



# The Link

Welcome to April's edition of The Link, a much shorter edition this month to reflect the much shorter amount of working hours.

**Special points of interest:**

- Discussion point
- Personal Safety Awareness
- Children Missing Education

With Easter school holidays, bank holidays, Royal weddings and Polling days upon us, this month in the working world will feel to some quite odd, albeit a good odd. With fewer days to make a difference with your families and technically fewer hours since the clocks sprang forward last weekend, we would advise you all to soak up any "me-time" at your disposal and make the most of your very well deserved break.

Best wishes

Parent Support Advisory Team



## Violence against Women and Girls (VAWG)

8<sup>th</sup> March 2011 marked International Women's day, a day to celebrate economic, political and social achievements of women. A global theme was for women and men to end violence against women and girls. This coincided with our Government's launch of *Call to End Violence Against Women and Girls: Action Plan* which reflected the guiding principles of their published strategic vision *Call to End Violence Against Women and Girls*.

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The action plan sets out the key aims which are to -

- ◆ Prevent violence from happening by challenging the attitudes and behaviours which foster it and intervening early where possible to prevent it.
- ◆ Provide adequate levels of support where violence does occur.
- ◆ Work in partnership to obtain the best outcomes for victims and their families.
- ◆ Take action to reduce the risk to women and girls who are victims of these crimes and ensure that perpetrators are brought to justice.

Prevention presents a key theme in the action plan which focuses on raising awareness, early identification and intervention. This is hoped to be achieved through new campaigns in 2011/2012 to tackle teenage relationships abuse, sexual assault and rape. These campaigns aim to recognise that this is an issue in all countries and therefore need to ensure that awareness is raised across borders.

So...what will happen in practice?

The Government has made a promise to ensure the following so far:-

Direct funding for rape crisis centres - £29.4m dedicated funding over the next 3 years to support the most seriously affected victims & witnesses of crime. £10.5m will go directly to rape crisis centres to ensure those traumatised by rape and sexual violence receive specialist support.

Improving response to domestic abuse – provision for spouses of British citizens settled in the UK who have been subjected to domestic abuse can apply for indefinite leave to remain and access income- related benefits for a limited period (through the Sojourner Project).

Establishing statutory domestic homicide reviews – Section 9 of the Domestic Violence, Crime and Victims Act 2004 from 31<sup>st</sup> March 2011 will enable multi-agency domestic homicide reviews become statutory to identify lessons that can be learnt to improve polices and practice.

Preventing female genital mutilation (FGM) – new guidance has been developed to help professionals to safeguard girls and women at risk of FGM and support those affected.

Barbara French (Domestic Abuse Strategy Manager) will be using these themes to inform local thinking about how Surrey can promote the action plan to support the women and girls of Surrey.

If you would like further information about the action plan, please see the following links: -

[www.homeoffice.gov/vawg](http://www.homeoffice.gov/vawg)

[www.fco.gov.uk/fmu](http://www.fco.gov.uk/fmu)

Alexa Cook  
(ADO for South East)

### **NHS Health Champion training**

Health Champions Training at Merstham Football Club, Surrey on 3rd, 4th and 10th May. NHS Surrey is commissioning Health Champion training for volunteers or people already employed working in priority places and with vulnerable groups.

This is an opportunity for professionals to gain a level 2 qualification and raise confidence in dealing with health inequalities, the course will cover aspects of drug and alcohol use, smoking, and mental health issues and is run over three days by the Primary Care Trust.

This is a role that is separate from your current role, although I am sure they will overlap, in the same way as the CAF Champion.

Expressions of interest please contact your ADO directly via email.

### **Surrey Parenting Education & Support - ADHD**

Dear all,

Surrey Parenting Education & Support are offering training to facilitators who are interested in running the ADHD 12-week Parenting Programme developed by CAMHS - the leading facilitator in this programme is retiring and will not be replaced.

Applicants should already be trained in an approved parenting programme and have experience in facilitating Parenting Groups.

Please see the attached flyer and if you are interested, contact Julie Gamble direct whose e-mail address can be found at the bottom of the flyer.

## Personal Safety Awareness

### Protection Against Stalking

This month our team attended a Domestic Abuse event – Using Learning to Inform Practice. Over the weekend, having had time to digest the day I feel compelled to write an article having heard Tricia Bernal, mother of Clare Bernal give such an emotive talk on behalf of the charity Protection Against Stalking. For those of you who have not heard Clare's name before, Clare was a vivacious 22 year old and a valued employee of the prestigious Harvey Nichols store in Knightsbridge, London.

