

Safeguarding in Education Spring Term 1 Bulletin

2019-20 HT3

INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the spring term edition of the Safeguarding in Education Bulletin from Together for Children. I hope you all had an enjoyable and relaxed Christmas break.

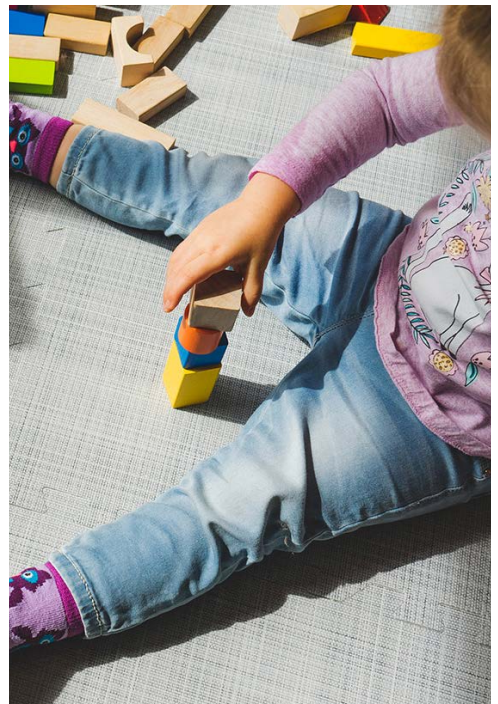
On Monday 2nd December 2019, we held our first Annual Safeguarding in Education Conference at the Sunderland Stadium of Light. We have received some excellent feedback and we are already in the process of planning next year's conference.

At the conference, we launched our safeguarding in education offer of support to schools. If you are interested in hearing more about how we can support your school in meeting your statutory responsibilities, please contact Ronnie Lynn our School Improvement Officer for Safeguarding on 07557 801 273 or by email ronnie.lynn@togetherforchildren.org.uk.

This term's bulletin includes the language to listen out for concerning 'County Lines' and has links to many free resources. I hope you find it useful.

Simon Marshall

Director of Education



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If you have any queries about any of the information contained within this bulletin, please speak to your Designated Safeguarding Lead in the first instance.

PART 1 – INFORMATION FOR ALL STAFF

HOW TO HAVE DIFFICULT CONVERSATIONS WITH CHILDREN

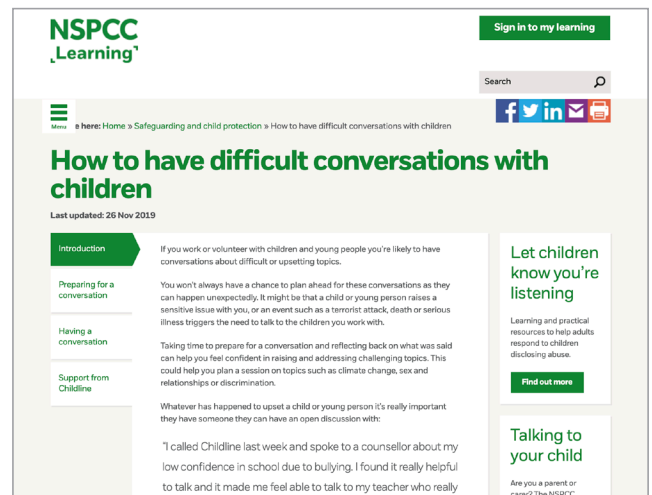
The NSPCC has produced a very useful guide for staff who are likely to have conversations about difficult or upsetting things with children.

The guide includes advice on how to prepare for the conversation, having a difficult or upsetting conversation and where you can signpost the child to next.

Visit: <https://learning.nspcc.org.uk/safeguarding-child-protection/how-to-have-difficult-conversations-with-children/>

Source: NSPCC Website

ACTION: If you are likely to have difficult or upsetting conversations with children, you should visit the website link above.



