

# Solihull Local Safeguarding Children Partnership Newsletter

## February 2020



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

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## See Me Hear Me Campaign

The latest phase of the regional see me hear me campaign focuses on raising awareness of the signs of CSE among teachers and professionals working with children.

Child sexual exploitation (CSE) is a hidden crime that can affect both girls and boys, at any time and regardless of their home life, religion or ethnic background.

It is child abuse and can involve perpetrators grooming their victims in various ways, such as in person, via mobiles or online, to gain their trust before emotionally and sexually abusing them.

It can take place in many forms, whether through a seemingly consensual relationship, or a young person being forced to have sex in return for some kind of payment, such as drugs, money, gifts or even protection and affection.

Warning signs can include having friends who are older, persistently going missing, secretive relationships with unknown adults, truancy from school, chronic fatigue, constant calls on a mobile phone and the possession of money or new things.

For more information, along with posters and leaflets to download and details of how you can report concerns, visit their schools, professionals and resources pages at:

<https://www.seeme-hearme.org.uk/schools>

<https://www.seeme-hearme.org.uk/professionals>

<https://www.seeme-hearme.org.uk/resources>



## Stop It Now!

The Stop It Now! helpline is available to anyone with concerns about child sexual abuse and its prevention.

It provides help and information to adults who are:

- Concerned about a child or young person's sexual behaviour
- Concerned about another adult's sexual behaviour towards children
- Concerned about a child who may have been abused or exploited
- Working in a professional capacity and concerned about possible child sexual abuse
- Concerned about their own sexual thoughts or behaviour towards children
- Seeking advice on how to protect a child.

If you're a parent worried about whether a child's behaviour is normal, if you're a teacher and you've noticed disturbing signs, or if you're a social worker and need support with a difficult case, then the anonymous and confidential Stop It Now! helpline is there for you.

Since 2002, their experienced operators have been helping people play their part in keeping children safe. You can call them on 0808 1000 900 (9am-9pm Mon-Thur, 9am-5pm Fri) and don't have to give any identifying information, or you can use their secure messaging system

## Knowledge Pool: Reducing Parent Conflict Training

### Parental conflict

There is strong evidence that conflict between parents – whether together or separated – can have a significant negative impact on children's mental health and long-term life-chances. Not all conflict is damaging, but where this is frequent, intense and poorly resolved it can harm children's outcomes.

### What parental conflict looks like:

- There is conflict between the parents which likely involves frequent, intense and poorly resolved disagreements. There may be a toxic atmosphere, parents might be emotionally unavailable to each other or feeling isolated.
- Children are adversely affected by the conflict between their parents.
- Parents are either living together or separated, and could be biological, step or adopted parents.
- There is no consistent pattern of victim or abuser.
- The family would not be considered to be experiencing 'domestic abuse', i.e. there is no physical violence, coercion or control.

### Impact of parental conflict

- Evidence shows that parental conflict can have a negative impact on children, particularly in terms of mental health, problems at school, sleep difficulties and poorer health. This is regardless of whether the parents are together or separated.
- The risk of conflict between parents is higher at crucial points in family life, such as becoming pregnant, having a baby, a child starting or changing school, or separation and divorce.

For a limited time, Knowledge Pool are offering FREE training sessions for staff that are now advertised for booking on the [LSCP website](#); there are 4 modules, but you do not have to complete them all: The first provides an awareness raising, the second, looks at skills needed, the third tools that can assist, and the fourth should only be attended by those who manage or supervise others.

For more information on reducing parental conflict please see [here](#).

## Signs of Safety

### **Developing Signs of Safety Practice in Solihull:**

Signs of Safety has been the established model of practice for Solihull Children's Services since 2016 and is at the centre of assessment work and meetings such as Team Around the Family and Child in Need meetings and Child Protection Conferences. The Signs of Safety model is constantly evolving and developing in line with the evidence base gathered from its use around the world. In Solihull we are keen to keep up with such developments and, as such we will be using the Signs of Safety module of our new Liquidlogic recording system which will go live on 2nd March 2020. This means that we will have a system that aligns with the most up to date Signs of Safety practice and will continue to be updated regularly.

### **What You May Notice Has Changed:**

All of the key components of Signs of Safety practice that partners will have become used to will still very much in use such as the focus on 'what's working well', 'what we're worried about' and 'what needs to happen'.

### **Danger Statements and Safety Goals:**

Current practice of developing danger statements and safety goals with family in order to frame the work to be completed with them will continue. You will notice that these statements and goals play a much more prominent role and are set out right at the start of meetings of any kind and a lot of the discussions will relate back to them.

### **Scaling:**

Each danger statement will be paired with a corresponding safety goal and you will now see a bespoke scaling question for each pair and should be prepared to scale each pair during meetings. This enables families to be very clear about what the key issues are and for professionals to honour progress made in particular areas even if there are still worries in others – or to highlight overall lack of progress.

