet diverse learning styles and emotional development levels.
- **Empowering School Staff-** Equipping teachers and support staff with the knowledge and tools to identify online risks and respond appropriately.
- **Collaborating with Parents and Carers-** Extending the digital safety conversation beyond school walls, creating consistency across environments.
- **Addressing Challenges Beyond the Classroom-** Supporting SEND learners in settings like residential care or during transportation, where online access may still occur.

Reminder of Updated DfE Guidance on Generative AI in Education

[Updated guidance](#) from the DfE outlines some considerations for education settings wishing to use generative AI safely, effectively and responsibly in school and can provide a starting point for developing policy and practice in preparation for September.

Key messages include:

- Empowering educators: AI can help staff focus on what they do best, teaching, by automating routine tasks.
- Equity and access: When used well, AI can help ensure that all children, regardless of background, can thrive in education.
- Safeguarding and data protection: Schools must consider the risks to children and staff, including safeguarding concerns and data privacy. The guidance encourages schools to review filtering, monitoring, and acceptable use policies accordingly.
- Support for implementation: The DfE has published a suite of support materials, including case studies, policy templates, and technical guidance to help schools make informed decisions.

For more information, visit the official DfE guidance:

- [Generative AI in Education – GOV.UK](#)
- [Using technology in education - GOV.UK](#)

New poster promoting button battery safety to keep children safe

The Office of Product Safety Standards (OPSS) has issued a poster detailing the '[5 top tips to keep children safe from button batteries](#)', featuring top tips developed through collaboration with accident prevention charities, clinicians, manufacturers, online marketplaces, and trade associations. The poster aims to warn parents about the risks of button batteries and provides information on keeping children safe.

Used batteries should be disposed of by dropping them off for recycling at a collection point at a supermarket. For health and safety support or advice, contact the Health and Safety Team

Advice Line: 03000 418456 or email: healthandsafety@kent.gov.uk



Information to share with parents/carers: use of private tutors

As families consider additional academic support, especially over the summer holidays, it's important to understand the responsibilities and risks associated with using private tutors.

While private tutoring can be a valuable tool to boost confidence, close learning gaps, or support exam/test preparation, it is largely unregulated. This means that parents/carers must take extra care when selecting someone to work with their child.

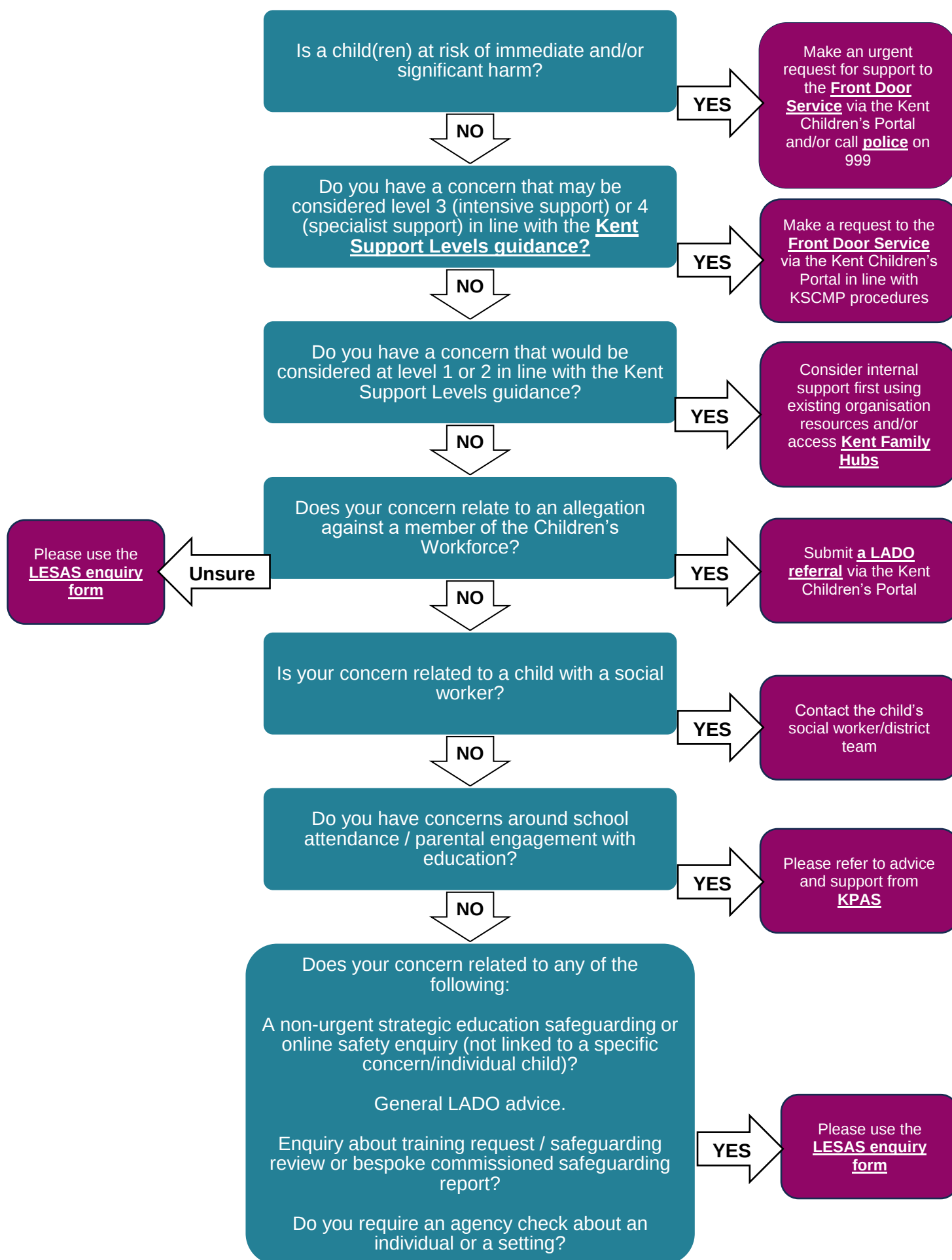
The [NSPCC](#) and [DfE](#) recommend that parents/carers:

