

DIARY DATES

ATT Safeguarding Conference
Wednesday 18 October 2017

IN THIS ISSUE

- **Supporting school children after terrorist incidents**
- **Norfolk Police: “We are teaming up with a Child Protection charity”**
- **Live My Digital: Learning about digital living, together**
- **Share Aware: NSPCC & O2**
- **Thousands of weapons seized by schools**
- **Supporting LGBTI pupils: “it’s important a school is ready for anyone”**
- **NSPCC helps hundreds of victims of CSE in Cambridgeshire**
- **Child Sexual Exploitation ‘woefully underreported’, warns NSPCC**
- **ATT Safeguarding App Focus: Academy Environment**
- **Deodorant challenge: the social media craze**
- **‘One in two’ young online gamers bullied**

Supporting school children after terrorist incidents

The current threat level in the UK is ‘Severe’; this means an attack is highly likely. The threat level was increased after the attack at the Manchester Arena on Monday 22 May 2017. Schools need to consider this advice in their risk assessments for out-of-school trips. This does not necessarily mean that visits should not go ahead.

There are areas which may give greater cause for concern, like London and other big cities, but it seems that any crowded areas may be at risk. Children will certainly notice that there is heightened security in London, Birmingham and Manchester which will include armed police and soldiers, for children unused to this; they may be frightened by it, rather than reassured.

In the event of a terrorist incident, it is likely that there will be road and transport closures, and this may lead to delays being able to return home. It will be sensible to ensure that children have a bottle of water and a small snack in their bag in case of delays. There is no need to tell the children why, just say that they need to save it for the journey home. Don’t forget to take extra medication for any child who may need it.

In a major event, parents may be concerned and start to ring the school for information, they may even know before you do via texts and social media posts from their children. Consider how you keep parents informed and reassured.

Resources for helping children cope:

- [Advice if you’re upset by the news](#)
- [Supporting children worried about terrorism](#)
- [Responding to children and young people affected by the media coverage of the incident in Manchester](#)
- [How to explain the horror of terrorism to your children](#)
- [Recognising the terrorist threat](#)

There are documents on the [ATT Safeguarding Portal](#), to support children after a terrorist attack.

For more information and the full article from Andrew Hall, please follow this [link](#).

Norfolk Police: “We are teaming up with a Child Protection charity to tackle online child sexual abuse images”

Norfolk Police are teaming up with a Child Protection charity in a new initiative to tackle online child sexual abuse images. Six police forces across Eastern England launched Operation NetSafe, on Monday 8 May in a bid to tackle online viewing of child sexual abuse images.

In October 2016, National Police Chiefs’ Council lead on Child Protection and Chief Constable of Norfolk Police, Simon Bailey, announced that more than 100,000 individuals from across the UK were regularly accessing indecent images of children (IIOC) online. Operation NetSafe has been launched to tackle this growing threat in Eastern England with forces from Norfolk, Suffolk, Cambridgeshire, Essex, Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire taking part.

The operation is being conducted in partnership with child protection charity, [The Lucy Faithfull Foundation](#). Their staff, including former probation officers, social workers, psychologists and police officers help prevent child sexual abuse through work with victims, families and sex offenders themselves.

The foundation also works with the public to help them play their part in protecting children via the UK-wide ‘[Stop it Now!](#)’ campaign. This directs offenders, potential offenders and their concerned loved ones to a confidential and anonymous helpline and online self-help resources, enabling them to address any concerning behaviour.

Operation NetSafe represents a new, multi-agency approach to address demand for child sexual abuse images by bringing together the detection and law enforcement work of the police with the prevention work of The Lucy Faithfull Foundation and ‘Stop it Now!’

For more information about this, please follow [this link](#).

Thousands of weapons seized from schools

Samurai swords, axes and air guns are among thousands of weapons seized from schools in England and Wales, Freedom of Information requests have shown. Press Association analysis of data from 32 of the 43 police forces in England and Wales showed 2,579 weapons had been found in two years to March 2017. Police chiefs said there had been a ‘worrying’ increase in young people carrying knives.

There are about 25,850 schools in England and Wales. Heads said children’s safety was their top priority and that schools worked closely with police to protect pupils. In 2016-17 alone, 1,369 weapons were found – a rise of almost 20% on the previous year. According to the 24 forces – including Manchester and the Metropolitan Police – that gave details of the type of weapons seized, nearly 20% were knives or swords.

Other weapons confiscated included at least 26 guns, including air guns and an imitation firearm. More unusual seizures included a police baton, a rolling pin, a can of beer and a 15in (38cm) metal rod. At least 47 children below the age of 10 – the age at which someone can be prosecuted – were found with weapons. This included three five-year-olds, one of whom was caught with a knife, while another was found with a ‘missile’ – typically a brick or a rock.