### **Next Steps and Plans:**

Plans for children in need of help or protection will take the form of a Safety Plan. This moves away from a simple list of tasks and timescales. It focuses on how to build safety for children with the best use of their naturally connected networks and additional input from professionals whilst this is needed. 'Plan Rules' consider how to recognise that things are going well in relation to a particular concern, stresses and triggers that may increase danger, 'red flags' that things may be going wrong and who will do what if this happens.

Plans will be in timeline format so that it is clear to families in what order things should be prioritised and will almost always include a target date for the file to be closed to children's services if the plan is a success. Importantly, the plans and timelines belong to the network (which includes family members and their support people as well as professionals). This means that they can regularly be changed or added to and so, for example, core groups will have much more ownership of child protection plans and ensuring they are working well between conferences.

### **Further Information:**

If you would like to know more, to see some examples or have some direct input on the changes, please contact Emma Lightfoot, Principal Social Worker and Signs of Safety Lead: [emma.lightfoot@solihull.gov.uk](mailto:emma.lightfoot@solihull.gov.uk) and she will be happy to assist in whatever way that is most effective for your workforce.

## Sexting in schools: responses to abuse through image sharing

New video: Sexting in schools: responses to abuse through image sharing

This short video presents research findings from the Contextual Safeguarding project on school responses to sexual image sharing with suggestions for schools. You can watch the video at

<https://vimeo.com/380753371>

### LSCP Training Courses: 2020/2021

Course	Aimed at	Dates
<b>Module 1:</b> Early Help	Those who identify additional needs and carry out early help assessments	22/04/2020 13/05/2020
<b>Module 2:</b> An Introduction to multi-agency working	Those who identify child protection concerns and make child protection referrals.	21/04/2020 03/06/2020 07/07/2020
<b>Module 3:</b> Child Protection: The challenges of multi-agency working	Those who also regularly attend child protection conferences and core groups and/or supervise or manage those who do, or lead organisations that do	02/07/2020
<b>Module 4:</b> Child Protection: Analysis, judgement and leadership in partnership working	Those who may provide evidence in criminal and civil proceedings and those who lead or contribute to Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews and those involved in LSCP partnership meetings.	18/03/2020 08/07/2020
<b>Module 5(a)</b> Child Sexual Exploitation Awareness	Those who work with young people and who are responsible to identify and respond to child exploitation.	28/04/2020 19/05/2020
<b>Module 5(b) –</b> CSE: Skills for working with vulnerable children & young people	Those who work directly with vulnerable children and young people in relation to child exploitation.	24/06/2020
<b>Module 6</b> Neglect: Impact on child development	Those who identify and assess early help or child protection concerns and regularly follow a multi-agency approach and /or attend and report to child protection conferences and core groups and/or supervise or manage those who do.	29/04/2020 10/06/2020
<b>Module 6(b)</b> Neglect: Domestic Abuse	Those who identify and assess early help or child protection concerns and regularly follow a multi-agency approach and /or attend and report to child protection conferences and core groups and/or supervise or manage those who do.	16/06/2020
<b>Module 6(c) –</b> Neglect: The Graded Care Profile 2	Those who identify and assess early help and child protection concerns and follow a multi-agency approach and/ or regularly attend and report to child protection conferences and core groups and/or supervise or manage those who do.	17/06/2020

<b>Module 6 (d)</b> Neglect: Substance Misuse	Those who identify and assess early help or child protection concerns and regularly follow a multi-agency approach and /or attend and report to child protection conferences and core groups and/or supervise or manage those who do.	20/05/2020
<b>Module 6 (e)</b> Neglect: "Who is he"	Those who identify and assess early help or child protection concerns and regularly follow a multi-agency approach and /or attend and report to child protection conferences and core groups and/or supervise or manage those who do.	30/06/2020
<b>Module 7-</b> Physical Abuse: Impact on child development	Those who identify and assess child protection concerns and regularly attend and report to child protection conferences and core groups and/or supervise or manage those who do.	04/06/2020
<b>Module 8-</b> Emotional Abuse: Impact on child development	Those who identify and assess child protection concerns and regularly attend and report to child protection conferences and core groups and/or supervise or manage those who do.	14/05/2020
<b>Module 9-</b> Sexual Abuse: Impact on child development	Those who identify and assess child protection concerns and regularly attend and report to child protection conferences and core groups and/or supervise or manage those who do.	25/06/2020
<b>Solihull Faith Groups</b>	Those who are employed, volunteer or are in a position of trust in a Solihull faith group/ organisation	28/04/2020

Practitioners are also able to access safeguarding training from the Safeguarding Adults Board:

<http://training.ssab.org.uk/Learning-and-Development.aspx>

## Learning and Development Forum (Previously the Learning Faculty)

The next Learning and Development Forum will take place on:  
26<sup>th</sup> February 2020, 2-4pm

For more information and booking visit the LSCP website.  
<http://www.solihullcsp.co.uk/training.php>