



Kent training day to focus on preventing child sexual abuse

(October 8, 2012) 80 multi-agency staff who work in child or public protection or with children and families across Kent will complete a child protection training day on Thursday (October 11). The event will focus on how agencies can work together and with the public to tackle child sexual abuse and protect children from harm. It is thought around one in six children suffer some form of sexual abuse as they grow up.

The Stop it Now! England training day, hosted in partnership with Kent Police, will bring together representatives from various organisations which have contact with children or families or deal with child protection issues. Probation staff, police officers, social workers and child care staff will be joined by those from the health and education sectors for the one day event.

Entitled '*Preventing Child Sexual Abuse – Making it Everybody's Business*', the day aims to explore some of today's key issues surrounding child sexual abuse and will feature workshops conducted by specialist staff from child protection charity, the Lucy Faithfull Foundation. Workshops will cover subjects including:- female sexual abusers; how the internet is used as part of sexually abusive behaviour; working with non-offending partners and identifying where agencies and individuals own work can contribute to preventing abuse and protecting children.

The event will be opened by DCI Andrew Pritchard of Kent Police's Public Protection Team. He said: "Events such as this are really important in bringing different agencies together and ensuring that we all continue to offer help and support to victims of child abuse and their families, recognising the devastating effect that abuse can have on all concerned. We have a very good track record in proactively identifying offenders who are involved in this sort of abuse and putting them before the courts, and we are pleased to be able to welcome our partners to our training school this week."

Stop it Now! England, part of Stop it Now! UK and Ireland, aims to reduce the risk of children being sexually abused by working with parents, carers and communities. It also engages with statutory, private and voluntary sector organisations to raise

awareness to the issue of child sexual abuse and promote the importance of prevention.

Director of Stop it Now!, Donald Findlater said: “Sexual abuse affects more children that we would like to think – around one in six – and we all have a responsibility to do what we can to prevent it from happening. We cannot leave tackling the problem to any one agency or organisation, which is why events like this are so important.”

The Stop it Now! campaign operates a free phone confidential helpline – 0808 1000 900 – which people can call for advice and support in relation to child sexual abuse issues.

Kent residents and parents can access further information on protecting children from sexual abuse from the Parents Protect! website – www.parentsprotect.co.uk.

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Notes to Editors

For further information and interview opportunities please contact Deborah Denis on 01372 847160, 07540 690 315 or ddenis@lucyfaithfull.org.uk.

This event is not open to the general public.

1. Stop it Now! England is part of Stop it Now! UK and Ireland. It aims to prevent child sexual abuse by increasing public awareness and empowering people to act responsibly to protect children. Stop it Now! believes that it is the responsibility of all adults to take positive action to prevent the sexual abuse of children. Stop it Now! is an alliance of leading children's charities, working with the government and child protection agencies, to promote public education and prevent child sexual abuse. The Stop it Now! helpline has been operating since 2002 and aims to prevent child abuse by encouraging abusers and potential abusers to seek help and by giving adults the information they need to protect children safely. The helpline is funded by the Ministry of Justice and the Lucy Faithfull Foundation. The England campaign is supported by the Department for Education.

2. Named after its founder, Baroness Lucy Faithfull of Wolvercote, the Foundation is a child protection charity operating UK-wide and specialising in safeguarding children from sexual abuse. The Foundation's policy is to collaborate with individuals and agencies internationally to develop a more child sensitive and offender aware culture in our societies. The Foundation contributes to legislation and to policy and procedure reviews concerned with safeguarding children in faith communities, in schools, in leisure facilities, on the Internet and living away from home.
www.lucyfaithfull.org.uk