

Safeguarding in Education Network Bulletin – Edition 19, **May 2018**

**Welcome to the 19th edition of the
Safeguarding in Education Bulletin.**

PLEASE NOTE – the new data protection regulations require us to check consent from all our bulletin recipients. The OSCB team **will shortly be sending you a message with a voting button to enable you to confirm that you wish to receive future newsletters.** This will enable us to renew the contact list and keep your details safe as per the new Data Protection Legislation coming to place on 25th May 2018.

This e-bulletin aims to inform schools, settings and colleges of relevant news, guidance and publications and to share feedback and learning. Please help us share the information by circulating this bulletin to your colleagues and by displaying it on notice boards in your school/ college/ setting.

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1. Safeguarding in Education Group Update

Safeguarding Children in Banbury Group

The group is continuing to grow as we have some of the Primary's in the Warriner Partnership now joining. Work is ongoing to organise an end of year event to showcase all the work that has been done. In addition, the internet safety group created a video on cyber bullying that they have uploaded onto a SCIB You Tube page, <https://youtu.be/zNt7nsKK2oE>

tootoot: giving a voice to children and young people

tootoot is an award-winning reporting platform and app for schools, colleges and universities supported by the DfE and Anti-Bullying Alliance. tootoot gives students a safe voice to be able to report incidents of bullying, cyberbullying, racism, extremism, radicalisation, sexism, mental health and self-harm directly to their place of learning. Tootoot gives students an alternative way to disclose their concerns when they are unable to do so face-to-face.

Each child has a unique student ID and younger children can be represented by a parent. There are speech text and emoji functions for those with limited literacy skills. There is also an optional parent and guardian feature which provides parents with a direct communication channel with their child's school.

Please see <https://tootoot.co.uk/> for further info or to sign up for a demo.

Sexting Platforms on Social Media

Please be aware of the following hashtags on multiple platforms, including #paypalme, #findom, #spoilme, #rinse, #drain, #paypig, #comeplaywithme and #cashfornudes which are used to exchange explicit images/videos/sexual messages for money.

An Oxfordshire young person was recently targeted online, asked for explicit photos and paid £40 each time. As pictures may not be identifiable and only an email address shared, vulnerable young people may see this as a 'low risk', easy way to make money. The young person then has no further control over the use and distribution of the images and may be subject to blackmail, fraud, victimisation and/or other abuse.

Where children and young people are targeted in this way, multiple laws are being broken (whether the exchange of money/images happens on the site or not), and the terms and conditions of the site broken.

Be mindful when completing internet safety, or when looking on Instagram pages to keep young people safe. Please see the following links for further information and resources on sexting and youth produced sexualised imagery:

Schools Safeguarding, <http://schools.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/content/internet-safety-and-cyberbullying>

NSPCC, <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/preventing-abuse/keeping-children-safe sexting/>

Thames Valley Police Hidden Harm Campaign, <https://releasd.com/p/83fb>

Prevent

The Prevent referral information form has recently been updated, please see below;

http://www.oscb.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/A_Prevent-Information-Sheet_Jpeg_0504182.jpg

Encompass

'Encompass' is the TVP method of sharing information with all schools about children who have witnessed or been present during a Domestic incident in the past 24 hours. Schools need to sign up to the information sharing agreement via an email. Once they have sent their details to the email address the emails come automatically at 7am each day. A very simple but effective process but does require that initial email to set up the automated system.

Less than ½ of Oxfordshire's schools are currently registered, please ensure that your school is registered.

The email address is: ENCompass@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk

The Designated Teacher for Looked-after and Previously Looked-after Children: Statutory Guidance on their Roles and Responsibilities, February 2018

The Children and Social Work Act 2017 required that a member of staff, the designated teacher, is to have responsibility for promoting the educational achievement of both looked-after and previously looked-after pupils who are no longer looked after in England and Wales because they are the subject of an adoption, special guardianship or child arrangements order, or were adopted from 'state care' outside England and Wales.

