



# November

## Inside this issue

- \* **Welcome**
- \* **In the Spotlight: When You Are Ready**
- \* **White Ribbon Day 2024**
- \* **Partnership Information**
- \* **Get in touch**

## Welcome to our November 2024 Newsletter

In this newsletter we bring together information which we hope you will find useful and we highlight how the Partnership continues to communicate and keep in touch with all our agencies and provide guidance to support you in your role working with children and adults. In this edition, we focus on the When You Are Ready campaign and White Ribbon Day 2024. There is also information about Partnership work, safeguarding updates and new training dates.

### Adult Safeguarding Week

November 18th-22nd is Adult Safeguarding Week and we will be recognising this by sharing a wide range of resources, links and support relating to this year's theme. We will also be sharing some training opportunities organised by Durham Safeguarding Partnership



# When You Are Ready Campaign

Durham Constabulary is supporting a new national campaign that focuses on encouraging victims and survivors of child sexual abuse and exploitation to reach out for support.

'When You Are Ready', which has been fully informed by those with lived experience from start to finish, hopes to make victims and survivors feel seen and heard, to know they're not alone and encourage them to tell a friend, contact a support organisation and feel empowered to take that step, whenever they're ready to do so.

The campaign – launched by the national Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) Taskforce – is also being supported by other police forces across England and Wales.

'When You Are Ready' centres on a hard hitting three-minute film which features the voices of victims and survivors who have experienced child sexual abuse and exploitation – this includes both contact and online offences. The film does not discuss the abuse experienced but details the experience each victim and survivor had in making the hard decision to disclose their abuse to a loved one, support organisation and/or the police, and the impact it had on their life thereafter.

It's hoped that the film resonates with further victims and survivors highlighting that they are not alone, and this is happening to other people, like them, who are living and thriving.

The campaign also aims to encourage further victims and survivors to reach out for support if that's the right thing to do for them - whether it's telling a friend or contacting a support organisation.

If someone is ready to take the next step in disclosing their experience, the film signposts victims and survivors to the bespoke campaign website directing them to a range of services and support organisations, as well as includes details on how to report to the police.

NPCC's lead for Child Protection and Abuse and Investigation, ACC Becky Riggs, said: "We want victims and survivors to feel positive and hopeful after seeing this campaign.

"From our work with victims and survivors, we understand it can take many years to process the abuse or exploitation that they experienced. For some, it may even take years just to acknowledge that what they experienced was, in fact, abuse, and not the loving or caring actions of someone they could trust.

"We also understand, from extensive research undertaken, that 'justice' for victims and survivors doesn't necessarily mean a criminal justice outcome and simply telling someone can be enough.

"However, if victims do take the hugely difficult decision to disclose their abuse, they should be reassured that there are organisations who can provide help and support, whenever they are ready."

To watch the film, please click [here](#).

## White Ribbon Day – 25 November 2024

#ITSTARTSWITHMEN 

WHITE RIBBON  
UK AND IRELAND

White Ribbon is the UK's leading charity engaging men and boys to end violence against women and girls and works with men and boys to change long established and harmful attitudes, systems and behaviours around rigid gender norms and masculinity that perpetrate inequality and violence. The work is preventative and aims to stop violence before it starts.

White Ribbon Day is an annual day which takes place on 25 November and aims to raise awareness of men's violence against women and girls and calls on individuals, communities and organisations to take a stand against violence. It marks the beginning of the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Based Violence', a global campaign that runs until 10<sup>th</sup> December, International Human Rights Day.

It is also a day to encourage men and boys to wear white ribbons as a symbol of their opposition to violence against women as the white ribbon itself is a symbol of men's commitment to ending violence against women, with men pledging to be part of the solution to this pervasive problem.

For more information about White Ribbon Day and how you can participate, visit [www.whiteribbon.org.uk/wrd24](http://www.whiteribbon.org.uk/wrd24)

### **WARNING- Pensioners warned about a scam text that claims to offer a replacement to the Winter Fuel Payment.**

Pensioners across the country are being targeted with a new scam text which claims to come from the government but is in fact criminals trying to hack bank accounts. The links in the text contain malware which enables the scammers to hack bank accounts. The scam text claims that a new living allowance will be paid out, which will replace the winter fuel allowance.

To claim the winter fuel payment pensioners do not need to do anything; those eligible will be paid automatically, or through being accepted for a new claim for pension credit and the government does not send text messages asking people to click on links to make a claim for anything.

You can report scams and fraud to Action Fraud by calling 0300 123 2040, or through the Action Fraud website. Possible scam texts can also be forwarded for free to 7726 - this will report the message to your mobile phone provider.

**SCAM**



# OUR PLEDGE

To be confident in having open and honest conversations with each other as multi-agency partners in order to do the very best we can for children, adults and their families in Darlington.

Multi-agency working is vital to maintain a focus on children and vulnerable adults while also keeping them at the heart of all decisions.

Our Pledge is an opportunity to:

- Seek out professional conversations with each other at the earliest opportunity
- Have a shared understanding of the strengths and risks within a family
- Actively listen to each other and share important information
- Respect each other's expertise
- Be open and empathetic to the professional views of others
- Be professionally curious and evidence what we say
- Use common language that everyone understands



## Concerned about a child?

Contact the Children's Initial  
Advice Team  
Professionals on **01325 406252**  
Public on **01325 406222**

## Concerned about an adult?

Contact the Adult  
Contact Team  
on **01325 406111**



## Statutory Safeguarding Partners

Ann Baxter, Independent Chair/Scrutineer

James Stroyan, Group Director of People

Dave Ashton, Detective Chief Superintendent

Chris Piercy, Director of Nursing and Quality