WSCB Receives Results of Ofsted Inspection

Ofsted has recently published its report following the Inspection of the Worcestershire Safeguarding Children Board undertaken between 24 October and 17 November 2016. The full report can be located by going to reports.ofsted.gov.uk and typing Worcestershire into the Search box facility.

We can now confirm that the judgement in respect of the effectiveness of the Worcestershire Safeguarding Children Board is that it requires improvement to be good. This concurs with our own self-assessment which was that the Board demonstrates strong features, but needs to develop further in some areas to be consistently good.

The review process was extremely thorough and at times challenging. We were confident that the Inspector had gained a good understanding of our Board's functioning and we considered the feedback provided, both during the course of the review and in the written report, to be fair and constructive. It will support the Board's development moving forward and our continuing aspiration to be judged a good Safeguarding Children Board.

We extend our thanks to all of you who participated in the review process specifically, but also acknowledge the contribution of everyone who works continuously to support the work of the Safeguarding Children Board.

The overall judgement by Ofsted is that services for children in need of help and protection, children looked after and care leavers are inadequate. Worcestershire County Council’s Director of Children, Families and Communities, Catherine Driscoll, commented:

'... I know that the judgement will be disappointing and hard to read. I also believe that we have the conditions in place to continue our improvement and know that as long as we remain focused on what is important for children and young people we will continue to make good progress. I am completely committed to leading our services to ensure that the good practice that we do have is available consistently for all our young people.'

As Chair of the Safeguarding Children Board I would like to reiterate the Board’s ongoing commitment to supporting Catherine and her colleagues in the drive to improve services, whilst retaining oversight and scrutiny. There is much work to be done and the Board will want to ensure that Partners fully understand their role in supporting the local authority on its continuing improvement journey.

Derek Benson
WSCB Independent Chair
Safer Internet Day Tuesday 7th February 2017

Safer Internet Day 2017 took place on Tuesday 7th February with the theme 'Be the change: unite for a better internet'.

Hundreds of schools, youth groups, companies, charities, police services and members of the public will join forces to help inspire a better internet this Safer Internet Day.

Find out how you can get involved and register as a supporter at www.saferinternet.org.uk/.

The UK Safer Internet Centre website has a round-up of activities that took place on the day as well as stacks of resources and suggestions of how you can get involved.

Get involved in the Safer Internet Day social media campaign by tweeting using the hashtag #SID2017 and tagging us (@UK_SIC).

Or you can give the internet a smile through the #giveasmile campaign. You can post a smiley selfie or fill in a specially designed emoji.

You can also join in the internet safety emoji charades game. Internet safety tips will be posted through emojis and you can join in the fun. Find out about how you can get involved in emoji charades on Safer Internet Day!

Play Like Share: Keeping 8-10s safe online

Play Like Share is a brand new three-episode animated series which aims to help 8-10 year olds learn how to stay safe from sexual abuse, exploitation and other risks they might encounter online.

The series follows the adventures of Sam, Ellie and Alfie as they form a band and enter their school’s Battle of the Bands contest, taking on the mean but ‘cool’ Popcorn Wizards as they go. The three friends learn that while the internet can help them in pursuit of their goal, they need to use it wisely and safely.

Discover more about Play Like Share at www.thinkuknow.co.uk/ including helpful guides on how to use the animations and additional resources.

Helping Parents Keep Their Children Safe Online—Free Resources

Internet Matters has an online parents guide to technology and advice and guidance on setting up childrens’ tech devices safely. There is a simple to use e-safety app which is free to download.

The site is stacked full of useful information on all aspects of online safety including advice on cyber bullying, on-line grooming, pornography and radicalisation. The advice guides are also helpfully age specific. Visit www.internetmatters.org/ for more information.
There are no official statistics on the number of children who are bullied. But from research studies and what children tell us, we know that bullying affects nearly all children in some way or other. There were more than 25,000 Childline counselling sessions about bullying last year. Over half of LGBT young people have experienced homophobic bullying at school. One research study suggests more than 16,000 young people are absent from school due to bullying (see www.nspcc.org.uk - Bullying & Cyberbullying, Facts and Statistics).

