



Staffordshire Safeguarding Children Board (SSCB)

January 2013 newsletter

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SSCB Priorities 2012-2013

- The development of the SSCB
- Responding to Munro and the revision of Working Together 2010
- Improve communications and engagement with all
- Engage in activity which is targeted at the following vulnerable children and young people:
 - Child sexual exploitation and children missing from home or care
 - Domestic Abuse and safeguarding children
 - 'Hidden Harm' (safeguarding children whose parents or carers misuse substances)
 - Child neglect (particularly for children under the age of 5 years old)

First Response:

0800 13 13 126

Staffordshire Police: 101
(non emergency)

Welcome to the 4th Edition of the Staffordshire Safeguarding Children Board (SSCB) Newsletter. This quarterly bulletin is aimed at raising your awareness of national and local safeguarding children issues and has been developed especially for all those agencies that work with children and young people in Staffordshire.

As always, this edition is packed with safeguarding children information that you need to know in order to promote the welfare and safety of the children and young people you work with in Staffordshire. There are also hyperlinks to other websites if you wish to read more information on the areas discussed.

We always welcome feedback and if you or your service has any important safeguarding children news or advice on how to improve this newsletter, please contact Lynne Milligan (SSCB Development Officer) on 01785 854572 or sscb.newsletter@staffordshire.gov.uk

*Thank you to everyone who contributed to this edition of the SSCB newsletter.
The next issue will be out in March 2013.*

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What's New?

The SSCB welcomes new members to the Board...

Paula Carr – Designated Nurse for Child Protection – North Staffs and Stoke-on-Trent area

Julie Hendry – Director of Quality and Patient Experience, Mid Staffs NHS Foundation Trust

Heather Johnstone – Director of Quality and Lead Nurse for South East Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCG)

Val Jones - Director for Quality and Safety / Chief Nurse a joint executive appointment for Cannock and Stafford and Surrounds CCGs

Simon Lomas – Staffordshire and West Midlands Probation Trust

Cheryl Sherratt – Assistant Director of Nursing Staffordshire Cluster of Primary Care Trusts (PCTs)

John Beaty, Burton and South Derbyshire College

Lay Members

In August 2012, the SSCB appointed two new lay members – Clair Brindley and Ruth Holden. Both members have now been subject to our induction process and we are really looking forward to working with them. So you can get to know them we have provided you with a short summary of their background and details of how they aim to fulfil their role as lay member.

Staffordshire Safeguarding Children Board welcomes two new Lay Members



Who am I?

Hello, my name is Ruth Holden and I am a Postgraduate Masters Student studying MSc Clinical Criminology at the University of Leicester. I'm also working part time at Staffordshire & West Midlands Probation Trust as a Case Administrator.

Why did you want to become a lay member?

I wanted to be a Lay Member as I have an interest in ensuring children's welfare is a top priority for everybody

and was interested to see how the Safeguarding Board works, as well as gain experience for myself to put towards my career.

What does a lay member do? Who do they represent?

I feel a Lay Member can ensure that front line problems/issues affecting children from a public perspective can be discussed and addressed as well as being able to take back information from the Board about how to safeguard children and signs to look out for that can be communicated to the public.

Are there any safeguarding issues particularly close to your heart?

I feel strongly that the safeguarding of children is everyone's responsibility and it is important to highlight this as it is quite easy for people to assume 'someone else will deal with it' or they do not want to get involved due to possible implications later on.

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Clair Brindley

Hi, I am **Clair Brindley** and have been teaching in further education since 2000. My degree subjects were Psychology and Human Biology and I now teach Foundation Degree Psychology along with Level 3 Criminal Psychology and Sociology. More importantly than this I am a mother of four great children!

Why did you want to be a lay member?

I have had some training in safeguarding via my present employer and always felt it was far more important than we allowed for, there have always been more questions than answers. I have also always had a desire to work with vulnerable children in whatever capacity that I can and I recently did some voluntary work with looked after children that was totally inspiring, if not some what emotionally taxing.

In short I really want to try and give something of myself to help our community be a good place for all young people and this seems another avenue for me to be able to pursue this.

Are there any safeguarding issues particularly close to your heart?

I have a particular interest in sexual exploitation in children. There is a vulnerability to our young people today as they are sexualised so early on and given access to technology which allows for them to be exploited and frequently society ignores the power relationships involved and labels the children.

How do you think you can drive these particular issues forward in Staffordshire?

