

PSHE UPDATES

Vol 2: November 2024

Misogyny is on the rise!

The Girlguiding Girls' Attitudes Survey 2024 reveals the levels of inequality and misogyny experienced by girls and young women.

Notably, 59% of 11 to 21-year-olds express concerns that AI could be used to create fake images of them and impersonate them online.

Additionally, the percentage of girls feeling 'unsafe due to sexism, has more than doubled over the past decade.

Hello Magazine, have published an article ["Alarming rise in teenage boys' exposure to misogynistic content: What parents can do"](#)

Community Safety Survey

Staffordshire Police and Stoke-on-Trent City Council are running a survey to find out how residents feel about their local community. The information provided will help them plan how to support communities and address the issues which are important to them.

The survey will take about 15 minutes to complete and can be found online at this link:

[Community Safety Survey](#)

Vaping

There is growing concern about the number of Spice-spiked vapes. Research that showed 1 in 6 vapes confiscated in schools contained the synthetic drug - Spice.

Many of the confiscated vapes were made to look like a typical vape from a shop, and are usually sold as containing THC. Children and young people are therefore inadvertently consuming Spice whilst under the impression it is cannabis.

Spice is highly addictive. It is a Class B drug. There are some reports across the country that some young people are becoming addicted to Spice and are being criminally exploited. The Metropolitan police have stated that many children and young people are accessing illicit vapes via social media platforms like Snapchat and Telegram.

The Government has announced that disposable vapes will be illegal from 1st June 2025. The number of people who vape without having ever smoked has increased considerably over the last few years - particularly among young adults

It is hoped that banning disposable vapes will "reduce the appeal of vapes to children and keep them out of the hands of vulnerable young people.

For more information, [click here](#)

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Child Death Prevention Updates

The Child Death Overview Panel has asked for education settings to share their latest Child Death Prevention [Newsletter](#) which focuses on the Signs of Group B Strep Infection in Babies. Parents/Carers might also like to consider using the information with young people as they might be babysitting or be young parents.

County Lines Updates

Stoke-on-Trent City Council and Staffordshire Police are asking all education settings to share this [letter](#) with parents and carers to help raise awareness of county lines and the possible signs that could identify anyone who might be at risk so they can be supported and protected from harm.

Child Criminal Exploitation

Staffordshire Police have completed several successful operations leading to the arrests of people suspected of drug supply and child exploitation in Stone and Kidsgrove. The activity was led by Staffordshire Police's Child Exploitation Team who reiterated: "We are determined to make Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent a hostile environment for those who think it is acceptable to exploit children and young people in this way,"

Unfortunately, children and young people across Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent are being exploited by criminals

For children and young people identified as being "at risk" of criminal exploitation refer them for targeted work with Catch22 – speak to your HOY today if you feel your child could be at risk.

Online Safety

Internet Matters has released a report detailing children's experiences with nude deepfakes, which are AI-generated or manipulated images and videos designed to appear real. The report estimates that 13% of UK teenagers have encountered nude deepfakes in various ways, such as sending or receiving them, finding them online, or using 'nudifying' apps.

Key findings include: Most families have limited or no understanding of deepfakes. More than half of teenagers believe that having a nude deepfake of themselves shared would be worse than sharing a real image. 'Nudifying' tools are predominantly used to create deepfakes of women and girls rather than boys. For the full report: [click here](#)

Safeguarding contact information:

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