

Briefing Paper UK
January 2026



Briefing Paper: UK-specific summary of the key indicators of specific safeguarding issues highlighted by:

Keeping Children Safe in Education 2025 (KCSIE 2025)

Ofsted inspection priorities

North Lincolnshire and other local safeguarding partnership priorities.

This can be used for **staff briefings**, **safeguarding training**, and **audit preparation**.

1. Child-on-Child (Peer-on-Peer) Abuse

Indicators:

- Unexplained injuries, bruising or distress.
- Fear of certain peers or reluctance to attend school.
- Sudden changes in friendship groups or social withdrawal.
- Allegations or disclosures of inappropriate touching, sexualised behaviour, or online harassment.
- Changes in behaviour (e.g. anxiety, aggression, self-harm, avoidance).

Includes: sexual violence/harassment, upskirting, bullying, initiation/hazing.

2. Sexual Exploitation (CSE) and Criminal Exploitation (CCE)

Indicators:

- Unexplained gifts, money, or expensive items.
- Significant changes in mood, appearance or attendance.
- Association with older peers or adults.
- Going missing from education/home.
- Use of language linked to exploitation (“trap house,” “going country,” “plug,” “line”).
- Increased secrecy around phone use and social media.

Includes: County Lines activity, grooming, gang association.

3. Online Harms, Abuse and AI-Enabled Exploitation

Indicators:

- Excessive, secretive or concerning online behaviour.
- Sudden changes in digital habits.
- Exposure to sexualised content or requests to share images.
- Involvement in nudification, cyberflashing, deepfake or AI image manipulation.
- Anxiety, withdrawal, or unexplained emotional distress.

Key links: UK Council for Internet Safety, CEOP, Ineqe Safeguarding Group Safer Schools updates.

4. Domestic Abuse & Operation Encompass

Indicators:

- Changes in behaviour (clinginess, withdrawal, anxiety).
- Physical signs (injuries, tiredness, poor hygiene).
- Reluctance to go home or fear of certain adults.
- Frequent lateness, absences, or emotional dysregulation.
- Disclosure of “arguments at home.”

Statutory duty: Operation Encompass notifications must trigger safeguarding and pastoral support.

5. Mental Health, Neglect & Emotional Harm

Indicators:

- Frequent absences or lateness, tiredness, or poor self-care.
- Low mood, self-harm, withdrawn or aggressive behaviour.
- Regression in development or academic progress.
- Poor attachment or trust with adults.
- Inconsistent parental engagement.

6. Contextual Safeguarding & Harms Outside the Home (HOTH)

Indicators:

- Known risky peer groups or unsafe locations.
- Repeated missing episodes.
- Involvement in anti-social behaviour or crime.
- Exploitation in community spaces (e.g. parks, transport hubs).
- Evidence of coercion or grooming.

Local priority: North Lincolnshire CMARS toolkit on HOTH.

7. Prevent Duty & Radicalisation

Indicators:

- Expressing extremist views or sympathies.
- Sudden interest in ideological groups or symbols.
- Withdrawal, secrecy, or changes in behaviour or friendship groups.
- Accessing extremist content online.
- Fixation on particular causes or groups.

Relevant guidance: Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015.

8. Child-on-Child Harmful Sexual Behaviour (HSB)

Indicators:

- Sexualised behaviour not age-appropriate.
- Sexual language or joking that makes others uncomfortable.
- Physical or online sexual harassment.
- Victims showing signs of trauma, avoidance or distress.
- Pattern of escalating incidents.

Best practice: use the NSPCC and UK Council for Internet Safety HSB frameworks.

9. Children Missing from Education (CME)

Indicators:

- Repeated unexplained absences.
- Frequent moves between schools or addresses.
- Sudden disengagement from learning.
- Concerns about exploitation, trafficking, or forced marriage.
- Weak links between home and school.

Local priority: RedEverywhere uses DCPro for real-time registers, contacting host schools or NLC PX team for referrals.

10. SEND and Safeguarding Vulnerability

Indicators:

- Changes in communication, engagement or emotional regulation.
- Difficulty expressing concerns verbally.
- Over-compliance, passivity or dependency on adults.
- Exploitation risk due to cognitive or social vulnerability.
- Inconsistent response to distress or disclosure.

11. Fabricated or Induced Illness (FII) / Honour-Based Abuse (HBA)

Indicators:

- Inconsistencies between symptoms and medical findings.
- Excessive medical appointments or parental control over health care.
- Restrictions on personal freedom, fear of dishonour, forced marriage risks.
- Patterns of coercion or control.

12. Local Priorities (North Lincolnshire)

- Harms Outside the Home (HOTH) and exploitation.
- Domestic abuse and early intervention (Operation Encompass).
- Online safety and AI-enabled harm.
- Prevent and community cohesion.
- Attendance and persistent absence as a safeguarding issue.
- Early Help & Family Hub engagement.

RedEverywhere embeds these indicators in:

- Staff safeguarding training and induction (Virtual College).
- DSL/DDSL weekly case supervision.
- DCPro monitoring and escalation pathways.
- Early Help / One Family Approach referrals.
- Curriculum PSHE/VR programmes on online safety, exploitation, and mental health.



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