

# SAFEGUARDING NEWSLETTER

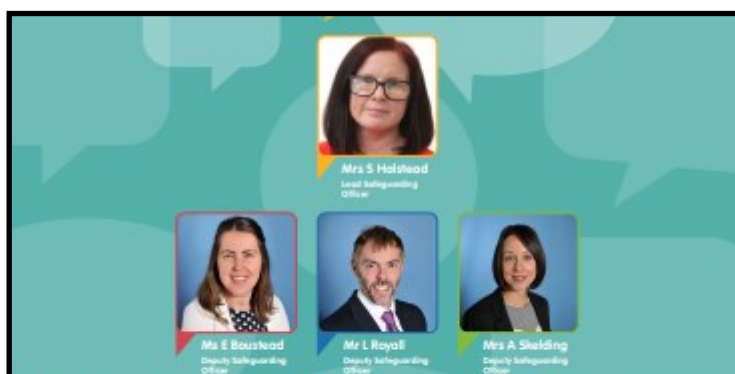
## Our Promise at Madeley School

Madeley School recognises its legal duty under Education Act 2002 (section 157 in relation to independent schools and academies) and the 1989 Children Act and takes seriously its responsibilities to protect and safeguard the interests of all pupils.

The school recognises that effective child protection work requires sound procedures, good inter-agency co-operation and a workforce that is competent and confident in responding to child protection situations. Safeguarding incidents can happen anywhere and staff should be alert to any concerns being raised. All staff may raise safeguarding concerns directly with Children's Social Care Services.

**Welcome** to our fifth newsletter of the academic year. In this edition we are covering Chroming and County Lines, and as always, reminding you of our safeguarding team here at Madeley School.

### *Our safeguarding team*



If you have a concern about any student of Madeley High please phone the school reception and ask for

- Designated Safeguarding Lead Officer: Sara Halstead ([sara.halstead@madeley.set.org](mailto:sara.halstead@madeley.set.org))
- Deputy Safeguarding Leads: [alexa.skelding@madeley.set.org](mailto:alexa.skelding@madeley.set.org) / [em-ma.boustead@madeley.set.org](mailto:em-ma.boustead@madeley.set.org) / [lee.royall@madeley.set.org](mailto:lee.royall@madeley.set.org)
- You can also speak to any of our extended safeguarding team:

Head of Year 7: Mrs S Walker: [stephanie.walker@madeley.set.org](mailto:stephanie.walker@madeley.set.org)  
Head of Year 8: Miss H Bentley: [hollie.bentley@madeley.set.org](mailto:hollie.bentley@madeley.set.org)  
Head of Year 9: Miss K Leath: [katie.leath@madeley.set.org](mailto:katie.leath@madeley.set.org)  
Head of Year 10: Mr S Walker: [stephen.walker@madeley.set.org](mailto:stephen.walker@madeley.set.org)  
Head of Year 11: Mr E Fleming: [elliott.fleming@madeley.set.org](mailto:elliott.fleming@madeley.set.org)

Please also take a look at our safeguarding pages on the school website.

## Chroming

Chroming involves inhaling various chemicals like aerosols, nitrous oxide, solvents, and nitrites, also known variously as nangs, nossies, whippets, and bullets. This activity is associated with a euphoric high, but carries potentially fatal risks, including heart and lung damage, as well as harm to brain and behavioural development.

While inhalant abuse is not a new phenomenon, what is particularly concerning is how this trend is spreading globally through social media. The UK government updated the law on November 8th, 2023, to classify nitrous oxide as a Class C drug, subjecting those who misuse or possess with the intent to misuse it to criminal penalties. However, many solvents abused in chroming, like glue, permanent markers, and deodorant cans, are widely accessible everyday items, so inherently harder to police.

There are various methods of inhalation that are used when chroming. Therefore, it can be difficult to control the dosage. This danger increases significantly in enclosed spaces or when covering the face with items such as plastic bags.

- **Spraying**– Spraying the contents of an aerosol container directly into the mouth or nose.
- **Bagging** – Spraying the contents of an aerosol container into a paper or plastic bag to be held over the person’s mouth or nose for inhalation.
- **Sniffing** – Sniffing the fumes directly from the container.
- **Huffing** – Soaking a rag with the inhalant and holding it to the face for inhalation.

## **Potential signs your child is chroming**

These can include loss of appetite, rash around the mouth, changes in friendship groups, secretive and evasive behaviour, changes in sleeping patterns and mood, dizziness and headaches. These signs don’t confirm involvement in chroming; however, these signs are important to follow up on with a conversation.

If you are worried that your child might be chroming, we have some useful links below to websites which will be able to support you:



[www.re-solv.org](http://www.re-solv.org)



<https://oursaferschools.co.uk/2024/03/19/dangerous-challenge-safeguarding-risks/>

## County Lines

County lines is a form of criminal exploitation. It is when criminals befriend children, either online or offline, and then manipulate them into drug dealing. The 'lines' refer to mobile phones that are used to control a young person who is delivering drugs, often to towns outside their home county.

### **Who is being targeted?**

Young people aged 14-17 are most likely to be targeted by criminal groups but there are reports of seven year olds being groomed into county lines.

### **How does county lines work?**

Dedicated mobile phone lines or “deal lines” are used to help facilitate county lines drug deals. Phones are usually cheap, disposable and old fashioned (known as ‘burner’ phones). They are changed frequently to avoid detection by the police.

Gangs use the phones to receive orders and contact young people to instruct them where to deliver drugs. This may be to a dealer or drug user locally or in another county.

