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DIARY DATES

ATT Safeguarding Conference
Thursday 22 March 2018

**National Child Abuse
Prevention Month**
1-30 April 2018

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Safeguarding in ATT FE

ATT FE consistently holds Safeguarding as a core focus on a day-to-day basis in all that we do.

For ATT FE learners located on the Sutton and The Dukeries campus', they are issued with daily lanyards which identify them as an ATT FE learner. Due to the number of ATT FE learners (currently averaging 3,500 per year) and their part-time course profile, a colour-coded lanyard system is in place to ensure that learners are issued daily with 'new' lanyards. This helps to support Safeguarding being as tight as possible.

ATT FE has designed spaces and separate entrances on both sites which support Safeguarding, along with restricted 'zones'. All learners sign a 'learning contract' linked to Safeguarding regarding their presence on site. Any learner who fails to complete such agreement or who makes a disclosure whilst completing such contract is immediately relocated to off-site venues.

Within ATT FE, we have a Safeguarding team on each campus who are all trained as Designated Safeguarding Leads.

In my role, as the Principal of ATT FE, I attend the Trust Safeguarding meetings. These meetings promote and support consistent good practice across the Trust regarding to Safeguarding as well as allows us to strategically develop further Safeguarding initiatives.

Liz Barrett, Principal, ATT FE.



Liz Barrett, Principal, ATT FE

FE Key to tackling Britain's mental health crisis

The government's green paper on transforming mental health provision for young people offers an opportunity for the FE Sector. The government says one in four people has a mental disorder at some point in their life, with an annual cost of £105 billion. At the last Conservative Party Conference, the Prime Minister announced the commitment to review the Mental Health Act, which is a welcome step in the right direction. But this must not be the be all and end all of the work.

The importance of mental health and wellbeing in students cannot be underestimated. We all have a duty to continue raising the issues. The consultation on the 'Transforming Children and Young People's Mental Health Provision' green paper is the opportunity to acknowledge one solution for helping young people: further education.

Colleges well represented

Through the Association of Colleges' (AoC) mental health policy group, more than 25 colleges are working on this key issue. As a group, they have lobbied hard and are well reflected in the consultation document. They were also invited to give evidence at the recent Education and Health Select Committee.

According to the green paper: "Half of all mental health conditions are established before the age of 14". However, it is important to remember that 75% are established before the age of 24, hence a quarter of mental health conditions develop during the time students are at college.

Differences between schools and colleges

In implementing the recommendation included in the green paper, it is important to remember that there are substantial differences between schools and colleges, which will affect the way in which recommendations need to be implemented. The transition from the more structured environment of school to the more open and fluid environment in further education colleges can be challenging for a young person. The challenges can be exacerbated when they are also having to make the transition from Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) to Adult Mental Health Services (AMHS).

At the heart of communities

FE colleges also play a vital role in not just support but recovery. The Prime Minister has said in the past that mental health had been 'dangerously disregarded' as secondary to physical health and changing that would go right to the heart of our humanity. FE colleges have always sat at the heart of communities and work with those communities to build resilience, not just as the local economic engine room for skills development but in recognising the whole young person and their complex needs.

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

Duchess launches new campaign to raise self-esteem of children

The Duchess of Cambridge is launching a new mental health campaign to encourage children 'to be comfortable in their own skin'. In a specially-recorded video message, the Duchess will also call upon parents and teachers to 'give children the emotional strength' they need to 'fulfil their true potential'.

Her intervention comes amid a push to identify mental illness early in schools and offset problems in adulthood. It is feared children are suffering from low self-esteem exacerbated by pressures placed upon them on social media.

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

More than 5,000 new cases of FGM in UK last year

There were more than 5,000 new cases of Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) in the UK last year, new figures have revealed. On the day that activists marked the International Day for Zero Tolerance for FGM in a bid to draw global attention to the issue, NHS Digital also announced that there are around 24,000 women and girls at risk of the illegal procedure in the UK.

Of 5,391 new cases of FGM reported in 2016-17, 112 cases involved women and girls born in the UK, with 57 of the procedures being undertaken in the UK. At 33%, the majority of new cases of women and girls who had suffered the procedure had been born in Somalia, while 88% of the total who had undergone the procedure were born in an African country.

