

# The Wilnecote School Safeguarding Newsletter

Welcome to the final newsletter of the 2023-2024 academic year. This newsletter will mainly focus on 'unseen' men and Forced Marriage.

This newsletter will also provides information about Summer Safety for students during the 6 week break, including information shared by Staffordshire Police & Fire services. Also in this newsletter you will find support resources for mental health and wellbeing during the summer holidays.



## 'Unseen' men

Unseen men is safeguarding area which isn't highlighted very often but can have a huge impact of both children and their families. In recent years the Government and NSPCC have been re-researching the impact using case reviews.

Men play a crucial role in their children's development and wellbeing, significantly influencing the children they care for. Sometimes referred to as 'hidden' men, this terminology is misleading. These men are not hidden; they are not physically concealing themselves during practitioner visits. Rather, they are 'unseen'. The principles discussed are equally applicable to women in similar caregiving roles within a household.

Two main types of unseen men have been identified:

- men who posed a risk to a child, which resulted in the child suffering serious harm or death
- men who could have protected and nurtured the child in their life but were overlooked by professionals

### Why Do Male Caregivers Need to Be 'Seen'?

Male caregivers, including fathers, stepfathers, and a mother's partners, play an essential role in a child's cognitive, emotional, and physical development at every stage of life. They might be primary caregivers or share caregiving responsibilities.

## PSHE Update:

The following topics have been covered this half-term during tutor time and KS4 PSHE lessons:

Year 7: Financial decision making

Year 8: Digital literacy

Year 9: Employability skills

Year 10: Work experience

## Safeguarding Weekly Updates:

Remember to check the safeguarding posters that get sent weekly. These now cover online safety, wellbeing & mental health.

This half-term we have covered:

- Palworld
- Friendly Competition
- Physical Wellbeing
- Gambling
- Online trolling
- Sharing intimate images



**School Safeguarding Team:** Mr Simpson, Mr Foskett, Mrs Taylor, Mrs Ager, Mr Herbert, Miss Julius & Mr Croydon

**Staffordshire Children Advice Support Service— 0800 111 8007**

You can call Staffordshire Children Advice Support Service as parent/carer or as a member of the public. If you have any concerns about a child you can call this number for support if you feel a child is at serious risk or harm.

## Unseen men—Key Issues

**Fathers and Male Caregivers Going Unseen:** An analysis of Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews reveals that fathers, male caregivers, and male or female partners are sometimes overlooked by services involved with children. Often focus on unseen men, there are also instances where female caregivers have committed severe harm.

**Lack of Information Sharing Between Services:** Some case reviews highlight that inadequate information sharing between agencies contributes to men being 'unseen'. For instance, practitioners in adult services, such as those dealing with substance misuse or mental health, may not know that a man they support is in contact with children and, therefore, do not share potential safeguarding concerns with professionals working with children and families. Fathers and male caregivers may also be left out of the loop regarding health or safeguarding issues involving their child due to services communicating exclusively with mothers, preventing them from fully participating in caregiving and protection.

**Lack of Professional Engagement and Curiosity:** Professionals sometimes avoid asking mothers about the men in a child's life, fearing these questions might be seen as intrusive. This leads to a lack of awareness about the presence and involvement of adult males in the home. When practitioners do meet new men in a child's life, they often lack curiosity about their role and influence on the family. For example, they may not probe further into explanations provided by new male caregivers for changes in a child's behavior.

**Professional Anxiety or Sensitivity:** If a man in a child's household is perceived as threatening or intimidating, practitioners may avoid engaging with him due to fear and anxiety, potentially missing signs of danger. This discomfort can prevent them from adequately assessing the mother's personal relationships and identifying unsafe men in the child's life.

**Over-Focus and Reliance on Mothers:** Male caregivers are sometimes overlooked because some professionals incorrectly assume that women are the primary or sole caregivers and that men do not wish to be involved. Analysis of case reviews shows that services often rely on mothers to provide information about a child's life, ignoring male caregivers who might have valuable insights or concerns to share.

