

Together we can prevent child sexual abuse

The quarterly Stop it Now! UK and Ireland activity update

PUTTING CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE ON THE POLITICAL AGENDA IN WALES

Stop it Now! Wales has launched a major campaign designed to put the prevention of child sexual abuse on the political agenda. 'Commit to Prevent!' kicked off on Monday, July 26, and calls on all political parties to commit to preventing child sexual abuse ahead of the Assembly government election in 2011.

The campaign is taking a two-pronged approach, focussing on public and political engagement, and allows members of the public to get involved by signing a petition, helping to spread the word through social networks such as Facebook and Twitter and through the use of posters, letters and flyers.

Eisteddfod

A Stop! stand also featured at The National Eisteddfod 2010 in Ebbw Vale, from July 31 to August 7, where over 1000 signatures were collected.

"We had a fantastic response from visitors to the Eisteddfod," said Stop it Now! Wales National Campaign Manager, Rebecca Wasinski. "It was incredible how many people offered support to the campaign. It was also heart rending to hear from those who shared a story of how child sexual abuse has affected their lives and the lives of others."

Preventathon!

The campaign will culminate with a week-long 'Preventathon!' from October 4th – 10th. Over the seven day period, the campaign will carry out activities in seven areas of Wales, aim for 700 signatures, 70 new Twitter followers, and distribute hundreds of posters and leaflets.

Following the Preventathon!, the petition and associated materials will be presented to the four main political parties.

"It's really important that as the political parties prepare their manifestos they have preventing child sexual abuse in their minds. Sexual abuse affects one in six children before they reach the age of 16 and devastates so many lives. It's vital that we strive to prevent such abuse from taking place. We need an all-Wales national strategy that outlines plans, but also delivers activities that protect children. We mostly know what we need to do - we just need to get on with doing it."



Wales Campaign Manager, Rebecca Wasinski marks a petition signature on the map at the National Eisteddfod.

Specifically, the Commit to Prevent! campaign is calling for:

A national public information campaign to raise awareness of the scale of child sexual abuse and the steps we can all take to prevent it.

Education for parents and carers on how to help prevent child sexual abuse, including resilience building in children, open and honest communication and implementing and respecting boundaries.

Education for children and young people in schools and youth settings on respectful relationships, sexual boundaries, consent and appropriate touch.

Specific training on child sexual abuse prevention for those who work with children and families, including on how to identify and respond to signs of child sexual abuse.

Therapeutic services for children and families who have suffered sexual abuse.

Intervention services for adults and young people with worrying sexual thoughts / behaviour towards children.

EDITOR'S NOTE

Preventing abuse before it happens

We were delighted to recently host a day's event with Professor Stephen Smallbone, one of the world's leading authorities in child sexual abuse prevention and an advocate for treating the prevention of child sexual abuse as a public health issue. Looking to primary prevention solutions is at the heart of what we do and it was extremely useful to spend time with him, discussing current research, prevention methods and, of course, how what we do fits into the comprehensive framework strategy (see pg 2). The insightful day ended with us asking the question:- "So, what next?"

Week of action - Parents Protect!

What next indeed! At the start of October, we will host a week of action with lots of activity going on. To coincide with the roll out of the Home Office Police Disclosure Scheme, we'll launch a new online tool:- www.parentsprotect.co.uk for parents and carers.

The online resource aims to raise awareness of what practical steps parents and carers can take to protect their children and hosts a 30-minute learning programme that allows users to work through the issues at their own pace. All Children's Centres across London, as well as those in the 11 police service areas going live with the disclosure scheme, will receive a copy of the programme on disk. We'll also hold a 7-day Preventathon! in Wales (see story opposite) so there's plenty going on.

Helpline report

Our Helpline report is also due to be published soon which shows that between June 2005 and December 2009, 50% of calls received were from offenders and potential offenders; 25% from family, friends and adults concerned about the behaviour of another adult; 8% from professionals and 4% from parents and carers concerned about a child or young person's sexual behaviour. We engaged with over 5500 new callers and saw an increase of 38% in caller numbers between 2005 and 2009. More on this coming soon!

Thanks to our supporters

John Murphy and Edan Latzelsberger swam the Channel and as you are reading this Christine Platt will likely be climbing back down Mount Kilimanjaro! But, don't be daunted by these amazing feats – we're always on the look out for supporters to assist in all sorts of ways- it could be as simple as putting a poster up in your GP's surgery.

