

Willow News

The Willow Team Newsletter No6



Summer Period

The summer months are fantastic for BBQs, days at the beach, attending festivals and getting out for fresh air and enjoying all that Hampshire has to offer at its best. However its also a time when risks can be higher for children to be exploited. School holidays means hours of being out in the community and many parents relax and change their routines and boundaries during this time. A question on all professional minds now should be, do the parents you work with know where their children are? What they are doing? Who they are with? And what is the plan if anything changes on agreed plans.

It is not uncommon that working parents take a view that their teen children are able to look after themselves and as they are with their friends will be fine. All too common, cases in the Willow Team show us that parents are trusting that their children will make safe choices and don't always consider the risks as they should. Festivals, funfairs and holiday camp sites are prime risk areas for children to drink alcohol, take drugs and be exploited. Our police colleagues in particular work hard to have a presence at festival and holiday sites. I urge you also to be vigilant to groups of teenagers who are drunk and do not appear to be in control or have younger adults around them. Areas where teens congregate more locally like parks can also be hotspot areas for drug taking and sexual activity and perpetrative adults know this and target these areas for grooming and exploitation. This coupled with children being less likely to be reported as missing means that whilst summer holidays are fantastic the risks can increase. Please remember the CPI Form for sharing intelligence www.hampshiresafeguardingchildrenboard.org.uk

Frankie Workers

I am delighted to welcome to Hampshire the Frankie Team as a new and exciting service that will benefit many children.

Michael Lane, Police and Crime Commissioner for Hampshire, has joined forces with Clinical Commissioning Groups across Hampshire and the Isle of Wight to fund a dedicated counselling service for child victims of sexual abuse.

The new service, called Frankie Workers, is inspired by Frankie, an adult survivor of child sexual abuse who is now in her early 20s. Frankie was considered a happy child, 'gifted and talented' until being sexually abused at a young age and over a number of years by a family friend. Frankie says she was not offered trauma support and was eventually sectioned under the Mental Health Act. Frankie believes that had her trauma been dealt with, she would have coped and recovered better. This new team will be based in Hampshire House in Eastleigh but have a County remit. We will have the equivalent of 4 full time counsellors in place all offering Counselling services to children up to aged 18 for trauma and sexual abuse issues. For additional information please contact 02380 664786 or email frankie@hants.gov.uk



Teenage Homeless Statistics

25% of Homeless Teenagers said they had stayed with a stranger

14 % of the rest said they had considered it

Homeless children are more likely to use drugs and alcohol as a means of escape

Instances of poor Mental Health are more prevalent in Homeless children

30% of those that are homeless have been in care at some point in their lives

Missing children are more vulnerable to exploitation

Frankies story can be seen at <https://youtu.be/SoWCQj9xeI4>

Questions or Comments? Email us at willow.team@hants.gov.uk

Willow Team



Case Study: Swanwick Lodge

We have a dedicated worker at Swanwick Lodge whose role is to work on cases where children have been Missing, Exploited or Trafficked (MET). This new position was created in August 2016 and falls under the Willow Team. James (Jim) Ford is the current worker and has a background in Residential Children's Homes. Swanwick Lodge is a secure unit for up to 16 young people from across the UK whose local authority has significant concerns about their welfare. Jim offers 1-1 sessions with children exploring risk taking behaviours, their 'push' & 'pull' factors, understanding grooming and exploring exploitation to help children better understand their previous experiences and help promote change. Jim has set up a clear work pathway at Swanwick that gives regular updates to the local authority where the child comes from. The work when it ends in Swanwick is supported to be carried on in the community at the end of their secure order offering clear guidance to their Local Authority.

Consent

Consent issues are a part of exploitation and its really important to help children understand their rights

Coram Children's Legal Centre has launched Lawstuff, a website to help children and young people to find out about their rights.

Information provided includes: online safety; children's services; home and family; abuse and bullying; and a section looking at what age you can do certain things in England. Its an easy to use website for both professionals and families.

Further information: [Lawstuff](#)

<https://youtu.be/oQbei5JGiT8> —Cup of Tea Video about Consent

Independent Child Trafficking Advocates (ICTA)

Hampshire is one of 3 early adopter sites trailing Barnardos Independent Child Trafficking Advocates (ICTAs). The ICTAs support children who have potentially been trafficked. The ICTAs will support children to understand how professional agencies work and enable children's voices to be heard in these agencies. They will provide advocacy, guidance and signposting to other services. A key task is identifying those that are trafficked and will support children being referred into the National Referral Mechanism. This work will be instrumental in keeping children safe and work toward the prevention of re-trafficking as well as helping raise awareness around trafficked children. For social care staff in Hampshire trafficking cases will still be processed through the Willow Team who will make continue to make referrals. Please contact Willow on 02380 664789 for more information. Other professionals working with children who they feel have been trafficked can refer directly. Trafficking.referrals@bypmk.cjsm.net

Team Contacts: willow.team@hants.gov.uk

Tel: Duty Line 02380 664789 Monday to Friday 10 until 12

Useful Resources

The **Hampshire LSCB** has lots of information including CSE Resources & the CPI Form to share intelligence

www.hampshiresafeguardingchildrenboard.org.uk

NCA & CEOP have this site for support around using the internet and social media.

www.thinkuknow.co.uk

R.O.S.E Clinic

The R.O.S.E clinic provides a supportive, non-judgemental sexual health service for individuals who are at risk of sexual exploitation, regardless of age.

Clinics are available Southampton, Portsmouth & Basingstoke

Contact on 0300 300 2016 to book