

Safeguarding Newsletter

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DIARY DATES

World Suicide Prevention Day
Monday 10 September 2018

World Mental Health Day
Wednesday 10 October 2018

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Instagram introduces 'bully filter' to block nasty comments from online trolls

Instagram, the picture-sharing app have introduced an update to stop bullies' comments being seen on users' photos.

Kevin Systrom, co-founder of Instagram said: "The update is the next step in their mission to deliver a safe place for self-expression".

The new filter hides comments containing verbal attacks on a person's appearance or character.

Kevin Systrom said: "Starting 2 May 2018, Instagram will filter bullying comments intended to harass or upset people in the in the Instagram community. To be clear: we don't tolerate bullying on Instagram".

The filter is on for the global community, but it can be disabled in the comment controls centre within the app.

"The new filter will also alert us to repeated problems, so we can take action", he added.

Instagram is expanding its policies to safeguard young public figures against bullying on their platform.

Mr Systrom continued: "Protecting our youngest community members is crucial to helping them feel comfortable to express who they are and what they care about".

The new feature works by using a software called DeepText, which was built by Facebook – the owners of Instagram.

It works by categorising comments including offensive terms and these are fed through DeepText.

Instagram's computer systems will gradually learn what inappropriate content looks like. As Instagram's system gets 'smarter' it can automatically detect bullying comments as soon as they're posted, blocking them from user's view.

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

Child slave gangs go free as police ‘fail to investigate’

Children lured to Britain on the promise of trials at Premier League football clubs are among thousands of slaves whose captors are evading justice. Only 6% of crimes recorded by police forces under the Modern Slavery Act have led to charges since the legislation was introduced in 2015, figures obtained under the Freedom of Information Act show of the 5,145 suspected slaves referred to the national safeguarding programme last year, 2,118 (41%) were under 18. Exploitation of children and teenagers increased 66% on the previous year, with total referrals up from 3,804.

Police forces were recently accused of failing to adequately investigate modern slavery. In some of the worse examples, West Midlands police recorded 295 offences in two years but only four charges, while Thames Valley police recorded 118 offences and only two charges. The investigation by The Times has found:

- Premier League football clubs, including Tottenham Hotspur, have called in the authorities after children arrived at their stadiums believing that they had been selected for trials, amid concerns about how they arrived in Britain
- Charities say that children are routinely duped by slave gangs who promise holidays or modelling contracts in Britain, with many then being used as child prostitutes in London brothels before sleeping rough
- Child protection organisations have criticised police for a reluctance to pursue cross-border investigations, with some officers suggesting that children simply return to their captors.

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

National School Sports Week 2018

National School Sports Week encourages pupils to be more active and #CelebratePE. This year the week will take place between 25-29 June 2018.

National School Sports Week 2017 was a huge celebration of everything that is great about PE and school sport.

National School Sports Week started in 2008 and in 2016 saw over 5,000 schools and 1.8 million pupils take part!

This year, the week has partnered up with Entertainment One and TV Superheroes, PJ Masks for a special Early Years aspect.

The initiative entitled Power of 3 to reflect the trio of PJ Masks heroes, aims to encourage young people to be more active and take part in regular physical activity and school sport.

For more information, please follow this link to the Youth Sport Trust [website](#).

Child Safety Week 2018

Child Safety Week is run by Child Accident Prevention Trust to raise awareness of the risks of child accidents and how they can be prevented.

Child Accident Prevention Trust provide a range of resources to help practitioners run local activities and events to promote messages in a fun and engaging way.

Child Safety Week 2018 will take place between 4-10 June 2018. This year's theme will be 'Safer Children; Together We've Got This!'

Resources for the week, including posters and classroom activities can be found in the [ATT Safeguarding Portal](#).

For more information about this week, please follow the link to the official Child Accident Prevention Trust [website](#).

Social media firms must protect children or face new laws

Jeremy Hunt is threatening new laws to punish social media firms for ‘turning a blind eye’ to children being exposed to harm. He has said he is disappointed by the lack of progress made in areas such as age verification, screen time limits and cyber-bullying.

