

# Stop! Press

Issue 17 - November 2011

Together we can prevent child sexual abuse



The quarterly Stop it Now! UK and Ireland activity update

## Stop it Now! Website Re-Vamp

**Stop it Now! UK and Ireland's newly revamped website has gone live! [www.stopitnow.org.uk](http://www.stopitnow.org.uk) features a fresh new design and navigation system as well as improved content, all providing users with vital information and advice at the click of a mouse.**

New features include mini-sites for the national campaigns (Scotland, England and Wales) and detailed sections on the regional activities which are responding to the local needs of communities across the UK.

In addition, improved search engine optimisation will help us reach larger audiences.

In terms of content, a new detailed section on the Stop! Helpline has been added including its history, performance (in the form of our Helpline Reports) and practical examples of its work in call examples - all of

which can be [downloaded](#).

The key beliefs that underpin the Stop it Now! campaign - i.e. that child sexual abuse is preventable not inevitable, that to stop child sexual abuse we need to start talking about it, and that adults worried about their own thoughts and behaviour towards children should come forward - are reflected throughout the site.

Using the website to provide adults with the sound information they need to help protect children is a key aspect of our communications strategy and feedback is essential.

We would love to know what you think about the revitalised site, so please do send your comments, ideas and suggestions to Deborah Denis, Media and Communications Manager; [ddenis@stopitnow.org.uk](mailto:ddenis@stopitnow.org.uk) or 01372 847169.

## Editor's Note

**Happy Halloween, Bonfire Night and soon to be Christmas!! Welcome to our November edition of Stop! Press which is packed with information about our activities to prevent the sexual abuse of children.**

### Keeping the focus on prevention

In the current climate of uncertainty and budget cuts it's vital we continue to focus on prevention i.e. taking action before there is a child victim to heal or an offender to punish. With this in mind, we're looking forward to spending time with Professor Stephen Smallbone, one of the world's leading authorities in sexual abuse prevention. This meeting follows a very successful day we spent with him this time last year, and we look forward to sharing our own developments, whilst also hearing about prevention endeavours in Australia and elsewhere across the globe.

### Perceptions of reintegration

I discussed public and media perceptions of offending and reintegration this week at the National Organisation for the Treatment of Abusers, Northern Ireland conference titled 'Sexual Violence: Facilitating Reintegration and Preventing Recidivism'. The event explored how we, as a society, deal with issues around the reintegration of those who have committed sexual offences and the impact this can have on communities and survivors. In the absence of funding for a project manager, this conference was a great way to get Stop it Now! and the prevention agenda to the public of Northern Ireland. I'll report more on this in our next edition.

### Tweeting

Finally, I'm branching out into the world of 'following', 'direct messaging' 'trending' and 'tweeting'! Feel free to find me on Twitter and follow along. Let's see if I can keep to 140 characters!

**Until next time,  
Donald Findlater, Director**

## Lucy Faithfull Foundation Annual Review Launch

**Last month the Lucy Faithfull Foundation published its 2010/2011 Annual Review. The report details the activities and achievements of the charity in preventing child sexual abuse for the previous financial year.**

MEP, Marina Yannakoudakis kindly sponsored and introduced our launch event at Europe House, London on October 10th.

The launch was a great success and was attended by representatives from a number of agencies including: House of Lords, Independent

Safeguarding Authority, University of Birmingham, Securus, Youth Justice Board and NACRO as well as a number of service users.

Presentations were given by Dr Arnon Bentovim, Chair of the Lucy Faithfull Foundation Trustees; Donald Findlater, Director of Research and Development and Director of Stop it Now! UK and Ireland and the charity's Chief Executive, Hilary Eldridge.

The review, which reports on past year activities, and future

plans for safeguarding children, is available to download from [www.lucyfaithfull.org.uk](http://www.lucyfaithfull.org.uk). Copies can also be requested from Deborah Denis on [ddenis@stopitnow.org.uk](mailto:ddenis@stopitnow.org.uk) or 01372 847169.