Before young people, parents and professionals can start to prevent and tackle bullying, it is important that the terms related to bullying and online safety are understood, the risks are identified and the impact they have on children and young people are fully appreciated.

See www.kidscape.org.uk/ for more information about cyber bullying, online risks, internet safety and free assertiveness workshops for bullied children.

Bounce Back From Bullying: online bullying questionnaire and advice for young people on Childline at https://bounce-back-from-bullying.childline.org.uk/

6th February International Day of Zero Tolerance for Female Genital Mutilation

A national campaign carrying the symbol of a red triangle will be rolled out across the UK to mark the International Day of Zero Tolerance for Female Genital Mutilation.

The National Police Chiefs’ Council has partnered with the Freedom charity to encourage people to provide the police with information that can help detect and prevent FGM in the UK and abroad.

Commander Mak Chishty, the police national lead on “honour”-based violence, has written to every police force in the country reminding them that while progress has been made, there is yet to be a successful prosecution for FGM.

Also see West Mercia Police website for FGM information.

Children's Mental Health Week 6th-12th February

This year, Children’s Mental Health Week focuses on kindness, and its benefits for wellbeing. It can be difficult to know how to help someone going through a difficult time, but small acts of kindness can make all the difference. More information at http://www.youngminds.org.uk/
Gang Related Crime: Tackling County Lines

County Lines is a drug distribution model typically involving an urban criminal gang travelling to smaller locations to sell heroin and crack cocaine. It is a phenomenon that is impacting various areas in England and Wales.

A new report has found that over 180 urban drug-dealing gangs have expanded their activity into rural and coastal towns, pushing out local dealers or targeting the ‘space’ left by law enforcement action. The majority of the rest are more affluent areas with good transport links to major cities.

The County Lines report was commissioned after the Ending Gang and Youth Violence team within the Home Office identified a growing body of intelligence, emerging in particular from London and the South East, that vulnerable young people are being exploited to facilitate the running of street level drug dealing using the county lines model.

County lines refers to the use of a single telephone number for ordering drugs, operated from outside the area, which becomes the group’s brand. Unlike other criminal activities where telephone numbers are changed on a regular basis, these telephone numbers are maintained and protected. The gangs begin by taking over premises in the target town, sometimes by coercion, by using property belonging to local addicts who are paid in drugs, or by beginning a relationship with a vulnerable female.

The groups often use children, because they work for little pay, are easy to control, and are less likely to be detected. The report found that most runners are boys aged between 14 and 17 and that grooming with gifts and money to control them via a ‘debt’ was common. Where girls were used they sometimes also became the victims of sexual violence.

To find out more go to: Ending gang violence and exploitation (HM Government, January 2016)

Is Your Child Involved in Gangs?

According to the charity Only Cowards Carry the behaviours and signs to look out for include:

► Withdrawing from the family
► Secretive behaviour
► Blocking family and friends on social media
► New expensive clothes or other items
► Arriving in taxis or unknown vehicles
► Large sums of money that can’t be accounted for
► Going missing from home
► Unexplained injuries
► Aggressive or difficult behaviour
► New friends that you do not know
► Truanting or long term absences from school

Although helpful, these signs alone do not automatically indicate a child is in a gang. The NSPCC has a short animation on its website ‘How to protect young people involved in gangs’ Plus lots of useful information about why young people join gangs and where they can get help.

I’ve thought about leaving but it isn’t that simple and I think I would miss it because being in a gang is like being in a family. We look out for each other and are respected by people—I don’t know if I’d cope if things weren’t like that for me any more.