<http://www.trixonline.co.uk/policy-briefs/april/april-228/>

Love Simon

Romcom-drama Love, Simon is based on the novel Simon vs. the Homo Sapiens Agenda by Becky Albertalli. The film deals with themes of identity, sexuality and coming out, and is the first major Hollywood studio film to feature a gay teenage protagonist.

The film is currently on show at the Oxford Curzon, George Street Odeon in Oxford and at Cineworld in Didcot. It will be showing at the Ultimate Picture Palace from Sunday the 13th May, and is due for release on home video in June 2018.

<https://www.lovesimontickets.co.uk/>

2. Community Around the School Offer

Please see the link below - this document sets out the Community Around Schools Offer to educational settings within Oxfordshire.

Currently the Locality and Community Support Service (LCSS) is offering a named link worker to schools. School Health Nurses (SHN) are based in secondary schools and CAMHS have offered In Reach Workers to all Secondary Schools too. There will be CAMHS In Reach Workers provided for primary schools aligned with the SHN primary model.

Attached to this offer you will see contact details relevant to your schools for:

- o Locality and Community Support Service (LCSS) Link Workers
- o CAMHS (In Reach Workers)
- o School Health Nurses

You will also see contacts and roles for the following agencies who have agreed to contribute to this offer when there is a need:

- o Police
- o Education Inclusion Service
- o Young Carers
- o Special Educational Needs Support Services (SENSS)
- o Oxfordshire School Inclusion Team (OXSiT)
- o Informed PSHE support service for schools
- o Education, Employment and Training (EET) service
- o Community Co-ordinators
- o Kingfisher (Child Sexual Exploitation)
- o Phoenix Team (Looked after Children's Health team)

<http://www.oscb.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/Community-Around-the-School-Offer-.pdf>

3. Early Years Update

Ofsted Inspections

Analysis of recent Ofsted Inspection Reports has highlighted the following safeguarding issues.

In order to be compliant, ensure in your setting that all staff:

- ✓ are receiving effective supervision meetings with support and coaching to meet their roles and responsibilities in relation to safeguarding children.
- ✓ are confident in knowing the action that must be taken in the event of an allegation being made against a member of staff

- ✓ keep written record of all accidents and injuries to children
 - ✓ understand the settings safeguarding policy and procedures, and have up-to-date knowledge of safeguarding issues, including knowledge and understanding of how to identify, and respond to possible signs of abuse and neglect
 - ✓ have an up to date knowledge and understanding of child protection policy, legislation, and government initiatives to keep children, and their families safe, including the 'Prevent' duty guidance
 - ✓ ensure the required procedures are followed to enable Ofsted to check the suitability of all committee members (the process for this recently been updated).
- Keep up to date by subscribing to [The OSCB newsletter](#) and The [NSPCC monthly newsletter](#) on safeguarding in education.

Safeguarding Noticeboard

Have you reviewed what is on your Safeguarding Noticeboard recently? Do you regularly draw your staff's attention to the information included on this? Do you have references to the most up to date version of National Documents and are important telephone numbers correct and up to date?

We have put together a quick guide to help you think about items to include on your staff noticeboard for Safeguarding. You can find it on the [Early Years Toolkit](#) under safeguarding and Child protection section.

Attendance in Early Years

Although children do not have to start full time education at school until the term after their fifth birthday creating good attendance habits is important for many reasons which are explained in our '[Why Good Attendance is Important](#)' document (found in the School Readiness Section on the Early Years toolkit).

A [recent tragic news story](#) has raised the issue of the importance of following up on non-attendance. Ensure the contact numbers you have are up to date and that you have more than one emergency contact number. Make sure you have had a conversation in your setting about your procedures for non-attendance

In [Ofsted's Inspecting safeguarding in Early years, Education and Skills](#) document In line with statutory guidance, inspectors will gather evidence as to whether staff in all settings are sensitive to signs of possible safeguarding concerns. These include poor or irregular attendance, persistent lateness, or children missing from education.

