

DIARY DATES

**International Day against
Homophobia, Biphobia and
Transphobia**

Wednesday 17 May 2017

Child Safety Week

Monday 5 – 9 June 2017

IN THIS ISSUE

- ATT Safeguarding Conference
- New teachers 'untrained to tackle safeguarding issues'
- Taxi drivers to undertake child safeguarding training
- Resilience & Vulnerability in children who have experienced abuse
- Body confidence campaign toolkit for schools
- Single-sex schools: failing in their legal duties
- The more time children chat on social media, the less happy they feel
- Share Aware: NSPCC & O2
- Worcestershire's schools warned to 'beef up' child protection procedures
- Teachers duties 'more challenging than ever'
- Less than half of UK teachers say they have received training to spot signs of forced marriage
- FGM charge for Detroit doctor
- Thousands of children seeking help for 'loneliness'
- Girls, Gangs and Social Media
- 'Blue Whale' Suicide Game

ATT Safeguarding Conference

30/03/2017

On 30 March, the termly ATT Safeguarding Conference for Designated Safeguarding Leads, was held at The Studio in Birmingham. Andrew Hall, Safeguarding Specialist from Success in Schools was our guest speaker throughout the day; this generated a full attendance and sparked a large amount of interest amongst our academies.

Andrew Hall hosted his 'Safeguarding Bootcamp' which consisted of four sessions. Each session had its own focus:

- Session One – Effective Safeguarding and Evidencing Impact
- Session Two – ATT Safeguarding Policy and ATT's 6Rs
- Session Three – PREVENT Duty and Disclosure by Association
- Session Four – UKCCIS Guidance

Throughout the sessions, there was a focus of networking and discussion around the topics which attendees described as "informative" and "effective".

Andrew provided attendees with examples and scenarios of how certain situations can be handled and resolved, speaking from his own experiences. Attendees felt the day was "fantastic" and "well presented and resourced".

Andrew made the attendees aware of the difference between Safeguarding and Child Protection; he focused on Safeguarding rather than Child Protection. Attendees seemed to react well to this and felt it was "thought provoking".

James Howell from ATT demonstrated the Safeguarding Portal, which has up to date information uploaded weekly. Attendees were informed that there was a new feature on the portal, where academies can upload information about allegations against members of staff. For more information about this, please contact Amy Hodgkins on A.Hodgkins@academytransformation.co.uk

We look forward to the next ATT Safeguarding Conference which is due to take place on Wednesday 18 October 2017 and the venue is yet to be confirmed.

The more time children chat on social media, the less happy they feel

Perhaps Facebook should carry a health warning. A study has revealed that children who spend more time on social media feel less happy in almost all aspects of their lives. The research conducted by the University of Sheffield shows the more time children spend chatting on Facebook, Snapchat, WhatsApp and Instagram, the less happy they feel about their school work, the school they attend, their appearance, their family and their life overall. However, they do feel happier about their friendships.

It was established that spending just one hour a day on social media reduces the probability of a child being completely happy with his/her life overall by around 14%, this is three times as high as the estimated adverse effect on wellbeing of being in a single-parent household.

More than 90% of 16-24 year-olds use social media and while most sites stipulate a minimum user age of 13, few apply any checks. A BBC survey found that more than three-quarters of 10-12 year-olds have social media accounts. A report by Watchdog found that more than half of children aged 3-4 years-old use a tablet, while one in seven have their own device.

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

FGM Charge for Detroit doctor

A doctor in the US city of Detroit has been charged with carrying out female genital mutilation (FGM) on young girls in what is believed to be the first case of its kind in the country. Prosecutors said Jumana Nagarwala had been performing the practice on girls aged between six and eight for 12 years.

She was investigated after the authorities received a tip-off. If she is found guilty, she faces a maximum sentence of life in prison.

In a voluntary interview with investigators, Dr Nagarwala denied being involved in any such procedure, but prosecutors said she has performed "horrifying acts of brutality on the most vulnerable victims". Dr Nagarwala appeared in a federal court in Detroit and was remanded in custody.