*Dr Arnon Bentovim, Chair of Lucy Faithfull Foundation Trustees, addresses the audience*

MORE ON THE HELPLINE AND CAMPAIGN



[www.stopitnow.org.uk](http://www.stopitnow.org.uk)



## Primary Prevention in Schools

Stop it Now! UK and Ireland is helping to develop an exciting primary prevention project targeted at school children. Known as the 'Hedgehogs' project, it will see educational sessions delivered to children aged 8, 9 and 10, both in the UK and elsewhere in Europe.

### Hedgehogs everywhere

Stop it Now! is collaborating with Southwark Council as well as representatives from Italy, Spain, the Netherlands and Slovakia.

### The lesson plan

Stop! is working with schools both at home and abroad to finalise lesson plans and content, ensuring cultural variances are taken into account.

It is hoped the pilot will be delivered in classrooms as part of Personal, Social, Health and Economic classes from February 2012, until May. Sessions for parents and teachers will begin in January.

Keep an eye out for an update in our next newsletter!

## Working with BAMER communities in London

**A three-year pilot project to identify ways of preventing child sexual abuse within Black, Asian, Minority Ethnic and Refugee communities in London has moved into its next phase.**

Stop! London has been working in partnership with Praxis, the NSPCC and the Somali community to identify the best ways of preventing abuse.

Following research with community members, awareness and prevention messages have been developed and are currently being piloted with a number of Somali parents. The pilots are running throughout November and will be delivered to between 60-80 women. Following the pilot, an 'intervention tool kit' will be created.

### Sharing experience

Stop it Now! staff will be presenting on the BAMER project at next year's BASPCAN conference at Queen University Belfast in April. More information on the event can be found at:

<http://www.baspcan.org.uk>

### Seeking others to work in partnership

Finally, Stop! London is looking to identify suitable potential partners in London and also across Europe, who are interested in making use of the forthcoming 'intervention tool kit'. To find out more email England National Manager, Liz Maslen on [lmassen@stopitnow.org.uk](mailto:lmassen@stopitnow.org.uk).

## Stop! Scotland Swimming Ahead with the Upstream Project

**Funded by the Scottish Government (Survivor Scotland Strategy), Stop it Now! Scotland has begun piloting the 'Upstream Project'. The project uses Parents Protect! materials and resources, which were developed to support the National Sex Offender Disclosure Scheme south of the border.**

The materials have been combined with other resources including supporting information for Keeping Children Safe (the Scottish National Community Disclosure Scheme) and include a resource toolkit for 'community facing' agencies and professionals to use in the work they do with parents, local community groups and members of the public.

The toolkit includes a sample public education presentation with supporting material including:- video material, lesson plans, frequently asked questions and advice and guidance on talking to members of the public about child sexual abuse and sex offenders.

The pilot will see Community Police Officers in all Scottish force areas trained in the practical application of the 'Upstream Project'. By the end of December 2011, a minimum of 150 officers will have completed training and delivery will continue into 2012 for maximum reach.

### Future funding

Stop! Scotland has applied to the Scottish Government for further funding so that the reach of the project can be extended to include other local community-based agencies including:- community education, nursery staff, social housing providers, faith groups and churches, and sports clubs.

It is hoped the project will create a strong network of active sexual abuse 'prevention agents' in communities across the country by the end of 2012.

### Stop it Now! Scotland developments

➔ In September Stop it Now! Scotland assumed responsibility for the co-ordination and oversight of the National Community Disclosure Scheme (Keeping Children Safe) from the Association of Chief Police Officers in Scotland. The aims for the scheme are to maintain and extend its public profile and to embed and promote its use as an important contribution to the protection of children in Scotland.

➔ Our Community Engagement Project Officer, Willie Manson, is also now the National Co-ordinator for Keeping Children Safe.