Retention of child protection records

The NSPCC has published [guidelines on child protection records retention and storage](#). The guidelines cover the storage of child protection records; retention periods; recording concerns about adult behaviour; disclosure and barring checks; and the destruction of child protection records.

Scarlet fever

It has been widely reported about an outbreak of Scarlet Fever in Oxfordshire.

Schools, nurseries and other child care settings should promptly notify their local Health Protection Team of suspected scarlet fever outbreaks. You can find out how to contact them at <https://www.gov.uk/health-protection-team>

For more information:

- [Guidelines on Scarlet Fever outbreaks](#) including guidelines for schools and nurseries on Infection control advice
- [Guidance on notifiable diseases](#)
- Information on Health visiting services and support available can be found on the Oxfordshire [0-5 Public Health Service pages](#). These include [Useful links](#) which parents can be signposted to.

Dental Health

With the government's [Soft Drinks Industry Levy](#) coming into effect, [Public Health England](#) has released some startling statistics that every 10 minutes a child in England has a rotten tooth removed.

In 2016/17 nearly 450 children aged between 0-9 years old in Oxfordshire were admitted to hospital to have teeth extracted. Tooth decay is a mostly preventable condition but can lead to issues such as low self-esteem and confidence, pain, speech problems and days missed from school or settings.



Charlotte Iddon, Oxfordshire's Oral Health Improvement Manager recently delivered training to NQTs/Teachers new to the EYFS. It was a fun, interactive and informative. To find out more about the *Free* training and loaning resources (including the ones in the photo) contact [Community Dental Services](#)



National Smile Month 14th May to 14th June 2018 is a way to raise awareness and promote the 3 key messages for better oral health for all;

1. Brush teeth twice a day with fluoride toothpaste
2. Eat less sugary food and drink
3. Visit dentist every 6 months

More info and ideas can be found at www.nationalsmilemonth.org

Alternatively contact the Oxfordshire Oral Health Improvement team for advice, training, leaflets or to borrow resources. ohp.oxfordshire@cds-cic.nhs.uk

4. Schools Safeguarding Team, Oxfordshire County Council Update

Hannah Holland is now on maternity leave and we are pleased to share that we have recruited Charlotte Allen to cover Hannah. Charlotte is contactable on:
Mobile – 07919298311 or Landline – 01865 323918.

We are in the process of writing some guidance for settings on GDPR which will be released shortly.

KCSIE consultations is now closed and we are awaiting updates and changes which we will disseminate once we receive them.

Our LADO Conference will be taking place on Friday 15th June 2018 at Unipart, Oxford. We will be arranging workshops that you will be able to pre-book and have various speakers joining us throughout the day. One of the topics we will be covering are cyber-bullying and issues relating to that. If you would like a space please send an email request to lado.safeguardingchildren@oxfordshire.gov.uk and we will send you a booking form to complete and return.

5. Anti-Bullying Update

International Day against Homophobia, Biphobia and Transphobia May 17th, 2018

This provides an opportunity for you to review what you are doing to prevent and challenge Homophobic, Biphobic and Transphobic (HBT) bullying.

See <http://dayagainsthomophobia.org/> for information, events and resources.

To support and celebrate good practice, you could take part in the **Oxfordshire Equality Champion Award**. Because the online bullying survey shows this is one of our most vulnerable groups. We have prioritised the [Equality School Champion Award Pdf format, 118Kb](#)) as part of our development of awards to promote good Anti-Bullying Practice. This award is suitable for Primary, Secondary and Special Schools and colleges.

Please also see the new Stonewall resource, celebrating bi-inclusion in secondary schools,
https://www.stonewall.org.uk/sites/default/files/bi_inclusion_guide.pdf

Further activities and resources will be posted on Schools News.

