

Solihull Local Safeguarding Children Partnership Newsletter

July 2020



Welcome to the **LSCP** newsletter.
Do contact us if you have any queries.

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COVID-19 and Domestic Abuse: Still a priority

COVID-19 has not caused domestic abuse but it has provided the condition for abuse to escalate, with those experiencing it facing additional barriers and remaining 'hidden', this includes children and young people. Domestic abuse remains a priority issue, police reports and contact with our local specialist helpline are double the normal rate.

If you are in contact with children, young people and their family members please consider if it is safe to enquire: This must be done sensitively and in a private environment.

Recognise that conversations over the phone maybe overheard or undertaken with the perpetrator near-by listening to everything; it is therefore suggested to frame questions that only require a yes or no answer. If you do hear someone in the background, change the subject.

There are some helpful tips on clarification questions for mothers at https://solihulllscp.co.uk/media/upload/fck/file/Neglect/Ap%201%20clarif_mother.pdf and some useful tips for talking to children at https://solihulllscp.co.uk/media/upload/fck/file/Neglect/Ap%202%20com_child.pdf

If you know someone is a victim of domestic abuse, things like agreeing a 'safe' word is helpful.

If you do receive a disclosure, validate the experience by letting them know it is not their fault, ask what they would like to do. Be familiar with referral and signposting offers and agree a follow up call.

<https://solihulllscp.co.uk/practitioner-volunteers/neglect-strategy-20/domestic-abuse-100.php>

Health colleagues may find the following domestic abuse pathfinder project video of interest:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9oSQSB9qkPU&feature=youtu.be>

Support for young people

The Mix is a UK based charity that provides free, confidential support for young people under 25 via online, social and mobile.

“Vision Mission Values:

What we do: The Mix is here to take on the embarrassing problems, weird questions, and please-don't-make-me-say-it-out-loud thoughts that people under 25 have in order to give them the best support through our digital and phone services.

Our Vision is that all young people should be able to make informed choices about their physical and mental wellbeing so that they can live better lives.

Our Mission is to become the first point of contact for any young person seeking help or information on any subject wherever and whenever they need it.

Values:

Empowering – we lead, we train & support, we respect, we give space to grow, we give power to choose

Brave – we innovate, we pioneer, we take risks, we tell it how it is

Supportive – we listen, we encourage, we care, we are understanding, we are empathetic

Collaborative – we are open & transparent, we co-create, we respect experience & expertise

Proactive – we create situations, we make things happen, we get things done

Non-judgemental – we do not judge, we do not criticise, we do not blame”

For more information go to <https://www.themix.org.uk/about-us>.

Supporting Children with Foetal Alcohol Syndrome Disorder

Aquarius is pleased to announce an exciting new FASD project: A one year project aimed at supporting young people aged 10 years and upwards and their families. This is funded by the Department of Health and Social Care and is part of a pilot with Adfam and NOFASD to look at providing resources, training and support.

FASD PALS is offering: Prevention, Awareness, Liaison and Support:

- Prevention - 1:1 service for women with a history of substance misuse, who are currently or are likely to become pregnant in the near future
- Awareness & Identification - Training professionals and PGCE students to promote education around FASD and to create an awareness about the risks of alcohol during pregnancy
- Liaison – A FASD pathway for referrals and screening tool to identify FASD
- Support - 1:1 and peer support for children with FASD and their family

The service is being offered in Coventry, Solihull and Birmingham and will provide outreach to accommodate specific needs.

Please do not hesitate to contact Tina Ferran for any further information at tina.ferran@aquarius.org.uk

Harmful Traditional Practices

This week people have been lighting candles to honour all victims and survivors of forced marriage and honour based abuse in the UK.

Forced marriage is where someone is forced to marry against their will. This can happen in secret and can also be planned by parents, family or religious leaders. Victims of forced marriage may be subjected to threats, physical violence or sexual violence, or psychological or emotional pressure, including being made to feel like they're bringing shame on their family if they do not proceed. Most forced marriages involving British girls and women take place overseas, with the victim taken abroad for the ceremony.

