

Safeguarding Newsletter

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WELCOME

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

In this issue we have news about positive changes to Instagram, new advice from the Chief Medical Officer about screen time, Silverline, Upskirting and Knife Crime.

Kath Tabari

Should we stop our children's access to social media?

In response to media reports about concerns that the content that young people are viewing is having a negative impact on their mental health the chief medical officer has issued new guidance. Top recommendations include

- Leave screens out of the bedroom at bedtime
- Limit screen time sessions to fewer than two hours
- No screens at mealtimes
- No screens doing activities that require full attention (including crossing the road)
- Use screen time management features such as Apple's Screen time and Android's Digital Wellbeing
- Make children (and parents) aware of the potential risks of sharing photos and personal information online

[You can read the full report here ...](#)

Positive News from Instagram

Instagram recently announced a number of changes it will be making to its platform in order to help the most vulnerable users. Following a comprehensive review with global experts and academics on youth, mental health and suicide prevention, Instagram has made the decision to remove graphic images depicting self-harm from their platform.

A summary of changes being made are:

- No longer allowing any graphic images of self-harm, such as cutting on Instagram – even if it would previously have been allowed.
- No longer allowing non-graphic, self-harm related content – such as healed scars – in search, hashtags and the explore tab, and this content won't be recommended either.
- Getting more resources to people posting and searching for self-harm related content and directing them to organizations that can help.
- Consulting with experts to find out what more they can do.

[Read the full statement here...](#)

UPSKIRTING

Upskirting is to become a criminal offence punishable by up to two years in prison after new legislation was passed.

The new legislation has been approved in the House of Lords and is now awaiting the formality of Royal Assent.

So what is upskirting?

Upskirting is a highly intrusive practice, which typically involves someone taking a picture under another person's clothing without their knowledge, with the intention of viewing their genitals or buttocks (with or without underwear).

It can take place in a range of places, e.g. British Transport Police have seen a rise of reports on public transport.

A report in the [Independent](#) revealed that girls as young as 10 have been the victims of upskirting and that just a third of British police forces in England and Wales report the incidents they encounter.

The new law will capture instances where the purpose of the behaviour is to obtain sexual gratification, or to cause humiliation, distress or alarm.

The effects of upskirting on victims.

Upskirting is distressing and a humiliating violation of privacy for victims.

The justice minister Lucy Frazer said "We want victims to know and be confident that reports to the police will be taken seriously. Anyone, and any gender, can be a victim and this behaviour is completely unacceptable".

What punishment can upskirting perpetrators face under the new law? Perpetrators will face two years in prison. By criminalising this distressing practice, it is hoped that it will deter people from committing the crime.

What can victims of upskirting do?

If you're a victim of upskirting, the police and other organisations are there to help you.

Don't suffer in silence, seek support. You may want to speak to someone you already know and trust, or get in touch with a charity such as [Victim Support](#)

It's important to know your rights after a crime has taken place, the police will be able to talk you through this.

Victims of upskirting will be entitled to automatic protection, e.g. from being identified in the media (so they won't be able to publish any identifying details such as names, addresses or photos).

Silverline

Founder of the charity [Childline](#), Esther Rantzen recognised that loneliness is a terrible problem for older people when her own husband died.

She says "Loneliness can cause serious damage, physically and mentally, as dangerous as smoking fifteen cigarettes a day, more dangerous than obesity. And there is a huge unmet demand for advice and friendship. A survey by the [Campaign to End Loneliness](#) found that 42% of older people reported that if they need help, they do not know where to turn. "

In response she set up [The Silver Line](#) which operates the only confidential, free helpline for older people across the UK that's open 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

**The helpline number is:
0800 470 80 90**

Knife Crime

Knife crime is a persistent and worrying concern, especially as it impacts particularly upon young people and the disadvantaged, and various remedies have been tried over the years. In the year ending March 2018, [there were around 40,100 \(selected\) offences involving a knife or sharp instrument in England and Wales.](#)

The latest data for year ending March 2018 suggest that there were 21,044 disposals given for possession of a knife or offensive weapon.

Of these:

- Juveniles (aged 10-17) were the offenders in 21% of cases;
- The juvenile custody rate was 13% and caution rate was 29%;
- For adults the custody rate was 43% and caution rate was 7%;
- Juveniles received a community sentence in 51% of cases and adults 15%

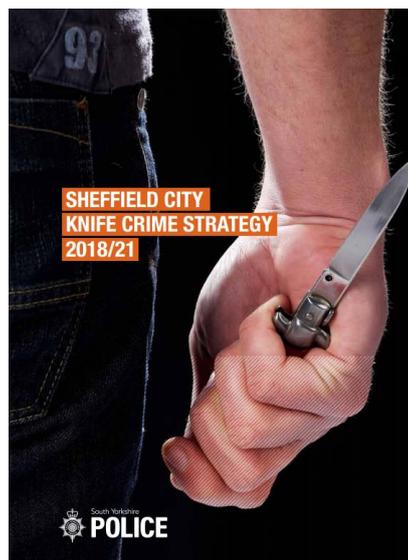
Ofsted has recently published a report into how schools in London are working to reduce knife crime amongst young people. It has been mis-quoted in the media that the report has supposed a link between exclusions and young people who attend Pupil Referral Units. Children who are excluded from school to PRUs have self-reported higher instances of knife-carrying than children who are not excluded. This does not mean that this has caused children to carry knives but that they are more at risk. Many PRUs work hard to keep their pupils as safe as possible.

The areas for consideration in the report include:

- improving partnership working and strategic planning in London
- sharing and promoting good practice in relation to exclusions and managed moves
- coordinating early help and prevention
- improving information-sharing
- teaching the curriculum and supporting children to achieve.

Read the report [here](#)

Whilst the Ofsted report focuses on the situation in London knife crime is of growing concern across the UK. In June 2018 The Guardian reported that like elsewhere in Britain, knife crime is on the rise in South Yorkshire: South Yorkshire Police recorded 969 knife crime offences in 2017, up 68% in just two years.



In 2018 South Yorkshire Police published a [Sheffield City knife crime strategy](#) Detective Superintendent Una Jennings, who leads on knife crime for the Force and advises on national policy, said the 'slowing' was 'heartening and shows that the public health approach is the most effective. "A knife crime doesn't simply affect the person stabbed; it ruins the lives of their family and friends and the life of the person carrying out the attack."

In March this year the treasury announced that there is new money coming to Yorkshire police forces to help tackle knife crime.

Chancellor Philip Hammond said that £100m of extra national funding for police will mainly go to police forces where serious violence is highest and where 70% of knife crime takes place.

South Yorkshire will benefit from the money, which will be used in part to fund Violence Reduction Units, similar to the model in Glasgow.

Read about the latest initiative from SYP [here](#)