

Safeguarding Newsletter

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DIARY DATES

Safeguarding Conference (W)

Tuesday 6 November 2018

Safeguarding Conference (E)

Thursday 15 November 2018

Anti-Bullying Week

12-16 November 2018

Road Safety Week

19-23 November 2018

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What is CPOMS?

As you may be aware ATT are investing in CPOMS for all academies.

CPOMS is the market leading software application used for monitoring child protection, safeguarding and a range of pastoral and welfare issues.

Working alongside the academy's existing safeguarding processes, CPOMS is an intuitive system which assists with the management and recording of child protection, behavioural, Bullying, SEN and domestic issues.

CPOMS allows all staff to record information online and ensure the relevant people are alerted immediately. Senior leaders will be able to build a chronology around a student and have the ability to produce reports on vulnerable pupil groups for Case Conference Meetings, Governors and Ofsted.

The major benefit of CPOMS however is how it brings together all safeguarding and pastoral care concerns to one place, alongside the necessary tools to analyse each child's situation simply and thoroughly.

A common challenge in safeguarding practice is information or communication 'falling through the gaps' as staff often have a raft of information relating to a huge number of children, spread between a range of places. The flexibility of CPOMS means all academies can choose to monitor SEN, Behaviour, medical issues or even reward systems alongside safeguarding, allowing the academy to see how all the above and more can affect each other.

For further information about CPOMS, please follow the links below.

[CPOMS Website](#)

[Safeguarding Made Simple with CPOMS](#) – Independent Education Today article

You may also want to speak to your Designated Safeguarding lead (DSL) who will be able to talk to you about changes that will alter how you report safeguarding concerns.

Tech companies must crack down on child sex abuse or face new laws

Web giants will be regulated if they fail to stop paedophiles using their platforms to abuse children and share indecent images, the Home Secretary has warned. Sajid Javid called on technology firms to treat child sex abuse images with the same severity as terrorist propaganda to crack down on the horrific content. He said: "A lot has been achieved in the counter-terrorism space, now I want to see the same level of commitment for child sexual exploitation".

More child sex abuse images are being discovered online than ever before and the National Crime Agency (NCA) estimates that 80,000 people pose a sexual threat to children online in the UK. Teachers, a children's entertainer and a former police officer were among the 131 people arrested on suspicion of online child sex offences as part of a week-long crackdown by NCA and police forces across the country.

The Home Secretary threatened the prospect of new laws if sufficient action was not taken to stop platforms being used to groom, blackmail and abuse victims. Sajid Javid said in a speech at the NSPCC's London headquarters: "The reality is that the threat has evolved quicker than the industry's response, there are some companies out there that refused to take this seriously. If web giants do not take more measures to remove this type of content from their platforms, then I won't be afraid to take action. How far we legislate will be informed by the action and attitude that the industry takes".

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

Social media firms face fines if notifications are sent to children at night

Social media firms face fines of up to £18 million if they disturb children with notifications and alerts at night or during the school day under plans being considered by the information commissioner. Elizabeth Denham, the commissioner, is drawing up a new statutory code that will target strategies used by the firms to keep children online such as the timing of notifications and auto-play. Among the proposals is a ban on the social media giants posting messages, notifications or any alerts that disturb children's sleep at night or distract them during the school day. The firms could also be forced to set auto-play, notifications, buzzes, read receipts and non-specific alerts to go off by default every time a child logged on.

The plans have been submitted by 5Rights, a charity founded by filmmaker Baroness Kidron, which has been working with the commissioner and was instrumental in securing the legislation for the new code to prevent children's personal data being exploited by social media firms.

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

Remove terror content or be fined millions, EU tells Social media firms

Social media platforms such as Facebook and Twitter will be forced to take terrorist content off their sites within an hour or face multimillion-pound fines under EU proposals. Julian King, the British security commissioner in Brussels, said there had been a shift in the nature of terror attacks, with people being increasingly radicalised and then receiving instructions online. He said digital material played a part in every attack in Europe in the past 18 months. A voluntary code of conduct on the removal of terrorist content had not been taken up widely enough and it was vital those who failed to act to clean up their sites received a 'big sting', King said in an interview with the Guardian. The European commission is proposing legislation to ensure all member states bring in sanctions against those who repeatedly fail to respond to the new removal orders within an hour of them being issued, with platforms facing penalties of up to 4% of their global revenue. The commission believes the legislation will come into statute across the EU in 2019 during the UK's 21-month transition period after Brexit, meaning it will become part of British law.