To be honest I don't know. I would suggest that awareness is the major factor that creates these problems. We need to ensure that communities understand the problems and how to report them.



New Member to the SSCB Team...

Who am I? My name is **Dianne May** and I started my new appointment as Partnership Officer with Staffordshire Safeguarding Children Board in October.

My background is in Education. Many years ago I became an Education Welfare Officer, working mostly in the east of the County, ensuring children and young people engage with School, College or alternative education providers.

I worked very closely with children, young people and

families to resolve issues; encourage attendance and improve their achievements.

In 2003 I became a Specialist Safeguarding Officer within Education, delivering Recognition and Response Safeguarding training to schools and giving help and advice on Safeguarding issues.

More recently I was part of the Common Assessment Framework (CAF) training team; delivering training and implementing CAF in several areas of Staffordshire. During this role I also met a considerable number of practitioners from a wide range of organisations and backgrounds. The role of Partnership Officer is to develop strong and effective multi-agency partnership working in respect of safeguarding children within the community, with a specific focus on promoting the SSCB priorities.

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My aim is to strengthen multi-agency engagement and the understanding of the Common Assessment Framework (CAF) and Threshold pathways and to ensure Children and Families get the right help at the right time. I will ensure that the voices of children and practitioners are sought and that barriers to effective multi-agency working are understood. I now look forward very much to working with you all to identify good practice and show that we make a difference to children's lives in Staffordshire. **You can contact Dianne by email: diane.may@staffordshire.gov.uk or on 01785 277151**

Changes to the SSCB website

As mentioned in previous editions of the SSCB newsletter, the SSCB website has undergone a significant amount of change which has resulted in an increase in the amount of information on our pages.

Examples of the new additions include:

- Board Members contact details (under What is the SSCB)
- Understanding Thresholds and CAF (Under Professionals)
- Links to the Youth Box site (Under Children and Young People)
- A page for the voluntary and private sector and for early years providers (On the main page)
- A Latest News page (On the main page) and;
- An Inspections page (On the main page)

Sitting within these new headings are a number of new/ revised sub headings, one of which is where you will find details surrounding the Thresholds document and CAF forms. Furthermore, the page which houses all our policies and procedures has now been simplified to allow ease of access and to synergise the work of both the SSCB and Stoke Safeguarding Children Boards.

Please take some time to navigate your way around the new site and forward any feedback to us on sscb.admin@staffordshire.gov.uk so that we can ensure the information is accessible and relevant to front line practice.

In the News!

Ofsted Inspection – The results!

As many of you may know, Ofsted inspectors recently visited the local authority in order to carry out an inspection of Staffordshire's arrangements for the protection of children. The inspectors were here for a total of 8 days and visited local support teams, accompanied a team of social workers on their visits, spoke to children and young people, families and many other professionals across the county. The findings from the inspection resulted in Staffordshire receiving an adequate grade which indicates that we are meeting the minimum requirements. It was noted that the authority had made substantial improvements in a relatively short period of time. Inspectors commented "The success of such a transformation has been driven by intelligent, robust and energetic leadership whilst being delivered through an increasingly skilled workforce, with a commitment to supporting Staffordshire's most vulnerable children being evident throughout".

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The following points were also praised by the inspectors in respect of the extensive amount of work undertaken by the SSCB;

- A good range of multi-agency safeguarding training is provided through the Board. Appropriate and up to date policies and practice guidance are in place for all key areas of child protection activity and the Board has developed and overseen improvements in multi-agency responses in some important areas such as missing children and child sexual exploitation.
- After a recent review of the thresholds for access to services by the Staffordshire Safeguarding Children Board, thresholds are well understood and applied effectively; with nearly all decisions for accepting referrals viewed as appropriate by the receiving SSUs.
- The appointment of an independent Chair to the Staffordshire Safeguarding Children Board (SSCB) in January 2012 has sharpened both the focus and accountability of the Board and as a result it is providing a more constructive challenge and having more impact in key areas. The Chair is suitably experienced and has appropriate access to senior managers and politicians. Respective roles, responsibilities and accountabilities are now both clear and clearly understood.
- The local authority has undertaken a number of key consultations with children, young people and their families, including consultation in relation to the Families First programme developments, the experiences of children who go missing and SSCB consultation that has resulted in the creation of Youthbox, an online resource offering help and advice to young people. A survey of parents' experiences of child protection processes produced a relatively high response and provided useful feedback

Areas for further development include:

The Board has recognised the need to review its performance management arrangements to ensure partners are held more fully to account particularly in identifying and addressing areas requiring improvement.

