



Dear Parent/Carer,

Child Sexual Exploitation – Parent/Carer Awareness Session



I write to you on behalf of Wolstanton High School, Staffordshire Police and the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner about the challenging subject of child sexual exploitation (CSE). The reason we are writing to you is to highlight that we take the safety of our children and young people seriously and recognise that you have the most critical role in helping us to achieve this, either as a parent, carer, family member, and neighbour or as a member of your community.

The numbers of children identified as being either at risk of, or actually being sexually exploited, are relatively small.

However, technologies such as mobile phones and the internet mean that exploitation may occur without your child's permission or without your child even recognising that they are being exploited; for example through being persuaded to post sexual images over the internet or through mobile phone images.

The Police and the Local Authority want to be proactive in helping you be aware of the risks that your children may meet, either face-to-face or virtually through social media and the internet.

The Local Authority and the Police have the statutory duty to safeguard all children living in Staffordshire and Stoke on Trent irrespective of which school they attend and we work in partnership with others to achieve this.

You are receiving this letter as we will be holding an awareness session at Wolstanton High School on Tuesday 2nd May 2017 at 6pm. We invite you to come along to the event where you will get the chance to view a presentation, as well as have the opportunity to speak to members of the team and also be given information leaflets.

Can we please request that **NO** children attend the event, due to the nature of the topic.

By being aware of the warning signs of CSE you can help stop abuse before it develops further.

Some of the warning signs are:

- **Your child may become especially secretive and stop engaging with their usual friends.**
- **They may be associating with, or develop a unhealthy relationships with older males or females**
- **They may go missing from home – and be defensive about their location and activities, often returning home late or staying out all night**
- **Excessive use of the internet**
- **They may receive odd calls and messages on their mobiles or social media pages from unknown, possibly much older associates from outside their normal social network**
- **They may be in possession of new, expensive items which they couldn't normally afford, such as mobile phones, iPads or jewellery**
- **They may exhibit a sudden change in dressing patterns or musical taste**
- **They may look tired and/or unwell, and sleep at unusual hours**
- **You may also have these worries about a friend of your child**

You can also help prevent abuse by talking to your child about:

- **Healthy and risky relationships**
- **Which websites they're using and ask them to show you how they work**
- **Being very careful to befriend and communicate with only trusted people that they know**
- **Assuring them that it's OK to come to you or another trusted adult if they feel threatened by or uncomfortable about something they have seen or done on a social networking site/instant messaging service**

If you are concerned about your child or another child known to you is at risk, you can contact Staffordshire Police by calling 101 or 999 in an emergency. You can also contact the **Stoke on Trent – Safeguarding Referral Team – 01782 235100**

Staffordshire – Families First – 0800 1313 126

Alternatively, you can speak to a member of staff at school for advice.

For further information about how you can help protect your child/children from the risks of CSE, visit www.knowaboutcse.co.uk or <http://www.paceuk.info/support-for-parents/advice-centre/>

Yours sincerely,

Shelley Nicholson

Preventing Child Exploitation Officer

REPLYSLIP

**CSE Awareness and internet safety:
Parents' Support Evening**

**Tuesday 2th May 2017, 6:00pm
At Wolstanton High School**

Parent's Name(s).....

Student's Name(s) and Tutor Group(s).....

I confirm that I will be attending the above event. Please reserve meseats.

Thank you

Please return to school by Tuesday 2nd May at the latest.