## Madeley School

INSPIRING EXCELLENCE

Phrases that young people may use to refer to county lines include:

- 'running a line',
- 'going OT/out there'
- 'going country'
- 'going cunch'.

These all refer to going out of town to deliver drugs or money.

### Signs of county lines exploitation

The signs that a young person is being groomed or exploited for county lines are similar to those of other forms of criminal exploitation.

This includes behavioural signs such as going missing, frequent travel to different locations, being unwilling to explain their whereabouts, changes in mental health and use of drugs and alcohol.

Professionals should also watch for unusual online activity such as being online for increased or excessive amounts of time, building inappropriate relationships, experiencing online abuse or receiving gifts from someone online.

Young people may also have money or possessions, like clothes or a mobile phone, that they are unable to account for. They may carry weapons or have multiple phone handsets (particularly 'burner' phones). They may also have train tickets for unusual journeys or become attached to a rucksack or bag that they will not leave.

There may be physical signs that a young person is being exploited. This includes unexplained injuries, refusing food or drink, being in possession of lubricants or condoms, having a dishevelled appearance or being physically unwell.

These signs are not an exhaustive list and there are many other indicators that a young person may be being exploited.

### Reporting

If you think a child is in immediate danger, contact the police on 999. If you're worried about a child but they are not in immediate danger, you should share your concerns.

- Contact the NSPCC Helpline on 0808 800 5000 or by emailing [help@nspcc.org.uk](mailto:help@nspcc.org.uk). Our child protection specialists will talk through your concerns with you and give you expert advice.
- Contact the local child protection services. Their contact details can be found on the website for the relevant local authority. The local authority the child comes from is responsible for the child's welfare. But it is also good practice to contact the local authority in the area the child is found, as they may need to be a part of the multi-agency response and there may be other children or vulnerable adults at risk.
- Contact the police.



[www.nationalcrimeagency.gov.uk/what-we-do/crime-threats/drug-trafficking/county-lines](http://www.nationalcrimeagency.gov.uk/what-we-do/crime-threats/drug-trafficking/county-lines)



[www.staffordshire.police.uk/advice/advice-and-information/cl/county-lines/](http://www.staffordshire.police.uk/advice/advice-and-information/cl/county-lines/)



[www.catch-22.org.uk](http://www.catch-22.org.uk)

### Mental Health Support Teams (MHSTs)

Thank you to all the parents and carers who responded to our questionnaire regarding potential workshops and support we can put in place for next academic year. We will be using your feedback to tailor make a programme with Meg and the MHST for next academic year.

In September, we will also be looking to offer parents and carers an opportunity to join a working party, which is designed to support us in enhancing our mental and emotional health provision in school. If you would like to be involved in this, please could we ask you email Mrs Halstead directly to express your interest:

[sara.halstead@madeley.set.org](mailto:sara.halstead@madeley.set.org)

We look forward to hearing from you.

### Further support for your child's wellbeing

If you have a child who is struggling with their wellbeing and needs to talk to someone when away from school, please use the contacts below:

North Staffordshire urgent mental health helpline: call [0800 0 328 728](tel:0800 0 328 728) option 1 (covers Stoke-on-Trent, Newcastle-under-Lyme, Staffs Moorlands).

Advice for children & their families, from early help support through to safeguarding call Staffordshire Children's Advice and Support Service on [0300 111 8007](tel:0300 111 8007)

For mental health support:

Visyon Call [01260 290000](tel:01260 290000), out of hours support The Staffordshire Crisis Team on [0300 123 0907](tel:0300 123 0907)

Young Minds [www.youngminds.org.uk](http://www.youngminds.org.uk)

For help with any sort of worry, big or small:

NSPCC [www.nspcc.org.uk](http://www.nspcc.org.uk)



Child-



**MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT TEAM**

Name: Meg

Trainee Education Mental Health Practitioner

**All About Me**  
Hi, I'm Meg from the Mental Health Support Team (MHST) working within Madeley School.  
I am an Education Mental Health Practitioner (EMHP) and my role involves supporting young people and their families with mild to moderate mental health challenges using Low Intensity Cognitive Behavioural Therapy (LICBT). Together we work to identify and address difficult emotions and feelings.  
I work in partnership with the school's Mental Health Lead to deliver a whole school approach to mental health; this includes educational workshops, groups, and training to reduce the stigma of mental health and improve outcomes for the whole school community.

**Our Core Offer**  
I support pupils with:  
• Worry Management  
• Anxiety  
• Panic Management  
• Low Mood  
• Sleep  
• Problem Solving  
• Exam Stress

If you would like to know more, please speak to Mrs S Halstead.

**Samaritans**

[116 123](tel:116 123) (freephone)  
[jo@samaritans.org](mailto:jo@samaritans.org)  
 Freepost SAMARITANS LETTERS  
[samaritans.org](http://samaritans.org)

Samaritans are open 24/7 for anyone who needs to talk. You can [visit some Samaritans branches in person](#). Samaritans also have a Welsh Language Line on [0808 164 0123](tel:0808 164 0123) (7pm-11pm every day).

Samaritans' helplines are open every day of the year.

**The Trussell Trust**

[0808 208 2138](tel:0808 208 2138) (Help through Hardship helpline)  
[trusselltrust.org](http://trusselltrust.org)  
 Emergency food and support for people in need. Includes a searchable list of local foodbanks.

The Help through Hardship line is open Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm. The helpline is closed on public holidays.