For the full article from the BBC, please follow the below. <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-us-canada-39597062>

Single-sex schools:

'Failing in their legal duties to accommodate transgender pupils'

Single-sex schools are failing in their legal duties to accommodate transgender pupils, according to leading charities that specialise in supporting transgender children. Susie Green, CEO of Mermaids UK, told The Independent a growing number of same-sex schools are refusing to admit transgender pupils, despite this being discriminatory under the Equality Act 2010. Campaigners are now calling for greater education on trans-issues both as part of teacher training and the national curriculum.

The Equality Act 2010 makes it unlawful for a school to discriminate against a pupil, or a potential pupil, because of a "protected characteristic" such as gender reassignment. The Act does not require someone to undergo medical treatment, one only has to "propose to undergo" gender reassignment, which could potentially include social transitioning, such as being called by another name.

One transgender pupil who attended an all girls' school told The Independent that lack of awareness of trans-issues within schools had negatively affected their own experience: "I knew something was not quite right from the age of 14, but I didn't realise I had gender dysphoria until I was 16," said the student, who wished to remain anonymous.

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

Resilience and Vulnerability in children who have experienced abuse

The NSPCC estimates that more than half a million children suffer abuse or neglect in the UK a year.

The NSPCC conducted research at Kings College London, which highlighted that experiencing abuse or neglect increases the risk of a child having poor mental and physical health and a worse quality of life.

But the NSPCC have also found that, within groups of children who have been maltreated, there are significant individual differences in these outcomes.

Exploring why some children cope better than others – and finding out how to identify and perhaps even build up this capacity – could help more children recover from abuse.

For the full article from the NSPCC, Please follow this [link](#).

Less than half UK teachers say they have received Forced Marriage training

Less than half of teachers said they had been given training to recognise the signs of forced marriage, according to a new survey. One-third feared they could be seen as racist or otherwise prejudiced if they reported concerns about honour-based violence including female genital mutilation, said the Association of Teachers and Lecturers (ATL) which conducted the poll of its members. The findings come after the NSPCC said a rise in the number of cases dealt with by the Government's forced marriage unit (FMU) was "deeply worrying".

Just 48% of ATL members said they have been trained on how to spot the signs of forced marriage, while 71% said the same about female genital mutilation. Twenty-nine per cent worried about how they would be perceived if they raised concerns over child abuse linked to religion and belief. The ATL's equalities coordinator, Helen Porter said: "Schools' training of staff in terms of safeguarding in general has improved over the last few years. In our recent survey honour-based violence and reporting of it we found 97% of the respondents, that they understood their safeguarding responsibilities. On the other hand, our survey did show that less than half of the respondents had been trained to recognise the indicators of forced marriage in particular. There's certainly an improvement that needs to be made".

The FMU, run by the Home Office and Foreign and Commonwealth Office gave advice or support in 1428 cases in 2016, according to the most recent figures. It was the highest number since 2012 and an increase of 14% on 2015. More than a quarter of cases concerned people under the age of 18. The unit said the increased number of reports could have been due to its "extensive outreach programme of training and awareness events" and that almost 80% of calls came from professionals, or friends and family members of victims.

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

Girls, Gangs and Social Media

There is nothing new about street gangs and youth violence; however the often overlooked issue of how girls become involved was put in the spotlight during a unique gang awareness training event in Birmingham. Two of the city's leading practitioners in this field – former probation officer Joan Campbell and urban youth specialist and Criminologist Craig Pinkney, joined forces to lead a thought-provoking session into a world many parents know little about.

Intervention and engagement on this topic is predominately male-dominated, failing to address the growing reality of more young women being at risk through social media where peer pressure can lead to sexual exploitation, domestic violence and mental health problems. The day-long Girls, Gangs and Social Media event was attended by more than 40 people, but another 5,000 watched it being live-streamed on Facebook.

Joan Campbell told the Voice: "There is a growing concern about the lack of understanding on how vulnerable girls, perhaps those with low confidence or self-esteem, are being groomed through social media. This addiction to the camera and reality TV is worrying – everyone now wants to look inside the life of somebody else, so the media promotes this instant 'look at me' mentality and some young men are exploiting that".

