



# SAFEGUARDING UPDATE

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## Connecting schools with qualified therapists through TACaccess

### What is TACaccess?

- TACaccess (short for "Team Around the Client and Access") is a digital platform that connects commissioning organisations (including schools), parents/adults, and therapists.
- It provides a directory of qualified therapists across the UK.
- It supports both online and face-to-face therapy sessions. Face-to-face sessions are held in safe, approved locations (which can include the school premises or other educational settings) when necessary.
- It handles contracts, payments, and scheduling to reduce administrative burden for schools or commissioning bodies.

### Why it matters to schools

#### Streamlined access to mental health support

- Instead of schools having to maintain their own long therapist lists or go through multiple agencies, TACaccess offers a centralised way to find and match therapists.

#### Choice and better matching

- The platform allows clients (pupils, parents, staff) to filter and choose therapists based on suitability (e.g. specialism, experience, cost). This can increase the chance of a positive therapeutic relationship.

#### Safeguarding and vetting built in

- Therapists listed are vetted via professional standards organisations (e.g. PSA, HCPC), must have valid insurance, undergo DBS / criminal record checks, and identity verification.
- This helps schools feel more confident about safeguarding and compliance.

#### Administrative and financial relief

- TACaccess provides a paperless, integrated system: scheduling, contracts, payments, budget tracking, reporting dashboards.
- Also, there are no agency fees charged to the school, just a 6% transaction fee included in therapist charges.

#### Scalable and flexible support

- Schools can engage support as needed, rather than having to commit to large in-house counselling teams.
- Because it supports both online and face-to-face modes, it can adapt to circumstances (e.g. remote or partial school attendance).

#### Performance and outcomes

- Early, well-matched mental health support often improves outcomes for pupils, less disruption, better emotional resilience, improved attendance or behaviour.

### What schools should consider/ask

#### Local capacity and availability

- Check how many therapists are in your area (or willing to work online), and whether their specialisms match your pupil needs (e.g. trauma, anxiety, bereavement, etc).

#### Usage policy and oversight

- Decide who in the school (e.g. DSL, SENCo, pastoral lead) will manage referrals, oversight, and interface with TACaccess.

#### Safeguarding and consent

- Ensure processes for parental consent, record-keeping, confidentiality, and safeguarding align with school policy and statutory requirements.

#### Location for face-to-face sessions

- If therapy is to happen on site, decide which rooms or spaces are suitable, private, safe, and acceptable to the platform.

#### Budget and funding arrangements

- Understand cost implications: the school, parent, or external body may fund sessions. Make clear who pays, how many sessions, and what the transaction fee entails.

#### Monitoring and evaluation

- Set up KPIs or feedback loops to measure pupil engagement, impact, and appropriateness of referrals. Use the reporting tools in TACaccess to help with oversight.

#### Communication to stakeholders

- When introducing it to pupils, parents and staff, explain how it works, benefits, access routes, confidentiality assurances and who makes referrals.

### Read:

<https://www.tacaccess.com/>

## What schools can gain from YoungMinds' professional resources

### 1. Practical Mental Health resources and toolkits

YoungMinds provides a range of free, practical tools, guidance and advice designed especially for those working with children and young people. These can help staff feel more confident in understanding, recognising, and supporting mental health difficulties.

### 2. Support for staff and pupil wellbeing

The resources cover not just pupil mental health, but also how to support staff wellbeing, prevent burnout, and build resilience.

### 3. School-specific advice and strategies

YoungMinds offers advice tailored to school contexts: embedding wellbeing in your school culture, integrating resources into pastoral systems, and supporting "whole school" mental health approaches.

### 4. Safe, informed practice

Their materials emphasise safeguarding, confidentiality, risk assessment, and how to respond when a young person is in crisis, which is vital for schools to have clarity on before implementing any wellbeing programme.

### 5. Community and networking for staff

Through their "Schools and Teachers" section, YoungMinds fosters a community where educators and staff can share practice, case studies, and learn from one another.

### 6. Staying updated and evidence-informed

Because YoungMinds is an established mental health charity, their content is grounded in research, current mental health thinking, and feedback from young people. Schools using their materials can stay aligned with best practice.

### Read:

<https://www.youngminds.org.uk/professional/>

## Empowering parents in online safety: What schools need to know

As schools continue to grapple with the rapid evolution of digital technologies, from social media to AI-driven tools and online gaming, one of our biggest challenges is helping parents feel empowered and informed rather than overwhelmed. That's why LGfL's upcoming Parent Online Safety Webinar is a timely and useful offer for schools to engage with their communities.

### What's on offer?

- A 45-minute webinar, led by experts, designed specifically for DSLs, SLT, governors, and anyone responsible for online safety in schools.
- It introduces a ready-to-use presentation toolkit that schools can deliver to parents, covering current risks, trends (including generative AI), device management, and safety settings.
- Participants will gain actionable strategies to plan personalised sessions, discussion starters, and resources to support parents in having constructive safeguarding conversations.
- The webinar is **free to attend (25th November, 4pm)**, although a small cancellation fee may apply if cancelled within 48 hours.

### Why this matters for your school

1. **Bridging school-home partnerships** - Many safeguarding issues arise outside school. Giving parents the tools to navigate online risks strengthens the protective network around pupils.
2. **Reducing burden on staff** - A well-informed parent community can partner with school staff in reinforcing good digital habits and setting safe expectations.
3. **Consistent messaging** - Using a tool kit provided through LGfL ensures that the content delivered to parents aligns with best practices, based on latest research and trends.
4. **Proactive rather than reactive** - Hosting a parent session before an incident occurs demonstrates that your school takes digital wellbeing seriously, not just when things go wrong.

### Book here:

[https://glh.booking.com/book/484/5271m\\_campaign=5afguard23&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=ps&utm\\_campaign=475169716ed3e0270791g51e381V0uPa8K0xqF4B84K\\_g88-4047422941CC25149F86e04717025024\\_p471g197x7a0M4\\_3ee385873918a1ee\\_c0e028279280e\\_c0ee0a\\_ee01](https://glh.booking.com/book/484/5271m_campaign=5afguard23&utm_medium=email&utm_source=ps&utm_campaign=475169716ed3e0270791g51e381V0uPa8K0xqF4B84K_g88-4047422941CC25149F86e04717025024_p471g197x7a0M4_3ee385873918a1ee_c0e028279280e_c0ee0a_ee01)

## Supporting children amidst family tension: Key insights for schools

Family conflict can significantly affect children's emotional wellbeing and behaviour. As educators, it's crucial to recognise the signs and provide appropriate support. Here's what you need to know:

### 1. Recognising the signs

Children exposed to family arguments may display:

- Increased anxiety or stress
- Withdrawal or aggression
- Decline in academic performance
- Difficulty concentrating or sleeping

### 2. Creating a supportive environment

Schools can play a pivotal role by:

- Offering a safe space for children to express their feelings
- Encouraging open communication
- Providing consistent routines to foster a sense of security

### 3. Engaging with parents

Collaborating with parents can help in:

- Understanding the child's home environment
- Developing strategies to support the child both at school and at home
- Referring families to external support services if necessary

### Read:

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/support-for-parents/arguments-conflict-family-tension>

## Forthcoming free safeguarding webinars for Autumn term 2025

**Anxiety - Tuesday 30th September**

**Self harm and suicidal ideation - Tuesday 7th October**

**Anti-bullying - Tuesday 14th October**

**Domestic abuse - Tuesday 21st October**

Just a reminder that all resources will be available in our **Safeguarding CPD Library**, where new recordings will be uploaded each week throughout this term.

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