

DIARY DATES

Mental Health Awareness Week

14-18 May 2018

Child Safety Week

4-8 June 2018

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Safeguarding Conference

Thursday 22 March 2018

On 22 March, the termly Safeguarding Conference for Designated Safeguarding Leads took place at MCA6, Mildenhall College Academy's Sixth Form Centre in Suffolk. We had a good number of attendees, with the majority of academies sending a representative.

The agenda mainly consisted of HR Investigation Training for allegations against members of staff. This training was delivered by Kirsty Woolls, ATT HR Director and Tanya Jackson, HR Business Partner (East 1).

The investigation training looked at scenario-based activities and discussions, which was well received by attendees as it gave them the chance to share ideas and procedures within their academies. The session also covered the following:

- Allegations against staff – what to do and how to deal with them
- Investigations – why, when, how?
- Preparation for investigations
- Witnesses – who and how to identify who is a witness
- Questioning of witnesses – what questions to ask – open, closed, leading
- Gathering information – how, preparing for interviews with witnesses
- The meetings – how to open and close the meetings
- Considerations
- Counter-allegations
- Mitigation
- Investigation report
- Balance of probabilities
- Recommendations



The training session lasted just short of 3 hours and was rated highly by attendees on our evaluation forms.

The [presentation](#) and [documents](#) from the ATT Safeguarding Conference can be found on the ATT Safeguarding Portal.

Tradesmen encouraged to report child neglect

Plumbers, tradesmen and builders on the Isle of Wight are being urged to sign up to innovative new NSPCC training to help them spot children at risk of abuse and neglect.

The charity's '[It's Your Call](#)' training is designed to give local businesses and sole traders whose job involves visiting customer's homes, the knowledge and confidence to recognise possible signs of child abuse.

Guidance on who to tell

The safeguarding training, which covers all types of abuse, also provides them with guidance on who to tell if they have concerns about the wellbeing of a child they come across while working in or around customer's homes. Last year, the NSPCC's helpline referred 71 calls and emails to local agencies such as the Police or Children's Services on the Isle of Wight, the majority of which were from people concerned a child was being neglected.

Real-life example

Brad, a telephone engineer from Gateshead, Newcastle called the NSPCC Helpline about a toddler who he feared was being neglected following a visit to a customer's house to install satellite TV.

The video of Brad's Story is in the following [link](#).

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

Social media sites are damaging children's mental health

School leaders are calling for new social media laws to keep children safe amid fears their mental health is being damaged. Most headteachers have received reports from pupils being exposed to upsetting material on social media sites – including self-harm, bullying, hate speech and sexual content, a poll by the Association of School and College Leaders (ASCL) has found.

More than nine in 10 said pupils' wellbeing had suffered as a result of social media use over the past year and they say new laws and regulations should be introduced to keep children safe. The survey, which questioned 460 secondary school headteachers in January, has been released on the first day of the ASCL's annual conference in Birmingham.

The majority of school leaders had received reports of pupils experiencing low self-esteem after seeing idealised images on social media, as well as missing out on sleep because of use. Some headteachers reported that social media misuse had led to young people self-harming.

One school leader said: "We have seen a big increase in cases of self-harm related to the use of social media. When in the past the first weeks after a break used to be quiet, they are now much worse as pupils seek to settle arguments that have been enhanced over the holidays".

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

Warning to parents over 'Purple Drank' playground craze

A dangerous new craze has infested UK schools in which pupils mix fizzy drinks with opiate-laced cough syrup to create a mixture known as Purple Drank.

Parents have been told children are putting their lives at risk by combining codeine-based over-the-counter medicines with soft drinks.

Purple Drank – also known as Lean – was popularised by the US hip-hop community in the 1990's.

The fad is described as extremely dangerous and concern has been raised that consuming the drink can lead to overdoses, especially if taken with alcohol. Schools are saying that although the effects of Purple Drank vary, users have reported euphoric and dissociative effects.

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

Schools must be consulted on local safeguarding arrangements

Local councils, health services and Police forces will have to involve schools in their safeguarding work from now on, the government has announced. Updated statutory guidance on 'Working Together to Safeguard Children' will include an expectation that all schools be given a voice in the work of those who set local safeguarding policy.

However, the government has rejected calls for schools to become a fourth safeguarding partner alongside local government, health services and the Police, because it can't easily change the law that sets out who is in charge. This is despite requests from a significant number of respondents, including many schools that they be elevated to partnership position.

Although schools have a legal duty to keep all their pupils safe, they do not currently have to be consulted on how other agencies deal with safeguarding. The change to the guidance means those agencies will now be expected to make an explicit reference to how they plan to involve and give a voice to local schools in their safeguarding work.