CLICK – Cybercrime Play for Year 5 & 6 touring Oxfordshire Schools in June/July 2018– Tour fully booked!

Following a successful bid to the Police and Crime Commissioner, this play, which aims to educate children about online healthy relationships will be touring schools from Friday June 8th. The play performances, worth £400, are being provided for free thanks to this support. A preview of the play content was presented to nearly 30 primary schools on March 8th and feedback from schools has supported tailoring the play to meet the issues currently being faced by children.

Pupils will go away from the play with a better understanding of:

- what constitutes a healthy relationship online
- pressure to conform with peer group online
- risks when sharing inappropriate images online, including online sexual exploitation, cyber-bullying and other online abusive behaviour
- the impact of online abusive behaviour with a view to developing empathy
- coercion and control within online relationships and strategies for managing this
- where to go for information and support

Schools have been encouraged to cluster together so that as many schools as possible can benefit. Participating schools will also:

- receive an electronic resource pack to support follow up work
- participate in impact surveys for both children and adults

Response to the play has been overwhelming and the tour is now fully booked!

Anti-Bullying Charter – opportunity to sign up

Oxfordshire's Anti-Bullying Charter was launched in February 2018 to support schools to strengthen their response to bullying and ensure the voices of children and families are always heard. To date almost 50 schools have signed up.

Reducing the impact of bullying

Cllr Hibbert-Biles said: "All schools have a responsibility to tackle bullying wherever they find it, and we know the majority do a good job in supporting their pupils and families. We also know that bullying of all descriptions remains a big problem for many children – in Oxfordshire like everywhere else - and we want to work with schools to reduce the impact it can have on young people's lives.

"By formally signing up to a countywide set of values, schools can focus on ensuring those values are embedded in every aspect of school life. It also sends out a very clear message to their pupils and families that bullying will not be allowed to go unchallenged, and that no one should ever feel the need to suffer in silence."

[Click here to see the full list of pledges that make up the charter.](#)

You can also achieve further recognition for your Anti-Bullying practice by signing up for the Oxfordshire Anti-Bullying Charter Mark (renewable annually) if your school has committed to the following:

1. Appointed an Anti-Bullying lead staff member and Anti-Bullying Lead Governor.
2. Completed an Anti-Bullying audit and having an action plan in place to prevent and tackle bullying (either the Oxfordshire Anti-Bullying self-assessment and action plan or the Anti-Bullying Alliance audit tool).

3. Taken part in the Oxfordshire online bullying survey Primary17-18sample Secondary17-18sample (or other agreed survey e.g. the Anti-Bullying Alliance well-being survey) and using the survey to identify patterns, measure impact and inform and update the action plan.

If you have signed up for the Anti-Bullying Alliance All Together Programme since July 2017, and have completed the requirements to stay on the programme, you are eligible to receive the Oxfordshire Anti-Bullying Charter Mark.

Jo Brown, Oxfordshire's Anti-Bullying Co-ordinator, will be holding a series of Anti-Bullying Charter briefings around the county to:

- Support all schools to meet the Ofsted framework, "Keeping Children Safe in Education" and legal requirements to prevent and address bullying and ensure that children and young people are empowered to keep safe online.
- Provide schools with the latest updates and information
- Signpost guidance, toolkits and resources to manage bullying and internet safety effectively
- Provide an opportunity to sign up for the Anti-Bullying Charter and collect a copy of the Charter, signed by Councillor Hibbert-Biles, and a frame so that you can display it in your school reception.

Dates for the Charter Briefings are in the process of being set up and will be advertised on schools' news and via the Anti-Bullying network shortly. There will also be a chance to sign up for the charter at the LADO Conference and the Designated Safeguarding Leads forums (dates to be announced). You can also contact anti-bullying@oxfordshire.gov.uk to register you wish to sign up for the Charter or to be considered for the Charter Mark.

