



## Awareness Initiative to Keep Children Safe Online Launched in Kirklees

Marie Collins Foundation working in partnership with Kirklees Safeguarding Children Partnership, Kirklees Council Education, West Yorkshire Police and West Yorkshire's Police and Crime Commissioner.



**The Marie Collins Foundation**

*Meeting the needs of children abused online*

There is widespread concern among professionals that schools being closed to the majority of pupils as part of the COVID-19 restrictions could impact on children's safety. In particular, factors associated with the lockdown may put young people at increased risk of online abuse and exploitation, as highlighted by the National Crime Agency (NCA) in March 2020:

- Increased use of the internet = increased vulnerability
- Social isolation = children seeking out friends online = vulnerability to perpetrators
- Lower supervision of children once adults start to return to work
- Broadcast features on apps = children emulating viral video trends
- Increase in the taking of self-generated imagery
- Increased risk of grooming from predators.

### **Kirklees Awareness Pilot**

The Marie Collins Foundation (MCF) is working in partnership with West Yorkshire Police, West Yorkshire's Police and Crime Commissioner, Kirklees Council and Kirklees Safeguarding Children Partnership to address these issues to ensure that children are better safeguarded from sexual abuse whilst living under the conditions of lockdown. The project is being funded with a grant from the Safer Communities Fund run by Mark Burns-Williamson, West Yorkshire's Police and Crime Commissioner.

The MCF, a charity based in North Yorkshire, has expertise in the field of online child sexual abuse and exploitation (CSAE) and related offline abuse, addressing the recovery needs of children, and their families, who suffer harm online and enabling them to recover and live safe and fulfilling lives.

In this project, we aim to offer support directly into family homes by providing:

1. Guidance for parents to enable them to be aware of the hazards and to protect their children
2. Tips for young people regarding how to keep safe online and what to look out for
3. Dedicated, online help and advice support for parents, teachers and young people to access.

### **HOW YOU CAN HELP**

Our service spells out the online risks, literally:

**C** (Children) **O** (Online are) **V** (Vulnerable to) **I** (Internet) **D** (Dangers)

The **project messages** focus on:

- Awareness of the risks
- How to seek help – [help@mariecollinsfoundation.org.uk](mailto:help@mariecollinsfoundation.org.uk)

For more information and the campaign poster [click here](#)

## Safeguarding Week 2020—THANK YOU AGAIN!

Thank you again for everyone who took part in **#KirkleesSafeguardingWeek** and the wider **#SafeguardingWeek2020**. This year was very different but no less effective at sharing messages and as promised here is some initial analysis from Twitter.



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Date	Tweets published	Retweets	Impressions	Engagements	Likes
22/06/2020	9	24	4161	110	27
23/06/2020	4	20	2668	105	34
24/06/2020	3	22	2032	95	22
25/06/2020	3	26	3305	85	15
26/06/2020	5	15	3495	87	22
<b>Total</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>107</b>	<b>15661</b>	<b>482</b>	<b>120</b>

Impressions = Number of times saw the tweet that day

Engagements = Number of times the user has interacted with the tweet that day

We also managed to gain **23** new followers during the week making a total 810 who are mainly organisations/agencies.

## West Yorkshire Police—Cyber Crime Inputs

Following great feedback from those who attended the events during Safeguarding Week, Cyber Crime Prevention Officer, Neil Marshall is continuing to run the sessions until the end of the school term.

If any of your colleagues or professional partners are interested in attending these please email Robert Cowgill ([rc25@westyorkshire.pnn.police.uk](mailto:rc25@westyorkshire.pnn.police.uk)) specifying the date they would like to attend.

Tuesdays will be for staff involved in the teaching profession and Wednesdays will be for staff in other sectors. A breakdown of the sessions will be as follows;

- Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> July, 10-11am
- Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> July, 10-11am
- Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> July 10-11am

A reminder of the course content:

### Cyber Security Awareness – Addressing Risk & Reducing Vulnerabilities

- Current Cyber Security Threats
- Advice on how to mitigate those threats
- Identifying risk in young people
- Early intervention and resources available to promote positive learning.

## **New Sexual Assault Referral Centre (SARC) has Opened in WY**

A new state-of-the-art fully integrated service for victims of sexual violence and abuse has opened its doors in West Yorkshire today.

The project timeframe has been impacted by the ongoing Covid19 pandemic, which has slowed the progress on site, but has been successfully completed this week to ensure that the facility is now fully accessible for service users. For the press release and mor details [click here](#)

## **Your Guide to Support Services—Family Support**

Information and contact details for support services surrounding mental health and well-being for children, young people and families. [Click here](#) to access the document.

## **Young Peoples Voice—New Webpage**

Kirklees Young People's Participation Programme have a new webpage on the KSCP Website.



As a young person living in Kirklees you have a right to have a say on what happens in your area and share your views on how things could be improved.

### **Who we are:**

We are a small team, passionate about strengthening the voice and influence of children and young people. We have a background in youth & community work, social care, education and health. Our Voice works with children and young people across the Kirklees area and is based in the Yorkshire Children's Centre in Huddersfield. We are part of Kirklees Council's Children's Services.

### **What we offer:**

Our Voice offers creative and fun activities and projects designed to give you lots of opportunities to use your voice and share your ideas. This includes:

- Young Researchers
- Young Inspectors
- Young Advisors
- Campaigns
- Recruitment Panels
- Quick polls and surveys
- Team Young Mayor

### **How to get involved:**

Any young person aged 11 to 18 who lives, works or attends a school or college in Kirklees can join Our Voice.

It's flexible. You can give as much or as little of your time as you like. You decide when and how you want to participate.

[Young People's Voice Webpage](#)