

Case Study: Programmes for Parents and Carers

Presentations for adults on how to keep children safe in the 'real world' and when using the Internet.

Developed by Stop it Now! Black Country and Birmingham.

Who we are

Stop it Now! Black Country and Birmingham is a child sexual abuse prevention campaign. It is part of Stop it Now! UK & Ireland which operates a confidential freephone helpline and email service (0808 1000 900 / help@stopitnow.org.uk) and provides accurate information to adults to help them play their part in keeping children safe.

Stop it Now! Black Country and Birmingham's approach is to:

- Mobilise communities and families to protect children from sexual abuse and exploitation
- Raise awareness and educate communities and families about the way in which abusers operate and how they can act to protect children
- Provide sources of support and advice to members of the public who are concerned about issues of child sexual abuse
- Provide advice to adults and young people who are concerned about their own feelings, thoughts and behaviour that may present a risk of sexual harm to children
- Identify and protect children who may be at risk of sexual abuse or exploitation
- Promote the Stop it Now! Helpline

The 'Real World' Challenge

In recent times we have come to understand that children are more likely to be sexually abused by people they know than by strangers. These are not the 'monsters' often portrayed by the media, but familiar and trusted adults, which can make disclosure far more difficult. It is vital that parents, carers and other adults are equipped with sound information to help them protect their children.

The 'Keeping Children Safe in the Real World' Programme

The aims for this training are:

- ▶ To raise awareness of child sexual abuse
- ▶ To alleviate anxieties regarding child sexual abuse
- ▶ To advise participants of the work of Stop it Now! Black Country and Birmingham

And includes:

- ▶ What is child sexual abuse
- ▶ Who are the abusers
- ▶ Offender behaviour and grooming
- ▶ Impact of child sexual abuse
- ▶ Legislation
- ▶ Stop it Now! Helpline and further support

Who is involved

Stop it Now! Black Country and Birmingham works in partnership with organisations across the region to deliver these programmes including schools, children's centres and churches.

The outcomes and impact

Feedback indicates that programmes are well received. Direct quotes from those who attended a course:

"It was brilliant, really useful, I am really happy that I came now I know more things.."

"Clear and very interesting" "...very powerful"

"Glad I came" "This has opened my eyes"

"...lots of important and relevant material – thank you!"

"I feel very confident and safer about getting my daughter a computer now"

Next steps

Stop it Now! Black Country and Birmingham continues to deliver these programmes to interested agencies and organisations.

For further information

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The Internet Challenge

Barely a day goes by when we don't hear about a child being harmed through their use of the Internet. Many parents feel out of their depth or look to technical safeguards such as filtering and blocking software to help protect their children. But these solutions can only ever deal with part of the problem and parents, whatever their technical ability, need to make time to understand the risks and get practical non-technical advice on steps they can take to keep their children safe.

The 'New Technologies and Child Sexual Abuse' Programme

The aims for this training are:

- ▶ To raise awareness of risk factors associated with Internet use
- ▶ To increase knowledge around MSN, SMS, Chat Rooms, Blogging and peer-to-peer communication
- ▶ To understand grooming behaviours of abusers in the virtual world
- ▶ To consider safety strategies aimed at minimising risk

And includes:

- ▶ Types of technology
- ▶ Social networking
- ▶ Minimising risk and positive preventative actions
- ▶ Risks
- ▶ Gaming
- ▶ Further support