

Headteachers' Update

For Schools and Academies

DfE Updates

[Guidance for schools during the transition period and after 1 January 2021](#)

Page summary - Information to help schools prepare for the end of the transition period on 31 December 2020.

Change made - First published.

[Protective measures for holiday or after-school clubs and other out-of-school settings for children during the coronavirus \(COVID-19\) outbreak](#)

Page summary - Protective measures for providers of community activities, holiday or after-school clubs, tuition and other out-of-school settings offering provision to children during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak.

Change made - Updated with information about local COVID alert levels.

[Guidance for parents and carers of children attending out-of-school settings during the coronavirus \(COVID-19\) outbreak](#)

Page summary - Guidance for parents and carers of children attending community activities, holiday or after-school clubs, tuition and other out-of-school settings.

Change made - Updated with information about local COVID alert levels.

Wellbeing for Education Return in Northumberland

As you will be aware, the Wellbeing for Education Return programme is funded by the Department for Education and has been launched this Autumn. It aims to provide support to staff working in schools and colleges to help them respond to the additional pressures some children and young people may be feeling as a direct result of the pandemic, as well as to any emotional response they or their teachers may still be experiencing from bereavement, stress, trauma or anxiety over the past months.

The training put together for the Wellbeing for Education Return project has been created nationally with input from health partners, mental health experts, local authorities, and schools and colleges. Funds have been provided to Local Authorities in order to implement the programme in a way that suits their local area. In Northumberland, we have recruited a project lead who is working very closely with the Senior Mental Health coordinator who is already in post. These two members of staff sit within the Educational Psychology team. Between them, but working with our partners in Health teams, they are organising delivery of the training programme to nominated staff in schools and colleges, and will be available to provide advice to school leaders through to March 2021.

In Northumberland, the first step is delivery of the training package to as many schools/colleges as possible this term. The opportunity to attend this is delivered via the virtual **Senior Mental Health Leads Conference** being held on **Thursday 5th November**. **There is an expectation that staff who receive the training then cascade it to all staff within their school/setting. More detail will be provided at the conference.**

The three main sessions will cover:

- Whole school implementation, looking at both the neuroscience as well as strategies to build resilience and wellbeing
- Understanding some specific presentations, including anxiety, bereavement and loss, stress and trauma
- Staff wellbeing

We will be following an interactive workshop format for these sessions with opportunities to discuss, with colleagues from other settings, the content delivered. There will be some additional pre-recorded resources to further support staff. To book a place on the Conference please use [this form](#).

If your setting is unable to attend the conference and/or you would like to discuss further support in cascading the training to staff in your setting, please contact nell.gair@northumberland.gov.uk

Vacancies for School Forum Members

The Schools Forum is currently seeking additional members to represent Northumberland Schools on the Forum. In order to ensure School Forum membership is reflective of its schools, representatives are particularly sought from First/Primary and Middle maintained schools and the academies. Northumberland Schools Forum is the key consultation body in relation to the School Funding Formula and other aspects of school budget functions.

Schools forum members need the skills and competencies to manage forum business, as detailed in school forum powers and responsibilities guidance, and to take a strategic view across the whole education estate whilst acting as representative of the group that has elected them.

Further information on the operation of a Schools Forum is available in the ESFA's operational and good practice guide available [HERE](#).

If you are interested in representing your groups of schools on the School Forum please contact Bruce Parvin, Education and Skills Business Manager via bruce.parvin@northumberland.gov.uk, by Tuesday 3rd November. Final appointments will be subject to agreement by the groups of Schools they are appointed to represent.

Tree Management on Schools Sites

[A health and safety bulletin](#) has been produced by the Corporate Health and Team in conjunction with colleagues in the Property Services Department. Headteachers are asked to read the content of the bulletin and take appropriate action to ensure robust arrangements are in place.