Dear parent/carer

Your child has been referred by their school to Safer Futures @ Someone Cares to receive counselling.

Safer Futures is a counselling project ran by Someone Cares, the project is based within your child’s school and delivered by fully trained counsellors. The project is mainly funded by Vera Baird the Northumbria police and crime commissioners supporting victims fund, some schools also contribute to the cost of the service.

The aim of the Safer Futures project is to ensure no young person within school suffers in silence. We hope to alleviate the stresses associated with issues which affect young people such as bullying, relationship issues, family difficulties, abuse of any kind, stress and anxiety etc.

**How it works:**

* The school identifies pupils who may benefit from a confidential space to work through any issues that may be negatively impacting their home/school life and refer them to the Safer Futures @ Someone Cares project for support.
* A Safer Futures counsellor will work with the young person in a safe and confidential space. Working through any issue/issues which are negatively effecting the young person’s wellbeing, family life or school life.
* The young person will attend sessions within school for 8 weeks. Sessions will take place during a different lesson each week to ensure they do not miss too much of a particular lesson.
* All counselling sessions are confidential unless the counsellor feels what the young person is discussing can or is putting them at risk, in which case the relevant people will be informed. Parents/carers may be asked to attend a session with the child to discuss any issues the counsellor feels the parent/carer should be aware of (this will usually be with the young person’s consent).
* In week 4 the young person will be given a feedback form for parents/carers to complete. The feedback forms aim is to give parents/carers an opportunity to feedback about the impact the service has had on the young person.
* If the Safer Futures counsellor feels your child would benefit from further counselling they will make a referral to Someone Cares for further sessions.

Please fill in and return the attached consent form to your child’s school. If you would like more information about the Safer Futures @ Someone Cares project contact Donna Lowden or Kirsty Dobson at Someone Cares 1 Amble Close North Shields NE29 7XW, Tel: 0191 2578094 email: referrals@someonecares.org.uk

Parent/carer consent

I…………………………………………………………………… give consent for

(name) ………………………………………………………………………………… to attend counselling sessions with Safer Futures@ Someone Cares for the next 8 (term time) weeks. I understand that counselling sessions are confidential, and I will only be informed of session content if the counsellor feels it is in the best interest/safety of (name)……………………………………………… for me to be informed.

Name of child: ………………………………………………………………… Form /class: ……………

Name parent/carer: …………………………………………………………………….

Signed: …………………………………………………………………………………………

**Confidentiality statement.**

Someone Cares provides a confidential service and will not share private information regarding your child with outside agencies without your consent. With the exception of where it is deemed necessary in order to safeguard your child or others from immediate harm, or where we have a legal requirement e.g. criminal activity. We will be compelled to share your child’s information when issued with a valid court subpoena.

**How information about your child will be used.**

* Someone Cares is collecting this data for the purpose of monitoring client activity within the service.
* After assessment your child’s details will be entered into a secure password protected database and the paper copy of your child’s assessment will be stored in a locked fireproof cabinet.
* Your child’s personal information will only be shared with key members of staff i.e. administration and their assigned counsellor.
* Anonymised data will be shared with third party organisations for the purpose of funding and grant monitoring.

If you would like any further information about how we handle your child’s data, please visit our website to view our data protection policy [www.someonecares.org.uk](http://www.someonecares.org.uk)

**Declaration**

I am happy for Someone Cares to hold my child’s data in the above conditions, and am aware I have the right to withdraw consent at any time.

Name: ……………………………………………………………………………………………….

Signature: …………………………………………………………………………………………. Date: ……………………………….