

**SAFEGUARDING UPDATE May 2022**

**1. PEER ON PEER ABUSE / SEXUAL VIOLENCE AND AGGRESSION**

The Partnership has been working in collaboration with Northumbria Police and Sunderland University to produce a suite of 7 short films around Peer-on-Peer Abuse. The films will be a useful resource for schools and other professionals and cover every aspect of Peer-on-Peer abuse, including use of language, consent, female perpetrators and transgender issues etc. The films generate an awareness of the issue and what appropriate actions can be taken. Work is in progress in terms of organising a local multi-agency launch event which is likely to take place in September.

**2. ONLINE SAFEGUARDING CONCERNS**

**2.1 Tik Tok**

Tik Tok is a short-form, video-sharing app that allows users to create and share 15-second videos, on any topic. Sadly some of the videos ignite unhealthy ‘crazes’ amongst children and young people. Health colleagues have highlighted the new Tik Tok craze which has resulted in admissions to A&E departments across the North East and the RVI Burns Unit.

The activity involves having an aerosol sprayed into the back of the mouth for as long as it can be tolerated – hence the example of the admission to the RVI with burns.

In addition there is a new ‘game’ to see who can last the longest in a choke hold.

Colleagues in education have been alerted.

**2.2 Huggy Wuggy**

The videos show a blue teddy-bear like character with sharp teeth, singing about hugging and killing. The animated character goes by the friendly name of Huggy Wuggy, leading parents and children to believe the videos are aimed at youngsters and contain no inappropriate material.

But the blue bear-like creature chases and threatens other characters in nightmarish scenarios, leaving many children upset and frightened. A school in Hartlepool released a statement to parents on social media saying the character "sings worrying songs about hugging and killing".

It said: "In one of the videos, the bear asks the viewer to take their last breath. It is a very deceiving character, as hugs should be seen as something kind and love and because of its name is able to infiltrate firewalls and filters."

They have asked parents to be vigilant while their children are on YouTube.

South Tyneside Schools have been made aware.

**2.3 Elder Abuse Day – June 15th**

As part of Elder Abuse Day the Safeguarding Partnership will be hosting a briefing session around Predatory Marriage. This session will be delivered by Daphne Franks who gives a first hand and powerful account of the issues she and her family faced when finding out that their elderly mother with vascular dementia had been married. This lady had been targeted due to her vulnerability. The session will highlight the gaps in safeguarding for the elderly and the vulnerable, both at the time of marriage and in the Law.

**2.4 Safe Care at Home Review**

The government is concerned by the evidence presented by peers and deaf and disabled people’s organisations working on violence against people receiving care during the passage of the Domestic Abuse Act 2021 (the ‘DA Act’). The government has committed to reviewing the existing protections and support for adults at risk of or experiencing abuse in their own homes by people providing their care. This will be a joint review led by the Home Office and DHSC. The review is expected to be completed by the end of 2022.

**3. LEARNING REVIEWS**

**3.1 Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews (CSPR’s**)

There are no formal CSPR’s at the moment. However all multi-agency partners are reminded that anyone can submit a referral for consideration.

 <https://www.proceduresonline.com/nesubregion/p_ch_sg_prac_rev.html>

**3.2 Safeguarding Adult Review (SAR)**

There is currently one formal SAR in progress at the moment. The themes of which include self-neglect, the impact of trauma on decision making, the Mental Capacity Act and professional curiosity. Updates will be provided in due course.

<https://www.southtynesidesafeguardingappp.co.uk/safeguarding-adult-reviews/?hilite=SAR>

**4. MULTI-AGENCY SAFEGUARDING POLICIES AND PROCEDURES**

All partners are reminded to use the online safeguarding policies and procedures in order that they access the most up to date information.

**Children:** [**https://www.proceduresonline.com/nesubregion**](https://www.proceduresonline.com/nesubregion)

**Adults:** [**https://www.southtynesidesafeguardingapp.co.uk**](https://www.southtynesidesafeguardingapp.co.uk)

**5. TRAINING**

The multi-agency safeguarding training programme for 2022-23 offers a hybrid model with some face to face training as well as the revised E-Learning offer.

<https://southtyneside.gov.uk/article/4383>