Teenage boy who contacted Childline.
### Management of Allegations Training

Working Together to Safeguard Children (2015) states that all organisations should have clear policies for dealing with allegations against people who work with children.

**2017 Training Dates: 24th March, 30th June or 7th September**

This half-day course will:

- consider the context of allegations made against professionals and volunteers
- increase understanding of Legislative requirements and Government guidance in relation to managing allegations
- provide participants with an opportunity to consider current practice in their own organisation and what changes may need to be made

This multi-disciplinary workshop has been designed to help experienced/senior practitioners, supervisors and managers update their knowledge, ensuring that their interventions are evidenced informed and comply with both legislative and statutory guidance requirements.

The cost for this half-day course is £60 (£30 to Community & Voluntary Sector please note cancellation charges still apply). To reserve a place (dates available on website) please contact your nominating manager or email: WSCBtraining@worcestershire.gov

### Domestic Abuse Awareness Event

**Understanding your role in:**
Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conferences (MARAC) and an introduction to the dynamics of domestic abuse.

**Thursday 27th April 2017**

9.30am – 2.00pm

**Venue: Kidderminster**

Listen to the powerful voices of survivors

This **FREE** interactive half day will include inputs from the Police, West Mercia Women’s Aid, the Worcestershire Forum Against Domestic Abuse, Health, Stonham and the Family Front Door and most importantly domestic abuse survivors. It will provide professionals with a better understanding of the challenges faced by victims of abuse and the local services available to refer to. This event is targeted at any professional that may come into contact with women, children and men, who may be exposed to domestic abuse.

**To book a place please email:** wfadaevents@worcestershire.gov.uk
Breaking Through, Moving on from CSE

A new set of resources has been developed by Basis Yorkshire in partnership with Dr Kate Brown, a leading academic at University of York (also Chair of Basis Yorkshire). *Breaking Through* features the voices and experiences of those who have experienced CSE and then moved on in some way, with words of wisdom for other young people and professionals.

The resources include an animation co-produced by young people, a young person’s booklet with short quotes from the stories and all the stories in full. The project has generated new insights into experiences of CSE, addressing the issue that the voices of young people often get lost or overlooked in debates about how it should be addressed (Berelowitz et al, 2013). As well as showing the different ways abuse happens, the vivid accounts provide unique insights into how experiences of CSE are shaped by wider factors such as welfare systems, criminal justice responses, education, access to money, relationships with parents, and interventions from services and professionals.

Basis Yorkshire was set up in 1989 by a few volunteers, supporting sex-workers in Leeds. In 1997, a young person’s service was established to accommodate the specific needs of girls and young women who were being sexually exploited. Based on the growing demand for specialist awareness raising workshops in school, training for professionals and resources, the charity set up a separate specialist social enterprise in 2012. In 2015, the charity was rebranded as Basis Yorkshire, comprising three projects: Basis Sex Work; Basis Young People’s Project; Basis Historic CSE.

Visit Basis website for more information and links to the resources [http://basisyorkshire.org.uk/](http://basisyorkshire.org.uk/)

Safeguarding in Sport—New Briefing

TriX is a company which provides online briefings, policy and procedure manuals for Local Authorities and those working in the Adults and Children’s Safeguarding fields.

TriX issued a helpful new briefing in December *Safeguarding in Sport* acknowledging the recent allegations of historical abuse within the football world and the resulting investigations made into the Professional Footballers Association. The briefing explains the need for sporting clubs, groups and associations to have robust safeguarding policies and arrangements in place.

As well as risk factors for abuse the briefing looks at organisational responsibilities, recording and monitoring systems, handling complaints and training for staff, volunteers and governors.

The Briefing can be located on the TriX online website. Go to [www.trixonline.co.uk/](http://www.trixonline.co.uk/) choose the Free Resources tab then click TriX Briefings and search for Briefing 193 Safeguarding in Sport.

See page 5 of newsletter for details of training on the Management of Allegations.