

Hampshire, Isle of Wight, Portsmouth & Southampton (HIPS) Child Exploitation Newsletter

Quarterly professionals update from the HIPS Child Exploitation Group - Winter 2019/20

The Safeguarding Children Partnerships of Hampshire, Isle of Wight, Portsmouth and Southampton are working together to tackle child exploitation. This is a new newsletter to keep professionals in all four areas up-to-date with issues and progress discussed, and to flag up local and national campaigns.

This newsletter was produced prior to the spread of Covid-19. The HIPS Child Exploitation Group would like to thank all practitioners for their work to help keep children safe during this difficult and unprecedented time.

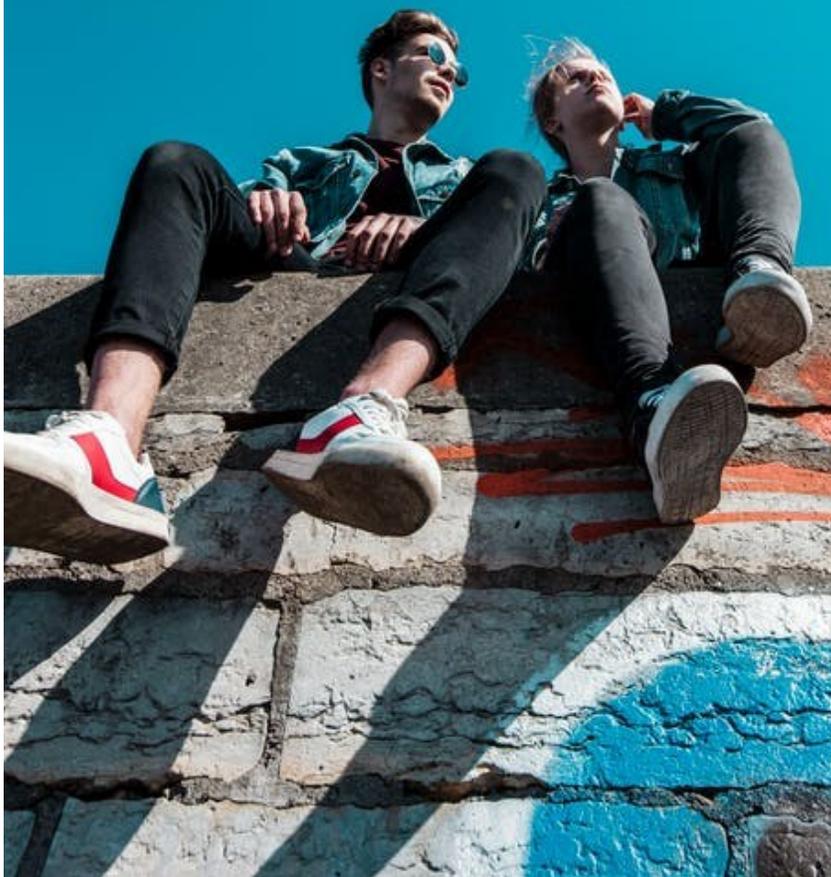
[Safe4Me County Lines toolkit](#)

The Safe4Me website provides teachers, professionals & parents with information and resources to help educate young people about keeping safe and making responsible choices. The site features a range of useful resources for professionals including a County Lines Toolkit, which explains what County Lines is, signs to look out for and provides links to the Fearless resources above.

Find out more at <https://www.safe4me.co.uk/resources/>

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Updates from the meeting of 12 January 2020

Terms of Reference – the group revisited its Terms of Reference document to ensure that it remains up to date and accurate. The group agreed to alter the Purpose section to highlight the fact that missing and trafficked children are very much within the focus of the group. The Purpose section now reads:

The purpose of the group is to ensure that the work of the safeguarding children partnerships covering the HIPS area meets legislative requirements, governmental guidance and implements recognised best practice to protect children from all forms of exploitation (eg Child Sexual Exploitation, Child Criminal Exploitation, Modern Slavery and Trafficking). This group will also consider the multi-agency response to children who go missing including the associated risk of exploitation.

