

DIARY DATES

Deaf Awareness Week
Monday 1 – Friday 5 May 2017

Mental Health Awareness Week
Monday 8 – Friday 12 May 2017

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Barnardo's explains 7 signs of exploitation to parents as Corrie broadcasts CSE storyline

Coronation Street fans are currently unsettled to see 16-year old Bethany Platt being groomed by sinister older 'boyfriend' Nathan Curtis and the storyline is set to enter even darker territory when he exploits the vulnerable teenager and involves her in a sex ring with his friends.

With these situations it's a devastating reality in the UK, it's an important issue for the soap to tackle and raise awareness of and now, Barnardo's has spoken out to give guidance to parents, guardians, teachers and others on the signs to look out for that exploitation may be taking place.

Barnardo's Chief Executive, Javad Khan said: "This storyline makes for difficult watching but it's important as many people as possible are aware of the signs of grooming, so we can prevent this abuse happening. Like Bethany's character, the young victims of this crime mistakenly think these child sex abusers care for them because they're often showered with presents and attention. But alcohol and mobile phones can be used to control and manipulate them into doing things they don't want to do".

Barnardo's have created a Be Safe Guide; this guide gives parents vital advice about what signs to look out for if they're worried a child may be groomed and exploited. Barnardo's specialist services support thousands of children who are at risk of, or have been sexually exploited by men and women, to rebuild their lives in what is often a slow and painful process. The 7 signs are outlined below:

- Having older boyfriends or girlfriends
- Receiving unexplained gifts or new possessions
- Going missing for periods of time, regularly arriving home late or regularly missing school
- Mood swings or change in emotional wellbeing
- Drug or alcohol misuse
- Spending a lot of time in their bedroom or being unusually secretive, particularly around the use of mobile devices
- Suffering from Sexually Transmitted Diseases.

For Barnardo's Be Safe Guide, please visit the [ATT Safeguarding Portal](#).

For the full article from the Metro, please follow this [link](#).

Understanding Young Minds

Talking about mental resilience and self-harm

Unfortunately more children are resorting to self-harm as a response to the pressures of growing up. With 60% of parents reporting they feel uncomfortable discussing self-harm with their children, thousands of children could be suffering in silence.

To help parents, Virtual College launched a free online course that provides information on how to sensitively talk to your children about self-harm and tactics for increasing mental resilience.

Start your free course by following this [link](#).

Virtual College have also created a free resource pack that includes information and statistics about parental communication and self-harm, this is available on the [ATT Safeguarding Portal](#).

Hundreds of schools use Uber-style apps to hire supply teachers

Hundreds of schools are using apps to employ supply teachers in a bid to cut out crippling recruitment agency fees, but they should be 'cautious' about using the online technology as its lack of face-to-face verification could lead to fake teachers heading into the classroom, say some union leaders.

Schools Week conducted an investigation that found two organisations – Teachers Register and Sick Cover – that have launched supply teacher apps. Their operations have been likened to Uber, the taxi-request service and Tinder, an online dating service.

Teachers and schools can use their phones to sign up, giving the same details they would to a recruitment agency but without a finder's fee once a teacher is placed.

Two other companies are testing similar technology but are running the matching services through their websites until their apps are ready. Despite launching less than a year ago, take-up of the apps has been rapid, with nearly 12,500 supply teachers and 120 schools using Teachers Register and 200 supply teachers and 10 schools using Sick cover, according to the companies.

Creators of the apps claim they give schools the ability to save up to 75% on their annual agency spend. Unions however, say the apps are "clearly open to safeguarding risks" as they do not require candidates to be met in person.

For the full article from Schools Week, please follow this [link](#).

Three-quarters of Britons back pornography lessons in schools, survey finds

'Parents are simply demanding that their children's education reflects the 21st century reality of their lives'.

A large majority of Britons think children should be taught about pornography and sexting in schools, according to a new survey. The findings will fuel demands for sex and relationship education to be made compulsory in all schools in the UK. The poll of 2,000 adults found 75% of Britons want children to be taught about the impact pornography, while just 7% were opposed to the move.

The survey, commissioned by the charity Plan International UK and carried out by Opinium, also found 71% want lessons on sexting. And 86% of those surveyed think sexual consent should be taught while 82% want lessons to cover violence and abuse in relationships.

Plan International UK's chief executive, Tanya Barron, said: "it's clear that the UK public – including parents, feel that educating children about issues such as sexual consent, different sexual orientations and the impact of pornography is important. Children today can be exposed to all sorts of sexual imagery on a daily basis which we know to be causing harm."

For the full article from the Independent, please follow this [link](#).

Primary school to install unisex toilets

Parents have hit out at plans to introduce unisex toilets at new primary schools in a major city to help children as young as five confused about their gender. Council bosses in Glasgow are installing same-sex toilets and say they will cut bullying and help LGBT pupils who are unsure about which toilet to use.

Malcolm Balfour, SNP councillor for Drumchapel and Anniesland, said: "I can see that it teaches children that it does not matter what their gender is; but girls do mature faster, compared to boys. Parents feel they should have been consulted first".

Daniel McEwan, Estates Manager at Glasgow Council said: "bullying will be reduced, behaviour will improve and there will be no graffiti or 'soggy bombs' on the ceiling".

For the full article from the Daily Mail, please follow this [link](#).