Of 600 respondents to a question about the change in a recent consultation on the issue, 569 organisations agreed with the proposal to beef up the guidance. Some groups, including Association of Directors of Children's Services and the NSPCC, "highlighted the crucial importance of the need for strong relationships between schools and the safeguarding partners" the Department for Education has said.

For the consultation guidance on 'Working Together to Safeguard Children', please follow this [link](#).

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

Steering Clear of indecent images of children

The Home Office has launched a campaign to educate young men aged 18-24 on the law relating to indecent images of children online.

The campaign developed by the NSPCC, Marie Collins Foundation and the Internet Watch Foundation aims to prevent offending before it occurs and disrupts the escalation of harmful offending behaviour.

Campaign resources include four short films illustrating the damage viewing indecent images of children can cause, posters, infographics and social media messages.

For more information about this campaign, please follow the below links.

<https://stoponlinechildsexualabuse.campaign.gov.uk/>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/indecent-images-of-children-guidance-for-young-people/indecent-images-of-children-guidance-for-young-people>

Girl approached by man on mobile app launches online safety video

A 10-year-old girl is spreading the message about online safety following her own negative experiences on the internet. Yasmine Labidi, a pupil at Barnaby Road Academy, Newark, is hoping to alert other young people about the issue on her YouTube channel. She was inspired to create the video after using the 'Just Draw' mobile app.

"I was on the game where you draw and could talk to another person online, guessing what was being drawn. There was a man on the game who I did not know, and he asked me where I lived and some other details. I thought I would do a video to try and keep everyone safe and stop that happening because there are not always good people in the world" said Yasmine.

On her YouTube channel, called It's YAS, Yasmine urges young people to stay smart when talking to strangers by not sharing personal information or inappropriate images.

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

For Yasmine's online safety video, please follow this [link](#).

Everybody thinks it's only boys who join gangs

Nequela Whittaker was once a feared gang leader in South London. Now she's a Youth Worker on those same streets, this is her story (written by Jo Morris). She wants to help young people, especially girls who might be tempted by gang life.

"Mouthy, that was my street name".

It's what they used to call Nequela Whittaker. She earned the name as a teenager for her cocky manner and habit of getting into fights.

"I would really know how to humiliate or wind people up. My reputation for fighting was well-known. I loved conflict for a long-time".

By the time she was 14, Whittaker had been arrested for Actual Bodily Harm (ABH) and Grievous Bodily Harm (GBH).

"I was savage. I've seen friends murdered, people injured. Mass brawls. Stabbings. Shoot-outs happening in front of me".

"You have people who follow you – you have a crew. You go to any lengths – robbery, kicking in people's front doors".

As the years went by she found it increasingly troubling, but that world is difficult to escape.

"Once you're in it, you're in it. You've got to think how your peers will take you saying, 'I feel regret. It's not me'".

As a young girl growing up in Clapham with her mum and older siblings, Whittaker was a normal law-abiding child. Her mum wanted her to take advantage of every opportunity, so she played the violin, did drama and athletics – but Whittaker says that made her stick out.

"I was different and back then, different wasn't cool".

A long bus journey to her school in Croydon made her a target for a group of girls from another school, who picked on and humiliated her.

"They called me 'nerd', 'hairy legs'. They made fun of my violin, they dissed my shoes, cussing my attire – it was no fault of my own, it was what mum could afford".

Talking about this still upsets her. For more than a year, Whittaker ignored the girls, until finally she reached a tipping point.

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

How to spot the signs of Child Sexual Exploitation

In the age of technology and social media, it is important to identify the signs of when children are being targeted by sexual predators. By raising awareness of the issue through campaigns and advice, charities, organisations and the police are hoping to protect more children from exploitation.

Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) is a form of sexual abuse that involves the manipulation and/or coercion of young people under the age of 18 into sexual activity. There are three main types of CSE:

Inappropriate Relationships: this usually involves one perpetrator who has inappropriate power or control over a young person, often with an age gap and the victim is led to believe they are in a loving relationship.

Boyfriend Model: the perpetrator befriends and grooms the young person into a 'relationship' and then convinces or forces them into sexual activity with their friends or sometimes it is related to gang activity.

Organised sexual exploitation: Young people are passed through networks where they are forced into sexual activity with multiple men. This often occurs at 'sex parties' and the young people may be used to recruit others into the network.

Some of the visible signs include:

- Regularly missing from home/school and staying out all night
- Change in behaviour – becoming aggressive and disruptive or quiet and withdrawn
- Unexplained gifts/new possessions such as clothes, jewellery, mobiles phones or money
- Increase in mobile phone use or secretive use
- Appearing to be under the influence of drugs/alcohol
- Being picked up/dropped off in cars by unknown adults
- A significantly older 'boyfriend' or 'friend' or lots of new friends
- Spending excessive amounts of time online and being increasingly secretive about online activity
- Sudden involvement in criminal behaviour/increased offending sexual health problems

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