- Ask for and check references and DBS certificates.
- Check the tutor's qualifications and experience, especially for the subject and age group.
- Ensure the tutor understands safeguarding responsibilities, particularly if tutoring takes place in the home or online.
- Ensure tutoring takes place in a safe, supervised environment.
- Avoid leaving children alone with a tutor unless absolutely necessary and appropriate safeguards are in place.
- Be present or nearby during sessions, especially for younger children.
- Ask the tutor about their child protection policy and whether they have completed any safeguarding training.
- Ensure children know how to raise concerns and feel comfortable doing so.
- If tutoring takes place in a group or club setting, check whether the provider is registered with Ofsted or a voluntary regulatory body.

Useful links to share with parents/carers include:

- [Using after-school clubs, tuition and community activities - GOV.UK](#)
- [Finding a tutor for your child | NSPCC](#)

Local Support and Contacts



Urgent Concerns and Making a Request for Support

If a child may be at risk of **imminent harm**, submit an **urgent request for support** via [the Kent Integrated Children's Services portal](#) or call **Kent Police on 999**

If your concerns may be considered level 3 (intensive support) or 4 (specialist support) in line with the [Kent Support Levels Guidance](#), submit a request for support to the Front Door Service via [the Kent Integrated Children's Services portal](#)

To request a consultation with a social worker from the Front Door Service, call 03000 411 111

If you need to make contact out of working hours, please call the Out of Hours Services via 03000 41 91 91

Early Help Unit Contacts can be found at [Early Help and Preventative Services](#)

Kent Family Hubs Information can be found at [Kent Family Hubs](#)

LADO Education Safeguarding Advisory Service

If you need to make a referral to the LADO regarding an allegation against a member of staff, please complete a LADO referral via [the Kent Integrated Children's Services portal](#)

LADO or Strategic Education Safeguarding/Online Safety Enquiries	LESAS enquiry form
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Assistant Director of Education

South Kent – David Adams 03000 412 309

East Kent – Rob Veale 03000 418 794

West Kent – Nick Abrahams 03000 410 058

North Kent – Ian Watts 03000 414 302

Prevent Education Officers

North/West/ Medway - Sally Green sally.green2@kent.gov.uk 03000 413 439

South/East - Rachel Murray Rachel.murray@kent.gov.uk 03000 412 431