OSCB New Training Course – Supporting LGBT children and young people

From September the OSCB will be providing a ½ day course to be run 3 times a year. The course is suitable for those working in schools and anyone who works with children and families. The aims of this course will be:

- Understand the prevalence and impact of Homophobic, Biphobic and Transphobic bullying and experience of LGBT children and young people
- Understand the other safeguarding risks in relation to children and young people who are LGBT
- Understand the legal context, including Ofsted and what schools should be doing
- Explore the impact of HBT language and how to challenge it
- Understand the experience of trans and gender questioning children and young people and how to support them
- Raise awareness about LGBT families and how to support them
- Consider how this relates to own role and identify next steps to improve practice

The training will be run by Jo Brown, Anti-Bullying Co-ordinator and Guy Brigg, Deputy Head at Dr Radcliffe's Primary School. The training will be available from September 2018 and will be soon advertised on the OSCB training portal. In the meantime, you can contact jo.brown@oxfordshire.gov.uk for further advice on supporting LGBTQ+ children and young people. You can also access further guidance and information on the relevant Anti-Bullying web pages <http://schools.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/content/homophobic-biphobic-and-transphobic-bullying> including the [Trans Inclusion Toolkit for Schools \(pdf format, 1.3Mb\)](#)

Restorative Approaches Training for Schools – Thursday 21st and Thursday 28th June - £200 for 2-day course.

This two-day course introduces Restorative Approaches, restorative language and conflict management and forms modules 1 & 2 of the full 4-day Restorative Practitioner training.

The aims of the course are:

- Understand the Restorative Approach – philosophy and mindset
- How does it differ from current practice?
- Learn skills to have a restorative conversation with one person
- Learn and practice skills and techniques for managing conflict and relationships restoratively including informal restorative processes
- Share ideas and expertise
- Reflect on current practice and identify next steps

Jo Brown and Peter Wallis are experienced Restorative practitioners and trainers and OCC is a Registered Training Provider with the Restorative Justice Council, and adheres to the RJC Trainers Code of Practice.

Oxfordshire County Council are running this course to support the SAFE! project with all proceeds going to the them. Please see the attached flyer for further details including how to book.

6. OSCB Training



Wonderful news! The OSCB Training Pool, which is made up of volunteer trainers from professionals who are involved in frontline practice with children and young people, has received a '**Highly Commended**' in the **NSPCC** and **BASPCAN** Safeguarding **Trainer of the Year 2018 Award**.

This is a fantastic testimony to the commitment, hard work and dedication that the group of approximately 80 trainers have to delivering a high-quality safeguarding programme.

If you would be interested in becoming a trainer for the Training Pool, please email OSCB.Training@oxfordshire.gov.uk with your details.

Course availability

In addition to the three core safeguarding courses that the OSCB delivers, we also offer an additional programme of courses on specialised subjects. The following courses are live on the OSCB system and available to book.

Course	Date	Time	Venue
Early Help Assessment	08.05.08	13:00 – 17:00	Barton Children and Family Centre, Oxford
Female Genital Mutilation	09.05.18	09:30 – 13:00	County Hall, Oxford
Early Help Assessment	14.05.18	09:30 – 13:00	Bicester Children and Family Centre
Young People and Mental Health	16.05.18	09:30 – 16:30	North Venue tbc
Early Help Assessment	16.05.18	09:30 – 13:00	Bicester Children and Family Centre
Digital Safeguarding	16.05.18	09:30 – 16:30	Didcot Civic Hall
Safeguarding Disabled Children	22.05.18	09:30 – 12:30	County Hall, Oxford

