Safer Internet Day 2016 will take place on the 9th February with the theme Play your part for a better internet! Coordinated in the UK by the UK Safer Internet Centre the celebration sees hundreds of organisations get involved to help promote the safe, responsible and positive use of digital technology for children and young people.

Globally, Safer Internet Day is celebrated in over a hundred countries, coordinated by the joint Insafe/INHOPE network, with the support of the European Commission, and national Safer Internet Centres across Europe.

The day offers the opportunity to highlight positive uses of technology and to explore the role we all play in helping to create a better and safer online community. It calls upon young people, parents, carers, teachers, social workers, law enforcement, companies, policymakers, and communities to join together in helping to create a better internet.

As part of Safer Internet Day 2016 WSCB is promoting the online quiz “are you an accidental outlaw?” produced by Knowthenet a website that helps individuals, families and businesses get the most out of the internet. According to a study commissioned by Knowthenet the chances of accidentally breaking the law online could be greater than you might think. More than 2,000 people completed nine tests as part of the research, measuring their ability to spot online activities that break the law. Only 44% of people could correctly spot illegal activities when given a number of scenarios such as defamation, copyright infringement and hacking. Take the test and find out how much of an outlaw you might be!

http://accidentaloutlaw.knowthenet.org.uk/

More information ..... WSCB website has lots of useful information for parents about internet safety including downloads and website links. www.worcestershiresafeguarding.org.uk
New Charging Structure for WSCB Specialist Training

In response to increasing costs Worcestershire Safeguarding Children Board (WSCB) has reviewed its charging policy for training and Board members agreed at the meeting on 2\textsuperscript{nd} December 2015 that they are regrettably no longer able to provide free specialist safeguarding training to contributing members. The implementation of charging will commence for all specialist courses attended from 1\textsuperscript{st} April 2016. Target 1 and 2 training and e-learning costs are not affected.

Those who have booked onto training after 1\textsuperscript{st} April, 2016 have the option to cancel their place but a charge will be made unless the appropriate notice is given.

Costs for specialist training from 1\textsuperscript{st} April, 2016 will be:

- Full day training £100 per day
- Half day training £60 per day

It is with regret that WSCB has had to make this decision, but the Board remains committed to continuing to deliver high quality multi-agency specialist training which still arguably represents good value for money.

If you have any queries in respect of this matter please contact WSCBtraining@worcestershire.gov.uk

Details of all specialist training courses can be found at: http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/info/20204/safeguarding_children_information_for_professionals/897/safeguarding_children_training/5

Working with the families of prisoners?

Then the latest i-Hop newsletter is a must … and for everyone else it makes interesting reading

i-HOP is a service that supports professionals to work effectively with offenders’ families with children. It also collates and promotes examples of services, interventions, resources, policy and research around this vulnerable group.

Barnardo’s in partnership with Partners Of Prisoners (POPS) have been commissioned by the Department for Education to deliver this service as an online information hub with a focus on England (www.i-hop.org.uk). The service is targeted at professionals who work with offenders’ children and their families, from various disciplines including education, health and social care as well as the criminal justice system.

Sign up to get copies of the i-Hop e-news https://www.i-hop.org.uk/
Worcestershire Safeguarding Children Board is supporting the local launch of the NSPCC campaign to help keep children safe from sexual abuse. The NSPCC’s popular Underwear Rule campaign is set to target foster carers in Worcestershire. The resource will assist foster carers in talking to children about keeping safe from sexual abuse.

In consultation with Fostering Network UK, the PANTS guidance has recently been adapted for use by Foster Carers. The guidance, aimed at parents of 5 to 11 year olds, will allow foster carers to have simple conversations with their children about keeping safe from abuse.

The Underwear Rule is a simple and age appropriate way to teach even young children that anything covered by their underwear is theirs and theirs alone. Their privates are private, their body belongs to them, and they should always talk to a trusted adult if something makes them feel uncomfortable. Conversations at home can be built into bath time, getting dressed or going swimming and don’t have to be scary, long or complicated.

Melissa Green, director of operations at The Fostering Network, said: “Foster carers face the challenging prospect of having the most difficult of conversations with children who may not have been in their care for very long. This guidance will ensure that foster carers have the tools to have these conversations and to keep the children in their care safe from abuse.”

The NSPCC’s ‘Underwear Rule’ campaign was originally launched in 2013 after research showed that parents are concerned about the issue, but are scared of ruining their child’s innocence or saying the wrong thing. As part of the campaign, the NSPCC developed an easy-to-remember guide – Talk PANTS – that helps children understand the key points of the rule.

Privates are private
Always remember your body belongs to you
No means no
Talk about secrets that upset you
Speak up, someone can help

Ally Sultana, NSPCC Campaigns Manager, said: “We are very pleased to be working with Worcestershire Safeguarding Children Board and Worcestershire County Council Fostering and Kinship team to promote the PANTS foster carers guidance across the county.”

The PANTS logo will be seen on digital screens throughout the county as part of the promotional activity for the PANTS Campaign. NSPCC will also be delivering information sessions for foster carers and supervising social workers on the Underwear Rule from February 2016.

A suite of free supportive materials for parents, carers and schools are available now online at www.nspcc.org.uk/underwear. You can also find specially tailored guides for children with autism, children with learning difficulties and deaf children. The guides are also available in Lithuanian, Latvian, Russian and Polish.
NEW - Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) Training Strategy

As part of the Worcestershire Child Sexual Exploitation Strategy and Action Plan (2015-17) a CSE Training Strategy is now available for all agencies. It can be accessed in the Training Section of the WSCB website.

