



Parents & Carers Safeguarding Newsletter Winter 2019



Wigan Safeguarding Partnership

Welcome to the Winter Edition of our Parents and Carers Safeguarding Newsletter. Wigan Safeguarding Children Board has had a small name change and we are now known as Wigan Safeguarding Partnership. This change will not affect how we work, we will continue to ensure that children in the Wigan Borough are protected from harm.

Did you know that as a Parent or Carer you can access our website for advice and support? We can help on a wide range of issues such as bullying, internet safety and much more! Just follow the link: <http://www.wiganlscb.com/>



What are County Lines?

Criminal Exploitation is also known as 'County Lines'. This is when gangs and organised crime networks groom and exploit children to sell drugs or weapons. Often these children are made to travel across towns and counties and they use dedicated mobile phone 'lines' to supply drugs.

These criminals groom children into trafficking their drugs for them with promises of money, friendship and status. Once they've been drawn in, these children are controlled using threats, violence and sexual abuse, leaving them living in fear.

Any child can be vulnerable to exploitation and its important that we know the signs to look out for:

- **Going missing from home or school**
- **Unexplained Money , Clothes or Mobile Phones**
- **Receiving an excessive amount of texts and phone calls and then deleting the call history or messages.**
- **Significant changes in emotional well being or behaviour.**

If you are worried about a child or young person talk to them, listen calmly and don't get angry but reassure them that it's not their fault and encourage them to tell you what's happened.

If they are in immediate harm or in need of emergency medical attention call the emergency services on 999

Otherwise call Wigan Children's Social Care Team on 01942 828300

You can access further information about criminal exploitation using the links below:

<https://www.childrenssociety.org.uk/>

<https://www.programmechallenger.co.uk/resources/trapped/>

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/preventing-abuse/keeping-children-safe/staying-safe-away-from-home/gangs-young-people/>

Child friendly search engines

Kiddle

Child friendly search engines help us to ensure that children are using the internet in a safe way.

Kiddle.co is a visual search engine for children powered by Google which offers a safe web, image and video search.

You can access it here www.kiddle.co. You can also access further information on alternative search engines here: www.educatorstechnology.com/2018/01/11-great-kids-safe-search-engines.html

We need to be aware that those who wish children harm will find their way round the safeguards included in these search engine, so while these search engines may make searching safer for children they are not a replacement for online safety filters. UK Safer Internet Centre provides excellent independent advice on setting up internet filters at home. <https://www.saferinternet.org.uk/>

Reporting harmful Content online

If you or a child in your care comes across harmful content online you are able to report it. You can access a new online tool for reporting abusive and harmful content including; Bullying and harassment, Impersonation, Pornographic content, Suicide and Self-Harm , Threats , Unwanted sexual advances and violent conduct.

You can access it here: : <https://reportharmfulcontent.com/>

You can also let CEOP know if you are worried about online abuse or the way someone has been communicating with a child you know. You can contact them here: www.ceop.police.uk/Safety-Centre/



Lets talk Pants!



With the help of the NSPCC's friendly dinosaur Pantosaurus, PANTS is a simple way to talk to your child about staying safe from sexual abuse. The NSPCC has some really useful information to help parents and carers to have age-appropriate conversations with children about sexual abuse. You can access it here:

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/preventing-abuse/keeping-children-safe/underwear-rule/>

Home Tutor and Out of School Club Guidance

We are delighted to tell you about a Fact Sheet for parents and carers which will assist you in finding a **Home Tutor** or **Out School Club** for your child. This fact sheet will help you to ask the right questions about the safeguards that every provider should have in place and explains: What to look out for; What to ask; and What to do if you have any concerns.

Remember that high quality clubs and organisations will always welcome questions about their activities, the safety of their environment and care of your child. You can access the guide here:

<http://www.wiganlscb.com/Parent/Staying-safe/Private-tutors-and-out-of-school-clubs.aspx>

