



Thames Valley workers to get essential child protection training

(January 25, 2011) 70 people who work with children and families across Thames Valley will complete a child protection training day in Lane End on Thursday (January 27).

The Stop it Now! UK and Ireland event, hosted in association with the Thames Valley Partnership, will bring together representatives from various statutory, private and voluntary organisations who have contact with children or families or deal with child protection issues. Police, health, education, child care and probation workers will be joined by those from housing associations and children's charities for the one day event.

Entitled 'Preventing Child Sexual Abuse – Making it Everybody's Business', the event aims to explore some of today's key issues surrounding child sexual abuse and will feature workshops conducted by specialist staff from child protection charity, the Lucy Faithfull Foundation. Workshops will cover subjects including:- female sexual abusers; how the internet is used as part of sexually abusive behaviour; children who display worrying sexual behaviour and where agencies and individuals roles fit in preventing abuse and protecting children.

Stop it Now! UK and Ireland works hard to engage with statutory, private and voluntary sector workers as well as parents, carers and other members of the public. The campaign believes that child sexual abuse is preventable, not inevitable.

Director of Stop it Now!, Donald Findlater said: "Preventing child sexual abuse is not just the job of one agency or organisation. We all need to be involved in protecting children and to do that we need knowledge around the issues and the confidence to take action when needed. By knowing what issues are, where the risks lie and how abusers operate we can recognise the signs and take action."

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.

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Notes to Editors

For further information and interview opportunities please contact Deborah Denis on 01372 847160, 07540 690 315 or ddenis@lucyfaithfull.org.uk.

This event is not open to the general public.

1. 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

2. Stop it Now! UK and Ireland 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. The Stop it Now! campaigns in Wales and Scotland are supported by the Welsh Assembly Government and the Scottish Government respectively. www.stopitnow.org.uk.

3. The Thames Valley Partnership is a registered charity, established in 1993 and is based in Buckinghamshire. The Partnership brings people and organisations together to create safer and stronger communities. We work tirelessly to find sustainable solutions to the problems of crime and social exclusion and we invest in radical, innovative methods to tackle complex, seemingly intractable problems. Our key strength is in collaborative working and integrated approaches across sectors, particularly linking Criminal Justice services to voluntary sector and Local Authority providers. Our broad spectrum of work includes programmes around support for families and offenders, restorative justice, community cohesion, mental health issues, early interventions & initiatives around young people and arts related projects. We have also done extensive work around domestic violence and other forms of adult and child abuse and we champion the Stop it Now! campaign in the Thames Valley area, primarily through awareness raising and training. Further information about Thames Valley Partnership can be found at www.thamesvalleypartnership.org.uk or by emailing admin@thamesvalleypartnership.org.uk.