More information

If you'd like to read the full Ofsted report, please visit their website at <http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/local-authorities/staffordshire>

Launch of the Disclosure and Barring Service

From 1 December 2012 the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) will carry out the functions previously undertaken by the Criminal Records Bureau and the Independent Safeguarding Authority. The primary role of DBS is to help employers in England and Wales make safer recruitment decisions and prevent unsuitable people from working with vulnerable groups including children. This follows a Coalition commitment to scale back the Vetting and Barring Scheme and the criminal records regime to common sense levels.

Last August, in order to help employers and voluntary organisations, the Department published - Regulated Activity – Adults - which describes the activities that the Disclosure and Barring Service can bar people from. Further information on DBS is available at - New disclosure and barring services: updated definition of regulated activities.

Subscribe to hear first about future changes. If you want to be kept up to date with all the changes and be the first to hear about news, events and product information, why not subscribe to the DBS: <http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/agencies-public-bodies/dbs/services/dbs-subscribe/>

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Proposed Changes to Regulation 7 of the Care Standards Act 2000 (Registration) (England) Regulations 2010

Working smarter to improve child protection

On 3 July 2012 the Secretary of State set out his response to the accelerated report of the Office of the Children's Commissioner's inquiry into Child Sexual Exploitation in Gangs and Groups, and the All Party Parliamentary Group Joint Inquiry report on Children who Go Missing from Care. Within this response, the Secretary of State made a number of commitments to improving the care and protection of children living in children's residential homes. This included a commitment to remove the current barriers in regulations so that Ofsted can share information about the location of children's homes with the police.



The aim of this consultation is to seek views on the proposed revision to the Registration Regulations so that Ofsted can share the names and addresses of children's homes on their register of children's homes with the police, the Secretary of State for Education and the Office of the Children's Commissioner (OCC).

On 29 November 2012 Children's Minister Edward Timpson published consultation proposals to allow Ofsted to share the names and addresses of children's homes on their register with the police, the DfE and the OCC.

Outlining the plans the Minister said:

There's a clear need for the police, Local Authorities (LAs) and Ofsted to work in a different, 'smarter' way to tackle the ever changing challenge of protecting our most vulnerable children.

Local police forces have argued for many years that in order to best serve and protect these children they need to know where they live. Our proposals simply reflect a common sense approach.

Ofsted already share their register of the names and addresses of children's homes with LAs on a monthly basis but the current rules do not allow them to share this register on a regular basis with the police. The plans will allow local police forces to:

- work more proactively to protect the welfare of children living in children's homes in their area;
- prevent offenders targeting children living in children's homes; and
- help police to protect children missing from care from harm.

ACPO lead for missing persons, Deputy Chief Constable Patrick Geenty, said: These developments are very encouraging and will further enhance the working relationships between agencies. This will ensure more effective and efficient safeguarding measures can be put in place for responding to incidents involving children's homes.

It is essential that we ensure that children's data is fully protected. To support this, a joint protocol will be developed with Ofsted, ACPO, CEOP and others setting out the rules around how information will be shared, by whom, and when. Details of this will be outlined in due course.

<http://www.education.gov.uk/inthenews/inthenews/a00217690/workingsmartertoimprovechildprotection>

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Child Grooming Gangs

ACPO launches new video to combat child-grooming gangs - 29 Oct 2012

A training video by the Association of Chief Police officers (ACPO) which has been funded by the National Policing Improvement Agency (NPIA) has been launched to help officers identify the signs of group-related child sexual abuse launches today.

The video was produced as a result of one of the recommendations of the 'Out of Sight, Out of Mind' report by Child Exploitation and Online Protection (CEOP), which examined several systematic sexual abuse by groups.

Starring Eastenders actress Shona McGarty, the film aims to inform officers of signs suggesting 'street grooming'. It advised officers to be sensitive to signals such as regular truancy, prolonged absences from home, drug and/or alcohol issues and older boyfriends which may be indicative of child sexual abuse.

The 20-minute film is available to view on CEOP's You Tube channel, a move which Mr Davies said would make it a valuable tool for social care workers as well as officers in the battle against sexual exploitation of minors.