- **‘An Awareness of Abuse and Neglect’** - This e-learning course is aimed at any individual who works with children, young people and/or their families for long periods of time during the course of their work. It gives a basic awareness of child abuse and neglect. It is at an equivalent level to the Oxfordshire Safeguarding Children Board's generalist course which is run as a face-to-face multi agency event.
However, anyone working with children and their families for 3 hours a month or more should attend the face-to-face course. The aim of this e-learning course is for induction purposes, in cases where there is a delay before attending the face to face multi agency course or for those people who have completed the 'Introduction to Safeguarding' course and wish to extend their knowledge.
- **Just launched – ‘Think Family’** – this course outlines what is meant by a 'Think Family' or 'Whole Family' approach and why this matters. It highlights the importance of considering all family members' needs and strengths when undertaking assessments or developing plans, identifies six key issues in family work and also signposts additional support for professionals such as the neglect practitioner portal, themes and tools on the OSCB website and the troubled families' employment advisers.



7. Home Education: Call for Evidence and Revised Department for Education (DfE) Guidance

The Department for Education (DfE) is calling for evidence on greater oversight of children whose parents elect to educate them at home, and consultation on revised DfE guidance documents on arrangements for elective home education. The Open Consultation runs until 2nd July 2018.

The consultation has two parts. First, it is a call for evidence on issues connected with elective home education, in particular:

- a. registration of children educated at home;
- b. monitoring of home education provision; and
- c. support for home-educating families

Secondly, it seeks comment on draft versions of two DfE guidance documents about elective home education, one designed for local authorities and one for parents.

Please see the following link: <https://consult.education.gov.uk/school-frameworks/home-education-call-for-evidence-and-revised-dfe-a/>

8. Mind of My Own app



MOMO (Mind of My Own) app is live in Oxfordshire County Council!

We try hard to put children and young people at the heart of our work here but every time we make a decision which will affect one of the children or young people we work with, we need to be sure we've considered and evidenced their views. MOMO apps make this process easier, quicker and even fun and are successful in a number of other local authorities where young people, carers and staff value it.

Good for our children and young people...

The experience of using MOMO on their own or with their carer or worker will give our young people more confidence to speak up, attend meetings and articulate problems. They can use the app on their own, any time there's a problem or something they want to change. Or to help them prepare for a CP conference, LAC review, Social Worker's visit or to contribute to their Foster carer's Annual Household Review. They can also use it to tell us when they want to celebrate something important to them.



MOMO Express is an additional option designed for children under 11 or those who have communication difficulties to complete alongside their worker or carer.

How can you help?

Any child or young person whose case is open to a worker in Children's Social Care (Early Help, Child in Need, Child Protection or Looked After) can send a MOMO statement in to the worker they choose. Only workers with email addresses ending **oxfordshire.gov.uk** can have a MOMO worker account, however anyone can help a child or young person set up their own account. In fact, this is the priority so they can have access to sending in their views at any time and aren't dependent on a worker being with them. Our partners can help with this!

It's really very simple to learn how so please have a go on the demo at one-demo.mindofmyown.org.uk and click on the workers and carers tab to learn how to help a child sign up. MOMO requires an email address for a young person to sign up to an account. If the child has a personal or school email address then they are ready to sign up. However, if they don't, or if there is a reason why their use of internet is restricted then please contact their allocated worker or MOMO@oxfordshire.gov.uk for further advice.

MOMO needs Wi-Fi to work and works on most phones and computers including android, iPhones/pads and home computers. A child can sign up for an account on one device but then use MOMO on any other they wish.

Please test the app out with them and help them think about what they want to say or support them to have the privacy to use it on their own.

Helping a child or young person to use the app is one way to make it easier to have meaningful conversations with a child about their views, wishes and feelings. MOMO guides the conversation then creates a clear and dynamic statement of their views that's easy to understand. The child selects which worker they wish to send their statement to and CSC administrative systems will update the worker and the child's electronic case file.

Please give it a go and promote it with the children and young people you are working with. Go to www.mindofmyown.org.uk for further information or contact MOMO@oxfordshire.gov.uk with any queries.