## Public engagement in Wales

**Stop it Now! Wales continued with efforts to involve the general public in its work at the 2011 National Eisteddfod. National Manager, Rebecca Morgan was supported by a colleague from Stop! UK and Ireland to staff a stand at the cultural event which attracts over 160,000 each year.**

### Act to Prevent!

This year, attendees were asked to sign a petition calling on the Welsh Government to 'Act to Prevent'. At the same time they signed up to carry out one action themselves. There were six to choose from:- Visit [www.parentsprotect.co.uk](http://www.parentsprotect.co.uk) for more information on protecting children from sexual abuse; **talk to your local school/family centre about holding a Parents Protect! awareness raising session**; put a **Stop it Now! poster** up in a public place in your community;

share with friends and family the Stop it Now! helpline number; **talk to children about boundaries and what is good and bad touch** or talk with friends and family about the warning signs of child sexual abuse.

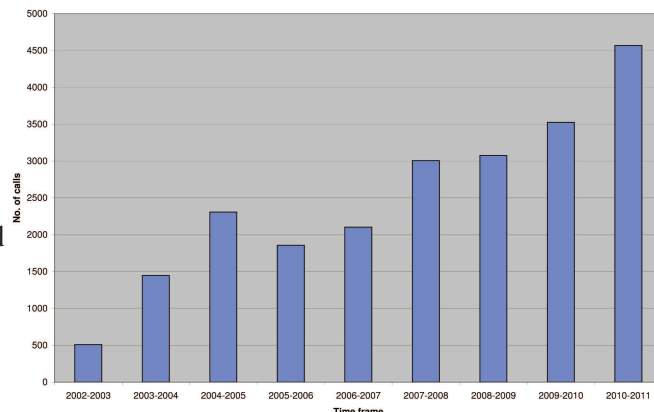
Hundreds signed up to one action, with many saying they would do more than one! A full update on the 'Act to Prevent' campaign will be included in our next edition.

# Stop! it Now Helpline

**The Stop it Now! Helpline has been busier than ever! The chart opposite shows in financial years how it has been helping more and more callers, year on year since 2002.**

Experienced operators have been able to offer information and advice to a range of people calling with issues surrounding child sexual abuse including:- abusers and potential abusers; adults concerned about another adult, child or young person; adults concerned about a child who may have been abused; professionals and adult survivors.

Below is a call example featuring a mother whose young son had been arrested for internet offences. It demonstrates the way that Stop it Now! is helping the whole family.



## Helpline Call Example

\*Identifying details have been changed to preserve confidentiality

### Call Details

Sharon called the Helpline in distress following the arrest of her 17-year-old son, Roger, for possession of indecent images of children. He admitted looking at child pornography from age 14. This came as a particular shock to Sharon as she works as a Child and Family Support Worker.

Sharon and her husband accepted that the law would have to take its course, but were concerned for Roger's well-being as he was struggling to manage his emotions regarding the situation.

Sharon described Roger as a quiet person, currently studying and hoping to go to University. He was also an active member of the scouts and would spend most of his free time doing scout related activities.

Sharon wanted to understand what led Roger to view the images so that she and the family could help him to manage his future behaviour.

### Discussion and Advice

- Immediate child protection measures were discussed, including Roger's contact with younger children. Sharon confirmed that, apart from the scouts, he only had contact with peers of the same age.
- We advised that it would be sensible for Roger to suspend association with the scouts for the foreseeable; in any event, it was likely the police would insist on this if they had not already.
- We reassured Sharon that the Helpline could offer support, advice and information to Roger and to close family members, to help them through this difficult time.
- We gave Sharon information about the criminal justice process, advising on how to access appropriate legal representation.
- We emphasised the importance of monitoring Roger's computer use as a precaution against him being tempted to access indecent images again.
- We advised that her self-care and Roger's welfare should be prioritised.

- We suggested that Sharon took time to consider who might need to know about Roger's situation (e.g. Roger's school) for child protection reasons and to ensure that he is adequately supported.

