

DIARY DATES

Christmas Jumper Day
Friday 14 December 2018

Safer Internet Day
Tuesday 5 February 2019

Safeguarding Conference
Thursday 21 March 2019

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Parents warned about horrific Peppa Pig 'parody' videos on YouTube

Parents have been warned about horrific Peppa Pig 'parody' videos circulating online that show characters being shot and burnt alive. The videos – which are on YouTube and other social media channels, show characters doing gruesome things to one another. One video, which was viewed more than three million times before it was flagged, showed a character called George picking up a gun and shooting himself. The news comes just a few months after a graphic beheading scene appeared in the middle of a Peppa Pig video on YouTube kids.

The platform has come under fire several times for not policing its content thoroughly enough, with a number of lewd clips reported to have appeared part-way through children's videos. Another video – which was viewed more than 188,000 times, shows Peppa Pig setting herself on fire with matches. The text reads 'Peppa likes to play with matches. Peppa lit the match. Blow it out Peppa! Peppa is dead'. Another video showed Peppa Pig being gunned to death with text saying 'kill Peppa Pig game very soon'. Such disturbing content is likely to be picked up by children wanting to find genuine episodes of the show.

Andy Burrows, Associate Head of Child Safety Online for the NSPCC said: "YouTube has time and time again claimed they will do more to protect children from traumatic videos like this, but it is still far too easy for children to come across disturbing clips featuring their favourite cartoon characters. The tech giants have a responsibility to protect children on their platforms".

In August 2018, a mother turned off the TV just moments before a gruesome beheading unfolded before her three-year-old's eyes. While her daughter watched Peppa Pig, the child's mother knew something was wrong when she noticed the absence of the cartoon character's voice. She checked on her daughter to find footage of a kneeling man about to be beheaded, hitting the power button, seconds before the gruesome act played out. Fortunately, she was able to protect her daughter from this clip but wanted other parents to know the 'kids' function on YouTube does not guarantee cyber safety.

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

Shock rise in children sexting

Teenagers as young as 13 are sending indecent images of themselves via text message, say police and the shocking situation is getting worse. Officers say 'sexting' is now worryingly commonplace among young people, with both boys and girls sending the pictures.

PCSO Pete Beale said it was only in the last month that he realised how widespread the problem was. He said: "It's been a shock to me. I knew there was an issue, but in the last month it has dawned on me that it is an increasing problem. It's almost the norm now, teenagers as young as 13 are getting involved in sexually explicit chat and then sending sexually explicit photos of themselves. It seems to be a bit 'you show me yours and I'll show you mine' and they think it's like Snapchat and the images will go, but people are photoshopping them and send them on elsewhere".

He recently gave talks on the subject to all year groups at Kingsbury School in Tamworth, Staffordshire. Headteacher of Kingsbury School said: "We have held these assemblies to teach pupils about being responsible for their actions and how to stay safe".

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

Teenagers bombarded by gambling ads ask for help

Catherine, a 15-year-old girl, is a student at St Joseph's Catholic School in Salisbury. When she was only 12/13, she received an email from a betting website. Catherine now feels that the risks associated with gambling should be more widely publicised, as they are with smoking etc.

Catherine is one of 650 teenagers to have taken part in trials of lessons designed to try and raise awareness of the risks of gambling among school-aged children.

The series of four lessons, developed by the ThinkTank Demos, encourages pupils to weigh up risks, identify manipulative behaviour by gambling companies, learn about managing impulses and help others experiencing gambling problems. The trials come as a recent report by the Gambling Commission suggests up to 25,000 11-16-year-olds are problem gamblers, with many learning to bet via computer games and social media.

Pupils at St Joseph's say they were glad to learn more about the risks, because they think gambling is becoming more prevalent.

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

County Lines guidance update

The Government has republished their national guidance, '[Criminal Exploitation of Children and Vulnerable Adults: County Lines Guidance](#)'. The 8-page document is useful for staff in schools to read and understand more about this hugely impactful and damaging crime.

The Home Office is undertaking a range of work to raise awareness of what County Lines (and associated criminal exploitation) is. There have been awareness posters developed which are designed to support frontline staff, letting agents and landlords understand the signs to look for in potential victims and what to do about it.

