



Tackling Child Sexual Abuse in Norfolk

Dear Headteacher

Please find attached a copy of the updated NSCB Child sexual abuse leaflet. The leaflets build on those distributed in 2016 and are a useful reference guide for front line staff, parents and those with specific safeguarding responsibilities. Hard copies of this information have also been sent to schools. We ask that you to distribute the copies to key individuals. If you require further copies please contact the below email address:

davisonn@norfolk.pnn.police.uk

A downloadable PDF and printer friendly versions can be found on the Norfolk Children's Board Safeguarding website:

www.norfolkscb.org

The Children's Board continues with its ambition to encourage all primary schools in Norfolk to incorporate into their timetable the NSPCC Let's Talk PANTS lesson. This is an extremely valuable tool in protecting children from sexual abuse.

Many primary school leaders have received a presentation of the profile of child sex abuse in Norfolk at the Area Education Leaders meetings and if you would welcome further briefings to support internal discussions around adopting PANTS please contact Chief Superintendent Nick Davison on the email above to see how we can support further. Below is some further information surrounding the extent of child sexual abuse in society which you may find helpful.

Across Norfolk we all recognise the significant impact that child sexual abuse has on the life chances and well-being of children as well as the damage it causes them as they become adults. Evidence indicates that over 90% of victims of sexual abuse knew their abuser and the prevalence of abuse in the family environment is well documented. It is equally well understood that children with learning / physical disabilities face increased vulnerability to sexual abuse.

Recent reports from the Children's Commissioner (November 2015) contains research that highlights the scale of child sex abuse in the country and suggests that 11.3% of young adults aged 18-24 had experienced contact sexual abuse during their childhood.¹

¹ Radford et al (2011) Child Abuse and Neglect in the UK today NSPCC

In Norfolk the latest census data sees 164,714 young persons aged 0 -18 living in the county². If the Children's Commissioner's report is translated into our local context then there are potentially over 18,000 young people in Norfolk who may experience contact abuse at some point during their childhood. With only 1 in 8 victims of sexual abuse coming into contact with statutory authorities³ this suggests that there are potentially 16,500 children who may be victims of sexual abuse who are not coming forward to get help to stop the abuse.

How children disclose – Who do they tell?

Evidence from research with adult survivors indicates that teachers and a non-abusing parent are seen by children as key in a child's decision to disclose, due to their unique and trust forming relationship.

It is our ambition to significantly raise the awareness of child sexual abuse in our communities and amongst professionals that work directly and indirectly with children and young people. Within this we believe that one of the strongest ways of stopping child sexual abuse is to equip children with age appropriate skills and information so they are able to protect themselves.

1. The NSPCC PANTS toolkit.

This tool kit has been adopted by the NSCB and the pamphlet accompanying this letter contains information and a hyper link to the toolkit including lesson plans and teaching material.⁴

2. The Brook Sexual Behaviours Traffic Light Tool⁵

In support of the NSPCC PANTS programme, the NSCB has also endorsed the Brooks Traffic Light Tool that helps professionals and parents alike understand what is normal sexual development and behaviour in children. Children who display harmful sexual behaviour not only need support in addressing the behaviour but are themselves likely to have been or are being sexually abused. The Brooks toolkit provides a framework for professionals / carers to help them differentiate normal development from behaviour that is harmful or indicative of a child being abused.

This is extremely important in its own right but the use of the Traffic Lights toolkit in conjunction with the NSPCC Toolkit will also enable professionals and carers to make a more accurate judgement about whether to contact statutory agencies.

² Norfolk Insight

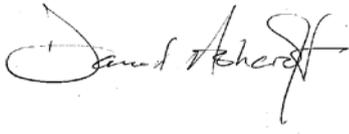
³ Children's commissioner

⁴ <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/preventing-abuse/keeping-children-safe/underwear-rule/underwear-rule-schools-teaching-resources/>

⁵ <https://www.brook.org.uk/our-work/category/sexual-behaviours-traffic-light-tool>

Both the NSPCC programme and the Brooks toolkit are recommended by the Norfolk Safeguarding Children Board and the Board believes that the uptake and use of them will enhance your existing commitment and ability to deliver safeguarding duties and at the same time provide clear evidence to OFSTED of such.

Yours sincerely



David Ashcroft
Independent Chair
Norfolk Safeguarding
Children Board



Nick Davison
Norfolk Constabulary
Chief Superintendent
Safeguarding & Investigations
(Chair NSCB CSA working Group)