The screenshot shows the NSPCC Learning website page. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the NSPCC Learning logo, a search bar, and social media icons for Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, and YouTube. The main heading is "How to have difficult conversations with children" with a sub-heading "Last updated: 26 Nov 2019". The page content is organized into sections: "Introduction" (highlighted in green), "Preparing for a conversation", "Having a conversation", and "Support from Childline". The "Introduction" section contains text about the importance of these conversations and a quote from a child. To the right, there are two sidebars: "Let children know you're listening" and "Talking to your child".

CHILD CRIMINAL EXPLOITATION / COUNTY LINES

In the first edition of the Safeguarding in Education Bulletin, there was an article from the TES about Child Criminal Exploitation / County Lines.

The article "Is your school tackling 'county lines'?" can be found here <https://www.tes.com/news/safeguarding-county-lines-gangs>

'County Lines' is a term used when drug gangs from big cities expand their operations to smaller towns, often using violence to drive out local dealers and exploiting children and vulnerable people to sell drugs. These dealers will use dedicated mobile phone lines, known as 'deal lines', to take orders from drug users.

Newcastle Safeguarding Children Partnership has produced a very helpful briefing page on 'County Lines' that includes some of the language used:

- Cuckooing – Taking over a vulnerable person's home for a short period of time to use and sell illegal drugs. The vulnerable person may be sexually and physically abused throughout this process. They may see offenders as their 'friends' and be promised free drugs in exchange for their house.
- Debt Bondage – Where a child or young person and their families are 'in debt' to the exploiters, which is then used to control the young person.
- Food – drugs.
- Going Country / Going to the Trap – A popular term that describes county lines activity. It also means the act of travelling to another town to deliver drugs or money.
- Session – A party.
- Straightener – An organised fight to resolve a dispute.
- Trap House – A building used as a base where drugs are sold (or made). These houses usually are occupied (usually by adult drug users but young people are sometimes forced to stay in them).
- Trapping – The act of selling drugs. It also refers to the act of moving drugs from one town to another or selling drugs in one location.

Source: <https://www.nscb.org.uk/sites/default/files/County%20lines%20model.%20%20Toolbox%20Talks.pdf>

ACTION: If you are concerned that a pupil may be involved with 'County Lines' you should speak to your Designated Safeguarding Lead or contact the Police in an emergency.

BULLYING: TEACHERS SHARE THEIR STORIES IN VIDEO FOR PUPILS

A group of secondary school teachers have made a powerful video highlighting the impact of the bullying they suffered at school, for the pupils they now teach.

They say it is important to talk about these issues in the hope that pupils will feel they can come forward when they have problems.

To view the video click here: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/av/uk-england-hampshire-50591411/bullying-teachers-share-their-stories-in-video-for-pupils>

Source: BBC Website

ACTION: If you are interested in finding out more about the Sunderland Anti-Bullying Charter Mark you should visit <https://www.togetherforchildren.org.uk/professionals/anti-bullying-charter-mark>

FREE POSTERS

Booklife, a children's and educational publisher, have a huge range of free downloadable posters that cover a range of topics including; bullying, mental health, wellbeing and equality.

Visit: <https://www.booklife.co.uk/collections/free-posters>

Source: Andrew Hall – Safeguarding in Schools Briefing 9th December 2019



FEARLESS

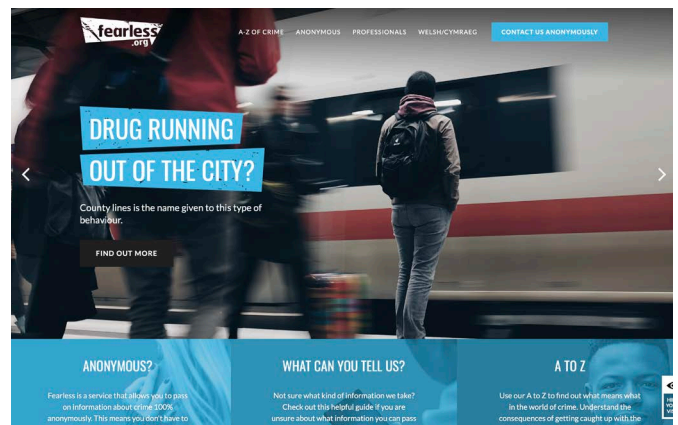
Fearless is a website designed by Crimestoppers, for young people to access non-judgemental information and advice about crime and criminality.