During 2005, whilst working there as a beauty consultant, she briefly dated Michael Pech, a 30 year old Czech National also employed by the store as a security guard. The relationship was casual and lasted about a month, Clare making the final decision to bring it to a close due to Pech showing traits of his personality that Clare felt uncomfortable with.

Tragically this was a decision that Pech felt unable to deal with and so he proceeded to bombard Clare with texts, calls, unwanted attention at work and even following her home and loitering outside of the flat she shared with her girlfriends. On one occasion he approached her on a train and disclosed that if she dare report him he would kill her.

Clare bravely did make the decision to report Pech and in April 2005 he was successfully arrested and charged with breaking a previous set of bail conditions. He spent 8 days in HMP Belmarsh on remand but due to the case being adjourned he was released on bail once more and was instructed to return to court on August 31<sup>st</sup> to face the outstanding charges against him.

Over the next four months Pech took the opportunity to return to Slovakia, enrolling himself on arms training so as to legitimately acquire a gun license and then later obtain a Luger gun, finally returning to London by coach during the month of July, managing to conceal the gun through customs.

Six weeks later Pech attended court, pleading guilty to harassment but still adamantly denying the threats to kill he had previously made. Once again the court granted him bail, this time for pre-sentence reports, on this occasion he never returned to receive his punishment. 13 days on, on 13<sup>th</sup> September 2005, Pech walked calmly back into the Harvey Nichols department store with the Luger gun about his person and fatally wounded both Clare and himself.

At times during Tricia's recollection of events it almost became unbearable to listen, to watch, to hear her voice faltering whenever she mentioned Pech's name and seeing the vivid turmoil of emotion etched so deeply across her face was heartbreaking. To hear Clare felt guilty and that she had fleeting thoughts that in some way she had brought this situation on herself made me feel extremely sad and again emphasised how lonely she must have felt.

My observations of the room, during the 40 minutes Tricia so bravely communicated with us all, was one of shared grief, I personally cannot begin to imagine what it must be like to lose a child but I'm second guessing that the majority of the room were attempting to put themselves in Tricia's shoes for just a moment or two during the talk.

It would be perfectly expected of you to ask why anyone would put themselves through this torment time and time again, speaking out to groups of professionals and sharing this very personal tragic version of events. Tricia's sole purpose is very simply awareness, awareness in the realms of perpetrators' behaviour, warning signs, risk management and awareness of how the victim needs supporting.

Tricia Bernal initially founded the Protection against Stalking charity, along with Carol Faruqui, a mother who has also tragically lost her daughter, Rana, in similar circumstances in 2003 and a survivor of a continual 10 yr period of stalking, Tracey Morgan. The charity's main focus is to create a consistent and professional and effective response to the problem of stalking in the UK, to actively support victims, particularly those at high risk and to improve the effective management of perpetrators through prosecution and treatment.

All of these items desperately missing from the agenda when Clare and Rana were taken so cruelly and while Tracey was attempting to hold on to her marriage, home, job and sanity.

The key message to this article is simple too , if you or anyone you know professionally or personally is currently being affected by Stalking and Harassment please take time to click on to the website [www.protectionagainststalking.org](http://www.protectionagainststalking.org) and view on-line the resources available. Amongst them is now information/Tel no. for a National Stalking helpline and a 12-question Risk Identification checklist all thanks to hard work of the charity and its associates.

Tricia's emotive presentation will stay with me for a very, very long time. It has helped to remind me yet again how vitally important personal safety is. Personal safety is "all about me" ,we should make it our mantra and when working with families, where appropriate, convey the message to them. When self-esteem is rock bottom there is often no room for "me", sadly this is when personal safety is truly compromised and ultimately leaves you at your greatest risk.

Alexia Tough



### KEEPING UP WITH THE KIDS

Where?	Ebbisham Centre, Epsom High Street
What time?	9.30 – 11.30
When?	Thursdays from 28 <sup>th</sup> April – 21 <sup>st</sup> July
How much?	FREE
For more information please telephone Pauline on: 0796 883 2392	

**Do you know parents who would like to:**

- Be able to help your child with their schoolwork?
- Develop their literacy skills?
- Understand how their children use computers to help with their school work?
- Work towards national qualifications?
- Meet new friends & have some fun?

If you've answered **YES** to any of the above then this course may be for them!

Keeping up with the Children is especially for those dads, mums or carers who missed out on an English GCSE and would like an opportunity of improving your English skills and even to gain a national qualification if they would like to.



The above course starts on 28<sup>th</sup> April 2011, and we can offer others like it in your setting. We can provide fliers on request.

Please get in touch with Cheryl Brown directly on 0796 8833 984 or by email [cheryl.brown@surreycc.gov.uk](mailto:cheryl.brown@surreycc.gov.uk) or Pauline Guppy on 0796 883 2392 or [Pauline.guppy@surreycc.gov.uk](mailto:Pauline.guppy@surreycc.gov.uk) if you would like further information.

