

SUPPORT FOR CHILDREN, FAMILIES AND SCHOOLS WITH THE 'EVERYONE'S **INVITED' WEBSITE SEXUAL ABUSE DISCLOSURES**

30th March 2021

The government aims to mobilise a support helpline and support services for students reporting current and historic sexual abuse in their schools as soon as possible. In the meantime, we have gathered together a few tips and resources that may be helpful.

Some principles of effective support

- Anyone coming forward with allegations should be taken seriously and treated with sensitivity and respect.
- People who come forward should be empowered to have some control over how the disclosure is dealt with. They should be kept informed about steps taken.
- Not all victims are seeking a Criminal Justice response. Some just want to be heard and reassured that this will not happen again to them or others in the school environment.
- Shame and Blame cultures are damaging. Demonising perpetrators whilst still children can have a profoundly damaging effect. Children need support to change harmful behaviours whilst acknowledging the pain they have caused.
- Families of both victims and perpetrators require support to come to terms with what has happened and to support their own children appropriately.
- The culture amongst pupils needs to be addressed proactively but sensitively to ensure victims are not blamed, ridiculed and re-traumatised.
- It is vital that we choose our words carefully to avoid victim-blaming language.

Resources

<u>DfE advice</u> on sexual harassment and sexual violence between children in schools and colleges.

Stop It Now Preventing Harmful Sexual Behaviour Toolkit

NSPCC Harmful Sexual Behaviour Framework and Tools

Safe4Me toolkit and resources for educators and support workers

Relationships and Sex Education <u>resources</u> from the PHSE Association

<u>Blogpost</u> from Dr Jenny Lloyd from the Bedfordshire University Contextual Safeguarding Network cautioning against 'Zero Tolerance' approaches for Harmful Sexual Behaviour

Contextual Safeguarding Network article and resources on tackling HSB In schools

Contextual Safeguarding Network <u>briefing</u> on HSB In Schools

<u>Video resource</u>: Responding to abuse through Image-sharing In schools

Video resource: Safety Mapping

Appropriate Language Guidance for professionals when dealing with sexual exploitation

Helplines & Websites

Childline 0800 1111 www.childline.org.uk

Confidential support and counselling for children

StopItNow 0808 1000 900 www.stopitnow.org.uk

Confidential help and support for concerning behaviours for yourself or another person to

prevent child sexual abuse

The Mix 0808 8084994 www.themix.org.uk

Information and support for under-25s

NAPAC 0808 8010331 www.napac.org.uk

Support for adult survivors of childhood sexual abuse (aged 18+)