The first set of posters apply to young people and would be well placed in staff rooms and office areas within schools. Other posters are aimed at different groups, but academies may wish to raise awareness by passing these posters onto their transport providers. Links for these posters are below:

[Poster for Academy Staff](#)

[Poster for Bus and Coach Companies](#)

[Poster for Taxi and Private Vehicle Hire](#)

[Poster for Private Security Companies](#)

[Poster for Train and Rail Companies](#)

Young people anxious from terror coverage

Media coverage of terror attacks and extremism can leave young people anxious and with an exaggerated fear of becoming victims, say researchers. A study of the attitudes of 11-16-year-olds found that terrorism was seen as a bigger worry than issues such as bullying, racism, cruelty to children or worries about getting a job.

More than two-thirds expressed fears about the threat of terrorism. The report suggests that children have a 'skewed' view of the levels of risk. The report, from marketing research firm Childwise, which studies media use among children and young people, found high levels of anxiety about the threat of violence from terror, extremism or warfare.

Fear of the unknown

Reza Gholami, a sociologist from the University of Birmingham, said: "The responses, from a survey of more than 1,500 young people across the UK, showed staggeringly high levels of concern. Terror attacks have been prominent in news across all forms of media, but we know very little about how this impacts on young people long-term".

The study found that almost four in 10 young people were afraid because they thought they themselves could be victims of terror. The apparent randomness of attacks – as one girl responded, because innocent people are getting hurt – seemed to raise the emotional engagement among young people with such stories.

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

World Mental Health Day 2018

#HelloYellow - Yellow nails! This was the way our students at The Nicholas Hamond Academy chose to support '[Young Minds](#)' raising awareness of children and young people's mental health.

They were busy spreading the word that there is help available for those young people in need and their parents/carers. Statistics show that young people's mental health and wellbeing has never been so important and just how big – and growing – the problem is for young people in the UK.

Christmas Jumper Day 2018

On Friday 14 December, thousands of people up and down the UK will start their day by pulling on a Christmas jumper for a great cause, to create a brighter future for children. Whether you join in at work, at home, school or down the pub, it's all about getting everyone together and donating money.

For more information about Save the Children's Christmas Jumper Day 2018, please follow this [link](#) below.

<https://christmasjumperday.org/>

Hate Crime plan refreshed to protect victims

New measures put in place to tackle hate crimes include a review of legislation, extra funding to support communities and improving responses to incidents. As the country rallied to promote our shared values through Hate Crime Awareness Week, the Home Office and the Ministry of Communities, Housing and Local Government have recently published an update to the Hate Crime Action Plan. These measures include:

- Wide-ranging Law Commission review into Hate Crime – to explore how to make current legislation more effective and consider if there should be additional protected characteristics, such as misogyny and age
- New nationwide public awareness campaign to launch later this autumn designed to educate on what Hate Crime is
- Extending the Home Office Places of Worship Scheme for a further year to support more religious institutions which are vulnerable to hate attacks
- Over £1.5 million of further funding for groups such as the Anne Frank Trust and Kick It Out.

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

Reporting child abuse or neglect: why it's vital to trust your gut

The stench of cat excrement and rotten food hit telephone engineer, Brad Sturrock with such force at the doorstep of a home in Blyth that he nearly turned on his heel. He'd arrived only to fit satellite TV, but when a toddler in soiled nappies waded out of a back room through fly-infested pizza boxes and beer cans, he knew he had to take action.

Sturrock went straight to his van after completing the installation, looked up the number for the NSPCC helpline (0800 800 5000) and reported what he had seen. Having answered a number of practical questions, he was relieved to hear the NSPCC decided immediate action was needed to protect the child. The charity contacted the police, who worked with Children's Services to move the toddler to her grandmother's until it was safe at home for her to return.

Sturrock said: "Knowing they had a young child in that mess was just unthinkable and someone needed to speak up for her. I was worried that if I didn't get the girl help, no-one else would see how she was living. It was such a weight off my mind as I wouldn't have been able to sleep that night if I didn't know someone was looking into it. It was such a relief to know that the NSPCC's helpline was there to help".

