

Safeguarding Newsletter

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WELCOME

to the second issue of Tapton School's Safeguarding Newsletter.

In this issue I'll be sharing information about knife crime, anti-bullying week, help for young people affected by substance misuse, a new initiative from SCC and the launch of a new podcast from the children's society.

Kath Tabari

WHAT ABOUT ME

WAM is the hidden harm service for children and young people aged 8 and above who live in Sheffield and are affected by drug and alcohol use in their family. They are a confidential, flexible and non-judgmental service offering support and guidance.

Being young person-centred is central to everything they do, i.e. the support that they provide is led by the needs of the young person.

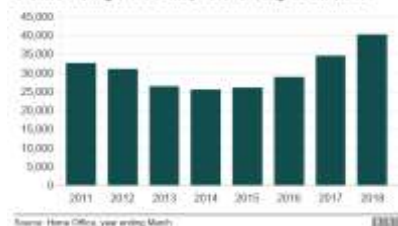
What do they offer?
WAM understands that each young person and their family situation is unique so they offer different kinds of support to suit their needs.

Find out [MORE](#)

KNIFE CRIME

Nationally knife crime is a growing concern as recent headline figures have shown.

Total knife offences in England and Wales
Offences involving a knife or sharp instrument, England and Wales



Source: Home Office, year ending March

In response to this Pc Moray McAllister of South Yorkshire Police has been into school to deliver assemblies to all our students on the subject of knife awareness.

CHILDREN'S SOCIETY PODCAST LAUNCHED

The Children's Society have launched a podcast. In the first episode they explore child criminal exploitation and look particularly at children who have been exploited into selling drugs through so-called 'County Lines'.

You can find the podcast here:

<https://www.childrenssociety.org.uk/what-you-can-do/campaign-change/talking-change-podcast>

ANTI-BULLYING WEEK

Anti – Bullying Week was on the 12th – 16th November this year.

Research from campaign group DITCH THE LABEL (www.ditchthelabel.org) shows that 50% of young people will at some point experience bullying. As a result, 1 in 3 will self-harm, grades will drop and 14% will develop eating disorders.

Within the past year, **1.5 million young people** in the UK experienced bullying, with half of them never telling anybody through fear, embarrassment or a lack of faith from support systems. The impacts on health, self-esteem and performance are significant.

KEY FACTS from the DITCH THE LABEL anti-bullying survey 2017

- 54% of young people had been bullied at some point
- young people going through stressful and traumatic situations were the most likely to bully others.
- males are twice as likely to bully than females.
- young people have a huge disconnect between the things that happen online and reality, with 44% of respondents believing that only things happening offline could be considered as “real life”
- 34% of the people who answered the survey said they had done something to deliberately upset someone.
- 22% said that they had physically attacked someone
- 21% said that they had purposely excluded someone from a social group
- 31% has said something nasty to somebody online
- 9% had taken or damaged someone’s belongings to upset them
- 13% had started a rumour about someone

At Tapton we take the issue of bullying very seriously. During this week Steve Rippin and Hayley Sharman delivered assemblies to years 7 - 11 on this issue.

GAMBLING experts have warned that thousands of children and young people are losing money on websites which allow them to trade virtual items. Parent Zone, an advice service for parents and schools, have produced a report and [short film](#) about the problem.

The Gambling Commission's annual report has, for the first time, highlighted the problem of so-called "skin betting". The items won - usually modified guns or knives within a video game known as skins - can often be sold and turned back into real money. The commission says cracking down on the industry is now a top priority. The report found that:

- **45% of 11-16 year-olds were aware of "skin betting"**
- **11% of 11-16 year-olds had placed bets using in-game items**
- **59% of boys knew about the activity compared with 31% of girls**

Experts say third party websites enable children to gamble the virtual weapons - or skins - on casino or slot machine type games, offering them the chance to generate real money.

Overall, the report shows that around 370,000 11-16 year-olds spent their own money on gambling in the past week, in England, Scotland and Wales.

The most common forms of betting children are using were fruit machines, National Lottery scratch cards or placing private bets.

Sarah Harrison, chief executive of the Gambling Commission, said: "Because of these unlicensed skin betting sites, the safeguards that exist are not being applied and we're seeing examples of really young people, 11 and 12-year-olds, who are getting involved in skin betting, not realising that it's gambling.

"At one level they are running up bills perhaps on their parents' Paypal account or credit card, but the wider effect is the introduction and normalisation of this kind of gambling among children and young people." Read more [here](#)...