**Overlooking the Ability of Male Carers to Provide Safe Care:** Reviews indicate that both individual practitioners and services often fail to consider the role men could play in caring for a child. Significant male figures, such as fathers or male partners, who have the potential to provide care, are not always given the support they need. Male family members, such as grandfathers, who are capable of caring for the child are typically assessed only if they are perceived as a risk, rather than being recognised or considered as protective factors.

This is only a brief overview, please read the additional resources for further information.

## Forced Marriage

Forcing someone into marriage is a crime in England and Wales. A forced marriage occurs when one or both parties do not give their full and free consent, often due to violence, threats, or other forms of coercion. These threats can be physical, emotional, or psychological. Lack of full and free consent includes situations where a person is unable to consent, such as in cases of learning disabilities. Some perpetrators exploit perceived cultural practices to coerce individuals into marriage.

Additionally, since February 2023, it has been a crime to engage in any conduct aimed at causing a child to marry before their 18th birthday, even if no violence, threats, or other forms of coercion are involved. Like the existing forced marriage law, this applies to both non-binding, unofficial 'marriages' and legal marriages.



### Further Reading

Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel (2021) ["The myth of invisible men": safeguarding children under 1 from non-accidental injury caused by male carers.](#)

NSPCC Learning - [Unseen Men: Learning from Case Reviews](#)

NSPCC Learning - [Why Language Matters 'hidden' in plain sight](#)



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## Summer Safety

With the summer holidays upon us, we want to take this opportunity to remind everyone about the importance of safeguarding our children during the break. While the summer period is a time for relaxation and fun, it's also crucial to remain vigilant about the safety and well-being of our young people. All students recently received an assembly from Mr Simpson, covering the following:

**Online Safety:** With increased free time, students may spend more time online. Please ensure they are using the internet safely by monitoring their activity, using parental controls, and encouraging open conversations about the content they encounter. Remind them never to share personal information online and to report any suspicious or inappropriate behavior.

**Physical Safety:** Whether your children are engaging in outdoor activities, sports, or travel, please remind them of the importance of staying safe. This includes using protective gear (e.g. bike helmet), following traffic rules, and being aware of their surroundings.

**Mental Well-being:** The transition from the structured school environment to the unstructured summer break can sometimes be challenging. Encourage your children to stay connected with friends and family, engage in meaningful activities, and seek help if they feel anxious or overwhelmed. Keeping a regular routine can also help maintain a sense of stability.

**Community Resources:** Familiarise yourself with local resources that offer support and activities for young people during the summer. Libraries, community centers, and youth groups often provide safe and supervised environments for children to learn and socialise.

**Stranger Danger:** Reinforce the importance of not talking to strangers and never going anywhere with someone they don't know, even if they seem friendly or offer gifts.

**Healthy Habits:** Encourage your children to maintain healthy habits, including regular physical activity, a balanced diet, and adequate sleep. Staying hydrated and protecting themselves from the sun are also crucial during the summer months.



## What3Words

What3Words is an app/service which provides your specific location, identified by words such as "apple.banana.cherry." This precise addressing system can be incredibly useful for both children and emergency services. This app was introduced during a recent assembly, this could help students if ever in danger.

Students can use What3words to communicate their exact location quickly and easily if they are lost or in danger, ensuring they can be found even in areas without clear addresses. If needed, Emergency services can pinpoint the exact location of an incident, improving response times and accuracy in locating people in need, particularly in rural or unmarked areas.



## Thank you & Happy Summer Holidays!

As we reach the end of another academic year, we would like to extend our gratitude for your continued support and partnership. Your engagement has been invaluable in ensuring our students keep safe.

We wish you all a safe, enjoyable, and restful summer break. We look forward to welcoming students back for the new academic year in September, refreshed and ready to learn.

Thank you once again for your support, take care!