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

Fewer than 1 in 5 parents enforce limits on kids' screen time

Half of families are setting limits on time kids spend online and playing games, a survey has revealed, but two thirds of those then fail to enforce those limits. A further third of families don't even set limits in the first place. This means only one in five children in the UK are having meaningful limits on their time spent looking at screens and interacting online by their parents/guardians.

A survey commissioned by the [Digital Schoolhouse Programme](#), organised by games industry trade body Ukie also revealed that only one in three children say their parents either use parental control settings on electronic devices or help them check and set up privacy settings on their own accounts. There was a serious gender gap too, with 51% of boys reporting no parental involvement whatsoever when it came to such settings, compared to a third of girls who reported no involvement.

63% of children reported that their parents had spoken to them about online safety, while 77% of pupils know where to find information on how to play games safely and responsibly.

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

Warning over new harmful transgender trend stickers

The charity [Stonewall](#) has condemned the actions of a pressure group, [Transgender Trend](#) in publishing a set of stickers on its website which promote messages such as 'kids shouldn't be taught in school that they can choose to be a boy or a girl'.

The stickers, which director of Transgender Trend Stephanie Davies-Arai said: "Put them all over your pencil case. Teenagers are coming out as transgender after social media binges. Children confused about their sex usually grow out of it".

A spokesperson for Stonewall, which campaigns for the equality of lesbian, gay, bisexual and trans (LGBT) people across Britain, said: "The stickers contribute to an environment where the bullying of trans students can flourish. Trans young people are facing horrific levels of bullying. [Our 2017 School Report](#) found nearly two in three trans pupils (64%) are bullied for being LGBT, while one in ten (9%) have received death threats".

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

Schools must ban mobile phones to save pupils from online bullying

A majority of British parents want mobile phones banned from secondary schools, according to a survey. 60% say their use should not be allowed on the premises. The findings were released as pupils recently returned to school, with a new intake of Year 7 in secondary schools. It is feared the 11-year-olds will face a perfect storm of digital pressures and the risk of cyber-bullying.

9% of parents said phones should be permitted in lessons with 27% favouring break time and 34% preferring lunchtime. Two-thirds think phones could be used as a tool for bullying and 30% fear they put their children at risk of online predators. The biggest concern surrounding the use of mobiles at school is children will be distracted in class and 66% worry phones will be stolen. About a quarter of parents feel their child is not safe in relation to online threats during school time.

Matthew Burton, a headteacher of the Channel 4 series, *Educating Yorkshire*, has called on parents and schools to work together to reduce any threats. He said: "When children start secondary school, it can be a perfect storm for online pressures. Children are embracing new technologies, they are trying to maintain old friendships while also trying to settle in and establish new friendships in a new school. It's absolutely vital that parents and schools work together to give children the right levels of support. Where incidents do happen, more often than not, they can be traced back to the internet".

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

Breck Bednar murder: film warning of online grooming launched

A film telling the ‘absolutely horrific’ story of how a 14-year-old boy was lured to his death by a man he met online has been launched.

Breck Bednar was murdered by Lewis Daynes in Grays, Essex, in 2014.

Four police forces have teamed up to produce ‘Breck’s Last Game’, which aims to educate and protect boys from online grooming.

However, organisation VictimFocus has warned such films can do more harm than good to youngsters.

The short film, which will be rolled out in schools across Surrey, Essex, Leicestershire and Northamptonshire, explains how the teenager from Caterham, Surrey, played games online with friends, on a server run by his killer.

Daynes, then 18, groomed Breck over 13 months before luring him to his flat where he fatally stabbed him.

He pleaded guilty to murder and was sentenced to life with a minimum of 25 years in January 2015.

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

Is your child in the clutches of a ‘county line’ gang?

