



CONNECTING GENERATIONS TO PREVENT ONLINE CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE IN HAMPSHIRE

(February 6, 2012) Parents in Hampshire will be brought up to speed with online child sexual abuse prevention through an internet safety seminar tomorrow, as part of Safer Internet Day 2012.

The Lucy Faithfull Foundation, the only UK-wide charity dedicated solely to tackling child sexual abuse, and its prevention campaign Stop it Now! UK and Ireland will deliver the seminar to 70 parents and carers at St Neot's Preparatory School, Hook on Tuesday 7th February from 7pm.

The seminar, designed for parents and carers as well as those who work with children and families, will support the messages of Safer Internet Day which has the theme "connecting generations and educating each other". Attendees will be encouraged to discover the digital world together with their children, by creating positive online experiences.

Director of Research and Development at the Lucy Faithfull Foundation, Donald Findlater, said: "Children can be harmed through their use of the internet. Safer Internet Day allows us to spread vital information about how people of all ages can help protect children online.

"Parents often feel out of their depth or unaware of the best ways to keep their children safe on mobiles and online. Our session provides vital information on the best ways to prevent online abuse. Parents of all technical abilities need to make time to understand the risks and get practical advice on steps they can take to keep their children safe."

The seminar, a version of which is also delivered to children and young people, promotes the benefits of safe use of the internet. At the same time it highlights where the risks lie, the practical steps that can be taken to protect children and where parents should go for help and advice if they have concerns.

Sue Ball, Helpline Manager of Stop it Now! UK and Ireland will be delivering the internet safety seminar. She said: "It is so important to bring parents and carers up to date with technology and online sexual abuse issues so they understand how they can help minimise the risks to their children."

"This seminar will help those who attend to understand how online abuse can happen and will enable them to feel more comfortable talking to their children about some difficult topics."

For more details on internet safety training available in Hampshire please contact Sue Ball on 01372 847 166 or email – sball@lucyfaithfull.org.uk.

Alternatively, if you are interested in Safer Internet Day visit the website www.saferinternetday.org, to register online as a supporter or to contact your local Safe Internet Day Committee.

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Notes to Editors

For further information and interview opportunities please contact Deborah Denis on 01372 847160 or <mailto:ddenis@stopitnow.org.uk>.

1. Stop it Now! England is part of Stop it Now! UK and Ireland. It aims to prevent child sexual abuse by increasing public awareness and empowering people to act responsibly to protect children. Stop it Now! believes that it is the responsibility of all adults to take positive action to prevent the sexual abuse of children. Stop it Now! is an alliance of leading children's charities, working with the government and child protection agencies, to promote public education and prevent child sexual abuse. The Stop it Now! helpline has been operating since 2002 and aims to prevent child abuse by encouraging abusers and potential abusers to seek help and by giving adults the information they need to protect children safely. The helpline is funded by the Ministry of Justice and the Lucy Faithfull Foundation. The England campaign is supported by the Department for Education. More information on Stop it Now! UK and Ireland is available from www.stopitnow.org.uk.

2. Named after its founder, Baroness Lucy Faithfull of Wolvercote, the Foundation is a child protection charity operating UK-wide and specialising in safeguarding children from sexual abuse. The Foundation's policy is to collaborate with individuals and agencies internationally to develop a more child sensitive and offender aware culture in our societies. The Foundation contributes to legislation and to policy and procedure reviews concerned with safeguarding children in faith communities, in schools, in leisure facilities, on the Internet and living away from home. www.lucyfaithfull.org.uk