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# SUMMER SAFETY

#DITCH  
THE  
BLADE

## Knife Crime

Are you feeling pressured to carry a knife as you think everyone else is? The reality is that 89% of 10-29 year olds **DON'T** carry a knife.

Carrying actually **increases your chance of being stabbed or slashed.** The risk is real, your knife could be used against you.

Speak up now! You can get help and advice on how to ditch the blade at [www.staffordshire.police.uk/ditchtheblade](http://www.staffordshire.police.uk/ditchtheblade)

**County Lines** is when gangs and organised criminal networks move illegal drugs into other areas of the country, often smaller areas.

Dealers will take orders from drug users through mobile phones and take advantage of young people to move and store drugs and money. They often do this through blackmail, intimidation and violence.

COUNTY  
LINES  
THE REALITY

**DON'T GET  
TRAPPED IN IT!**

It may start off as a couple of jobs a week for some much needed cash but you will end up getting caught up in drug trafficking and gangs.







If you feel like there is **no way out** or you are worried about a friend you can get help and advice at:

[WWW.STAFFORDSHIRE.POLICE.UK/ADVICE/ADVICE-AND-INFORMATION/CL/COUNTY-LINES](http://WWW.STAFFORDSHIRE.POLICE.UK/ADVICE/ADVICE-AND-INFORMATION/CL/COUNTY-LINES)

## STAY SAFE ONLINE



Follow these **top tips** when online:

-  **Choose a good password and keep this secret.** The best passwords have a combination of letters, numbers, and other characters. Avoid using your name, birthday, or birth year.
-  **When you are online or using apps check your privacy settings** to see if your information is public or private.
-  **Stop and think** if someone online asks for your full name, address, phone number, school or a photograph. **Don't share these details with anyone online.**
-  **If a message makes you feel uncomfortable or you don't have to reply.** Always tell a parent or guardian if you are worried about anything you see online or on your phone.
-  **Do not say anything or publish photos that might later cause you or someone else embarrassment.** Be aware of what friends post about you, or reply to your posts, particularly about your personal details and activities.
-  **You can't always believe what you see online, some of the information can actually be false** - this can include fake facts, images, videos and even people. If you haven't met someone in real life before you chat online be very careful as they may not be who they say.

## OUTDOOR FIRE SAFETY

Respect the outdoors and remember these points when you are out with your friends this summer:



Take your rubbish home or put it in a nearby bin.

Don't leave glass bottles lying on the ground. Sunlight shining through glass can start a fire.



Call 999 if you see a fire - don't try and tackle it yourself and leave the area as soon as possible.



Don't use disposable barbecues in the countryside - they can easily set fire to the ground and spread.

**DON'T BE  
BLAMED FOR  
THE FLAMES**

## Be Water Safety Aware

When the weather is warm the water can seem so inviting, but it is a risk that is simply not worth taking. Swimming in rivers, canals and lakes is dangerous. Remember these points when out and about this summer:



Only swim in properly supervised pools, the dangers of water include: very cold temperatures, hidden currents, fast flowing water, deep water, locks and weirs, pollution, hidden rubbish and debris. It may also be difficult to get out and there will not be lifeguards present.



If you see another person or a pet in trouble in the water do not enter the water yourself. Raise the alarm or if you have a mobile phone call 999 and ask for the fire service. Try and give an exact location of where you are and look for and signs or landmarks. If there is a lifebuoy or throwline nearby throw it to them. If not, throw anything to them that will float.



If you fall into water by accident try to fight your instinct to thrash about, instead lean back and float on your back while you catch your breath. Once you are calm call for help or swim for safety if you are able.

Off-road bikes and e-scooters are illegal to use in any public space such as pavements, roads and green spaces. They can only be used on private land with the permission of the land owner.

### Keep busy this summer!

Space runs fun activities for 8-17 year-olds during the school summer holiday across Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent.