He met with the bosses of social networks such as Facebook and Twitter in November, but in a strongly-worded letter he told the companies not enough progress has been made.

He said: “I fear that you are collectively turning a blind eye to a whole generation of children being exposed to the harmful emotional side effects of social media prematurely. This is both morally wrong and deeply unfair on parents, who are faced with the invidious choice of allowing children to use platforms they are too young to access, or excluding them from social interaction that often the majority of their peers are engaging in. It is unacceptable and irresponsible for you to put parents in this position. This is not a blanket criticism and I am aware that these aren’t easy issues to solve, however, it is clear to me that the voluntary joint approach has not delivered the safeguards we need to protect our children’s mental health”.

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

Government ignoring apprentices in mental health plans

Apprentices have been ignored in the government’s plans to improve support for learners with mental ill-health, according to a critical report from two influential committees of MPs. The education and social care select committees were full of criticism for proposals laid out in December in a green paper on ‘beefing up’ mental health provision for younger people, which does not mention apprenticeships once.

“The government should take action to ensure that apprentices also have access to mental health provision under the green paper’s proposals” said the committees’ report. The criticism didn’t stop there. The chair of the education committee, Robert Halfon wants to know how plans for Designated Senior Lead for Mental Health will work in practice. Resources are already stretched, he pointed out with backing from the Association of Colleges, which wants a review of 16-19 funding which recognises the additional costs of supporting large numbers of those with mental health needs.

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

1 in 5 children are happy to have a romance with someone they’ve never met

The internet is changing the landscape of first love, bringing new types of pressures, as a fifth of children say they would consider being with an online-only boyfriend or girlfriend. More than half of the 11-16 year-olds surveyed said technology and social media made keeping a relationship going easier, with a quarter believing it’s easier to find love online. The study was commissioned by Internet Matters to highlight how important it is for children to build up ‘digital resilience’ to help them deal independently with these pressures.

The survey also found a quarter of children said they would happily announce a new romance on the internet, 19% thought sharing news of a break-up on social media was a good thing and 28% of children said they felt left out after seeing an online post from a gathering they’d not been invited to.

To help parents understand some of these pressures so they can better support their children, [Internet Matters](#) has launched a series of Digital Resilience Toolkits created with Internet Matters. Packed with easily digestible video guides and tips, the five Digital Resilience Toolkits are designed to help parents talk to their children to build up their digital resilience.

The toolkits are now available on the [ATT Safeguarding Portal](#).

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

FGM: help and advice if you or someone you know is at risk

There were more than 5,000 new cases of Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) in the UK last year, according to latest figures. FGM is illegal in the UK and it's also illegal to take abroad a British national for FGM, or to help someone trying to do this. Here's what to do if you or someone you know is in immediate danger or at risk.

If there is immediate danger

Contact the police if you or someone you know is in immediate danger of FGM. You should also contact the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, if you know a British national who's already been taken abroad. Telephone: 020 7008 1500. From overseas: +44 (0)20 7008 1500.

If you or someone you know is at risk

Contact the NSPCC anonymously if you're worried that a girl or young woman is at risk or is a victim of FGM. Telephone: 0800 028 3550. From overseas: +44 (0)800 028 3550. Email: fgmhelp@nspcc.org.uk

UK Organisations

You can get help and advice in the UK from [Foundation for Women's Health and Research and Development \(FORWARD\)](#) and [Daughters of Eve](#).

In England, you can find [NHS Specialist clinics](#) for FGM.

You can also apply to get a protection order from court to keep you or someone you know safe from FGM.

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

Rural knife crime spike blamed on 'County Lines' drug gangs

A spike in knife crime in rural areas has been linked to the growth of 'county lines' gangs. The city-based gangs are sending drug dealers into rural areas, resulting in the spread of brutal violence to towns and small cities. While London has seen a 20% surge in knife crime over three years, some counties have experienced increases of up to 150%. The number of knife offences in West Mercia went up by 45% from 324 incidents in 2015 to 470 in 2017.