Fearless also provide young people with a safe place to give information about crime - 100% anonymously. It is available 24 hours a day, 365 days per year.

<https://www.fearless.org>

Source: Fearless.org

ACTION: You should promote the use of Fearless to young people to find out more about and anonymously report crime.



EMOTIONAL HEALTH AND WELLBEING IN YOUNG PEOPLE INTO 2019

The Schools' and Students' Health Education Unit have just published a report into the emotional temperature of young people across the country.

This report summarises recent findings from large samples of young people surveyed in schools from local authorities across England between 1997 and 2018, with an in-depth analysis of the samples from 2017-18. The pupils were from Year 4, Year 6, Year 8 and Year 10.

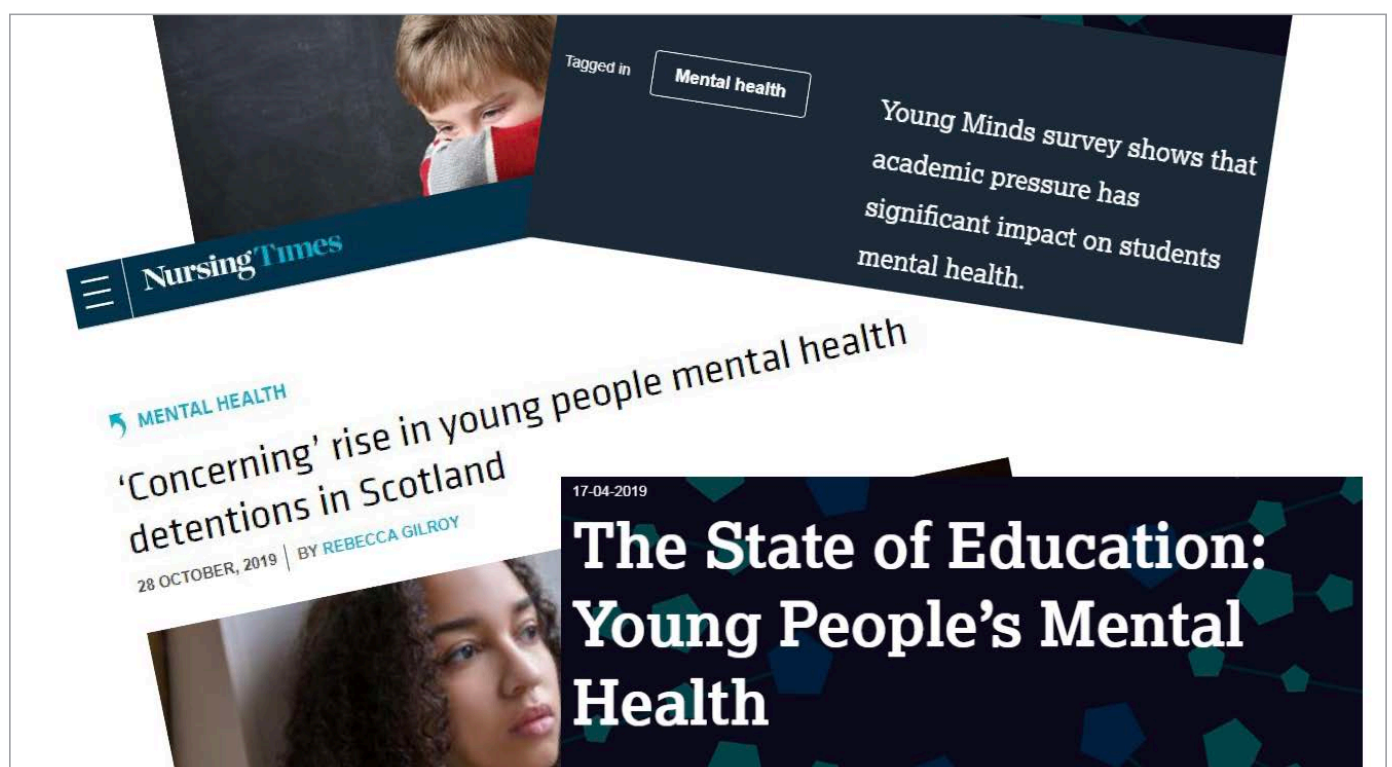
Headline Findings

- Boys had significantly higher self-esteem than girls; this difference becomes more marked as children get older. 32% of boys in Year 4 had high self-esteem in 2018; this compares with 28% of girls in Year 4, 47% of boys in Year 10, and 29% of girls in Year 10. Scores for primary pupils are higher than ever.
- Pupils report decreasing levels of satisfaction as they get older, with the gap for girls widening more than for boys (74% of boys/75% of girls in Year 4 drops in Year 10 to 62% and 48%, respectively).
- Girls worry significantly more than boys, particularly as age increases. The biggest differences are for issues including school-work, family and the way they look.
- Family was the most common source of support or information for most topics.
- When young people have a problem or feel stressed, they often listen to music, but also report talking to family and thinking on their own. 6% of older females report self-harm when stressed.
- Boys feel more at ease when meeting people of their own age than girls.
