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## Safer West Sussex Partnership Newsletter – January 2021

The Safer West Sussex Partnership quarterly newsletter will provide updates and information about developments, progress and activities around the seven [Safer West Sussex Partnership](#) priorities, along with information about upcoming key campaigns, training and events.

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### Domestic Abuse Bill

The [Domestic Abuse Bill](#) is a landmark piece of legislation that has the potential to be transformational, in how we view, and respond to Domestic Abuse. For the first time, there will be a statutory definition of Domestic Abuse, one that includes emotional, coercive, controlling and economic abuse as well as physical violence. Other measures include the prohibiting of those that perpetrate abuse from cross examining survivors in family courts, an end to the defence of 'rough sex' when a woman is killed, and the recognition of children and young people as victims of domestic abuse in their own right.

The Bill will place a statutory duty on tier one [local authorities to provide support to victims of domestic abuse and their children within refuges and other safe accommodation](#).

This duty places statutory responsibility on the local authority to:

- Appoint a multi-agency Domestic Abuse Local Partnership Board which it will consult as it performs certain specified functions. As a minimum, the Boards will include persons representing local authorities, victims and their children, domestic abuse charities or voluntary organisations, health care providers and the police or other criminal justice agencies.

These functions include:

- Assessing the need for accommodation-based domestic abuse support for all victims in their area, including those who require cross-border support.
- Develop and publish a strategy for the provision of such support to cover their locality, having regard to the needs assessment.
- Give effect to the strategy
- Monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of the strategy
- Report back to central government.
- Require local authorities to have regard to statutory guidance in exercising their functions.

The Domestic Abuse Bill will go to committee stage on 25/01/2021. We are working with our partners in East Sussex and Brighton and Hove, in line with the principles of the pan Sussex Strategic Framework, to jointly assess the level of accommodation based support needed across Sussex demonstrating The West Sussex Domestic and Sexual Violence and Abuse steering group will continue to consult and engage with key partners and stakeholders in the development and delivery of Domestic abuse services in West Sussex, feeding locality based priorities into a Pan Sussex board.

### Domestic Homicide Reviews

Three of the four domestic homicides reviews identified in the previous update are still in progress but paused due to current criminal/trial proceedings or investigations currently taking or due to take place. The fourth case has resulted in being reclassified to a learning review due to the trial outcome. Once the reports have been concluded and Quality Assurance from the Home Office acquired, the reports will be published and learning and recommendations disseminated with key agencies. Learning events and opportunities will also be constructed as indicated by the report's findings. A referral for a new domestic homicide review case was made to the WSCC Chief Executive on 2 November 2020. The case meets the criteria for a Domestic Homicide Review and a Child Safeguarding Practice Review and discussions to date within West Sussex County Council(WSCC) and another local authority involved, are in progress to initiate a dual review.

## Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)

Work is in progress with partners in Crawley, working with the Rahma Project, to raise awareness regarding female genital mutilation. Initial work is focussing on mapping services for girls and women and seeing what gaps exist in provision and where support and pathways to sexual health and maternity services can be enhanced. Working with East Surrey hospital there are plans to train Maternity Services and the Pre-birth Service and raise awareness about the issues girls and women face in accessing emotional and health care support. Working with the Pan Sussex Harmful Practices Working Group a 'soft' campaign is planned with Crimestoppers for early spring to increase awareness that this is an illegal practice.

## Ask for Ani Codeword Scheme

The [Ask for ANI](#) (Action Needed Immediately) codeword scheme was launched in Pharmacies on 14 January, 2021. Victims of domestic abuse will be able to access much needed support from thousands of pharmacies across the UK. By asking for ANI, a trained pharmacy worker will offer a private space where they can understand if the victim needs to speak to the police or would like help to access [support services](#).



## WSCC Modern Slavery Pledge & Statement of Intent

To mark the 10-year anniversary of UK Anti-Slavery Day on 18 October 2020, West Sussex County Council pledged its commitment to Sussex-wide plans to eradicate slavery and exploitation and become a Slavery Free Community by 2030.

The aims of becoming a Slavery Free Community include:

- eradicating forced labour;
- ending modern slavery and human trafficking;
- securing the prohibition and elimination of the worst forms of child labour.



This work has been driven by the Sussex Anti-Slavery Network and our WSCC internal Modern Slavery Operational Group culminating in West Sussex Leaders signing a pledge alongside East Sussex County Council and Brighton and Hove City Council.