For more information about what is on and to book a place visit:  
[www.staffordshirespace.uk](http://www.staffordshirespace.uk)

**Space**  
Live • Laugh • Learn

[www.staffordshirespace.uk](http://www.staffordshirespace.uk)

# You're Not Alone

If you feel unable to cope, worried about your own mental health or someone you care for, you're not alone – help is available.

## Samaritans

– you can talk to someone 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

☎ 116 123

## Shout Crisis text line

– a free, 24/7 text messaging support service for anyone who is struggling to cope.

✉ Text 'SHOUT' to 85258



## Useful Contacts

We want young people to be happy, feel safe and listened to.

We want you to know there is always somewhere to turn to if you need help.

Here are some other helpful websites and numbers:

**Childline** – a free, private and confidential service where you can talk about anything. They can also advise on how you can report and remove a nude image shared online.

☎ 0800 1111 ☎ [www.childline.org.uk](http://www.childline.org.uk)

**NSPCC** – help young people at risk and find the best ways to prevent child abuse from ever happening.

☎ 0800 1111 ☎ [www.nspcc.org.uk](http://www.nspcc.org.uk)

**Victim Support** – there for anyone who has been affected by crime, whether it was reported or not, and no matter how long ago it happened. Victim Support will provide free, confidential support so you can move forward with your life. The Victim Support website also includes a live chat function.

☎ 0800 1099 111

☎ [www.victimsupport.org.uk](http://www.victimsupport.org.uk)

**Fearless** – an independent charity that allows people to pass on information about crime 100% anonymously. They provide a route for passing details of crime securely and safely via the Fearless website.

☎ [www.fearless.org/en](http://www.fearless.org/en)



STAFFORDSHIRE  
**POLICE**



**Staffordshire**  
Fire and Rescue Service  
preventing and protecting



STAFFORDSHIRE CONSTABULARY  
Police | Fire and Rescue | 22/2016



Supported by the  
**SASCAL** Safer  
Schools Alliance

## FURTHER SUPPORT



Midlands Partnership  
NHS Foundation Trust  
A Keele University Teaching Trust

24h Mental Health  
Access Team - urgent  
NHS mental health  
service who will  
provide support and  
advice over the phone.

☎ 0808 196 3002 (24/7)

<https://camhs.mpft.nhs.uk/urgent-help>



You can get advice from 111 or ask for an urgent appointment with the GP if you aren't able to speak to the urgent helpline, you need help urgently (but it's not an emergency) or you're not sure what to do.

☎ 111

## EMERGENCY

In an emergency / risk to life (either your own or someone else's) and/or you do not feel you can keep yourself or someone else safe.

☎ 999 OR GO TO A&E



MINDLER  
The Sandbox

The Sandbox is an online mental health support service for Children and Young People in South Staffordshire. The Sandbox provides information, a space to discuss concerns with both professionals and peers and a library of internet delivered CBT exercises. They also offer one-to-one support through chat, text, phone or video consultation.

<https://sandbox.mindler.co.uk/>

## THE MIX

The Mix offers support for anything that's troubling you. They offer email support, one-to-one webchat service and free short-term counselling.

☎ 0808 808 4994 (4pm-11pm, 7 days a week)

<https://www.themix.org.uk/>

## YOUNGMINDS

YoungMinds provides young people with tools to look after their mental health. Their website is full of advice and information on what to do if you're struggling with how you feel.

<https://www.youngminds.org.uk/>

## SAMARITANS

Samaritans provide emotional support to anyone in emotional distress or who is struggling to cope. They offer different ways of contact such as webchat, email and letters.

☎ 116123 (24/7)

Email:  
[jo@samaritans.org](mailto:jo@samaritans.org)

<https://www.samaritans.org/>

## childline

Childline is free, confidential helpline that can help with any issue no matter how big or small. They offer telephone support, one-to-one webchat and an email service.

☎ 0800111 (24/7)

<https://www.childline.org.uk/>

## shout 85258

Shout 85258 is a free, confidential, text messaging support service for anyone who is struggling to cope.

Text: SHOUT to 85258 (24/7)

<https://giveushout.org/>