

# 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 (see making referrals section of this policy).

**Welcome** to our second newsletter of the academic year. In this edition we would like to focus on County Lines, well-being, and also remind 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: [emma.boustead@madeley.set.org](mailto:emma.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 B Stokoe: [brittany.stokoe@madeley.set.org](mailto:brittany.stokoe@madeley.set.org)

Head of Year 8: Mrs S Walker: [stephanie.walker@madeley.set.org](mailto:stephanie.walker@madeley.set.org)

Head of Year 9: Miss H Bentley: [hollie.bentley@madeley.set.org](mailto:hollie.bentley@madeley.set.org)

Head of Year 10: Mrs J Bates: [jacqueline.bates@madeley.set.org](mailto:jacqueline.bates@madeley.set.org)

Head of Year 11: Mr S Walker: [stephen.walker@madeley.set.org](mailto:stephen.walker@madeley.set.org)

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

## What is County Lines?

"County lines" refers to a form of criminal exploitation in which drug gangs expand their operations from urban areas into smaller towns and rural locations. The term comes from the mobile phone lines gangs use to take drug orders. These operations often rely on vulnerable children and young people to transport and sell drugs.

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.

### **SIGNS TO LOOK OUT FOR**

There are several signs to look out for that may indicate someone is involved in county lines:

- repeatedly going missing from school or home and being found in other areas
- having money, new clothes or electronic devices and they can't explain how they paid for them
- getting high numbers of texts or phone calls, being secretive about who they're speaking to
- decline in school or work performance significant changes in emotional or physical well-being
- new faces appearing at the home
- substance misuse and/or drug paraphernalia
- unexplained, sometimes unaffordable new things (e.g. clothes, jewellery, electronic devices etc)
- seen in different cars/taxis driven by unknown adults
- truancy, exclusion, disengagement from school
- an increase in anti-social behaviour in the community
- unexplained injuries

### **SOCIAL MEDIA**

Criminal networks use social media to groom and recruit children for county lines. They may send them direct messages (knowns as 'DMs'), or share messages to wider groups as 'stories' or 'posts'.

***As we have seen in child sexual exploitation, children often don't see themselves as victims or realise they have been groomed to get involved in criminality. So it's important that we all play our part to understand county lines and speak out if we have concerns.***

### **What to do if you have concerns**

The best advice is to trust your instincts. Even if someone isn't involved in county lines drug dealing, they may be being exploited in some other way, so it's always worth speaking out.

You can speak to your local police by dialling 101, or in an emergency 999.

If you would rather remain anonymous, you can contact the independent charity [Crimestoppers](#) on 0800 555 111.

**Crimestoppers.**  
**0800 555 111**  
100% anonymous. Always.

If you are a young person who is worried about your involvement, or a friend's involvement in county lines

You can also call Childline on 0800 1111. Childline is private and confidential service where you can talk to specially trained counsellors about anything that is worrying you.

Alternatively, speak to a children and young people's service like [Catch 22](#). They work with children and young people of any age to help get them out of situations they're worried about, and have helped lots of children and young people involved in County Lines.

**catch  
22**

As part of our schools PSHCE Programme we have Loudmouth Productions coming into school on Thursday 26th March, to do an assembly and workshops with Y8 students on child exploitation including child sexual exploitation and county lines.

## Madeley School

INSPIRING EXCELLENCE

### Mental Health and Well being

As you will all be aware from previous newsletters, Madeley School is now lucky to be working with Megan Locke, who is a Mental Health Support Practitioner from the Mental Health Support Team in Schools. She is now in school every Tuesday working with individual students and small groups, supporting with their mental health and wellbeing.

Since January, Megan has delivered:

- ◆ One to one support for key students who have been referred to her by the pastoral team for a bespoke 6 week programme to support with their mental health and well being.
- ◆ Coping with exam stress and anxiety with several small groups of Year 11 students.
- ◆ A Mental Health Awareness session to all form groups in Year 7 during morning registration.
- ◆ Resilience programme to key students in Year 9.

We have also just launched our Wellbeing Ambassadors programme.

We are asking students from Year's 7, 8 and 9 to apply to become Wellbeing Ambassadors. The role is a leadership position, an ambassador for positive mental health and wellbeing across the school. The team will put together events and activities in school across the academic year to encourage, support and promote positive mental health and wellbeing.

Interested students have been asked to complete an application form, which they can obtain from their form tutor, and successful applicants will complete two afternoon training sessions in April with Megan and a colleague from the MHST. The Wellbeing Ambassadors will learn and understand more about the five ways to wellbeing and how they can promote them at Madeley School. They will work as a team to think about ways and events to promote positive mental health and wellbeing.

This is a great opportunity to help friends and peers, build skills for future life and great experience for those thinking of a career in mental health or medicine.

**MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT TEAM**  
Wellbeing Ambassador

**What is a Well-Being ambassador?**  
An ambassador for positive mental health & wellbeing across the school. Someone who cares and wants to see other people thrive!  
Someone who is interested in 5 ways to wellbeing and wants to help others.

**Who can apply?**  
Anyone in years 7,8 and 9. You must be passionate about giving your time and ideas to help the Ambassadors throughout the year.

**What do I have to do?**  
If you decide you want to apply, you will complete an application form.  
If successful, you will then complete two afternoon sessions where you will be led by Meg Locke from MHST, to understand more about the 5 ways to well-being and how we can promote them in our school community.  
We will work as a team to think about each of the 5 ways and events that we can plan across school to promote positive mental health & wellbeing.  
What ideas have you got already?

**Why should I do it?**

- To help your friends and others
- To plan fun events across school
- Good experience for future careers, particularly in mental health or medicine
- To build skills for future life
- To make new friends
- To learn how to improve your own mental health and wellbeing

Icons: CONNECT, BE ACTIVE, TAKE NOTICE, GIVE, KEEP LEARNING

### How the Mental Health Support Team can support parents and carers.

Last year we asked parents and carers to complete a questionnaire outlining what support they feel they would like from the mental health support team. One of the key areas highlighted was help in supporting your child with anxiety.

Next term we would like to offer parents and carers a workshop on this, but would like your feedback regarding the best time to hold this event in the school day, as we know many of you work. Please could I ask, that if you would like to attend this event, what time of the day would suit you best? To answer this question, please follow the link below:

Supporting my child with anxiety workshop

If you are concerned about your child's mental or emotional health or their general wellbeing, please speak with your child's form tutor or head of year.

We have lots of support in school to help.



### ***Inappropriate use of electrical devices in school***

The safeguarding team wanted to reach out to parents and carers about a growing concern nationally in schools of students misusing their mobile phones or iPads.

As you will all be aware, the use of mobile phones and electrical devices is not permitted during the school day, as part of our commitment to enhancing student focus and learning. Students are allowed to carry phones to and from school, but we expect phones to be kept in school bags or handed in to the school office for the day. (Behaviour Policy)

Please can we ask you to remind your child that taking photographs or videoing other students or staff in school, whether it be on their mobile phone or on their school iPad, is strictly not permitted. This is to safeguard potential students and staff who may have safeguarding measures in place to protect them. For GDPR, Privacy violations and potential defamation, photographs and videos should not then be shared on any social media platform, for example group chats or to make YouTube, Instagram, Snapchat videos. This also includes using the image to create Deep Fake images using AI.

***We ask parents and carers to check their child's mobile phone use regularly and if you have concerns contact the school for advise.***

#### **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)

Childline [www.childline.org.uk](http://www.childline.org.uk)

#### **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.