CPI training – the CPI/County Lines training events across the HIPS areas have now concluded. The events were led by DCI Ross Toms and PC Maria Carrick who will now review whether more are required. These sessions have been well attended and received very good feedback. The group agreed that these targeted sessions have run well and enabled Hampshire Constabulary to provide the most up to date information. It is possible for local areas to include elements of it within their own child criminal exploitation training, but regular updates from Hampshire Constabulary must be sought beforehand to ensure information is up to date. Please see the back page of this newsletter for more information on the County Lines Toolkit.

St Giles Trust sessions in Pupil Referral Units – the workshops run by the St Giles Trust at pupil referral units across the HIPS areas have been very well received by staff and pupils alike, and the group were pleased to hear that further funding is available to allow the workshops to continue next year.

SERAF Risk Assessment tool—last year work began with Barnardos to update the existing SERAF. Information is being sought to try and identify a timescale for completion of this project, but as an interim measure a HIPS wide task & finish group will be set up as a priority to update the risk assessment form to include reference to child criminal exploitation. This will be made available to all professionals across the HIPS areas, including a consistent update to the differently titled form used by Portsmouth. An update on this will be provided to the group at its next meeting in April.

ELPIS – this is a portal-based system that enables professionals from different agencies to store and share information relating to children's missing episodes and risk of exploitation. It is currently used in Thames Valley Police across several different local authorities. Hampshire & Isle of Wight police are conducting a discovery project to consider implementing it across the area.

Work with Education – work is underway to develop 5 films for use in educational settings which will raise awareness and generate discussion around issues concerning exploitation. The films are aimed at children of 13 years and over. Filming will take place in one location but familiar locations from the HIPS areas will be interspersed. Funding has been secured for the project and a toolkit is under development for use alongside the films plus there is also potential for a parents' e-learning package. The group noted that this project will benefit from a coordinated social media campaign across the HIPS areas. Given the current situation with COVID 19 the completion of this project has been delayed. Filming will take place once the lockdown is over with a view to the films being ready for use by October 2020.

Cyber Ambassadors' update – the group received a presentation from Amelia, Youth Ambassador, on the #GoFISH project. #GoFISH stands for Go Find Internet Safety Help and Amelia provides more detail overleaf in 'A Word from the Youth Commissioners'.

Violence Reduction Units – Hampshire Constabulary area is within the top 18 of the 43 policing areas most effected by knife crime, and as such is one of the 18 areas selected by the Home Office to set up a Violence Reduction Unit (VRU). VRUs bring together different organisations, including the police, local government, health, community leaders and other key partners to tackle violent crime by understanding its root causes. The new units will be responsible for identifying the drivers of violent crime and coming up with a coordinated response. The VRU Coordinator now sits on this group and will provide a more detailed update on the VRU in Hampshire will come to the next meeting.

Operational MET Group update – the operational group brings together key front-line agencies and managers to discuss current threats & opportunities, share good practice and intelligence across the HIPS areas. Updates include:

- A new online link for NRMS <https://www.modernslavery.gov.uk/start> which is already resulting in better/quicker use of the service. It is very important that all first responders (including Police) complete an NRM if they suspect a child has been a victim of trafficking (being moved the purpose of exploitation). It was noted that clear trafficking cases have been identified by at least one member of the group where no NRM has been filled out so it is important that all multi agency staff are encouraged to do so.
- The group agreed that children returning from missing episodes would be an area of scrutiny for the group in the coming year with updates from each area to be presented at regular intervals.
- The Serious Violence initiative from the Home Office has so far funded the Police Apprenticeships competition, Urban Pure Solutions work in secondary schools, and the St Giles Trust in Pupil Referral units plus the option of some separate, further training by the St Giles Trust.