The Office of the Children's Commissioner in England is conducting a two-year study on 'Group and Gang Associated Child Sexual Abuse' and is due to report next month on their interim findings. Access to the film can be found by clicking the link: www.cse.siyonatech.com

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SSCB Briefings and Aide Memoirs

In order to ensure that all practitioners are up to date with changes to current practice and legislation the SSCB have started to produce a number of SSCB Briefings which do just that.

These include the following:

- **A Serious Case Review undertaken by North Somerset Safeguarding Children Board regarding the Sexual Abuse of Pupils in a First School** – this document provides you with the Lessons to be Learnt from this SCR and offers examples of how you can improve safeguarding practices within your setting
- **Staffordshire's Threshold Framework: Section 17 Child in Need Referrals & Consent** – this document offers guidance on the issues surrounding consent and links to the Thresholds Guidance
- **Staffordshire Safeguarding Children Board's Inter-Agency Procedures for Safeguarding Children and Promoting their Welfare** – updates you on the changes to the procedures page on the SSCB web site
- **Serious Case Reviews in Staffordshire: An Aide Memoir for Practitioners** – provides an overview of all the SCR's in Staffordshire, and the lessons to be learnt
- **Serious Case Reviews - Practitioner Aide Memoir (2)** – informs you of what a SCR is, what it does and how it improves practice
- **SSCB CSE Lite Bite update** - indicates the progress to date with this 2 hour session on CSE
- **SSCB** policy and procedure briefing paper on the revision of the neglect procedure

These can all be found on the SSCB website under the link to Latest News and then SSCB Briefings. We will continue to provide a range of briefings and aide memoirs to support you in your practice but in the meantime, if you have any suggestions for additional supporting guidance then please drop us an email @ sscb.admin@staffordshire.gov.uk



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Some suggested additions include:

Understanding the Language – an aide memoir to assist practitioners in understanding the jargon used within the child protection world

Neglect in adolescents – key research indicates a rise in the number of neglect cases involving adolescents and this aide memoir will set aside the key issues facing young people and how their experiences separate them from younger children who are more commonly associated with neglect

Neglect – how to spot the signs and to intervene early

We are currently working with two providers both of whom work with very young children and who from time to time may experience safeguarding issues such as neglect. **Burton and South Derbyshire College Nursery** and **Smarty's Day Nursery** have been assisting the SSCB in the formation of a revised neglect procedure which has proved to be extremely valuable, with more work planned for the future. Active engagement such as this enables the SSCB to produce effective guidance which sits alongside relevant and meaningful policies and procedures. If you would like to get involved with the SSCB on other projects please give us a call on **01785 277151**.



'Working together to keep children safe'

What's been happening....

Successful evening with Cannock Soroptomists



As part of the work undertaken by **MACaRoSE** (Multi Agency forum for Children at Risk of Sexual Exploitation) Clive Cartman-Frost the Specialist Safeguarding Development Manager for Strategic Safeguarding at Staffs County Council and myself

(representing the SSCB) met with a local voluntary group, the Cannock Soroptomists to deliver a presentation on child sexual exploitation and how this fits with child trafficking. The event was held at St Luke's Primary School in Cannock and involved a range of professionals from a variety of organisations and agencies across Staffordshire and the West Midlands.

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A number of speakers attended the evening including Alison Cook, a Senior Assertive Outreach Practitioner for the SAFE project, where she outlined a recent case dealt with by their sexual health project. PC Yvonne Shorto expanded on the role of the Child Sexual Exploitation Team and talked about her role and those of the PCSO's based in Cannock Police Station where she is responsible for coordinating a proactive response to anti-social behaviour, domestic violence and hate crime matters for the Cannock and Rugeley area. Additional speakers included Tracey Hardie from SARC, Steph Alexander from Staffordshire's Women's Aid and Stephen Lilley, chair of the West Midlands Anti-Trafficking Network.

The evening proved to be a resounding success as professionals from a range of organisations including local groups came together to understand and share real issues within their local area. One such example which occurred at a high school in Cannock demonstrated how the profile of CSE has enabled professionals to act quickly and safeguard children and young people. The incident involved local police teams, officers within the CSE team and the school who had contacted the police as their suspicions were aroused following a discussion with a pupil who mentioned that she was arranging to meet a group of young men later that evening. The CSE team in conjunction with local police reacted swiftly, ensuring the gang were dispersed and the young girl protected.