As part of our corporate commitment outlined in the [Modern Slavery Pledge](#), we have stated we will 'train our staff to recognise and respond appropriately to potential signs of slavery'. To support this commitment, through the work of the Community Safety and Wellbeing Team and Modern Slavery Operational Group, Modern Slavery training is now available to **ALL WSCC staff and Partners** via the [Learning and Development Gateway](#).

## Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking – WSCC Transparency Statement (December 2020)

The Modern Slavery Act, Section 54 (2015) outlines the key requirements for Contracting Authorities to run due diligence checks on its own supply chain to ensure traces of Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking do not exist:

- We are responsible for the annual gathering and review of Transparency Statements from our Key Strategic and Business Critical Suppliers, or for organisations with a turnover of £36m and above per annum.
- The Transparency Statement runs in line with the Financial year and organisations who contract with us are bound to produce them and share with us each April.

### New Legislation

The Government will be introducing new measures to strengthen the Modern Slavery Act 2015, from 2021. New measures will include:

- Asking Public Bodies to manage the risks of exposure via their own Supply Chains.
- Public bodies which have a budget of £36 million or more, including local authorities in England and Wales, will be required to regularly report on the steps they have taken to prevent modern slavery in their supply chains.
- The Government will be introducing a requirement for all organisations with a budget of £36m or more, in all industry sectors, to publish their own Modern Slavery Transparency Statement about the work they are doing on a new online portal reporting service.

### Key topics this MS Transparency Statement must include:

- Due Diligence when tendering and awarding contracts.
- Risk Assessments of sectors we contract with
- The steps the organisation has taken during the financial year to ensure that slavery and human trafficking is not taking place
- Sharing responsible practice
- Training and Development for teams who are purchasing.

### WSCC Transparency Statement

1. The WSCC Transparency Statement has been drafted ahead of the planned requirement by Government, ensuring we are ready for the changes to legislation.
2. The Statement covers how the Procurement and Contract Management functionality within the Council will be accountable for their part in Supply Chain Management and Due Diligence in our Tendering Processes.
3. The statement will be a Public Facing record, to be reviewed and updated annually.
4. The Transparency Statement will complement the already signed off WSCC Modern Slavery Pledge, which now has corporate sign off.

### Benefits of The Transparency Statement

1. By embracing the Modern Slavery Act and the new requirements which come into effect in the new year, we aim to be proactively analysing and reviewing our Supply Chain.
2. This will in turn support the WSCC Modern Slavery Pledge and underpin our position as a purchaser who will not tolerate Modern Slavery nor Human Trafficking being present among its wide-ranging contracts and suppliers.
3. WSCC will therefore be compliant, and ahead of other neighbouring authorities who are yet to work in the same collaborative way.

The Transparency Statement is going to the Executive Leadership Team on 28 January for sign off.

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### Safer West Sussex Partnership Analyst Update

██████████ joined us last autumn in the role of Partnership Analyst. Her first task is to produce a series of Strategic Intelligence Assessments (SIA) for the Safer West Sussex Partnership and each locality Community Safety Partnership across the county. A large part of ██████████ role has been re-establishing links and information-sharing protocols with agency analysts and data owners across a range of internal departments and stakeholder organisations. She will shortly begin the process of creating the 6 SIA analyses which will be circulated in March. **If you have data you would like included in the SIA documents** and haven't yet shared this with ██████████, please contact her directly: ██████████

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### West Sussex Contextual Safeguarding Resource Pack – Now live!

Contextual Safeguarding is an approach to understanding and responding to young people's experiences of extra familial risk and harm; expanding the objectives of child protection systems in recognition that young people are vulnerable to abuse beyond their front doors. The new [West Sussex Contextual Safeguarding resource pack](#) has been developed to raise awareness of Contextual Safeguarding practice in relation to protecting children and young people and/or creating safety and wellbeing in the places and spaces adolescents spend their time.

### West Sussex Education for Safeguarding (E4S) Toolkit – New sections now live!

West Sussex Education for Safeguarding (E4S) is an online toolkit that has been developed by WSCC School Effectiveness, Contextual Safeguarding and Public Health teams to help schools meet their statutory duty to develop and implement a universal needs-based Relationships, Sex and Health Education (RSHE) curriculum by summer 2021. E4S is a subscribed service for schools, however a wealth of free-to-access information and guidance has been recently uploaded for all schools to access; find out more and view the first cornerstone page [here](#).