Ministers have issued advice on how to spot children as young as 12 being used as drug mules. The Home Office has published [updated guidelines](#) highlighting the problems of youngsters being exploited by gangs to run Class A narcotics and money around Britain. The campaign focuses on the ‘county lines’ networks, where criminals use boys and girls as couriers to flood small market towns and seaside resorts with heroin and crack-cocaine. More than 1,000 county line gangs are believed to operate in Britain, a 40% rise in just one year making an estimated £1.8 billion annual profit between them. The operations are named after the mobile phone numbers used to organise the illegal trade. The guidance, recently updated, is aimed at parents, teacher, social workers, GPs and nurses, police officers and council staff. It will enable people to understand ‘county lines’ and to recognise the signs and how to respond appropriately to potential victims, to help them get the support they need. The guidance outlines that gangs, mainly based in large cities exploit children and vulnerable adults to move and store drugs and money and gangs will often use intimidation, coercion, violence and weapons.

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

Almost half of UK internet users ‘harmed’ online

Almost half of the internet users in the UK have suffered from ‘harm’ online, suggests research. The harms include bullying and harassment, as well as attacks by malware or cyber-thieves.

The study by regulator Ofcom sought to quantify the type and severity of harm that going online could do to people. Interactions via social networks and email were deemed to be the most likely to cause harm.

The study questioned almost 2,000 Britons and found that 45% reported they had suffered some form of harm online. Ofcom looked at harm in four areas:

- Online content that people see, hear or watch
- Interactions with other users
- Data and privacy
- Cyber-security and hacking

Bad experiences included unwelcome attention via social media, trolling and bullying as well as theft of data or personal information. Across all these categories, roughly 20% of people reported that their experience had been ‘very harmful’.

About 20% of those questioned said they reported offensive or harmful content when they encountered it.

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

Stress Awareness Day 2018

We all know what it's like to feel stressed – being under pressure is a normal part of life but becoming overwhelmed by stress can lead to mental health problems or make existing problems worse.

National Stress Awareness Day is taking place on Thursday 1 November and is a great opportunity to take a moment to think about our wellbeing and find advice or support on managing stress.

Mind, the mental health charity has suggested a good way to help colleagues and employees is to create a Stress Awareness Space within your workplace. By creating this space, staff can share their thoughts and feelings when they are feeling stressed. It can make a huge difference sharing how you're feeling with friends and colleagues.

For more information about this day, please visit the [Mind Website](#).

Road Safety Week 2018

Road Safety Week is the UK's biggest road safety event, coordinated annually by [Brake](#), the road safety charity.

Road Safety Week aims to inspire thousands of schools, organisations and communities to take action on road safety and promote life-saving messages during the week and beyond. It also provides a focal point for professionals working in road safety to boost awareness and engagement in their work.

The theme for this year's Road Safety Week is Bike Smart.

This Road Safety Week, which is taking place from Monday 19-Friday 23 November, will be centered around the safety of those on two wheels and encouraging everyone to be Bike Smart.

For more information about this week, please visit the [Road Safety Week Website](#).

Mental health issues in young people up sixfold since 1995

Six times more children and young people in England have mental health conditions than a generation ago, research has revealed.

The proportion of four to 24-year-olds who said, or whose parents said, they had a longstanding mental health condition rose from 0.8% in 1995 to 4.8% in 2014, according to a study published in the journal *Psychological Medicine*.

Between 2008 and 2014, the percentage of children and young adults with a mental health condition also rose by 60% in England and 75% in Scotland, the study found.

Dr Douglas Hargreaves, the lead author, said: "The rapid rise in demand for mental health care has led to a widening gap between that demand and what NHS services can offer, which will force young people to wait to be assessed and treated. We know that there is already a growing crisis in the availability of child and adolescent mental health services, with many more children and young people needing treatment than there are services to provide it. Our study suggests that this need is likely to continue to grow in the future". Hargreaves also said that part of the increase could be due to young people becoming more willing to acknowledge mental health issues and seek treatment.

Tom Madders, the director of campaigns at the charity [Young Minds](#) said: "It's worrying that there has been such a huge rise in young people reporting long-term mental health problems, and this report provides yet more evidence of the growing crisis".

Recent years have seen a significant increase in the number of children and young adults reporting problems such as anxiety and depression, and also in those who are self-harming.

The authors reached their conclusions after analysing 36 national surveys published in England, Scotland and Wales between 1995 and 2014, which jointly drew on the experiences of 140,830 young people.

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