Kevin Purcell, the former Police Commander from South Worcestershire, previously warned there would be a surge in knife and gun crime if 'county lines' gangs were allowed to establish a foothold in the area. Andy Higgins, Research Director for the Police Foundation think tank, told Sunday Times: "Although the highest volume of knife crime is in London, some of the largest increases in recent years have been in the county forces. The county lines phenomena – organised crime groups exploiting vulnerable young people to supply drugs to smaller towns – is known to be associated with serious violence".

Although West Mercia Police and Crime Commissioner John Campion previously said that better recording practices were a key driver behind all increases in recorded crimes across the country in recent years. He added: "West Mercia's rate of knife crime is still comparatively low compared to many other areas. The official, more reliable measure of crime continues to show that although recorded incidents have increased, actual crime has continued to fall".

Blade-related incidents in Hertfordshire are up 150% from 229 incidents in 2014 to 573 in 2017. The figures have been taken from a House of Commons Library briefing paper on knife crime in England and Wales. The murder rate in London was higher than New York in February and March with at least 36 fatal stabbings in the capital so far this year.

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

Stand Up to Bullying Day 2018

Join the nation on Wednesday 13 June to take a collective stand against bullying in your school, workplace or community. Stand Up to Bullying Day was started in 2016 by The Diana Award with HRH The Duke of Cambridge to bring the country together and raise awareness as to what bullying is, how it occurs and what to do about it. Last year, 2017 saw 20 million people across the world take part.

The day seeks to bring the nation together to take a collective stand against all forms of bullying, whether in school, the workplace or elsewhere. Standing up means being an upstander, not a bystander. It means calling others out when their actions are unkind, reporting conversations online that don't look right and creating a community that will speak out and stand up to bullying.

[HRH The Duke of Cambridge #StandUpToBullying video message](#)

Aims for the day:

- Raise public awareness about bullying and its long-term effect
- Create understanding about the collective role against bullying
- Empower people to stand up to bullying.

All resources are available on the [ATT Safeguarding Portal](#).

The Deodorant Challenge

A mum has warned parents about a teenage craze for spraying deodorant onto each other's skin for as long as possible, which caused her daughter to suffer severe secondary burns. Jamie Prescott, from Bristol, shared a photo of her daughter's injuries on Facebook and urged others to share the post to let parents know about the 'challenge' that could be happening among their child's school friends.

"These are the damaging results of something known as 'The Deodorant Challenge' which is currently doing the rounds in Yate (Bristol) and literally involves spraying deodorant onto someone else for as long as possible" – Prescott wrote on Facebook on 4 May while sharing graphic photos of her daughter's injuries, which she says may require a skin graft.

Prescott said her daughter was asked to put her arm out by a fellow student and she did, not knowing what was really going on. Now, she has to go to surgery once a week for check-ups on the burn.

The Facebook post had more than 3,500 shares and hundreds of comments from shocked parents, with others having noticed it too.

For more information about this craze and the full article from the Huffington Post, please follow this [link](#).

Third of under-13s targeted on social media by adults they don't know

New NSPCC and O2 research has revealed that one in four young people have been contacted over social media by an adult they don't know, with a third of these children aged under 13. 2,059 children and 2,049 adults were surveyed for Net Aware, the essential guide to 40 of the most popular social media sites, apps and games that young people use, produced by NSPCC in partnership with O2.

Children and parents were asked if they'd seen violent, bullying or adult content on the social networking sites and games that children use – with Facebook and YouTube receiving the high-risk ratings across the board. Other sites found to be risky included Twitter and Reddit, with both rated high for inappropriate content. Other sites in the top 15 most risky platforms included lesser known names that parents may not be aware of such as Sarahah, Episode: Choose Your Story, Omegle, ROBLOX and Yubo (formally called Yellow).

A 16-year-old girl who reviewed YouTube said: "When you're watching a video of a makeup artist, a video can be at the side of something completely different that could be sexual or hurtful. It's easy to get yourself into a bad video".

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