



SAFEGUARDING NEWSLETTER

SAFEGUARDING EVERYONE'S RESPONSIBILITY

Designated safeguarding Leads

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Useful numbers

Childline

0800 1111

Wigan Safeguarding Hub

01942 486262

Wigan Social care Referral and Assessment team

01942 828 300

Peer On Peer Abuse

There has been much in the press recently about the large number of pupils who have recently come forward to disclose their experiences regarding sexual assaults in schools. Most of these disclosures were made by people who had been through the private school sector. However, school staff need to be aware of what Peer on Peer abuse is and how to report and prevent it from happening:

Prevention can be best done through information and guidance. At Golborne all our pupils receive education regarding healthy relationships through lessons such as RE and PSHE and specific drop down days focussed on relationship and sex education (RSE). Specialist staff deliver the majority of the lessons through discussion based lessons where pupils are encouraged to ask questions and participate. Any pupil who is identified as having a concerning view regarding relationships is identified and more bespoke support can be put in place.

Schools adhere to guidance laid out in Keeping Children safe in Education 2020, this includes clear identification of what Peer on Peer abuse is and states how schools should document this through their child protection policy.

Peer on Peer abuse involves but is not limited to:

- bullying (including cyberbullying);
- physical abuse which can include hitting, kicking, shaking, biting, hair pulling, or otherwise causing physical harm;
- sexual violence and sexual harassment. Part five of this guidance sets out how schools and colleges should respond to reports of sexual violence and sexual harassment;
- upskirting, which typically involves taking a picture under a person's clothing without them knowing, with the intention of viewing their genitals or buttocks to obtain sexual gratification, or cause the victim humiliation, distress or alarm;
- sexting (also known as youth produced sexual imagery): the policy should include the school's or college's approach to it. The department provides Searching Screening and Confiscation Advice for schools. The UK Council for Internet Safety (UKCIS) Education Group has published Advice for Schools and Colleges on Responding to Sexting Incidents; and
- initiation/hazing type violence and rituals.

The school must ensure it has policies in place to limit the chances of Peer on Peer abuse taking place and in the extremely rare occasion that it does there are clear procedures and risk assessments in place to ensure that all parties are supported and that the incidents are recorded and investigated effectively and with compassion.

Pupils should be encouraged to report incidents of peer on peer abuse to a trusted adult or using the email safeguarding@golbornehigh.wigan.sch.uk. Further information, training and guidance can be found on the NSPCC website.

Private Fostering

What is private fostering? A private fostering arrangement is one that is made privately (without the involvement of a local authority) for the care of a child under the age of 16 years (under 18, if disabled) by someone other than a parent or close relative, in their own home, with the intention that it should last for 28 days or more. (*Close family relative is defined as a 'grandparent, brother, sister, uncle or aunt' and includes half-siblings and step-parents; it does not include great-aunts or uncles, great grandparents or cousins.

Why are children in private foster care?

Most frequently, young people are in private foster care for the following reasons:

- children from other countries sent to live in the UK with extended family
- host families for language schools
- parental ill-health
- where parents who have moved away, but the child stays behind (eg. to finish exams)
- teenagers estranged from their families

Private fostering arrangements can be beneficial to the child. However, all private fostering arrangements as per the definition above should be reported to the LA. If you are made aware of a private fostering arrangement or a pupil who is sofa surfing, this must be reported to the safeguarding team using the correct document.

Child Criminal Exploitation

What is criminal exploitation?

Criminal exploitation is child abuse where children and young people are manipulated and coerced into committing crimes.

Dangers of criminal exploitation

It's important to be aware of the risks of criminal exploitation or being involved with a criminal gang. They can use different tactics to recruit and exploit children and young people, including bribing them with rewards, befriending them, and threatening them, or coercing them.

Dangers of criminal exploitation include:

- being subject to threats, blackmail and violence
- being exploited and forced to commit crimes
- being arrested, including for crimes committed by the gang that they have not directly committed under [the law of joint enterprise](#)
- not being able to leave or cut off ties with the gang
- having their safety or the safety of friends and family threatened
- risk of physical harm, rape and sexual abuse
- risk of emotional abuse
- risk of severe injury or being killed
- abusing drugs, alcohol and other substances

Exploiting a child into committing crimes is abusive. Children who are targeted can also be [groomed](#), [physically abused](#), [emotionally abused](#), [sexually exploited](#) or [trafficked](#). However, as children involved in gangs often commit crimes themselves, sometimes they aren't seen as victims by adults and professionals, despite the harm they have experienced. It's important to spot the signs and act quickly if you think a child is being groomed or is becoming involved with a gang.

COVID 19

Anyone who feels they are suffering because of the impact of the pandemic please do not feel you are alone. School can help and offer support and guidance. Please contact us by using the email address