



CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE PREVENTION TRAINING FOR CAMBRIDGESHIRE WORKERS

(November 30, 2011) Child sexual abuse prevention training for multi-agency staff and volunteers in Cambridgeshire kick starts this week in Huntingdon, with a specialist training day for those who work with children and families. The event will emphasise ways that agencies can work with the public to protect children from sexual harm and will equip attendees with vital knowledge and understanding of sexual abuse and abusers.

This marks the start of renewed efforts to ensure that professionals, volunteers, parents and carers across Cambridgeshire are as best placed as they can be to prevent child sexual abuse from happening, rather than simply responding after the abuse has happened.

Taking place on Friday, December 2 at Cambridgeshire Constabulary Headquarters, the event is organised by Stop it Now! England, with the support of Cambridgeshire Constabulary. It will bring together police and probation officers, teachers, social and health workers and faith, sporting and volunteer groups to better coordinate and deliver their preventative efforts.

The event, called 'Preventing Child Sexual Abuse – Making it Everybody's Business', will share an understanding of how sexual abuse happens and will explore some emerging issues:- females who sexually abuse; sex offending and the Internet; children who display worrying sexual behaviour. The day will culminate in the creation of a comprehensive child sexual abuse prevention strategy.

Director of Stop it Now!, Donald Findlater said: "It is not good enough to only respond to abuse **after** it has happened. The prevention of child sexual abuse doesn't get too many headlines, but it does mean that children and families don't have to suffer the anguish that our headlines too often speak of **after** a child has been harmed.

"Preventing abuse involves equipping all adults - professionals, volunteers, parents and carers - with sound information that will help them protect children. We all need to know how abusers and potential abusers operate, the warning signs to look out for and where we can go for help and advice so we can do the best we can to protect children.

"We cannot leave tackling this issue to any one agency or organisation – we all have a role to play."

Detective Inspector Chris Balmer of Cambridgeshire Constabulary said: "We welcome any event that raises awareness to child sexual abuse and how we can work together to prevent children from being abused.

"We already have a strong partnership approach to dealing with abuse with the

introduction of the Multi Agency Referral Unit and this training event is another great example of partnership working."

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 Cambridgeshire 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 or njoyce@stopitnow.org.uk.

1. Stop it Now! England is part of Stop it Now! UK and Ireland. It works with statutory, private and voluntary sector workers as well as with parents, carers and other members of the public across the country to raise awareness to issues surrounding child sexual abuse. 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 of Children, Schools and Families. 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