



February 2017

Message from Deborah Lightfoot, LSCB Chair

Welcome to the February LSCB newsletter which addresses the issue of child sex abuse. 1 in 20 children are believed to be victims of this crime and set out below is information and resources to assist professionals working with children to look for warning signs and to try and keep children safe from sex abuse. Your attention is directed to a new service 'The Child House' to help children who have been victims of abuse. We also address another crime, Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE), which is on the wider continuum of exploitation, violence and abuse of children and draw your attention to the importance of participating in local awareness raising in Richmond and in Kingston.

Operation MakeSafe & National CSE Awareness Day

Operation MakeSafe will be running in Kingston & Richmond throughout the week of 13-17th March. The police will be leading on giving all partner agencies and local businesses training and briefings to raise awareness about child sexual exploitation, including what signs to look for and what information to give when they call police should they suspect CSE occurring on their premises or other information suggesting CSE activity.

The Government has revised the definition of CSE this month. Find out more here:

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/591903/CSE_Guidance_Core_Document_13.02.2017.pdf

The awareness raising will be aimed at hotels, licensed premises, pub watch, taxi companies, buses, trains and children's homes. The police will also be visiting local schools to take assemblies on sexting and promoting the CEOP (Child Exploitation and Online Protection) safety guidance.

In addition to this, National CSE Awareness day will be on 18th March. This day has been organised by the NWG (formerly The National Working Group for Sexually Exploited Children and Young People).

The National Child Sexual Exploitation Awareness Day aims to highlight the issues surrounding CSE; encouraging everyone to **think, spot and speak out against abuse** and adopt a zero tolerance to adults developing inappropriate relationships with children or children developing inappropriate relationships with other children.

Go to '[raise awareness page](#)' where a variety of posters, banners and logo are available for use. www.nwgnetwork.org.

The NSPCC wants to better understand the issues and the pressures facing people who work in the children's sector. That's why they're contacting you.

The charity has set up a Children's Sector Panel, which already has a membership of around 2,000 social workers, health visitors, community nurses, teachers and anyone else who works with children and young people – and they want us to join them as someone who understands the issues and challenges which safeguarding raises. Contact:

The DfE is repeating its successful media campaign **Together we can tackle child abuse** from 13th February. They have a new campaign website, that they're encouraging the public to visit – www.gov.uk/tacklechildabuse

Radio adverts will be aired in March. Please contact us if you would like the campaign toolkit.

The LSCB wants to continue to raise awareness of Child Sexual Abuse, as sometimes this is overshadowed by our necessary focus on CSE (Child Sexual Exploitation). Figures indicate that up to 20% of the population has been sexually abused as a child, but few can disclose in childhood. It is up to professionals and volunteers to spot potential signs and symptoms, Universal services have a key role in this, such as schools, and GPs. Children may exhibit some of these behaviours - or none. Find out more here: www.nspcc.org.uk/preventing-abuse/child-abuse-and-neglect/child-sexual-abuse/signs-symptoms-effects/

Withdrawn suddenly behaves differently anxious clingy
depressed aggressive problems sleeping eating disorders
wets the bed soils clothes takes risks misses school changes in
eating habits obsessive behaviour nightmares drugs alcohol
self-harm thoughts about suicide

Child sexual abuse prevention toolkit

The Lucy Faithfull Foundation has published a free online toolkit to help prevent children and young people from being sexually abused. Eradicating child sexual abuse (ECSA) is designed to be used in any part of the world, and enables professionals to: understand child sexual abuse; see solutions that others have used around the world; design a local plan that fits their needs. Here: <http://ecsa.lucyfaithfull.org/sites/default/files/attachments/Welcome%20to%20the%20ECSA%20toolkit.pdf>

The Child House has opened for south west London boroughs, including Richmond and Kingston. This is a one stop shop for child sexual abuse victims, involving health, police and CSC. Find out more here: <http://kingstonandrichmondscb.org.uk/practitioners/what-is-child-abuse-and-neglect-113/sexual-abuse-125.php>

The NSPCC in Croydon are also offering services to children and families from Richmond and Kingston. For more information, see the above link.