Escape drama group attend local high school

On the 15th November, the SSCB organised a free event at Stafford Sports College to raise awareness of the issues surrounding how children perceive their own safety whilst using the internet. A local charity, the Saltmine Trust had in the past produced a successful e safety drama aimed originally at primary school children and reaching over 322 schools including 22,500 children across Staffordshire.



This new production designed for older children, aimed to raise awareness of the pitfalls when using the internet and how to stay safe when you do. The play explored the relationships between a young girl and her 'boyfriend' (someone she had never met in the real world but communicated with on-line) and a young boy who attended a youth club and who had been groomed by his youth worker. Both storylines involved the use of the internet either via a smart phone or the internet on a home computer and ultimately led to the abuse of both victims, one of which led to her disappearance.

A range of professionals were invited to the event with good attendance. Feedback taken after the day proved that the production was both enlightening yet to a degree quite shocking but that it highlighted the real dangers of misusing the internet.

On the day, a total of 200 children watched the play and used an electronic voting system to indicate the ways in which they use the internet. Responses to the survey were not a total surprise but did reveal some shocking behaviours, by children as young as 11 years of age. Each group were asked a series of questions which included their preferred social networking site, if they had ever met in person someone who they had met on line and didn't know, whether they had put photos on these sites, as well as personal information or that they had acted upon more than 1 of these behaviours.

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Of those surveyed, a surprising 7% of 11 – 13 year olds admitted that they had met someone in person after accepting them as a friend on a social networking site, this rose to 12% for 13-14 year olds. Nearly a quarter of children admitted they had undertaken more than 1 of the behaviours. Reassuringly though, after watching the play and taking part in the workshop, over half of those surveyed felt that the event had made them more aware of how to stay safe on line, with over 30% confirming that they would seek help from a teacher or an adult they trusted if they knew they were being groomed on line. One young girl said “I didn’t know it could be that unsafe, I’m going to make sure my privacy settings are on when I get home”.

All in all the day proved to be very successful and the SSCB would like to send their thanks to the head teacher of Stafford Sports College Rowena Blencowe for allowing us to use her school and providing us with refreshments and to the pupils of Stafford Sports College who became thoroughly involved in the days events.

If you would like further information about the Saltmine Trust or if you are thinking of booking an event, then please get in touch with the SSCB Training Team at sscb.training@staffordshire.gov.uk.

'In the Spotlight'

'In the spotlight' aims to focus on key areas of practice that will assist you in understanding and dealing with events on the front line and will be a regular piece within the SSCB newsletter.

In this edition we are looking at **Children who Display Harmful Sexual Behaviour**.

With reports of harmful sexual behaviour (HSB) in children on the increase, it is essential to understand its causes and know how to intervene early and sensitively to deal with it. Research shows that approximately a third of all childhood sexual abuse is committed by children, with a significant number below the age of 11 (Vizard et al, 2007; Taylor, 2003; Sanderson, 2004;2010). This presents innumerable issues for all those who play a role in children's lives.

Here are a couple of examples of situations that would be deemed as harmful sexual behaviour:

1. A child is playing with other children and whilst doing so puts their hands on the parts of other children that are deemed as private
2. A child who attends your school discloses an incident outside of school whereby they were sexually assaulted by another child

What we know is that in order to manage effectively the myriad challenges associated with HSB in children it is imperative that all professionals have a greater awareness of what constitutes HSB, and how this differs from typical sexual behaviour, as well as a clearer understanding of the underlying factors that elicit HSB. It is clear that children within all age groups and cultural contexts engage in sexual expression to some degree, including sexual exploration and peer experimentation, based on **mutuality, reciprocity and consent**.



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This is in contrast to HSB which is predicated on **coercion, deception, enticement, intimidation, threat, physical force or violence**, usually with a younger child. Nevertheless, practitioners need to understand the difference between age developmental typical sexual expression and SHB, as well as how their own attitudes and beliefs around appropriate sexual behaviour in children impact on their perception of HSB.

For further guidance on how to understand the differences between what is seen as typical sexual behaviour for their developmental stage and HSB please visit the [## 'Building Family and Community Resilience'](http://www.staffsscb.org.uk/cgibin/MsmGo.exe?grab_id=563&page_id=393472&query=SCB+procedure&hiword=SCB+procedure+ Children and Young People who Display Sexualised Behaviour and Harmful Behaviour (section 4I) including advice as to when it is appropriate to make a referral to safeguarding.</p>
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Following on from the summer 2011 riots involving many young people and families, the Government developed a national implementation plan to turn around the lives of the Country's most troubled families. The department for Communities and Local Government launched a £448m plan to identify and help 120,000 troubled families by 2015. Government figures indicate approximately 1400 troubled families in Staffordshire, costing the Staffordshire public purse £105m per year, that's £75k per family.