FGM is a barbaric practice which involves altering or injuring female genitalia for non-medical reasons and is recognised internationally as a violation of human rights. It is estimated that at least 200 million girls and women alive today have undergone some form of FGM, according to the UN, while a further 100 million are at risk of the procedure.

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

50,000 children were 'missing' from education last year

Almost 50,000 children were recorded as 'missing' from education last year according to new research by the National Children's Bureau (NCB). Data obtained by the NCB under the Freedom of Information Act shows 49,187 children were recorded as missing from education at some point during 2016-17, meaning they were not registered at a school or receiving suitable education elsewhere.

Of those recorded missing, 15% were known to social services. The national average for children known to social workers is 5.5%. 22% were eligible for free school meals when last attending school compared to 13% if all children in the same local authorities, but the NCB added that not all councils were able to provide this information.

The findings have prompted calls for a clearer way to identify pupils who aren't in school or other educational settings.

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

Transgender-related hate crime linked to schools more than doubles

The number of transgender-related hate offences at or near schools and colleges has more than doubled, figures indicate. Data from police forces in England and Wales show that while the numbers remain small, there has been a clear rise. In total, there were 16 transgender-related hate crimes linked to educational establishments in the 2016-17 academic year – equivalent to more than one a month.

This is up 167% compared to the academic year before (2015-16), when there were 6 offences. The figures are based on data collected through Freedom of Information requests from 29 police forces, which provided details on the numbers of hate-related crimes and types of 'flags' attached to those offences.

Overall, transgender identity accounted for 1% of all 'flags' attached to hate crimes linked to schools and colleges over these two academic years. It has been suggested that the increase could be due to efforts to improve police recording systems and to agencies working together. But campaigners warned that the figures were a 'wake-up call'.

Paul Twocock, Stonewall's Director of Campaigns, Policy and Research said: "While some people may suggest this spike is due to an increased confidence in reporting, we fear these figures represent just the tip of the iceberg of a rise in hate crimes against LGBT people".

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

Children's Mental Health 'a huge problem' Prime Minister outlines action plan

Theresa May revealed how the government intends to support children's mental health, admitting it is a 'huge problem'. The Prime Minister joined Philip Schofield and Holly Willoughby live on This Morning on Monday 19 February 2018 to outline the government's plans to support youngsters.

It comes following a study from the University of Manchester, which revealed the UK is in the midst of a 'mental health crisis' in schools and renewed the call for full-time counsellors to be based in education. When asked if the proposal was realistic, Mrs May acknowledged that the mental health provision in schools is problematic for the government.

She said: "We need to do more in mental health. I think the figure, which I found astounding, is that more than half of mental health problems start before the age of 14. We do need to be looking in schools, which we have already started doing. Last year we launched a programme which is being rolled out in Secondary schools for ensuring that there is at least one mental health trained person in schools to deal with mental health issues".

Health Minister, Jeremy Hunt recently announced a £5 million scheme which would see Primary school teachers receive mental health training – equating to around £300 per school. Mr Hunt also urged social media firms to do more to combat fears online, which are damaging children's mental health.

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

YOTI App

The YOTI App has now been verified by the National Crime Agency.

Childline and the Internet Watch Foundation have come together to provide a service where children can request the removal of sexual images of themselves which have been shared online. As part of that process the child would be asked to link to where the image is stored online, rather than sending the image itself.

The child is also required to verify their identity and age which is done through the YOTI App. YOTI will not store images of the child's ID following the verification process.

Below are a few links that contain resources and more details about this service:

[NSPCC: Sexting](#)

[Childline: Content Reporting](#)

Child sex crime allegations reach record high, says NSPCC

Child sex crime allegations have reached a record high in the UK, the NSPCC has said, with an average of 177 cases recorded every day in 2016-17. In total, there were 64,667 reported offences against children under the age of 18 – an increase of 15% on the previous year. Offences included rape, sexual assault and grooming.

In almost 14,000 cases, the complainant was aged 10 or under, with 2,788 of the alleged offences perpetrated against children aged four or under. In 10% of cases, there was an online element involved. The figures were compiled from Freedom of Information requests submitted to forces across the UK.

NSPCC Chief Executive, Peter Wanless said: "This dramatic rise is extremely concerning and shows just how extensive child sexual abuse is".

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