Until next time,

Donald Findlater, Director

Sign our petition: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/stopitnowwales>
Find out more and get involved: www.stopitnow.org.uk
or call Rebecca Wasinski on 07989 378220

stop it now! UK & Ireland
Together we can prevent child sexual abuse

Sharing prevention research and best practice

Stop it Now! UK and Ireland staff, along with other colleagues from the Lucy Faithfull Foundation (LFF), recently spent a day discussing and sharing research, ideas and best practice with one of the world's leading authorities on child sexual abuse prevention.

Stephen Smallbone, Professor of Criminology and Criminal Justice at Griffith University, Queensland, Australia, is touring various parts of the world to learn more about international developments in prevention policy and practice. It comes after he received a four-year Australian Research Council Fellowship, funded by the Australian Government, to focus on sexual violence and abuse prevention. Following his visit to the UK, he is going on to the Netherlands, Norway and South Africa.

The programme he is undertaking has two main aims:- to carry out research into the onset and progression of (child) sexual offending and to trial a community-level prevention model in a number of remote Aboriginal communities.

Professor Smallbone said: "I'm interested in a very wide range of prevention activities, from preventing sexual abuse before it would otherwise occur right through to preventing further offending by serious persistent offenders."

Sharing research, ideas and practice

During the course of the day Professor Smallbone shared some findings from current research being undertaken in Australia into the role of attachment and offending behaviour; while Stop it Now! and Lucy Faithfull Foundation staff gave an insight into a range of our projects that contribute to prevention.

Donald Findlater, Director of Stop it Now! said: "This was an immensely valuable and stimulating day, as much as anything, because it was 'two-way'. Stephen provided input into the latest research, including work being done into why sex offenders offend for the first time.

An array of Stop! and LFF staff showcased just 8 aspects of prevention work they are involved in. As well as learning, we also recognised we have much to celebrate."

A comprehensive framework

Professor Smallbone published a comprehensive framework for preventing child sexual abuse based on the public health model of prevention in 'Preventing Child Sexual Abuse', 2008. The framework considers Primary, Secondary and Tertiary prevention with four essential targets in mind: offenders (or potential offenders), victims (or potential victims), the situations in which sexual abuse is likely to occur (or is more likely to occur) and communities / families (see chart below).

Donald Findlater said: "Preventing abuse before it happens is central to Stop it Now!'s work and we are increasingly using this comprehensive framework to help shape what we do. We have been running workshops on the framework with professionals and others who work with children across the country as part of our regional conference programme. So, to spend time discussing it in detail, and indeed populating the framework, was both challenging and rewarding."

Stop it Now! Helpline Manager Sue Ball attended the event and said the process really helped bring the framework to life. "The day helped to put Primary, Secondary and Tertiary prevention into context and allowed us to really think about how the work we do fits into the model. It was also useful to hear about some of the research currently going on in Australia – it will be interesting to see the final findings."

For further details or more information on the framework, contact Deborah Denis on ddenis@stopitnow.org.uk or 01372 847160.

	Primary Prevention (before abuse takes place)	Secondary Prevention (focusing on 'at-risk' people, groups, places)	Tertiary Prevention (preventing repeat abuse)
Abusers / Potential abusers	Education for children on respect / relationships Parenting skills Education for adults on signs to look for in other adults	Stop it Now! Helpline Support during transitional stages e.g moving schools Youth offending programmes to include prevention messages	Stop it Now! Helpline Prison / Detention MAPPA Treatment Programmes Circles of Support and Accountability Computer monitoring
Victims	Internet safety education Resilience building Relationship and sex education e.g. boundaries, consent, respect. Public education campaign targeted at children and young people ChildLine	Resources on safe touch for children with disabilities ChildLine Internet safety education	Trauma / specialist therapeutic help Reinforce / establish resilience Helplines e.g Stop it Now! / ChildLine Advocacy services
Communities / Families	Stop it Now! materials Public education Internet safety seminars Positive media stories Education for adults on signs to look for in other adults Prevention education for parents and carers	Targeted public education in at risk areas Partnership working between agencies and voluntary sectors in relation to vulnerable children and adults Stop it Now! Helpline Police disclosure scheme	Education for professionals Stop it Now! Helpline Integrated family work Public education programmes Counselling / Support

The start of a comprehensive framework model

Stop! England strives ahead

It's been a busy 3 months in England, and there's little sign of it slowing down! The quarter opened with the 5th Stop it Now! regional training day for 2010, kindly hosted again by Hampshire Constabulary, and it proved to be another full house event for local safeguarding practitioners.