A "Troubled Family" is defined by the department for Communities and Local Government as a household where individuals:

1. are involved in crime and anti-social behaviour (ASB),
2. have children not in school,
3. have an adult on out of work benefits, and
4. cause high costs to the public purse.

Through a new overarching programme called 'Building Family and Community Resilience', Staffordshire County Council and partners will bring together existing initiatives and projects around troubled families and ensure a strategic and coherent approach putting in place a Team Around the Family.

The Building Family and Community Resilience programme presents a real opportunity to change how Staffordshire does business in the long term, making a 'whole family' approach mainstream practice and empowering the community to take ownership of local issues.

As part of the new approach, Staffordshire County Council has been piloting a simple to use communication tool called Patchwork that enables professionals to build a contact base around their client.

Front line staff said that in a lot of cases they could support families more effectively by simply understanding who else is involved with a client and Patchwork does exactly that. It allows practitioners from different organisations to quickly and simply access contact details of other frontline staff working with their clients, saving time, reducing duplication, building relationships and helping children and families earlier. Following months of development with front line practitioners across Staffordshire and two successful pilots, Patchwork is now being rolled out across all partner agencies in Staffordshire.

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Find out more at www.staffordshire.gov.uk/patchwork.

The work with families will take place over the next three years and will be driven through the districts. If you have yet to be engaged in this work and would like to know what is happening in your district please contact your District Commissioning Lead or Sharon Moore, County Commissioner for Safer Communities on 01785 854949.

Teenage relationship abuse on the increase

Research produced by the Home Office indicates that nearly 75% of girls and 50% of boys have reported some sort of emotional partner abuse (NSPCC and the University of Bristol 2009). It is therefore likely that there are young people in your setting who are experiencing relationship abuse.

One survey reported that 77% of young people feel they do not have enough information and support to deal with physical or sexual violence.

Research has shown that some teenagers have worryingly high levels of acceptance of abuse within relationships and often justify the abuse with the actions of the victim, e.g. because they were unfaithful.

Teenagers experience as much relationship abuse as adults. Several independent studies have shown that 40% of teenagers are in abusive dating relationships.

Domestic violence is still a 'hidden' issue in our society; and it is even more so for teenagers. This is exacerbated by the fact that adolescents can be more accepting of, and dismissive about, this form of behaviour than adults.

Current research shows that:

- 33% of girls and 16% of boys reported some form of sexual abuse.
- 25% of girls (the same proportion as adult women) and 18% of boys reported some form of physical relationship abuse.
- Around 75% of girls and 50% of boys reported some form of emotional relationship abuse.
- Most commonly reported forms of emotional abuse, irrespective of gender, were 'being made fun of' and 'constantly being checked up on by partner'. Girls were more likely than boys to say that the abuse was repeated and that it either remained at the same level of severity, or worsened, especially after the end of the relationship.
- Younger participants (aged 13 to 15 years old) were as likely as older adolescents (aged 16 and over) to experience some forms of relationship abuse.
- The majority of young people either told a friend or no-one about the violence; only a minority informed an adult.
- Risk factors which may increase a teenager's susceptibility to relationship abuse can include previous experiences of parental domestic violence, physical and sexual abuse and violent peer groups.
- Teen relationship abuse can have serious outcomes including depression and suicide.

In order to address the issues surrounding teenage relationship abuse, practitioners need to become more familiar with the signs and symptoms of teenage abuse and the ways in which we can understand how and why teenagers have such a low tolerance for certain types of behaviours.

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The Home Office web site has a range of leaflets, posters and teaching packs for professionals, young people, parents and carers. Further information can be found by following the link: www.homeoffice.gov.uk/crime/violence-against-women-girls/teenage-relationship-abuse/

Training

E-learning modules

There is now a quick way to access our e-learning modules if you have not accessed them before. We have introduced self-registration so fill in the form and you will soon be on your way.

