



2012 DRIVE TO PREVENT CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE IN LANCASHIRE

(January 9, 2012) Stop it Now! England, Lancashire Constabulary and Lancaster and Morecombe College are joining forces this New Year in a drive to increase child protection in Lancashire. The three organisations are providing a one-day child sexual abuse prevention training for those who work with children and families across the county. The event, taking place on Wednesday 11th January, will focus on ways that local agencies can collaborate and work with the public to protect children from sexual abuse.

The specialist event aims to equip multi-agency staff with vital knowledge and understanding of sexual abuse and abusers. This marks the start of renewed efforts to ensure that professionals, volunteers and parents and carers across Lancashire are as best placed as they can be to protect children from sexual harm.

Hosted at Lancaster and Morecombe College, the event will bring together representatives from various organisations that have contact with children or families or deal with child protection issues, including police officers, health workers, child care workers, social workers and those from the education and voluntary sectors in Lancashire.

Entitled 'Preventing Child Sexual Abuse – Making it Everybody's Business', it will 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 can be utilised to prevent abuse and protect children.

Superintendent, Ian Critchley of Lancashire Constabulary said: "The specialist training delivered by Stop it Now! England provides a valuable insight into the ways that we can help to prevent child sexual abuse from happening.

"It is vital for us to spread prevention messages in order to protect children from harm and we encourage all of those who work with children and families across the county to consider the great work and training that Stop it Now, carry out.'

Stop it Now! England works to reduce the risk of children being sexually abused by working with parents, carers, communities and professionals.

Director of Stop it Now!, Donald Findlater said: "Child sexual abuse is preventable, not inevitable and the title of this event says it all. Tackling this issue cannot be left to one agency or organisation. We all – professionals and members of the public – need to be involved in protecting children. We need to understand the issues, know where the risks lie and have the confidence to take action when needed. We all have a part to play."

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 for more information and booking details.

Information about protecting children can be found at www.parentsprotect.co.uk .

-ends-

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 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