



SHOWCASE
TRAINING

Newsletter

Welcome

Welcome to March's edition of the Showcase Newsletter! The purpose of this newsletter is provide our readers with up to date news articles and stories to widen their understanding of the world around them. Additionally, it will provide key updates in legislation and insight in to Government policies.

We hope you enjoy reading the newsletter and find it interesting and informative!

Message From The Editor

After what feels like a long winter, Spring has officially arrived! The longer days, warmer weather, and blooming flowers can boost mood and motivation, leading to a sense of renewal and hopefulness. Spending time in nature can have positive effects on mental well-being, reducing stress and promoting relaxation. Head to page 7 for more information on the positive effects of Spring on our mental wellbeing!

The arrival of Spring also means that Easter is here! Easter is the perfect time to unwind, recharge, and, of course, indulge in a well-deserved mountain of chocolate eggs. It is also a fantastic opportunity to create lasting memories with the children in your settings. If you are looking for some egg-cellent Easter activities, click here to read our blog: <https://showcasetraining.co.uk/2023/04/04/easter-activity-ideas/>

Wishing you all a wonderful month!

Inside this issue:

- Safeguarding
- Local Safeguarding News
- Digital Safety
- Extremism and Radicalisation
- Equality and Diversity
- Mental Health
- Functional Skills Maths and English
- Upcoming Events

Congratulations to the following learners:

- Erin W
- Frankie Y
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Safeguarding

A disabled teenager who died following "shocking neglect" did not have a care plan, a review has found

A recent review into the death of teenager, Kaylea Titford, has discovered that she died due to neglect. Kaylea, aged 16, passed away in awful living conditions at her home in Powys in October 2020. Despite many professionals being involved in her life, Kaylea did not have a care plan. Kaylea had spina bifida and used a wheelchair, and was extremely overweight when she died, weighing 23 stone (146kg). Her parents were sentenced to 10 years and 8 years for gross negligence leading to manslaughter.

The report described Kaylea as a determined child facing numerous health and social challenges. As a disabled child, Kaylea should have had a care and support plan, but without one, her needs were not properly recognised by Powys council. Before her death, Kaylea's health problems worsened, leading to her missing a significant amount of school. Despite concerns raised by her parents and discussions with health professionals about her weight, little was done to address these issues. The report highlighted failures in coordinating services for Kaylea.

The review made nine recommendations for improving the support provided to children with chronic disabilities. It called for better coordination between agencies and consistent assessments of care and support needs. The local authorities involved have pledged to learn from this tragedy to ensure better support for children and their families in the future.

Children with disabilities are often more vulnerable due to a combination of factors. They may rely heavily on others for their care and support, face communication barriers that make it difficult to express their needs or report abuse, and experience social isolation or exclusion. Stigmatisation, discrimination, and limited access to resources leave them at greater risk of exploitation or neglect. Overall, these challenges highlight the importance of implementing measures to protect the rights and ensure the safety and well-being of children with disabilities.

Read more here: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c258kgeyn5po>

Barriers for professionals to reporting abuse and neglect

This month, the NSPCC published a briefing to share the barriers that adults experienced when working or volunteering with young people to reporting abuse and neglect. This is based on contacts to the NSPCC Helpline and the Whistleblowing Advice Line in 2022/23. Despite safeguarding policies and procedures, many staff and volunteers can still face barriers in effectively raising concerns or taking action to protect a child's safety and wellbeing. The aim of this briefing is to improve understanding as to why these barriers exist, and consider how they could be removed.

The briefing identified that there were gaps in knowledge and confidence for some professionals including:

- the belief that they have insufficient evidence or details
- feeling that they need to wait for permission to report concerns

There were also fears around sharing concerns:

- worries about upsetting or breaking up families
- fears surrounding personal safety and the safety of others
- risks to job security.

!

Use this briefing to reflect on your own experiences as a practitioner. Don't hesitate to speak up if you have any worries about a child's well-being, even if it seems minor. Every child deserves to feel safe and cared for, and your voice could make a world of difference.

Read the briefing here: <https://learning.nspcc.org.uk/research-resources/2024/barriers-for-professionals-to-reporting-abuse-and-neglect?u>

Local Safeguarding News

Fifteen County Lines networks dismantled in Hampshire and Isle of Wight during intensification week

An intensive week aimed at addressing drug-related harm and violence in the community has resulted in the dismantling of fifteen County Lines drug-dealing networks. County Lines refers to the distribution of drugs via mobile phones, typically from urban centres to rural areas and towns across the UK. Those operating these lines often recruit vulnerable young individuals, known as runners, to transport the drugs. This practice is associated with human trafficking, modern slavery, and the exploitation of children.