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

Thousands of children seeking help for 'loneliness'

More than 4,000 children contacted the Childline telephone support service last year because they were feeling isolated and lonely. The NSPCC said it delivered 4,063 counselling sessions via its Childline service to under-18s in 2016-17 who said they were struggling with feelings of isolation. This was the first year the organisation collected data about the issue, after noticing a rise in calls related to the issue.

Female callers made at least 73% of the calls (2,978), compared with at least 14% made by boys (582). The remaining (503) did not disclose their gender. NSPCC chief executive, Peter Wanless said: "There was no single reason why so many children were experiencing isolation. Some callers blamed social media for leading them to make unrealistic life comparisons with other people, which left them feeling 'ugly and unpopular'. What is clear is that the world is becoming an increasingly complex place to grow up in with children and teenagers' facing daily pressures to achieve what society defines as a successful life – grades, relationships and physical appearance".

For the full article from Children & Young People Now, please follow this [link](#).

Worcestershire's schools warned to 'beef up' Child Protection procedures

Schools across Worcestershire have been fired an ominous warning over child protection – with the risk of an 'inadequate' grading if they fail safeguarding standards. Ofsted is now opening a tougher inspection regime which puts a heavy responsibility on schools to keep pupils safe. It means even more schools considered outstanding for their education will be graded as failures overall unless their safeguarding procedures are spot on.

Worcestershire County Council says it has alerted "all schools" to this issue, urging them to ensure their relevant policies and paperwork is correct. It follows serious criticism from a former County Hall chairman, Councillor Tony Miller, who has taken a swipe at Ofsted, saying the system is "unfair" and is "wasting public money". Back in January the council's own children's services department was graded 'inadequate' by Ofsted in a highly-critical verdict.

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

Teacher's duties 'more challenging than ever': Staff must combat hate crime, breast ironing and honour-based violence

Teachers say the growing list of abusive practices they have to look out for is onerous but accept that they "may be the only adults outside of the family who know the child well". From responding to hate crime and recognising honour-based violence to educating pupils about safe oral sex and the dangers of the HPV, the job of a teacher has never been more complex, the ATL recently found.

Delegates at the teaching union's annual conference in Liverpool have voted to improve teachers' ability to handle all of these difficult issues. Helen Porter, the ATL's equalities lead and a full-time secondary school teacher, told TES that the conference showed that the roles and responsibilities of a teacher are "more challenging now than they've ever been". The conference voted to raise awareness of honour-based violence and for the union to produce guidance on how to recognise its signs. According to an ATL survey of 361 members, 28.8% were worried they could be perceived as prejudiced or racist if they report concerns about honour-based violence and child abuse linked to faith or belief. While 71% of ATL members say they have training in how to identify and report female genital mutilation (FGM), the survey found much lower awareness of other forms of honour-based violence.

Only 48.2% of teachers have received training on the identification of honour-based violence, and only 13% have received training on the identification of breast ironing. Breast ironing is the pummeling of the pubescent girl's breasts with hard or heated objects in an attempt to flatten them. Ms Porter, who proposed the motion, said: "Some may think, I'm a teacher and I take my safeguarding responsibilities very seriously, but how many abusive practices can I be expected to identify? Yet we all know that we may be the only adult outside of the family who know that child well. It is everyone's responsibility to share information to safeguard a child".

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

'Blue Whale' Suicide Game Hoax

You may have seen news stories and social media posts about 'Blue Whale', the posts urge you to share and protect young people from a viral suicide game. The 'Blue Whale' story is a hoax, or fake news, something which is present in almost every news area recently.

Alerts are often shared over social media, even when initially shared through more conventional routes, such as letters home to parents. The danger with a social media share of a hoax or fake story is that it will also reach young people. There are significant pressures caused by FOMO – fear of missing out; this affects body image, feelings of belonging and for a young person with mental health it may encourage them to consider or copy a dangerous behaviour.

For more information about this hoax, please visit the [Net Family News website](#).