Family Learning's funding from the Skills Funding Agency for these activities is secure for 2011/12!

Hello, I'm Alexa (ADO for South East). I took the plunge, signed up and ran the New York Marathon in 2006 for Breast Cancer Care in support of my best friends Mum, who had been diagnosed with breast cancer. It was a fantastic achievement but I always had 'The London' at the back of my mind, maybe it's something about running on your own turf? I have volunteered there for the past 4 years and never forget the admiration for those runners. So.....here I am 5 years later with a slightly iffy knee and a few more wrinkles.



I'm going to give it my best shot and this time will be running for a charity called Parents for Inclusion, who support parents who have children with Special Needs which can range from mild to severe, physical to cognitive. They run support groups in schools for parents to help them understand more about their child's situation to enable them to become their biggest allies. They play a big part in developing inclusion in mainstream schools or early year's settings. Amongst this, they do a host of other things including running a helpline and accredited training....all things to give parents tools for planning a positive future for their children.

By raising my target of £1,500 will provide so much for the charity such as facilitating groups and running training.

Please help me reach this target to support them as much as possible by visiting <http://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/team/marathongirls>.  
2 weeks to go!

Many thanks  
Alexa

P.S. Those of you who remember the 'guess the number of sweets' at the conference in January raised £60 in sponsorship, which I am very grateful for. The winner was in the North West who guessed closest to the total amount of 224....enough sweets and chocolate to get through Easter!

### Dates for your diaries



#### ID badges – Surrey Safer Staffing

Please remember to email Julia Bennett [julia.bennett@surreycc.gov.uk](mailto:julia.bennett@surreycc.gov.uk) prior to attending with date and estimated time of arrival. These sessions are no longer running as "drop in" sessions. You will need to bring all your relevant documentation with you i.e. current CRB, passport or photo driving license, proof of current address, utility bill.

7th April - Quadrant Court, 35 Guildford Road, Woking, GU22 7QQ 8:30 –11:00  
 11th April – County Hall Penrhyn Road, Kingston-upon-Thames, KT1 2DJ 11:00 -12:00  
 12th April - Fernleigh Day Centre, Hersham Road, Walton-on-Thames 10:00-12:00  
 14th April - Runnymede Centre, Chertsey Road, Addlestone, KT15 2EP 8:30 - 11:00  
 21st April - AO2, Omnibus, Lesbourne Road, Reigate, RH2 7JA 8:30 - 11:00  
 27th April - Pinehurst, Park Road, Camberley, 9:30 - 11:30  
 28th April - The Harbour, Oxted Road, Milford 10:00 - 12:00

#### The Haven Sure Start Centre Nearly New Sale

Friday 15th April 2011 10:30 till 12:30

At The Youth Centre  
 Corby Drive  
 Englefield Green  
 TW20 ORX

Nursery Equipment, Toys , Clothing  
 And lots more.  
 Admission 50p per family

## Children Missing Education

Hi - I'm Sue Strank – CME Officer for SCC and provide a countywide service to support education and safeguarding.

My job is to routinely monitor and track school age pupils who have left a Surrey school and don't automatically transfer to another school &/or education provision within 4 weeks or where I am informed that a child has moved into Surrey and is deemed "difficult to place". In particular I monitor LAC pupils and excluded pupils, as they are a high-risk group for CME.

A lot of my time is spent using & running a variety of reports from our data systems – EMS (education) & ICS (social care) to identify which children are potential CME's and then ensure that the information is shared with the appropriate team. It's essential though to know who & when to contact, so information sharing & networking skills are very important.

I also have access to DfE national education databases so that I can find out historical & current pupil information – especially useful to me, as I'm the SCC point of contact for CME referrals and information requests from other local authorities, partners, schools and colleagues.

Databases though will only tell me about children who are already active in the system. It's always helpful when front-line staff let me know about a child who may have "slipped" through the normal admissions/ transfer processes. Even a name & DOB is enough for me to start checking, though the more information the better! Just let me know.

My Contact Details are:

Lotus Notes/ Direct email – [susan.strank@surreycc.gov.uk](mailto:susan.strank@surreycc.gov.uk)

Secure Direct email – [susan.strank@surreycc.gcsx.gov.uk](mailto:susan.strank@surreycc.gcsx.gov.uk)

Generic email – [cme@surreycc.gov.uk](mailto:cme@surreycc.gov.uk)

Direct Telephone – 020 8541 9313

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## Leavers and Starters

A fond farewell to Collette Williams HSLW Jubilee High School and wishing her all the best for pastures new.

*ADO's contact details:*

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