Between Monday 4th March and Sunday 10th March, law enforcement officers throughout Hampshire and the Isle of Wight pursued criminals as part of the week-long operation. During this County Lines awareness week, there was a particular emphasis on safeguarding young people who were involved in drug trafficking for these networks. Chief Inspector Marcus Kennedy disclosed that in just one week of action, officers in Hampshire and the Isle of Wight safeguarded 58 individuals who were being exploited by these criminals.

Read more here:

<https://www.hampshire.police.uk/news/hampshire/news/news/2024/fifteen-county-lines-networks-dismantled-in-hampshire-during-intensification-week/>

New Victim's Portal Facilitates Direct Communication with Police for Crime Victims

A new initiative allowing crime victims direct communication with their assigned police officer has been successfully rolled out by Hampshire and the Isle of Wight Constabulary and Thames Valley Police. The Victim's Portal offers individuals who have reported a crime the ability to track the progress of their case, receive updates, and message the officer in charge (OIC) through a link on their phone or computer.

Access to the portal is invitation-based, requiring victims to receive an email or text message following the reporting of certain crime types. Through the new two-way messaging feature, victims can directly contact their OIC to request updates, marking a significant advancement in frontline officer-victim communication. Since its launch in September 2023, over 4,716 users in Thames Valley and 4,527 in Hampshire have accessed the portal.

Read more here:

<https://www.hampshire.police.uk/news/hampshire/news/news/2024/marc-2024/launch-of-two-way-messaging-service-between-victims-and-officers/>

Local Safeguarding Teams:

Portsmouth

Children: 0845 671 0271
Adults: 02392 688 613

Southampton

Children: 02380 833 336
Adults: 02380 833 003

Isle of Wight

Children: 01983 814 545
Adults: 01983 814 980

Hampshire

Children: 0300 555 1384
Adults: 0300 555 1386

Wiltshire

MASH Hub: 0300 456 0108

Dorset

Children: 01305 228866
Adults: 01305 221016

Berkshire

01635 503090

Showcase Safeguarding Team

Designated Safeguarding Officer (DSO):

Ellen Roberts
07715 658036

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Louise Bloomfield
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0330 320 9230

Digital Safety

Cyber Flashing Now a Criminal Offence in England: Online Safety Act Passes

Cyber Flashing has now officially been recognised as a criminal offence in England. Under the provisions of the Online Safety Act, individuals who engage in Cyber Flashing can now face criminal charges and potential imprisonment. This represents a significant milestone in the ongoing efforts to promote online safety in England. Cyber Flashing refers to the unsolicited sending of explicit images via social media, dating apps, text message or data-sharing services. Victims of this form of harassment often experience distress, anxiety, and a sense of violation.

The Online Safety Act addresses various forms of online harm, including Cyber Flashing. The Act also mandates online platforms to ensure the safety and well-being of their users. Social media platforms, messaging apps, and other online services will be required to implement measures to prevent and promptly address instances of harassment, abuse, and harmful content. In addition to legal measures, education and awareness campaigns will play a crucial role in combating Cyber Flashing and promoting responsible digital behaviour. By empowering individuals with knowledge about their rights and how to navigate the digital world safely, society can work towards creating a culture of respect and accountability online.

Nicholas Hawkes, 39 from Essex, has become the first man to be sentenced for cyber flashing in England. He was failed for 66 weeks at Southend Crown Court this month after he sent unsolicited photos to a woman and under-age girl. The older victim reported Hawkes to the police the same day.

Read more here: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-essex-68543605>

Report to Action
Fraud

0300 123 2040



25% rise in child abuse image offences recorded by UK police in 2022/23

According to Police data requested by the NSPCC, in 2022/23, police logged more than 33,000 offences where child abuse images were collected and distributed. In contrast to data in 2012/22, this is a 25% increase. Alarming, this is also a 79% increase on figures from five years ago in 2017/18. As a result, the NSPCC are urging tech companies and Ofcom to take the necessary steps to keep children safe.

The NSPCC did some investigations in to these figures and found that Snapchat was the most used platform identified by the police for distributing child abuse images, and was involved in almost half (44%) of instances. Meta platforms, such as Facebook, Instagram and WhatsApp, were used in approximately a quarter of offences. The NSPCC claim that the results largely stem from a failure to design child safety features into these platforms.