Good Work Highlighted – Portsmouth recently had a Joint Targeted Area Inspection on Child Mental Health and received positive feedback on how well agencies are working together. The recent Ofsted inspection of Children’s Services in Southampton drew attention to the good work in the MET Team, where an audit of return interviews is also currently underway.

Communication Campaigns – the group agreed that a coordinated approach to communicating campaigns and initiatives across the HIPS area is preferable. This newsletter will be a key means of communication and Hampshire Police and Southampton Partnership will liaise to formulate a structure to this. A future update and plan on how to deliver coordinated communications around exploitation initiatives will come to the next meeting.

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A word from the Youth Commissioners

At our meeting I spoke about online safety and how the Youth Commission’s #GoFISH campaign is encouraging young people to take precautions online and know how to act if things go wrong. #GoFISH stands for Go Find Internet Safety Help. We run workshops in primary and secondary schools to create cyber ambassadors; small groups of students who will go through our training to become mentors in online safety. The cyber ambassadors will then have the opportunity within their school to teach other students about how to be safe online. We found that this peer to peer learning is a very effective way to help children and young people understand the importance of online safety. Through the scheme we aim to encourage students to understand what’s right and what’s wrong online and if things go they know where they can go for help.

The cyber ambassadors run in both primary and secondary schools. Within primary schools we focus on five cyber sea monsters that are up to no good online and need to be defeated with each monster representing a different online threat for example clickjacking. We use interactive games and activity to show children how to destroy these monsters. In secondary schools the GoFISH campaigns along with quizzes, activities and online tools to provide them with help and guidance when using the internet.



#GoFISH and the cyber ambassadors help make children and young people much more **confidence** and equipped to use the internet in future as well as reducing any anxiety they have.

Find out more about #GoFISH on the [Police & Crime Commissioner’s website](#).

Amelia

group

The HIPS Child Exploitation Group also received documents on the following issues plus local and national campaigns and updates

See No Evil project

Members of Blue Apple Theatre joined the meeting and took questions about their latest short film; See No Evil. The film raises issues around criminal exploitation for adults with special educational needs and disabilities. Blue Apple Theatre is an ambitious, creative company that supports performers with special needs to develop theatre, dance and film productions. In addition to this film, Blue Apple are carrying out workshops for schools where the film will be shown and discussed and then pupils encouraged to create their own stories for drama. The project is suitable for extended year assemblies, PHSE days and individual lessons and options include::



- Facilitation of the showing of the film with accompanying discussions facilitated by Blue Apple facilitator and actors from the Core Company. The film could be shown within smaller groups or to whole group.
- Drama workshops exploring the use of pejorative language, hate crime and the exploitation of young people and vulnerable adults.
- Access to the film and supporting materials including discussion pack for own use.

To find out more check out <http://blueappletheatre.com/>

CPI update

Following the CPI training sessions, the use of CPI forms has increased by **170%** over the last year. This is an impressive increase in partnership sharing of information and has enabled Hampshire Constabulary to gain a much clearer picture of risks to children and adults.

Unfortunately it is not always possible to feed back to practitioners on the direct results of their CPI submission but please be assured that each submission has contributed towards:

- Enabling a **much clearer picture of issues relating to children/adults at risk** of MET issues, criminal exploitation, modern day slavery, anti-social behaviour and organised crime.
- Providing a **basis for research** and thereby helping to understand themes to enable more strategic work.
- Forming the pieces of a jigsaw that build an intelligence picture, to assist with **warrant, arrest, safeguarding action or an investigation**. There will be more on CPIs in the next issue.



Educational Resources

The Fearless website gives young people the opportunity to access non-judgemental information and advice about crime and criminality and report crime anonymously.

There is also useful information and resources available for professionals, including the [new educational resource on child sexual exploitation](#). With input from CEOP's Thinkuknow educational programme, this resource is excellent for educating young people on recognising the signs of this issue and how to report it. There are also resources covering issues such as weapons, theft, criminal damage, violence, County Lines available [here](#)

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