### Actions Agreed with Sharon

- To encourage Roger to call the Helpline to discuss how we might help him with his online behaviour and practical coping strategies.
- To monitor Roger's computer use and ensure that he can only access the internet when one or other of his parents is present.
- To help Roger stay focused on his academic goals and reassure him that he has the ongoing love and support of his family.
- To consider installing monitoring software such as 'Securus' on the home computer.

### Outcome

Roger called the helpline and spoke with a LFF practitioner to discuss next steps relating to direct work with him and continued engagement with his parents. We advised him to read 'In The Shadows of the Net' to help him reflect on his behaviour which we could then discuss; in addition, we helped him devise ways to keep himself occupied by balancing his studies with 'safe' but enjoyable recreational activities.

Sharon informed her employer and Roger's head teacher of his arrest. Roger has been able to continue attending school and is still socialising with his friends.

Roger stopped attending scouts as advised and, as expected, the police informed the scout leaders of his situation. The family have put in place measures for monitoring Roger's computer use at home and at school and are considering having installing Securus on the home PC. The LFF practitioner is currently agreeing sessions with Roger to help him begin to understand and manage his illegal online behaviour. Sharon and two other close family members continue to use the Helpline for ongoing support.



# Free Parents Protect! Training

**Parents Protect!**

Together we can prevent child sexual abuse

As part of its Department for Education funded activities, Stop! England is currently offering **FREE Parents Protect! workshops** across England. The sessions have already been successfully delivered to 250 parents in Children Centres, schools and within other community organisations and will continue to be delivered for free, to parents in various regions across England throughout 2011/2012.

The 90 minute sessions provide parents with information and advice they need to keep their children safe from sexual abuse, also delivering positive messages about what can be done to protect children. They focus on dispelling common myths about child sex offenders while at the same time arming parents and carers with sound information that will help them keep their children safe.

If you work in, or with, a Children's Centre, school, or parent-support organisation and think that parent groups would benefit from a Parents Protect! session, please get in touch to arrange a workshop by calling Stop! England National Manager, Liz Maslen on 01527 598184 or email [lmaslen@stopitnow.org.uk](mailto:lmaslen@stopitnow.org.uk).

## Successful Sector Specific Briefing Sessions

**Stop it Now! England has been driving forward with locally-based, briefing sessions designed to cater for specific groups of front-line practitioners. The sessions, funded by the Department for Education, are free to attend and tailored towards the needs of professionals who work with children or families**

Each briefing session concentrates on the measures that can be put into place in order to react to situations where abuse is taking place and to protect children from harm and what can be done to prevent abuse from happening in the first place.

Through specific tailoring, the sessions enable those who attend to

learn how to concentrate their child protection efforts in the best ways possible, whether that is by supporting family members, working with the child, dealing with the offender and their family or by assuring a troubled community.

Groups who have benefitted from the training come from a range of sectors including social, health and child care. We recently delivered a session to 25 trainers from the British Association for Adoption and Fostering, who in turn are going to incorporate our Parents Protect! information into their training for foster parents.

If you would like your team to

know more about how they can prevent child sexual abuse or how to implement effective prevention measures contact us to arrange a briefing session for you and your colleagues on 01527 598184 or email [office@stopitnow.org.uk](mailto:office@stopitnow.org.uk).



National Campaign Manager, Liz Maslen at the Sure Start conference discussing Parents Protect!

**Specialist sexual abuse prevention training delivered to over 700 professionals since April 2011.**  
**96% state that training has equipped them to include better preventative initiatives into their work with children and families.**

## Practitioner Training a Big Hit in England

Stop it Now! England has successfully delivered localised, multi-agency training days on understanding child sexual abuse, across England as part of the Department for Education's drive to improve frontline practice with regard to safeguarding.

Since June, the training events have been a huge success and have been delivered to 280 professionals in Birmingham, London, Exeter and Southampton. For more details visit [www.stopitnow.org.uk/england\\_professional\\_training.htm](http://www.stopitnow.org.uk/england_professional_training.htm)

### Working in collaboration with us

If you represent a Local Authority or an LSCB, you may want to facilitate a full day training event in partnership with us. Sessions are for all agencies in your county/region, and offer a selection of workshops across the day. For a discussion on a possible collaboration or further information call National Manager, Liz Maslen on - 01527 598184 or email [lmaslen@stopitnow.org.uk](mailto:lmaslen@stopitnow.org.uk).