Our modules (most of which are FREE to contributing members and Staffordshire childminders) include:

- An introduction to Integrated Working CAF
- Awareness of Child Abuse & Neglect (Level 1 training)
- Child Development
- E-safety
- Safeguarding Children with Disabilities
- Safeguarding Children with Disabilities: Short Breaks
- Safeguarding Children with Disabilities: Autism

Here is the link <http://staffordshirescb.safeguardingchildren.co.uk/>

Lite Bites

We have introduced the new 'Lite Bite' session lasting only 2 hours

Check out these topics:-

- Child Sexual Exploitation
- Missing children.
- Help I'm going to a Child Protection Conference

For full details go to www.staffsscb.org.uk/training

Families First

Newsletters

Never before has strong partnership working been so important and in the face of so much change, Families First will be posting a monthly partners update to keep you up to date with developments across the county council's children's services.

Current edition

Families First Partners Update - December 2012 (PDF, 1550kb)

If you have any feedback on the content of the Families First newsletter, or if you would like to submit an article for inclusion, please drop a line to communications@staffordshire.gov.uk or call Sarah James, Campaigns Officer on 01785 277435.

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ESCAPE 1

We are offering the ESCAPE drama workshop to all year 4, 5 & 6 pupils in the spring/summer terms of 2013. Younger pupils will enjoy the performance - all pupils should be prepared and understand that it is about being safe on the internet. The company can perform to 20 or 200 pupils generally in a school hall.

When?

- | | |
|-------------------------|----------------------------------|
| • 4 - 8 February 2013 | • 11 - 15 February 2013 |
| • 22 April - 3 May 2013 | • 3 - 14 June 2013 |
| • 8 - 19 July 2013 | • 23 September - 18 October 2013 |

The production takes half a day and is available to all schools.

The cost to all schools is £210, the SSCB will provide £50 towards the cost in state schools. (If your school is a special school you may wish to target older children). The production will be delivered in blocks in school districts, with one performance in the morning and one in the afternoon. The production is also available to the independent and private sector and to children who are not in school. If your school is interested in accessing this unique production please contact Jane Rowbottom SSCB Training Manager on jane.rowbottom@staffordshire.gov.uk

ESCAPE 2: The City

The City, a vast metropolis built to provide, to entertain and to inform. Millions of people enter the City everyday, so it should be safe . . . shouldn't it? Follow the journey of two young people as they learn about the dark side of the city and that sometimes, nothing is what it appears to be.

When? The production will be available:-

- | | |
|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| • 4th- 8th February 2013 | • 11th- 15th February 2013 |
| • 25th Feb- 1st March 2013 | • 4th- 8th March 2013 |

The production will be delivered in blocks in school districts, with the company delivery one performance and workshop in the morning and one in the afternoon, at the same school. (There is no limit on numbers, just fill your hall!) The production is also available to the independent and private sector and to children who are not in school Cost: £570 + VAT per day, SSCB has agreed to part fund these events in all schools, we will be providing the first £270 towards each day's presentation. (The subsidy will be restricted to one day per school). If your school is interested in accessing this unique production please contact Jane Rowbottom SSCB Training Manager on jane.rowbottom@staffordshire.gov.uk

For more information about all our training please visit: www.staffsscb.org.uk/training

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CASPAR Reports

Every week the NSPCC Information Service issue their CASPAR alerts which provide a range of safeguarding information from Government reports, to surveys, good practice guidance and journal articles on the most current issues in the world of child protection. To sign up for CASPAR alerts please click on the following link: www.nspcc.org.uk/Inform/Applications/InformUserProfiles/clearinghouseprofilelogon.asp. NSPCC link: www.nspcc.org.uk/Inform/inform

Interesting articles include a report published by The Department of Health (DoH) on taking a public health approach to preventing violence in England.

Please follow the link to access the report:

[Protecting people promoting health: a public health approach to violence prevention for England. \(PDF\)](#)

Ofsted has published an example of good practice when working with families with chronic problems: [Working with families through the 'LIFE' programme: Swindon Borough Council \(PDF\)](#)

A joint inspection by the NSPCC and The Mirror has found that an average of 35,000 illegal images is found every day. The figures are based on records from five police forces in England and Wales.

Source: [NSPCC Inform 15 October 2012](#)

The Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre (CEOP) have launched the International Child Protection Certificate (ICPC), which aims to tackle the threat of UK sex offenders travelling to other countries and working with children. The ICPC is a police check, similar to the UK's CRB system, which will help identify and screen out individuals with previous convictions that make them unsuitable to be working with children. **Source:** [Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre \(CEOP\) 18 October 2012](#)



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