Police Help

Chief Constable Alf Hitchcock, the National Police Chiefs Council lead for knife crime, said: “Carrying a weapon of any kind in schools is not an issue for a school to deal with alone; police and partners will always be willing to work with them and take appropriate action. We have recently seen an increase in young people carrying knives, and this is worrying”.

Recently, the Metropolitan Police announced officers would be working with schools to highlight the potential consequences of carrying a knife. It follows [the case of Ann Maguire](#), who was stabbed to death at Corpus Christi Catholic College in Leeds in April 2014 by a 15-year-old pupil. The following year, [teacher Vincent Uzomah](#) was seriously injured when he was stabbed at Dixons Kings Academy in Bradford by a pupil.

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

Supporting LGBTI pupils: “It’s important a school is ready for anyone”

Schools today are much more receptive to students’ gender and sexual orientation, and are places where diversity is celebrated rather than scorned. It was not long ago that LGBT pupils at the Priory School in Hitchin, Hertfordshire, hid behind a mask of silence. Fellow students used the word ‘gay’ to describe something that was rubbish. Faced with homophobic language, they felt unable to come out in the classroom and kept their true identities secret. Three years later, dozens of students have come out thanks to a ‘massive culture shift’ in school. Today, diversity and inclusion are celebrated across all aspects of schools life: from setting up of an LGBT drop-in group and appointment of an LGBT student champion, to changes to the curriculum and the building of gender-neutral toilets and changing rooms.

Priory now has a resident counsellor and has forged close links with local child and adolescent mental health services. Sixteen staff have also been trained in mental health first aid. Assistant Head, Katie Southall has led the transformation. Responsible for student wellbeing, Southall realised that more needed to be done to promote equality and diversity. Surveys of young people who identify as LGBT revealed that many are at high risk of mental health problems. Southall said: “We realised from an annual survey on student wellbeing that lots of students identified as gay or LGBT, but didn’t want to be open about it. We are now in a position where pupils are openly transgender, gay, bi, lesbian or gender questioning. For those who are transgender we have procedures in place for name changes and work together with the young person. That can mean getting people who have transitioned to come in and talk to young people.”

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

NSPCC helps hundreds of victims of Child Sexual Exploitation in Cambridgeshire

The NSPCC is warning that many young people do not understand that they are being groomed. New figures show the NSPCC has helped more than 300 children in Cambridgeshire to cope with the effects of abuse. The charity is warning young people about how to spot the signs of grooming.

Many young victims do not know they are being groomed and exploited because of the tactics offenders use. Children as young as ten are being helped by the NSPCC’s Protect and Respect service. Earlier this year, ministers pledged £40 million to help fight Child Sexual Exploitation.

Efforts to tackle Child Sexual Exploitation have come under the spotlight in recent years following the Rochdale scandal. The charity is raising awareness of those at risk of being targeted in the BBC drama ‘Three Girls’. It tells the true story of a gang of men who repeatedly groomed, raped and trafficked young girls in Rochdale between 2008 and 2012.

Young people will not always recognise that they are being exploited and treated as property. As ‘Three Girls’ highlights, groomers can trick a child into believing that they have chosen to be in this situation and will use them however they like. The NSPCC wants every child to be able to spot exploitation for what it is and, if they find themselves in danger, know that it is categorically not their fault. The NSPCC Protect and Respect service is showing them how to spot potential abusers, find their way out of an exploitative cycle and help them on the road to recovery.

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

Share Aware: NSPCC & O2

We all, as education professionals, tell children to share but online it is different. In fact, sometimes sharing online can be dangerous. That’s why the NSPCC have joined forces with O2 to ask parents to be Share Aware and keep children safe online.

Talking to children is the best way to keep them safe. But with things changing all the time, it can be hard to keep up to date. You can always call the NSPCC online safety helpline on 0808 800 5002 to get advice on anything from the latest social networks to parental controls.

Find out what parents think about the most popular social apps and games, what’s the right age and details on privacy and safety settings with the NSPCC [NetAware](#) tool.

For more information, please follow this [link](#).

All resources regarding Share Aware are now available on the [ATT Safeguarding Portal](#).



Deodorant challenge: the social media craze that's burning children's skin

A worried mum has spoken out about a dangerous new craze spreading through schools that's leaving children's skin covered in burns.

Appearing on ITV's This Morning with her mum Sara Stanley, schoolgirl Kaitlyn Stanley revealed how she had burned her own arm repeatedly using an aerosol deodorant because 'it looks really cool'.

Dubbed the 'deodorant challenge' kids across the country are reportedly filming themselves pressing the spray close to the skin and holding it there for as long as possible.

