



October

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Welcome to our October 2023 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 bring you information in the spotlight about Domestic Abuse Awareness Month and also information about Partnership work, important safeguarding updates and new training dates.

New training dates online now!

We have updated our website with new dates for child and adult safeguarding training sessions for the coming months. Morning and afternoon sessions available from introductory to advanced levels. Find your session here [DSP website](#)

Coming soon.....

Safeguarding Week 2023 is from Monday 20th to Friday 24th November. Look out for our calendar of events, sessions and identified resources to support learning and awareness during this important week.



In the Spotlight.....

October is Domestic Abuse Awareness Month

October was first declared as National Domestic Abuse Awareness Month in 1989 and since then it has been recognised as a time to acknowledge the affects of domestic abuse on both men and women. Domestic abuse is not always physical and is not always obvious. It takes place in many different forms including threats, sexual abuse, financial abuse, emotional, psychological abuse and physical abuse. Anyone can be a victim of domestic abuse regardless of age, gender, religion or sexuality. 1 in 3 women, 1 in 6 men and 1 in 5 children will experience abuse in their lifetime and two women are killed a week in England and Wales by a partner or ex-partner. The impact of domestic abuse can be deeply traumatic. Individuals can experience anxiety, depressions, distress, eating and sleep disturbances as well as physical symptoms such as headaches and stomach aches. Individuals suffering domestic abuse may lose touch with family and friends and may also face difficulties continuing with work or other commitments.

Since lockdown, there has been a 49% increase in domestic abuse incidents as highlighted in the 'Abusers Always Work from Home' video by the National Centre for Domestic Violence. To watch the video, click [here](#). There are many organisations available to support the victims of domestic abuse and their families. Seeking help and support can be extremely difficult for those suffering domestic abuse and many individuals will not wish to contact the police. If this is the case, the National Domestic Abuse Helpline (run by Refuge) is available 24 hours a day to take calls and offer support on 808 2000 247.



**DOMESTIC VIOLENCE
AWARENESS MONTH**

The Online Safety Bill has on Tuesday 19 September passed its final Parliamentary debate and is now ready to become law. This major milestone means the government is within touching distance of delivering the most powerful child protection laws in a generation, while ensuring adults are better empowered to take control of their online lives, while protecting our mental health. The bill takes a zero-tolerance approach to protecting children and makes sure social media platforms are held responsible for the content they host. If they do not act rapidly to prevent and remove illegal content and stop children seeing material that is harmful to them, such as bullying, they will face significant fines that could reach billions of pounds. In some cases, their bosses may even face prison.

Read the full information from the Home Office [here](#)

The Professionals Online Safety Helpline has introduced new resources to aid educators and professionals working with young people. These resources support common queries the Helpline receives, including how to report on social media platforms. In 2022, the Helpline reported a 75% rise in online reputation cases compared to 2020, with many requiring the Helpline's assistance to report social media impersonation content that could potentially harm an organisation's reputation. The new guidance provides support for professionals dealing with concerns about their online reputation.

National Child Mortality Database Report

Traumatic injuries and violence remain a substantial cause of childhood deaths; before, during and after the pandemic, according to a report published in July 2023 by the National Child Mortality Database (NCMD). The study found that 644 children aged up to 18 in England died due to traumatic injuries between 1 April 2019 and 31 March 2022; of these, 211 died because of a vehicle collision, 160 died due to violence and maltreatment, and 84 died by drowning. A further 189 died due to other traumatic injuries. The report authors make recommendations with the aim of reducing these numbers in future years through increased public awareness and initiatives by schools, government, charities, local councils, the NHS and professional bodies. Read the full report [here](#)

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**



PARTNER SHIPS

Statutory Safeguarding Partners

Ann Baxter, Independent Chair/Scrutineer

James Stroyan, Group Director of People

Dave Ashton, Detective Chief Superintendent

Jean Golightly, Director of Nursing and Quality