- The oldest girls (Year 10, 14-15yo) score less well than all other groups for self-esteem, resilience, worrying (for any topic and multiple topics), satisfaction with life and social confidence; girls' scores on well-being scales are not much difference to those of those of boys of the same age.

The full report can be viewed here: http://sheu.org.uk/sites/sheu2.org.uk/files/EHWP%20in%20in%202019_0.pdf

Source: SHEU – School Health Education Unit <http://sheu.org.uk/EHWP2019/0183>

ACTION: If you are interested in finding out more about the Sunderland Mental Health Charter Mark you should visit <https://www.togetherforchildren.org.uk/mental-health-charter-mark>



ONLINE SEXUAL HARASSMENT

'Step Up, Speak Up!' is a practical campaign toolkit to address the issue of online sexual harassment amongst young people aged 13 – 17 years.

- 26% of 13-17 year olds have had rumours about their sexual behaviour shared online in the last year, with 65% saying that girls are judged more harshly for this than boys.
- 47% of 13-17 year olds have witnessed their peers editing photos of someone to make them sexual e.g. placing sexual emojis over them or adding in different faces to pornographic images.
- 31% of 13-17 year olds have seen their peers create fake profiles of someone they know to share sexual images, comments or messages.

Online sexual harassment is unwanted sexual conduct on any digital platform and it is recognised as a form of sexual violence. Online sexual harassment encompasses a wide range of behaviours that use digital content (images, videos, posts, messages, pages) on a variety of different platforms (private or public).

This toolkit specifically focuses on peer-to-peer online sexual harassment taking place between young people.

<https://www.childnet.com/resources/step-up-speak-up/teaching-toolkit>

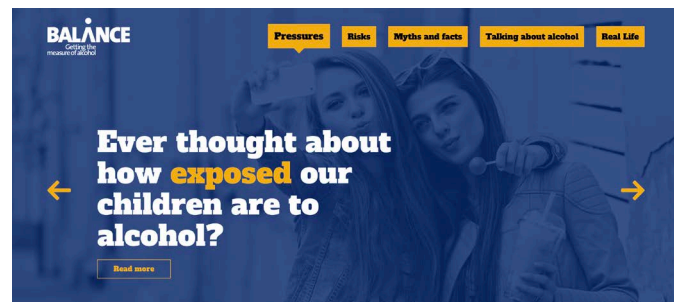
Source: <https://www.childnet.com/>

ACTION: If you are concerned about online sexual harassment you should speak to your Designated Safeguarding Lead.

ALCOHOL BEFORE 18 - WHAT'S THE HARM?