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

Record high conviction rate for violence against girls and women

Three in four cases of violence against girls and women taken on by prosecutors end in conviction, the highest rate since comparable records began, new figures for England and Wales show. The 76.1% figure for 2017-18 represents the highest conviction rate since data was compiled by the Crown Prosecution Service and indicates an upward trend of annual improvements in that rate since 2014-15 (73.5%). Elsewhere, data in the Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) report shows rape victims are now more likely to see their attacker convicted after a trial (49.3%) than at any other time since 2012-13 (51.9%). The figures show:

- 100% conviction rate for child killers in 2017-18
- The highest domestic abuse conviction rate since comparable data began
- 23.1% drop in the number of rape cases taken on by the CPS in 2017-18
- A rise in the conviction rate for human trafficking offences, up from 61.4% to 65.1% during the last 12 months
- A fourth consecutive annual decrease in the volume of honour-based violence crimes resulting in a criminal charge.

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

MPs are failing victims of forced marriage, says charity

The outgoing head of a leading British charity has launched a scathing attack on the Government's failure to tackle forced marriage, saying she feels let down by the lack of leadership and warning more children will suffer as a result. Jasvinder Sanghera, who announced she was stepping down as head of Karma Nirvana after 25 years, said that despite sustained lobbying, many professionals working with those at risk still treated forced marriage as a cultural issue rather than a child safeguarding concern.

There have only ever been three convictions under forced marriage legislation – one in Wales and two in England. Sanghera said: "This is completely disproportionate when you consider the thousands of reports. Despite the prevalence of this crime, there is still a reluctance to investigate and prosecute. Yet forced marriage is de facto rape because there is no consent and in extreme cases, can lead to honour killings".

Karma Nirvana, which runs the only Government-funded national helpline, received 8,870 call last year relating to concerns about a possible forced marriage.

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

7 in 10 children are using voice assisted technology

Childnet have released [new research](#) providing a snapshot into how regularly young people use voice assisted technology and the many ways in which they use it.

- 70% of 8-17-year-olds reported using voice assisted technology in the last year, with this number being very similar between 8-12-year-olds and 13-17-year-olds
- 92% of those who had used voice assisted technology reported that they did so primarily to find out information, followed by using it to ask funny questions (90%), play music (73%) and get advice or help (73%)
- On a daily basis young people are using voice assisted technology to play music (20%), ask funny questions (14%), find out information (13%), play games (10%), for advice or help (8%)

The survey of over 1,000 children and young people aged 8-17 years conducted by Populus, found that 7 in 10 young people are using voice assisted technology, with 92% of those saying they did so to find out information. Technology which is able to recognise and respond to human voices is becoming increasingly sophisticated, with services such as Alexa, Cortana, Google Assistant and Siri all being ever more popular.

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

Children with severe dental decay 'should be referred to safeguarding teams'

Children found to have severe dental decay should be referred to local safeguarding teams as it may be an indicator of wider neglect, dentistry experts have said.

Researchers at London's King's College Hospital said two out of five (40%) children who needed oral and maxillofacial surgery due to dental decay over a two-year period were already known to social services.

Their findings have led to the induction of a new pathway for children admitted to the hospital's A&E unit with dental/oral and maxillofacial infections, which will see them risk assessed for neglect and referred to the safeguarding team accordingly.

The study authors said they also want to see their review, which is published in the British Dental Journal, rolled out across the NHS.

Dental neglect is defined as the persistent failure to meet a child's basic oral health needs, which is likely to result in serious impairment of the child's oral, general health or development.

Dentofacial/cervicofacial infection (infection affecting face and neck) in children is avoidable, and if left untreated it can significantly disadvantage them for the rest of their lives.

Researchers said GPs are trained to identify general neglect and should be made aware that acute dental infection can also be an indicator of wider neglect.

They looked at the patient data of children who attended King's with a dental/oral maxillofacial infection that required surgery under general anaesthetic between January 2015 and January 2017 and found there were 27 children aged between two and 15 years old. The youngest child was two years and three months old, while the oldest was 15 years and nine months. They found 11 (40.7%) children were already known to social services prior to hospital admission. The average number of extracted teeth was 3.2, with up to 11 taken out and the average length of hospital stay was 2.5 days.

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