Forcing someone to marry against their will has been a crime in England and Wales since 16 June 2014. The law also applies to UK nationals overseas who are at risk of becoming the victim of a forced marriage, meaning that law enforcement agencies can arrest perpetrators in other countries where a UK national is involved, and bring charges against them in courts at home. Once abroad victims are often even more isolated than they might have been in the UK and getting help is more difficult. This is why it is important for young people to know how to seek support;

0800 953 9777 multi-lingual 24 hour helpline

<https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=922c7mjW96g>

The Forced Marriage Unit is the Government's main delivery arm for dealing with forced marriage casework and policy. It operates both inside the UK, where support is provided to any individual, and overseas, where consular assistance is provided to British nationals, including dual nationals.

Forced Marriage Unit Tel: +44 (0) 20 7008 0151 Email: fmufco.gov.uk

HARM - Honour Abuse Research Matrix (HARM) is an international consortium of researchers, practitioners, policy makers and support agencies, working to research and pioneer strategies to eliminate harmful practices, including 'honour' abuse, forced marriage, and female genital mutilation (FGM). HARM have produced best practice guidance raising awareness of harmful traditional practices (HTPs) to help organisations address this hidden form of abuse, as well as a video summary.

<https://www.uclan.ac.uk/research/explore/projects/harm-honour-abuse-research-matrix.php>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7tCa55NxfRM&feature=youtu.be>

Accident Free, Avoid A&E

We need to make sure we and our loved ones are safe from serious injury, wherever they are and whatever they are doing during the pandemic emergency. That's why RoSPA has launched the Accident Free, Avoid A&E campaign to help keep everyone free from serious accidental injury in this new world.

Trips to A&E increase the pressure on frontline health services meaning the best thing that you can do is stay at home and avoid A&E. You may currently have young children at home 24/7, getting bored and looking for things to do. For some of that time you may also be working. You may find your attention is being pulled in many different directions while trying to maintain good supervision of your little ones, which is always the best way to prevent accidents.

RoSPA have produced a number of resources to help reduce a number of common injuries. For more information and to look at their range of resources go to <https://www.rospa.com/campaigns-fundraising/Current/Coronavirus>

New Chance

New Chance is a specialist project for women over 18 who have been arrested and who have identified by the police as someone who would benefit from extra support to deter them from further offending. The New Chance project diverts female offenders away from the Criminal Justice System at an early stage and recognises the variety of vulnerabilities these women may be facing. Women should be referred to New Chance as part of a conditional caution or community resolution and can also be voluntarily referred if they are charged or the case is NFA'd.

Women are referred directly from the Police for support as a diversion away from the court system. It enables women to address the reasons for the offence in a safe environment, meaning they avoid damaging their criminal record and receive the support they need to live a life away from crime.

Its development has been guided by the "Whole System Approach" for female offenders (Ministry of Justice, November 2015) recognising the need for a multi-disciplinary approach to meet the needs of these offenders who are often from a vulnerable section of the population. Support is also based on the nine offending pathways for female offenders. It is delivered by caseworkers either at a women's centre or in the community. Women can be visited at home or met in the custody suite. We support women with various issues, ranging from mental health and personality disorder, substance misuse, child safeguarding involvement, past trauma such as abuse or rape, homelessness or domestic abuse.

In Solihull New Chance is delivered by Fry Accord. If you have any queries please contact Fry Accord on 07825 117579 or at referral.newchance@fryaccord.org.uk

Keeping Children Safe in Education

Keeping Children Safe in Education, have provided an update which comes into focus in September 2020. The document can be found on the link below.

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/892394/Keeping_children_safe_in_education_2020.pdf

It has a greater emphasis on mental health in the definition of safeguarding and a specific paragraph on mental health. It also makes clear that schools are the lead agency for allegations made against supply teachers rather than the employment agency.

New from CEOP

Children love to socialise and as they get older, they will want to stay in touch with their friends online. This week CEOP have added activity packs for parents and carers to deliver to their children exploring how they can stay safe while connecting with others on social media apps and platforms:

- [4-5s](#)
- [5-7s](#)
- [8-10s](#)
- [11-13s](#)
- [14+](#)

Virtual MARAC and DASH Basics Training

We are pleased to announce that virtual MARAC and DASH training has been scheduled to take place via skype. There are a number of dates currently available, being delivered virtually across the region, and is open to ALL safeguarding professionals regardless of the local authority you may work in.