Since then, links have been developed in the North, with a training day planned in Leeds for the early part of next year – specifically tailored to Children's Centre practitioners. A further multi-agency training day is planned for the Manchester area in March. Added to this, Stop! England will deliver a joint event with the Thames Valley Partnership in January. (If you're interested in coming along to any of these events, let us know now, as places get snapped up quickly!) Development ideas are also being sown amongst our strategic links in Lancashire and Cumbria and activity is expected to grow in these areas in the New Year.

Looking forward to the coming quarter, there are no less than 11 conferences and events to attend before the end of October, so the Stop it Now! smart car and campaign staff will be putting in some miles over the next few weeks – but it's really encouraging to see that so many organisations and professional groups want Stop! staff to come along and inform their members about our work. Some of the key events that we will be attending include:

- NOTA conference, 22-24 Sept in Belfast
- Samaritans conference, 24-26 Sept in York
- Safeguarding and Protecting Children in Sport conference, 30 Sept in St Ives
- Berkshire LSCB conference, 30 Sept in Wokingham
- Assoc. of Radical Midwives conference, 16 Oct in Staffordshire
- Circles UK conference, 20 Oct in Birmingham

For further information on activities across England, contact the National Manager, Liz Maslen
01527 406915 / lmassen@stopitnow.org.uk

Farewell to London Project Manager

At the end of September, Stop it Now! UK and Ireland will bid farewell to its London Project Manager, Helen Veitch.

Helen joined the Stop it Now! team exactly 3 years ago, and has been working hard to develop the Stop! presence across the 33 boroughs that make up London – no easy task!

She has been instrumental in raising Stop!'s profile with Children's Centres – and there are some 550 in the London area – many of which have expressed an interest in working with us and having us deliver workshops to their groups of parents.

In addition, she has worked with other partners – NSPCC and Praxis – to develop a project working with BAMER communities (Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic groups) which will continue for a further 2 years. Though Stop! is sorry to see her go, we will nevertheless continue with our work in the Capital. We wish her well as she moves on to pastures new.

Contact Stop! London
Chris Pummell
07912 514808
cpummell@stopitnow.org.uk

Find us on Facebook!

Search for 'Stop it Now! UK and Ireland' or click on the icon. Tell your friends and help spread the word among your online networks.



Americans well informed says public survey

The majority of adults in the United States are well-informed and aware - and support treatment for child sex offenders - according to survey results published by our sister campaign, Stop it Now! USA.

In July, the organisation released a report detailing that U.S. adults are not only aware and concerned about child sexual abuse, but are also quite informed about where risks lie. Clear majorities also agreed that people who sexually abuse children should get specialized treatment and that treatment can help them stop abusing.

The new report, 'What Do U.S. Adults Think about Child Sexual Abuse' is based on survey responses from over 5,000 adults on the topic of child sexual abuse prevention.

One in five adults reported that they were sexually abused in childhood, including 29 percent of women and 14 percent of men. These rates are consistent with other research.

Results indicate that adults are better informed about the issue of child sexual abuse than media coverage and public

discussion might suggest.

Findings also underscore that widespread and informed public awareness of the child sexual abuse problem does not translate into comparable community concern or individual action. Results show that a minority of adults are able to recognize behaviours or acknowledge situations of high risk in their immediate circles and daily life.

"The findings are encouraging because they suggest that lack of awareness and knowledge is not as great a barrier to prevention as assumed. We need to redouble our efforts to understand and overcome the practical and policy barriers that keep more of us from taking action when there are concerns – and, ideally, well before," said Deborah Donovan Rice, Executive Director of Stop It Now! USA.

Stop It Now! and its local affiliates commissioned ten telephone surveys between 1995 and 2007 to gauge adult knowledge and attitudes on the issue. The respondents to these surveys represent a cross section of everyday people in six states covering three regions of the U.S.



Stop It Now!®

Key findings include:

95% of adults surveyed believed that children who are sexually abused are most likely to be abused by someone they know.

64% agreed that many children who are sexually abused are abused by other children or teens.

68% agreed that some people who sexually abuse children would like to get help to stop.

53% believed child sexual abuse is a major problem in their communities.

96% agreed that those in prison for sexually offending children should get treatment.