Like tobacco, alcohol is harmful and a recent campaign from Balance, the North East alcohol office, aims to arm parents and carers with the facts about drinking before 18.

The campaign website whatstheharm.co.uk is packed with tips about talking to young people about alcohol, real life case studies and myth busting information.

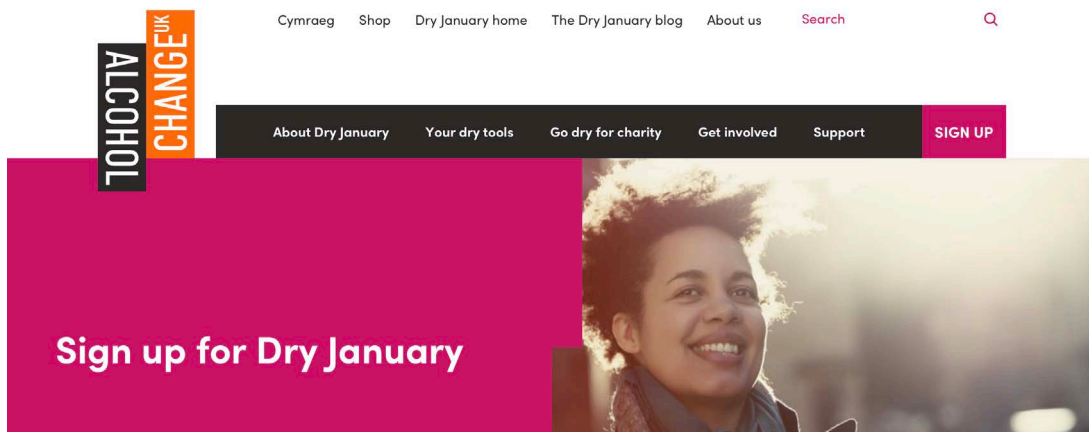


DRY JANUARY

Can you give up alcohol for a month?

Dry January is a great way to start 2020 – feel healthier, save money, sleep better and lose weight.

Sign up or download the free app today. <https://alcoholchange.org.uk/get-involved/campaigns/dry-january/sign-up-for-dry->



PART 2 – INFORMATION FOR HEADTEACHERS AND DESIGNATED SAFEGUARDING LEADS

INTERNET FILTER TEST FOR SCHOOLS

South West Grid for Learning (SWGfL) have produced a website to support you and your school in meeting your statutory duties in relation to online safety.

Schools in England and Wales are required to “ensure children are safe from terrorist and extremist material when accessing the internet in school, including by establishing appropriate levels of filtering”. [Source: Revised Prevent Duty Guidance: for England and Wales, 2015]

Furthermore, Keeping Children Safe in Education (2019) requires schools and colleges in England to “ensure appropriate filters and appropriate monitoring systems are in place. Children should not be able to access harmful or inappropriate material from the school or colleges IT system” however, schools will need to “be careful that “over blocking” does not lead to unreasonable restrictions as to what children can be taught with regards to online teaching and safeguarding.”

This utility will test the filtering lists in place. Visit <http://testfiltering.com/>

Source: South West Grid for Learning (SWGfL)

ACTION: You should regularly check your online filtering and monitoring. Using the above test filter site can be part of your testing.

APPROPRIATE LANGUAGE IN RELATION TO CHILD SEXUAL AND/OR CRIMINAL EXPLOITATION

The Children’s Society have produced some very useful documents in relation to child sexual and/or criminal exploitation including:

A toolkit for professionals

<https://www.childrensociety.org.uk/sites/default/files/exploitation-toolkit.pdf>

Appropriate language: Guidance for professionals to be used when discussing the exploitation of children and young people.

<https://www.csepoliceandprevention.org.uk/sites/default/files/Guidance%20App%20Language%20Toolkit.pdf>

A guide for parents

<https://www.childrensociety.org.uk/sites/default/files/cce-advice-for-parents.pdf>

Source: The Children’s Society

ACTION: If you should ensure you are up to date with the Child Criminal and/or Sexual Exploitation toolkit and appropriate language.