The strategy will enable agencies to understand their role in ensuring that all practitioners are aware of CSE and those that require specialist training receive it. It will also support and assist key agency representatives in the development and management of a comprehensive training programme that meets required standards and locally identified needs. It does not replace the current WSCB training strategy, rather it adds value to it.

Statutory guidance for CSE states that LSCBs should ensure that local safeguarding training includes information about how to identify the warning signs of and vulnerabilities to sexual exploitation. Whilst WSCB will seek to maximise CSE training opportunities through its training programme, all organisations should ensure that:

`all safeguarding training and refresher training includes an awareness of sexual exploitation, the recording and retention of information and gathering evidence`

The WSCB website has a whole page devoted to CSE which includes Key Facts about CSE and links to other helpful websites. There is a suite of information for professionals called the CSE Pathway, which includes the screening tool, risk management plan and access to the Children’s Social Care Referral Form. CSE e-Learning is also available on the WSCB website.

Protecting Children From Extremism

The Education Secretary has announced a package of measures to protect children from extremism. These include: a website for parents and teachers offering advice on preventing extremism; an escalation of Ofsted inspections of unregistered, illegal, independent schools; and a consultation on registering children who go missing from school. DfE press release Consultation: Identifying children who are missing education & Educate against hate

Children with Disabilities e-Learning Module

WSCB and e-Academy are pleased to announce that the Children With Disabilities e-learning module has been updated and will soon be available for staff to access. E-Academy says:

`This is a specialist course aimed at professionals working directly with disabled children. It aims to increase knowledge of what you need to be aware of and the processes involved when working with children with disabilities, especially partnership and multi-agency working. It covers all recent pieces of legislation in this field, whilst also touching on particular vulnerabilities such as sexual exploitation, being radicalised and being forced into marriage.`
Youth Safety Matters Survey 2015/16

Worcestershire Safeguarding Children Board would like to express their thanks to all the schools and young people who took part in the recent survey, Youth Safety Matters. 2015/16

WSCB believes it is vital to ascertain and include the views of young people and parents in their work and as part of their Service User Feedback Strategy. In order to inform the annual WSCB Development Day a survey was sent to all High Schools in Worcestershire which asked young people to rank the groups of children that WSCB consider to be high priority. Young People were also given the opportunity to add free text to ascertain their views on what other groups of young people they were concerned about.

Responses were received from 2445 Children and young people (CYP). Young people felt that Domestic Abuse was the highest priority group that WSCB should be working to support, followed by Child Sexual Exploitation and then parental drug and/alcohol misuse. The report compares findings to those in 2014 which reveals that CYP are still concerned about the emotional health of children and the issue of bullying.

1953 free text responses were received, varying in length from one or two words to long sentences. The responses were themed into 25 different areas. The top concern for CYP was the home environment, followed by friendships/relationships, including peer pressure with the third concern being internet safety. A consultation with a group of young people who work alongside WSCB suggested that this may because that “if everything is okay at home then everything else falls into place”.

142 parents were involved in the survey and their top rated concern was Child Sexual Exploitation, followed by Domestic Abuse and e-safety. Parents were limited to choosing only four priorities. A number of parents mentioned bullying and children's emotional and mental health. Parents also mentioned how difficult it was to prioritise the groups of children because they felt all of them needed to be kept safe.

The report was presented by the Youth Advisory Board Safeguarding (YABS) to the Board at their Development Day in January providing a rich data set for WSCB to consider when setting strategic priorities for 2016.

Pictured above: members of the WSCB Youth Advisory Board Safeguarding (YABS) prepare for the Board Development Day presentation.
TRANSITIONS Event

Worcestershire Safeguarding Children Board and Worcestershire Safeguarding Adults Board are pleased to be holding a joint event to explore the vulnerabilities of young people transitioning into adulthood and how services can respond to prevent abuse and protect the young person. The event will take place on 26th February, 2016. Attendance is by invitation only with individual agencies having a set allocation of places. The half-day session is aimed at managers, practitioners and policy makers who have a role to play in supporting vulnerable young adults/adolescents through transition.

The event will be facilitated by Dez Holmes, Director of Research in Practice (rip) and Co-author of: That Difficult Age: Developing a more effective response to risks in adolescence

Dez will be presenting her research and facilitating a discussion with participants to explore the vulnerabilities of young people transitioning into adulthood and how services can respond to prevent abuse and protect the young person.

By the end of the session the aim is for agencies to have a work plan to begin to address these issues. Enquiries about the event should be directed to Angela Eason, WSCB Training & Development Officer: email Aeason@worcestershire.gov.uk

NEW WSCB Briefing …

Escalating concerns when there is professional disagreement about a safeguarding children response

A new briefing has been added to the Interagency Child Protection Procedures detailing how concerns should be escalated when there is professional disagreement about a safeguarding children response. This process should not be confused with the process to be followed for making a referral to Children's Social Care when there is a child protection concern.

Please access the full briefing via West Mercia Consortium (Inter-Agency Child Protection Procedures).

It is important that individual agencies maintain and collate a record of those specific children and young people who have been subject of the escalation process for resolving professional disagreements. This will enable agencies to monitor the escalation activity of their own staff and also to identify emergent patterns or themes which may need to be alerted to the Worcestershire Safeguarding Children Board, such as when an agency is repeatedly observed to be failing to comply with either its own child protection procedures or the WSCB Inter Agency Procedures.

Practitioners will need to be aware of their own agency’s escalation recording procedure. WSCB will periodically require agencies to report on their escalation activity at Stage 2 and above to ensure that this escalation process is being followed.

A sample recording template can also be found at West Mercia Consortium.

For further information please contact – Sue Haddon, WSCB Business Manager at Shaddon@worcestershire.gov.uk