"My friends started doing it. You spray it and then it goes white and it looks really cool so I tried it," the 12-year-old explained.

When asked by presenter Rylan Clarke-Neil if she realised that she was damaging her skin, Kaitlyn replied "no". He then asked if she was worried that this could potentially damage her skin for life, to which she nodded.

Kaitlyn added that she had no idea how many times she had sprayed the aerosol and didn't know how she felt about the way her arm looked now.

Prior to their TV appearance, mum Sara posted an image of her daughter's burns on Facebook to warn people about the school trend.

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

'One in two' young online gamers bullied, report finds

A study carried out by an anti-bullying charity found that 57% of young people it surveyed had experienced bullying online when playing games. In addition, 22% said they had stopped playing a game as a result.

Ditch the Label surveyed around 2,500 young members of the virtual hotel platform Habbo, aged between 12 and 25. One 16-year-old gamer, Bailey Mitchell, told the BBC he had experienced bullying while playing online games since the age of 10.

"If you're going to school every day and you're being bullied in school you want to go home to your computer to escape. So if you're getting more abuse thrown at you it's going to put you off doing anything social – it has for a lot of people I know, me included. It's regular, every other game you're in, there's always someone who has a microphone or types in the chat. They'll call you some random abusive thing they can think of."

The report also found the following:

- 47% of those surveyed said they had been threatened in an online game
- 38% said they had been hacked within a game
- 74% said they would like the issue to be taken more seriously
- 29% said bullying and trolling did not affect their enjoyment of online games

Around half of the respondents said they believed extra human moderation would help prevent bullying from occurring.

"Online games are often violent and based upon conflict. However this study also shows that the ways in which people interact through gaming needs to be looked at" said Dr Ian Rivers, a psychologist at the University of Strathclyde.

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

Live My Digital: Learning about digital living, together

The Girls' Day School Trust has created 'Live My Digital', a unique video series to help parents help their children to stay safe online.

The series consists of six short films for parents and six matching films for children to empower families to use social media safely and responsibly.

The videos look at ways in which the internet and digital technology can be used positively by young people as well as identifying the potential issues they may face. The most critical themes in online safety today are covered, including:

- Cyberbullying
- The Digital Footprint
- Identity and Self-esteem
- Relationships and Grooming
- Security and Privacy
- Sexting

Together with the online safety factsheets (which are available on the [ATT Safeguarding Portal](#)), the videos are to encourage and support open discussions between families about online safety.

For more information and to view the videos, please follow this [link](#).

ATT Safeguarding App Focus: Academy Environment

ATT have devised an app that all visitors that are employed by ATT will use when visiting your academies.

The app was launched in November 2016, which originally looked at entrance procedures for ATT staff and external visitors.

This terms focus is 'Academy Environment'. The app will ask the user the following to see if they are present and available within your academies.

- Whether the names and photographs of the DSL and Deputy DSL are placed in prominent areas
- At least one display gives a focus to safeguarding
- Safeguarding literature is available in main school areas
- Is the culture of keeping children safe evident when walking around the academy
- Pupils are respectful and courteous during unsupervised times.



Child Sexual Exploitation 'woefully underreported', warns NSPCC

Groomers can give them access to alcohol, to drugs and make them feel grown up, which makes them feel they are choosing those relationships,' says UK's leading children's charity.

Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) is being 'woefully underreported', the NSPCC has warned. The charity said that manipulative tactics used by offenders mean many child victims are unaware they are being groomed or exploited, and often adults are unable to identify the signs.

NSPCC's policy manager, Lisa McCrindle told The Independent that sophisticated grooming practices mean any child can be vulnerable, as abusers 'tap in' to what young people want. "We often deal with young people at a time in their life when they are easily influenced. Groomers can give them access to alcohol and drugs, and make them feel grown up, which makes them feel they are choosing those relationships, when in reality they are being exploited. Groomers know what they are doing and groomers want to use that against young people who are particularly vulnerable to being groomed. It is abuse, recognised as child abuse, and it needs to be treated as such."

However, Ms McCrindle said the very nature of grooming makes it difficult to recognise as groomers often succeed in deceiving both the victim and those around them. "Many people interpret this as choices the girls are making rather than recognising them as vulnerable children. That's why it's so important that there is relationship education in schools, so they know what a good relationship looks like and what an unhealthy abusive relationship looks like."

It comes days after a report found the "normalisation" of [underage sex](#) was exposing children and young people to the risk of sexual abuse. Research by the Family Education Trust pointed to a culture in which normalises underage sexual activity as part of the reason professionals failed to detect the abuse of young people in Rochdale, Oxfordshire and Rotherham.

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