This session is aimed at professionals who may:

- Work with victims of domestic abuse
- Work with families affected by domestic abuse
- Attend MARAC meetings
- Make referrals to MARAC

You will learn and understand the dynamics of a MARAC meeting, how to refer within the region using the new West Midlands MARAC Referral Form, and how to appropriately identify high risk domestic abuse.

If you would like to attend this FREE training please use the below link (CTRL and click) for further details including how to book:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/o/west-midlands-marac-29673839969>

The following dates are available:

- Friday, 7th August 2020 10:00 – Fully Booked
- Monday 24th August 2020 10:00 - 14:00
- Friday, 4th September 2020 10:00 - 14:00
- Tuesday, 15th September 2020 10:00 - 14:00
- Monday, 5th October 2020 10:00 - 14:00
- Friday, 16th October 2020 10:00 - 14:00
- Friday, 30th October 2020 10:00 - 14:00
- Wednesday 11th November 2020 10:00 - 14:00
- Friday 27th November 2020 10:00 - 14:00
- Monday 7th December 2020 10:00 - 14:00

Don't Pass the Parcel

Theo Thompson from youth group organisation Young Solihull has collaborated with Birmingham rapper Vader to create the song 'Don't Pass the Parcel'. The song and music video was funded by the West Midlands Police and Crime Commissioner's Community Initiatives Fund, which uses money seized from criminals. The song aims to educate young people on the dangers of becoming involved in county lines drugs gangs. Young people have been made even more vulnerable by COVID-19, not being in school has made them easier targets to exploit making this video more important than ever.

The video can be found via the following link <https://tinyurl.com/y7ksbfno>.

Let's Talk About It

Let's Talk About It is an initiative designed to provide practical help and guidance to the public in order to stop people becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism. The website <https://www.ltai.info/> provides resources and information including how to keep young people safe online particularly during COVID-19 with such a great emphasis on online platforms to speak with friends and family.

LSCP Training Update

We hope to be able to offer virtual training or resume face to face training in the future, as the council develops its recovery plan, we will be in touch when this is possible. In the meantime "Interim Course- Child Protection- and introduction to multi-agency working" is available on our training portal <https://solihullscp.co.uk/training.php>. This course is delivered via a power point with audio that has been introduced as an interim measure during the current COVID-19 circumstances. You will need to have the facility to listen to audio while going through the power point by yourself. It is estimated that it will take approximately 1 hour, but you will get most from the course if you also follow up by looking at some of the documents mentioned within it. It is expected that once the opportunity to attend face to face training resumes anyone who has completed this course will attend Module 2.

We are exploring ways to still provide learning opportunities to multi-agency practitioners therefore the two topics below are examples of learning for practitioners to look at and get involved in.

Neglect during lockdown

Leeds Safeguarding Children's Partnership have been kind enough to share some short clips they have recently commissioned from Professor Jan Horwath presenting a series of videos focussing on the experiences of children and young people living with neglect during lockdown; the clips include what children may be experiencing during lockdown with signs and indicators children may display as lockdown is lifted.

Episode 1- An introduction from a child perspective

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B9Z4Ok18Cko>

Episode 2-Disorganised neglect <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0LWJtjWjnNA>

Episode 3- Emotional neglect <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wuXv9fG9Gfl>

Episode 4- Depressed, passive & physical neglect

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O3QtcA7R5hA>

Exploitation: Thinking about risk

The NWG have filmed an online webinar with Dr Sophie Hallett from Cardiff University: Thinking about risk, research messages from young people, practitioners and carers, exploring:

Thinking differently about risk and risky behaviour; how do we understand risk and think about risk?

Think critically about risk assessments and processes: what do young people think about risk? How do risk tools and processes inform our responses, young people's experience, and maybe even the problem itself?

What are risk assessments for and what they should be doing? Where is our 'risk lens'? and where should it be?

The webinar can be accessed at https://www.nwgnetwork.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/NWG-Network-Event-Thinking-about-risk_messages-from-young-people-practitioners-and-carers.mp4

Solihull LSCP welcomes any suggestions on content or feedback. To do so, please contact Chloe Tyrer at chloe.tyrer@solihull.gov.uk