



New child sexual abuse prevention training in Richmond Upon Thames

(January 19, 2012) London Borough of Richmond Upon Thames will be driving forward with new child sexual abuse prevention measures tomorrow, with specialist training for multi-agency staff from across the Capital.

Called 'Preventing Child Sexual Abuse – Making it Everybody's Business', the event will equip attendees with vital knowledge and understanding of sexual abuse and abusers, emphasising ways that agencies can work together and with the public to protect children from sexual harm.

This marks the start of renewed efforts to ensure that those who work with children and families in London are as best placed as they can be to *prevent* child sexual abuse from happening in the first place, rather than responding after a child has been harmed.

Taking place on Friday 20 January at the Children's Workforce Development Training Centre, Twickenham, the event is organised by Stop it Now! England. It will bring together probation officers, foster carers, social, education and health workers and youth and community officers to better coordinate and deliver their preventative efforts.

Karen Neill, Head of Safeguarding, Quality and Performance in Richmond's Children's Workforce Development team said: "Multi professional working and information sharing is at the heart of preventing and protecting children and young people from sexual abuse. Professional development workshops like this event support Richmond practitioners to explore the signs and indicators of sexual abuse and learn how to take preventative action collectively.

"We are working very hard to build stronger partnership relationships to improve practices between agencies and this workshop is designed to help us achieve this."

The training will explore some of today's key issues surrounding child sexual abuse, including: - female sexual abusers; sex offending and the Internet; children who display worrying sexual behaviour. The day will culminate with practitioners populating a comprehensive child sexual abuse prevention framework, designed to identify prevention strategies that are available in Richmond.

Director of Stop it Now!, Donald Findlater said: "As adults we all have a responsibility to protect children from harm and the best way to do this is to prevent abuse from happening in the first place. Children can be protected if we have increased knowledge of child sexual abuse issues.

"This training provides those who work with children and families, both workers and volunteers with vital information on how abusers and potential abusers operate, which helps them to play a much more significant role in prevention."

The Stop it Now! campaign operates a free phone confidential helpline – 0808 1000 900 – which people can call for advice and support in relation to child sexual abuse issues.

Anyone interested in attending the training event should visit www.stopitnow.org.uk/england for more information and booking details.

Residents of the Borough of Richmond Upon Thames and the surrounding areas can also access further information on protecting children from sexual abuse from our Parents Protect! website – www.parentsprotect.co.uk.

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Notes to Editors

For further information and interview opportunities please contact Naomi Joyce on 01372 847160, 07540 690 315 or njoyce@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.

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