

## DIARY DATES

**National CSE Awareness Day**  
Monday 18 March 2019

**Safeguarding Conference**  
Thursday 21 March 2019

**Mental Health Awareness Week**  
13-17 May 2019

**Child Safety Week**  
3-7 June 2019

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## Male teachers ruling out primary school jobs because they fear being viewed with suspicion

Male primary teachers have spoken of their fear of being perceived as suspicious for working with young children and the lack of male role models for boys in schools.

Teachers, unions and charities are now urging young men to see through the traditional perception of primary school teachers and sign up to teach younger children.

Ex-teacher Julian Stanley, CEO of Education Support Partnership, a charity providing wellbeing support for education staff, said: "The concern of safeguarding is huge for men – it's about whether you can work with children and be viewed with suspicion. We have to stick to careful rules, but it doesn't exclude you from creating strong relationships, we want a balance still".

The number of male primary school teachers remains at an all-time low, with just 15% of nursery and primary schools' teachers in England being male, according to the latest figures.

Dr Mary Boulsted, joint general secretary of the National Education Union blamed sexism. She said: "Men are put off by the idea that they're supposedly not meant to work in jobs involving children, which is old-fashioned thinking we need to move beyond. Not everyone has what it takes to be a great primary teacher, but whether you can do it, isn't to do with whether you're male or female".

Ben King, 30, teaches a Year 5 class at a Horsham primary school and agrees. He feels that although it's not often spoken about, there is an underlying suspicion of men who teach in primary schools. He said: "There are issues surrounding safeguarding which are not spoken about. For example, when girls get changed for PE. I leave the room, we are taught to look out for signs of abuse like bruises when children get changed. I don't feel comfortable doing that and they are supervised by a female member of staff instead. The same goes for hugging a child that has hurt themselves. I don't think female teachers have the same issue".

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

## Eight-year-old boy questioned by counter-terrorism police officers in London school over radicalisation fears

An eight-year-old boy was questioned by two counter-terrorism police officers and a social worker at a school in east London over alleged radicalisation fears. The Counter Terrorism Professional Standards Unit has now launched an investigation into the matter after the boy's parents logged a formal complaint about the treatment of their young son. The parents, who wish to remain anonymous, said their child was left frightened and traumatised after he was separated from his classmates at a school in Ilford to be interviewed. The father claims his son was asked about Islam, the mosque he attends, whether he prays and his views on other religions. He was also asked to recite verses from the Quran.

No safeguarding issues were identified from the interview in July and no further action was taken by the police but now the parents are seeking legal advice. They argue they were targeted for being Muslim, but The Independent understands radicalisation concerns were sparked by the father's links to members of an Islamist group.

"We are absolutely shocked and appalled that our son was questioned alone and, in this manner, and without informing his parents. We as parents have never asked our eight-year-old some of these questions and are deeply upset some stranger would ask these questions of him. Our son is only in Year 3 and is significantly impacted by this. He has since asked us why he had been questioned and why none of the other children were questioned", the father said.

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

## How LGBTQ+ hate crime is committed by young people against young people

Alex Jones has a pair of headphones that completely covers his ears. "If I'm ever out and about I usually wear them, so I don't hear anything transphobic".

Alex came out to his friends and family as trans in 2013 aged 15. He describes it as an empowering move but claims that he was bullied more at school as a result. He says that he started receiving a steady trickle of slurs like 'tranny' from anonymous accounts on social media. He claims that one person started being openly hostile, insulting him to his face and sending him abusive messages.

"You're a tranny", one of the messages allegedly read. "Nobody will accept you", he claims another said. Alex did his best to avoid her, but one day in Cwmbran town centre, the situation turned violent, he claims. "I was hugging another friend and as I turned around, she was just stood there and that's when she hit me".

Alex called the police. He says that he went to the station to give a statement, asking them to record it as a transgender hate crime. "There were several witnesses, but the police dropped the case. They never explained why. This made me not trust them" said Alex.

According to data, 20-29-year-olds are the age group most likely to report being victims of homophobic or transgender hate crime. The data shows that people in their 20's are accused of homophobic hate crime more often than any other age group. Suspects in transgender hate crimes tend to be teenagers or even younger. The figures show that 70 children aged under-13, including younger than seven, have been reported to police for homophobic or transgender hate crime since 2014.

For an interactive map, highlighting areas in conjunction with LGBTQ+ hate crimes and the full article, please follow this [link](#).

## Facebook backs Government's online safety lessons for school pupils

Social media giant Facebook has backed the Government's new online safety lessons to help school pupils recognise online dangers. The tech firm has recently endorsed the proposed online lesson curriculum ahead of a meeting with ministers and anti-bullying campaigners. The lessons form part of Government plans to make relationships, sex and health education classes compulsory at all schools from September 2020.