9. Horizon scanning/national news

NSPCC conference: How safe are our children? Growing up online

Snapchat director, Stephen Collins and British Board of Film Classification (BBFC) chief executive, David Austin have been announced as speakers at the NSPCC's flagship child protection conference, 'How safe are our children? Growing up online'.

In addition to insightful talks and debates on topics ranging from tackling cyberbullying to technology to defend children from sexual abuse, delegates will receive a free copy of the NSPCC's report compiling the latest UK child protection data, and have the opportunity to network with 500+ safeguarding professionals at the complimentary drinks reception. The conference takes place on 20-21 June in London.

For more information and to book, visit nspcc.org.uk/howsafeevent

Further information: [Conference schedule \(PDF\)](#)

NSPCC safeguarding in education courses

The NSPCC will be running face-to-face safer recruitment in education training courses in Leicester – 11 April 2018, Leeds – 10 May 2018 and London – 30 May 2018. The course covers recruiting staff and volunteers into roles in all education settings.

The NSPCC also has [online](#) safer recruitment courses.

Source: [NSPCC](#) **Date:** 29 March 2018

Child protection records retention and storage guidelines

The NSPCC has published guidelines on child protection records retention and storage. The guidelines cover the storage of child protection records; retention periods; recording concerns about adult behaviour; disclosure and barring checks; and the destruction of child protection records.

Source: [NSPCC Child protection records retention and storage guidelines](#)
Date: 29 March 2018

Best practice for PE changing rooms: factsheet

The NSPCC Knowledge and Information Services have published a factsheet providing guidance on best practice for PE changing rooms in primary schools. The guidance includes: what schools need to consider when organising changing facilities for children; staff supervision; changing areas for children with additional needs; and using off-site changing rooms.

Source: [NSPCC factsheet](#) **Date:** 23 March 2018

Further information: [Safeguarding and child protection in schools](#)

Resources for tackling harmful sexual behaviour in schools

The Contextual Safeguarding Network at the University of Bedfordshire has created a range of resources for tackling harmful sexual behaviour in schools. Resources include: a traffic-light tool for self- assessment; a series of five

webinars that explain how to use the tool; and a spreadsheet to record the scores of self-assessment.

Source: [Contextual Safeguarding Network](#) **Date:** 22 March 2018

School exclusions review: call for evidence

The Department for Education (DfE) is launching a review to better understand why vulnerable and disadvantaged children are more likely to be excluded from school. There are currently disproportionate rates of pupils from certain ethnic groups; pupils who are eligible for free school meals, those with special educational needs; looked after children; and children in need being excluded from schools.

The call for evidence closes on 6 May 2018.

Source: [DfE](#) **Date:** 16 March 2018

Further information: [Exclusions review: call for evidence \(PDF\)](#)

The role of primary schools in preventing young people from joining gangs

A report from the Early Intervention Foundation (EIF) on the role of primary schools in preventing gang and youth violence has highlighted that staff in primary schools feel there is a lack of support available to them.

It was also found that there is a limited awareness of the range and quality of external support that is available to schools.

Recommendations include; improving the use of evidence in commissioning in-school support and programmes, improving the links between schools and the wider early help system in their area and the utilisation of PSHE lessons to help children develop their social and emotional skills.

Source: [EIF](#) **Date:** 13 March 2018

Further information: [Intervening early to prevent gang and youth violence: the role of primary schools \(PDF\)](#)

Lack of alternative provision for pupils with mental health needs

Feedback from school leaders in the DfE commissioned Teacher Voice survey has highlighted that there are insufficient places in alternative provision for pupils with mental health needs.

84 per cent of school leaders surveyed by [National Foundation for Educational Research](#) (NFER) said that there are not enough places in alternative provision for pupils with mental health needs. Three-quarters say that there are not enough alternative-provision places for pupils with behavioural issues.

Source: [TES](#) **Date:** 12 March 2018

Further information: [Teacher Voice Omnibus Survey](#)