To reduce the rising levels of online child sexual abuse, tech companies need to take action to stop these platforms from being used to plan, carry out, and share child abuse. Meta's plans to encrypt its platforms like Facebook and Instagram, which are commonly used for sharing abusive content, could make it harder for authorities to catch offenders and help victims. As a result, the NSPCC are calling for Meta to stop its encryption plans until they can prove it will not harm child safety. Ofcom has already run a consultation on its proposals for how internet services should approach their new duties relating to illegal content.

Read more here: <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/about-us/news-opinion/2024/Child-abuse-image-crimes-increase-calling-ofcom-tech-companies-take-action/>

Extremism and Radicalisation

Number of young people arrested for terrorism offences hits record high

According to the latest data from the Home Office, 2023 marked a record high in the number of terrorism-related arrests involving young people since records began on September 11, 2001. Out of the 219 arrests made for terrorism offences last year, 19% were aged 17 and under. The data also revealed a significant rise in terrorism-related arrests in 2023 compared to 2022, with 52 more arrests.

As a result, Counter Terrorism Policing is urging the public to remain vigilant and report any suspicions they may have regarding family members or friends who are being radicalised by harmful content. Acting Senior National Coordinator for Counter Terrorism Policing, Richard Smith, expressed dismay at the increasing number of young people becoming involved in terrorism-related activities. He emphasised the importance of protecting and supporting susceptible youth to prevent their involvement in terrorism.

If you are concerned that someone you know is a victim of radicalisation, you can seek support through ACT Early or report suspicious activity to the police confidentially at 0800 789 321.

Read more here: <https://www.counterterrorism.police.uk/number-of-young-people-arrested-for-terrorism-offences-hits-record-high/>

Key Contacts

Regional Prevent Coordinators:

Salam Katbi (South-West): 07824 083307
Alamgir Sheriyar (South-East): 07468 714372

Anti-Terrorism Hotline:

0800 789 321
Crime Stoppers:
0800 555 111
See It. Say It. Sorted.
0800 40 50 40 or
Text 61016
<https://actearly.uk/>

If in doubt, dial 101 or 999

REPORT



New extremism definition unveiled by government

This month, the UK government has introduced a new definition of extremism aimed at groups promoting violence, hatred, or intolerance. While these groups will not face criminal charges, they will lose government funding and access to officials.

Under the new definition, extremism is "the promotion or advancement of an ideology based on violence, hatred or intolerance, that aims to:

- negate or destroy the fundamental rights and freedoms of others; or
- undermine, overturn or replace the UK's system of liberal parliamentary democracy and democratic rights; or
- intentionally create a permissive environment for others to achieve the results in (1) or (2)."

Read more here: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-68556914>

Equality and Diversity

World Autism Awareness Day

World Autism Awareness Day is observed annually on April 2nd to raise awareness about autism spectrum disorder (ASD) and promote acceptance and inclusion of individuals with autism throughout the world. This international day was established by the United Nations in 2007 to highlight the challenges faced by people with autism and to advocate for their rights.

Autism is a developmental disorder that affects how a person communicates, interacts with others, and perceives the world. It is a spectrum disorder, meaning that individuals with autism can vary widely in their abilities and challenges. While some may have exceptional talents in areas such as music, art, or mathematics, others may require significant support with daily tasks and social interactions.

On World Autism Awareness Day, various events and activities are organised globally to increase understanding of autism and celebrate the unique strengths and contributions of individuals on the autism spectrum. These initiatives often include educational seminars, fundraising campaigns, community events, and social media campaigns aimed at fostering acceptance and inclusion. The colour blue is commonly associated with World Autism Awareness Day, and many landmarks and buildings around the world are illuminated in blue light to show support for individuals with autism and their families.

Overall, World Autism Awareness Day serves as an important reminder to promote understanding, acceptance, and inclusion for people with autism, and to advocate for their full participation in society, free from stigma and discrimination.

Read more here: <https://www.un.org/en/observances/autism-day>



Eid al-Fitr and Ramadan

Eid al-Fitr and Ramadan are two significant observances in Islam. Ramadan is the ninth month of the Islamic lunar calendar and is considered the holiest month for Muslims. It is a period of fasting, prayer, reflection, and community for Muslims worldwide. During Ramadan, Muslims fast from dawn until sunset, abstaining from food, drink, smoking, and other physical needs. The fast is intended to teach self-discipline, self-control, and empathy for those who are less fortunate. It is also a time for increased devotion to worship and for seeking forgiveness for past sins. The month of Ramadan ends with the celebration of Eid al-Fitr.