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## Conspiracy Theories (also known as hoaxes, cabals, urban legends) and Fact Checking

### What is a conspiracy theory?

- It is a theory that rejects the standard explanation for an event and instead credits a covert group or organization with carrying out a secret plot, and/or
- A belief that a particular unexplained event was caused by such a covert group, and/or
- The idea that many important political events or economic and social trends are the products of deceptive plots that are largely unknown to the general public.

### Why does it matter?

Conspiracy theories may seem harmless or too impossible to be true but when significant numbers of people begin to give them any credibility, there are some genuine risks to those that come to believe them and to those who they may seek to influence.

### People may be drawn to conspiracy theories currently due to a number of factors including:

- Times of uncertainty
- People who have a need for 'closure' but who have no access to answers which provide it
- Boredom
- A need for a 'yes or no' answer, with no room for grey areas
- Admirable people/role models openly sharing Conspiracy Theory content
- Feeling under threat but out of control
- Not understanding the agendas of people who create and spread misinformation
- Distrust of government, police and science

As conspiracy theories have become more prevalent, a growing number of ways to check facts and establish the truth have also emerged. Some recommended websites:

- [Full Fact](#)
- [Full Fact Whatsapp service](#)
- [BBC Reality Check](#)
- [The FactCheck Blog by Channel 4](#)
- [Shout Out UK](#)
- [CBBC Quiz](#)

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## Campaigns

### Sexual abuse and Sexual Violence Awareness week 1 – 7 February, 2021



You can join the conversation on social media using #itsnotok and follow [@itsnotok2021](#)

### Safer Internet Day 9 February 2021 - An internet we trust: exploring reliability in the online world

This year in the UK, [Safer Internet Day](#) explores reliability online. The internet has an amazing range of information and opportunities online, but how do we separate fact from fiction? To celebrate and support this important campaign, the Community Safety & Wellbeing Team are hosting a number of **FREE webinars** for professionals and parents & carers, which will explore some of the key factors to be aware of regarding the online space and exploitation of children & young people. Book your free place [here](#).



There will be a key focus on the topics of trust online, fake news, conspiracy theories & radicalisation. The team will also be providing campaign packs & resources for partners to utilise and share amongst communities. For more information or to **request a campaign pack** email [communitysafety.wellbeing@westsussex.gov.uk](mailto:communitysafety.wellbeing@westsussex.gov.uk).

Parent and carers sessions can be booked here: [9 Feb](#) and [12 Feb](#)

## International Women's Day – 8 March 2021

The theme this year is [#ChooseToChallenge](#). A challenged world is an alert world. Individually, we're all responsible for our own thoughts and actions - all day, every day. We can choose to challenge and call out gender bias and inequity. Collectively, we can all help create an inclusive world. From challenge comes change, so let's all choose to challenge.

## National Child Sexual Exploitation Awareness Day – 18 March 2021

[The National Child Sexual Exploitation \(CSE\) Awareness Day](#) aims to highlight issues surrounding CSE; **encouraging everyone to think, spot and speak out against abuse** and adopt a zero tolerance to adults developing inappropriate relationships with children or children developing inappropriate relationships with other children.

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## Training and events

The Community Safety and Wellbeing Team are continuing to offer other online webinars including:

- **Introduction to Prevention of Radicalisation into Violent Extremism**
- **Refresher - Preventing Radicalisation and Violent Extremism**
- **Online Radicalisation: Key Signs**
- **Modern Slavery Basic Awareness**
- **Staying Safe Online Adult Focused Sessions**
- **Serious and Organised Crime (SOC), including County Lines**



To book your place, visit the [WSCC Learning and Development Website](#).

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## COVID-19 vaccination scam

WSCC and Partners have been raising awareness of a surge of scams relating to the Covid-19 vaccination.

Remember:

- The vaccine is only available on the NHS for free to people in priority groups, and the NHS will contact you when it is your turn.
- The NHS will never ask you to press a button on your keypad or send a text to confirm you want the vaccine, and will never ask for payment or for your bank details.
- At the moment they are not making house calls to deliver or discuss the vaccine.

If you receive a call you believe to be fraudulent, hang up. If you believe you have been the victim of fraud or identity theft you should report this directly to [Action Fraud](#) on 0300 123 2040. Where the victim is vulnerable, report it to Sussex Police online or by calling 101.

## Consultation

Horsham District Council would like your views on the new prohibitions and whether they should extend the PSPO for a further three years. An online consultation is now live: [www.horsham.gov.uk/pspoconsultation](http://www.horsham.gov.uk/pspoconsultation) until 31 January 2021.

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