To read the full report visit:

http://www.stopitnow.org/RDD_survey_report

Black Country and Birmingham boosts training capacity

Stop it Now! Black Country and Birmingham is now able to deliver more training sessions on child sexual abuse prevention to parents and carers in the local community.

This increased ability comes after 8 volunteers undertook and completed an Open College Network (OCN) accreditation specialising in child sexual abuse prevention. All the volunteers bring their own expertise and knowledge to the Stop it Now! project, including some with children's services and policing backgrounds.

The course covers a broad spectrum of aspects relating to the prevention of child sexual abuse and theory was put into practice when participants delivered a presentation on child sexual abuse prevention to the group for assessment.

Stop it Now! UK and Ireland Administrator Anna Lord was one of the volunteers to complete the course and said she's delighted to be on board: "I knew the awareness and knowledge I had gained through my role in the central Stop it Now! office would help me. By completing this course I can now pass some of the vital information I have learned to members of the public.

"The training covered various aspects of child sexual abuse prevention such as how the media portrayal of



L-R: Sarb Masih, Jane Dooley, Tessa Hawkes, Stephane Bretton, Tracey Coleman, Anna Lord, Claire Smith.

offenders as monsters and strangers can hinder recognition of a problem, through to the role of new technologies in sexual abuse of children. We also looked at learning styles and presentation skills.

"At the end of the course we all gave a presentation on a subject of our choice linked to abuse prevention, which I delivered successfully despite my initial struggle with the technology. Last time I gave a presentation it was with an overhead projector and OHP slides!

"Now I have received my certificate, I am eagerly awaiting the opportunity to assist the Stop it Now! Black Country and Birmingham in delivering presentations before I go it alone."

'Monster' video wins award

Our 'Monster' video, which is designed to counteract the popular misconception that it is mostly strangers who abuse children, won an award in an international advertising and design competition.

The 60 second video, which highlights that the majority of child sexual abuse victims are abused by someone they know, scooped a gold award in the 2010 Chip Shop Awards after being entered into the Best TV/Cinema commercial category.

Playing off the demonisation of paedophiles in the tabloid press, the film shows that you cannot identify an abuser by looking at them and is poignantly underscored by the family's loving welcome of the abuser and the use of the tune 'Home Sweet Home'.

Made for us by [Small Person Big Ideas](#), which also designed the latest Stop! poster campaign, the film is directed at family members who need to take notice of the signs of concerning behaviour in those nearest to them and their children.

The film urges viewers to contact the Stop it Now! Helpline with any concerns they may have. This is reiterated with the call to action and campaign end line: 'To stop child sexual abuse, we need to start talking about it'.

Visit www.stopitnow.org.uk to view the video, or [click here](#). For more information on the Chip Shop Awards visit www.chipshopawards.com.

A team of five, 19 nautical miles and the swim of their life!

Stop it Now! UK and Ireland and Lucy Faithfull Foundation supporters John Murphy and Edan Latzelsberger swam one of the toughest open water swims in the world to raise funds for two charities committed to making the lives of children better.



L-R John Murphy, Louise Kelly, Edan Latzelsberger, Dave Bennett, Suzie Munnery

On July 22, the pair left England to swim through the cold water of the shipping lanes to France, and they made it in just 11 hours and 20 seconds – the 10th fastest Channel crossing swim so far this year.

The duo were part of a five-man relay, or rather three men and two women relay, and really put themselves to the test coming in as the second fastest five-man team in the last ten years, just pipped to the post by an RAF five-man team.

John says it was a real experience: "When I decided to do this, I wasn't really sure what I was letting myself in for. Not being much of a swimmer at the time, I really didn't know what to expect.

"The main thing I remember was the cold. It was raining and cloudy when we set off which also didn't help, but it did warm up a bit as we went along. The huge container ships passing us was also quite an experience but the 'pace arrow', the boat that stays with us and guides us, was a comfort and took some of the reality of being in the open water away. It was incredibly rewarding to finally land on French soil!"

John and Edan donated all funds raised to two charities that work to protect children from hardship: the Lucy Faithfull Foundation which manages the Stop it Now! UK and Ireland campaign and Starfish, an international development charity dedicated to helping children who have been orphaned or made vulnerable by the HIV/AIDS pandemic in Southern Africa. The pair raised over £5000 between them and as they covered all associated costs themselves, all donations went to helping these two great causes.

A heartfelt thanks to both John and Edan from Stop it Now! UK and Ireland and the Lucy Faithfull Foundation.