Anti-Bullying Focus

Anti-Bullying Policy The Queen Elizabeth Academy

Shiv Ressel, Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) at The Queen Elizabeth Academy in Atherstone has, through contributions from pupils during Anti-Bullying Week; put together an anti-bullying policy.

The draft policy then went out to consultation with pupils which brought about a few tweaks. Senior Leaders and all other staff were also asked for their views.

At this stage, the college leaders used sanctions guidelines for a couple of incidents and took feedback from all parties involved which was found to be very good. Parents were also given the opportunity to comment via the December edition of the academy newsletter. Having no negative response the final document was ratified.

This is a great example of seeking views from all stakeholders and in particular the students. The finished policy is on the [ATT Safeguarding Portal](#) for you to have a look at.

Anti-Bullying Videos Caldmore Primary Academy

For Anti-Bullying Week, each class at Caldmore Primary Academy produced a short video in relation to anti-bullying.

The videos contained the following:

- Role-play
- Poem/rap
- Message, using stop motion animation
- Interview with bully and victim

Upper KS2 had a focus on cyber-bullying and online safety. iMovie proved a useful app in terms of creativity; it has preloaded movie templates for you to drag and drop still images or videos.

For the videos, please follow the below links.

[Year 2J](#), [Year 2P](#), [Year 3](#), [Year 4H](#) and [Year 5](#).

Schoolboy, 14, is found dead

Weeks after he made YouTube videos about bullying at school after coming out as gay

Liam McAlpine, a 14-year-old has been found dead at home just weeks after he made YouTube videos complaining about bullying in school and revealing he was gay. Liam was a pupil at Glenrothes High School in Fife, was recently found dead by his father in his bedroom. It is unclear how Liam died but police are investigating whether his death is linked to prescription drugs in circulation at schools in the area.

There have been claims that Liam was bullied, after he came out as gay and anticipated ridicule from classmates, in a video filmed last month. Police have confirmed his death was being treated as 'unexplained' and tributes have been left across social media following news of the teenager's death.

For the full article from the Daily Mail, please follow this [link](#). There are a number of anti-bullying resources available on the [ATT Safeguarding Portal](#).

Childline launches new app 'For Me'

The first app to counsel young people via their smartphone

Childline has launched an app that is the first to provide counselling to young people in need of help directly through their mobile devices. The app has been named 'For Me' to ensure that it can be discreetly installed. This means that if someone happens to see the young person's phone they can't tell it's a Childline service.

'For Me' was created by four teenagers who realised there was an urgent need for young people to have easy access to confidential advice and support. When Childline first launched over 30 years ago, all contact was over the phone, with many calls being made from telephone boxes. How children and young people contact Childline today is dramatically different.

- 71% of counselling sessions are delivered online via email and 1-2-1 chat
- Last year, 1.8 million sessions on the Childline website were conducted via mobile devices.

For information about how to download this app, please follow this [link](#).

NICE advice to look for 'soft' signs of child abuse

Teachers, police officers, nursery staff and other professionals should look for 'soft' signs that could indicate that a child is being abused or neglected, new guidelines suggest.

Signs may include excessive clinginess, low self-esteem, recurrent nightmares or over-friendliness towards strangers. The draft guidance from NICE – the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence – is open for consultation.

NICE's deputy Chief Executive said it was "permission to be curious". NICE was asked by the Department for Education and the Department of Health to produce information for professionals working with children across a range of settings including social care, schools, early years settings, medical centres or custodial settings.

It says adults working with children should be alert to abuse and neglect if a child displays behaviours that are not normal for the child or for their age. Professionals should look out for signs like:

- Low self-esteem
- Wetting or soiling
- Recurrent nightmares
- Aggressive behaviour
- Withdrawing communication
- Habitual body rocking
- Indiscriminate contact or attention seeking
- Over-friendliness towards strangers
- Excessive clinginess
- Persistently seeking attention

However, the guidelines say some signs are a matter of such concern that social services should be contacted straight away. These include a child regularly attending school unclean or with injuries, overtly sexual behaviours in children who are below the age of puberty, and parents using excessive physical punishment.

A [public consultation](#) on the draft guidelines will run until 19 April.

For the full article from BBC News, please follow this [link](#).

Paedophiles who groom children will face tougher penalties as part of law which launches 3 April 2017

Paedophiles who have any type of sexual communication with children will be prosecuted under a new law, which will come into force next month. Campaigners are rejoicing after it was revealed that people who groom children will face up to two years in prison and will automatically be placed on the sex offenders' register, in new measures which will be introduced on 3 April. The new offence will cover both online and offline communication, including through social media, email and letters. Currently, adults cannot be arrested or prosecuted for sending sexual messages to children, the impact of which has been huge with the number of abusers meeting children after grooming more than tripling in five years.

Section 67 of the Serious Crime Act will make it illegal for an adult to send a sexual communication to a child. The news has been welcomed by children's charity NSPCC, which accused the government of dragging its feet implementing the new law. The charity highlighted the failings with its "Flaw in the Law" campaign, which estimates that 4,000 offences could have been recorded in the last two years in England and Wales, while the law was sitting on the statute books. Scotland has enforced similar legislation since 2010, where police have already recorded 1,537 offences.

More than 50,000 people have signed a petition calling on the government to enforce the anti-grooming legislation in the hope of preventing cases like that of Kayleigh Haywood, a Measham teenager who was groomed online by a stranger and subsequently raped and murdered in November 2015.

For the full article from the Burton Mail, please follow this [link](#).