Eid al-Fitr, also known as the Festival of Breaking the Fast, is a religious holiday that marks the end of Ramadan. It is celebrated on the first day of Shawwal, the tenth month of the Islamic lunar calendar, following the sighting of the new moon. Eid al-Fitr is a day of joy, thanksgiving, and feasting for Muslims. It begins with a special prayer called the Salat al-Eid, performed at mosques or open prayer grounds. After the prayer, Muslims gather with family and friends to share meals, exchange gifts, and engage in charitable acts to help those in need. It is also tradition to give Zakat al-Fitr, a form of charity given before the Eid prayer to ensure that all Muslims can participate in the festivities.

Overall, Ramadan is a month of spiritual growth and self-reflection, while Eid al-Fitr is a day of celebration and gratitude for the blessings received during Ramadan. Both observances hold significant cultural and religious importance in the Islamic faith.

Read more here: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/explainers-56695447>



Mental Health



Spring and Mental Health

Spring brings a welcome change in weather and scenery, offering a multitude of benefits for mental health. With longer days and increased sunlight, individuals experience a natural mood boost as serotonin levels rise, fostering feelings of happiness and well-being.

Showcase Mental Health Lead:

Nicola Bailey
07597 366606

Spring can have positive effects on mental health for several reasons:

Increased Sunlight: With longer days and more sunlight, spring can help regulate circadian rhythms and boost mood. Exposure to sunlight triggers the release of serotonin in the brain, which is known as the "feel-good" hormone, helping to alleviate symptoms of depression and improve overall well-being.

Warmer Weather: Warmer temperatures encourage outdoor activities and exercise, which have been shown to have positive effects on mental health. Physical activity releases endorphins, which are natural stress relievers and mood enhancers.

Nature's Renewal: Spring brings about the blossoming of flowers, the return of greenery, and the chirping of birds. Spending time in nature has been linked to reduced stress, anxiety, and depression. The sight and sounds of nature can have a calming effect on the mind, promoting relaxation and mental clarity.

Renewed Energy: Spring is often associated with feelings of rejuvenation and renewal. This can inspire a sense of hope and optimism, which are important factors in maintaining good mental health. As the world comes back to life after winter, people may feel more motivated to pursue personal goals and engage in activities that bring them joy.

However, it's important to note that spring can also be a challenging time for some individuals, particularly those who suffer from seasonal affective disorder (SAD). While most people experience an improvement in mood during spring, some may still struggle with symptoms of depression and anxiety. It's essential for individuals to prioritise self-care, seek support from loved ones or mental health professionals if needed, and engage in activities that promote well-being throughout the season.

Stress Awareness Month

April is Stress Awareness Month. At some point in our lives, we have all felt stressed. This could arise from a certain event or situation or when we are placed under pressure. Stress is a feeling that we get when we find it difficult to cope with the demands that are placed on us. It is often difficult to pinpoint whether stress is the cause of an issue or the result of an issue. Stress can be a drive for motivation and help you to take action. However, if stress becomes overwhelming, this can have the opposite effect.

Stress can be triggered by things happening in your life. For example, facing big changes, not having control over certain situations or having responsibilities that you are finding overwhelming. Stress may result from a combination of factors or may be one big thing.

[Click here](#) to read our blog with some helpful tips on how you manage stress and become more resilient.



Functional Skills Maths

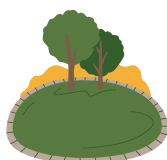
1) Emma is tiling her kitchen floor. The floor is 2.8m wide and 4.4m long. The tiles are 40cm long and 40cm wide. How many tiles will Emma need?



2) The value of a car decreased by 18% when it left the showroom. It is now worth £18,347.50. What was the value of the car before it left the showroom?



3) A national park has an area of 2613.54 KM². The government plans to expand the area of the park by 6.5%. What will the new total area of the park be after the expansion?



Answers: 1 = 77. 2 = £22,375. 3 = 2783.42 KM²

Functional Skills English

What's the difference?	
<p>THERE in or to a particular place</p>	<p>Just stay there and don't move!</p> <p>look at that woman over there.</p> <p>Can I drive there and back in a day?</p>
<p>THEIR Possessive form of 'they'</p>	<p>Their house is very near.</p> <p>Children are playing with their toys.</p> <p>They washed their hands and faces.</p>
<p>THEY'RE shortened form of 'they are'</p>	<p>They're here till tomorrow.</p> <p>They're worried about these results.</p> <p>They're going to the party.</p>

Upcoming Events

Stress Awareness Month

1st April - Easter Monday

2nd April - World Autism Awareness Day

2nd April - International Children's Book Day

3rd April - Walk to Work Day

7th April - World Health Day

9th - 10th April - Eid al-Fitr

10th April - Siblings Day

15th April - World Art Day

22nd April - Earth Day

23rd April - St. George's Day

APRIL 2024						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
31	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	1	2	3	4