The new curriculum has been designed to teach every pupil about how to recognise dangers online, including what healthy and unhealthy relationships look like. The Department for Education (DfE) said: "The internet, whilst usually a force for good, brings with it new dangers – that's why our new online safety lessons will teach pupils about how to use the internet respectfully and sensibly". School standards minister, Nick Gibb will meet Facebook alongside online safety charities the Diana Award and Childnet to discuss online safety. The DfE said the meeting supported the Government's mission to work with tech companies to get them to consider their collective responsibility regarding children and young people's welfare online.

For more information on these lessons and for the full article from BT, please follow this link.

<https://home.bt.com/news/uk-news/facebook-backs-governments-online-safety-lessons-for-school-pupils-11364324992372>

### Girls create anti-bullying video after one of them is victimised

Liberty Greig, 11 and her dance partner, Evie Stocker, 10, were inspired to send out a message of hope to victims after seeing bullying in their hometown of Margate. One half of 2Stepz, Liberty was bullied by friends when she returned to schools after spending time in Matilda in the West End. She was also horrified after watching a young girl cruelly taunted and hurt in a video filmed in Margate.

The powerful clip sees the girls telling victims to find who they truly are and ignore the negative comments from bullies. This paired with inspiring images of a young boy fighting to keep dancing, a teenage girl ignoring bullies to keep training and the girls' routine, has had more than 40,000 views on Facebook.

One person commented: "Very powerful message! This needs to be shown in all schools from Primary to Secondary to get the message across!"

To view the video, please follow this [link](#).

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

### Teenage girls twice as likely to be depressed due to social media

Teenage girls are twice as likely to show depressive symptoms linked to social media than their male counterparts, new research shows. Campaigners have called on the government to do more to recognise the risk that apps like Facebook, Twitter and Instagram are creating to the mental health of young people, especially girls, after the study by University College London (UCL) showed a correlation between use of social media and depression.

It found that 12% of light social media users and 38% of heavy social media users, defined as those who use it for five or more hours per day, showed signs of having more severe depression. Previous studies have also concluded that social media can cause depression and anxiety in teenagers.

However, the UCL study highlighted that girls are considerably more likely to be affected. It found that two fifths of 14-year-old females used it for more than three hours per day compared with one fifth of boys. Only 4% of girls reported not using social media compared to 10% of boys. A quarter of girls showed signs of clinically relevant depressive symptoms compared to 11% of boys, the study found.

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

## Childhood abuse increases risk of adult suicide

People who experienced sexual, physical or emotional abuse as children are two to three times more likely to commit suicide as adults, new research has found.

Experts said the findings confirmed the devastating effects of child abuse on mental wellbeing, while one suicide charity said 70% of people who had either tried to take their own life or who had thought about it had been abused.

People who were sexually abused as a child were three times more likely than others to try and kill themselves, according to the new study in Psychological Medicine. And people who were either physically or emotionally abused or neglected in childhood were two and a half times more likely to try and commit suicide.

The findings come from research undertaken by academics at the University of Manchester and South Wales University, who analysed the results of 68 previous studies on the subject around the world.

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

## Girls at heightened risk of FGM and forced marriage

Girls and young women under threat of female genital mutilation (FGM) and forced marriage are being put at unnecessary risk due to loopholes in the legal system that delay civil protection orders being shared with police.

Reforms to a 'chaotic system' were introduced in the form of a pilot scheme in July, it was found investigations were being delayed and a number of girls were even more removed from the country in breach of an order before safeguarding measures could be enforced.

While there have been improvements after the National Police Chiefs Council (NPCC) devised a central system for logging the orders, a recent review found forces were still only being informed of around 70% of cases.

Detective Sergeant, Pal Singh developed the pilot scheme after it was noticed dozens of protection orders were being sent to the office of national policing lead on honour-based abuse that were weeks or even months old.

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

## We weren't set up to deal with this: how councils have responded to county lines

It was spring 2015, recalls Trish Leivesley, now child exploitation lead at North East Lincolnshire council, when something 'really weird' came to her attention. A 16-year-old, little known to youth justice services, was the victim of a serious stabbing. Instead of reporting it, he returned home and initially tried to conceal his injury. A week later, two more young were stabbed, with all three incidents appearing to be linked to a class A drug dealing. Over the next few days, a number of young people considered high-risk and vulnerable by youth offending services showed up with unusual injuries that did not correlate with their explanations of fighting or falling off motorbikes.

In the preceding months she had also noticed a number of boys being referred to North East Lincolnshire's multi-agency sexual exploitation panel. They exhibited troubling signs, frequently going missing, being found outside their local area, not abiding by curfews and sometimes dressed in new items of clothing. But there was no evidence of sexual exploitation.

By November 2015, following a peer review carried out by the Home Office, it was confirmed North East Lincolnshire has a serious problem with county lines drug dealing. The term 'County Lines', which references the phone lines used to sell drugs, has become commonplace in the news and usually implies young people, being trafficked far from urban areas to work in lucrative provincial markets.

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