## Stop! England training days

- 2nd December - Cambridgeshire
- 11th January - Lancaster
- 20th January - London
- 26th January - Leicestershire
- 2nd February - York
- 9th February - Merseyside
- 1st March - Carlisle
- 9th March - Isle of Wight
- 22nd March - Staffordshire

## Congratulations Ian!!!!

**Stop it Now! UK and Ireland would like to say a huge congratulations to Ian Elliott, Lucy Faithfull Foundation Research Psychologist, who has been awarded the 2011 Junior Award by the British Psychology Society Division of Forensic Psychology. This great achievement is a reflection of his outstanding work in the field of Forensic Psychology.**

Ian accepted his award at the Division of Forensic Psychology Annual Conference dinner, on board HMS Warrior, Portsmouth in June, where he also provided a short address in relation to the work he has undertaken in the field of Forensic Psychology and his submission "The Psychological Profiles of Internet, Contact and Mixed Internet/Contact Sex Offenders".



*Ian Elliott, receiving his award from Giles McCathie, Chair of Birmingham University Division of Forensic Psychology*

## Wishing Rebecca Well

We are sad to report that Rebecca Morgan, Wales National Manager, has been poorly recently.

We wish her a speedy recovery and look forward to having her back soon. For more information on Stop Wales! visit - [www.stopitnow.org.uk/wales](http://www.stopitnow.org.uk/wales)

## European spotlight shining on Stop

**The contribution the Stop it Now! Helpline makes to child protection services was the focus of a public meeting in Brussels in September.**

The Helpline, which has a number of target groups including adult abusers, potential abusers and those worried about the behaviour of another adult, child or young person, has been operating in the UK since 2002.

Conservative MEP for London Marina Yannakoudakis hosted the event at the European Parliament, and guests from the UK, Brussels and Holland included MEPs, representatives from non-governmental organisations including survivor groups and child protection charities as well as the National Centre for Social Research.

Hilary Eldridge, Chief Executive of the Lucy Faithfull Foundation (which runs the Helpline) and Donald Findlater, Director of 'Stop it Now!' gave presentations on LFF's work to prevent abuse from taking place, including the Helpline's history and achievements.



*L-R: Chief Executive Hilary Eldridge, Stop! Director Donald Findlater and MEP Marina Yannakoudakis in Brussels*

## European support

Marina Yannakoudakis, who has called for a helpline such as Stop! to be made available across Europe, opened the meeting by stressing that preventing sexual abuse from happening in the first place is one of the best ways of protecting children. She said: "The Stop it Now! Helpline has already received over 20,000 calls; phone lines such as these help ensure that children are kept free from harm. As a mother, I know that this is what all parents want for their kids."

Mrs. Yannakoudakis is the Conservative Party Spokesman for Women's Rights and Gender Equality in the European Parliament. Marina has led campaigns in the European Parliament against human trafficking and violence against women.

## Working with LSCBs in London

**Stop it Now! London has been invited to take part in the Barnet Safeguarding Children's Board Conference on November 24th. The conference will focus on safeguarding children in the current climate and will explore initiatives that promote prevention across the wider community.**

Stop it Now! London Development Manager, Chris Pummell, will give a presentation on the **Parent's Protect!** scheme and raise awareness of issues surrounding child sexual abuse in and around the Capital.

Keynote speaker, Dr Joe Sullivan Forensic Psychologist and other speakers will present on; professionals who abuse, safeguarding in scouting and the multi-agency model of risk assessment. [www.barnet.gov.uk](http://www.barnet.gov.uk).

## Get Connected!

**Check us out on Facebook and Twitter by using the links below or searching for us!**

### Twitter:

Donald Findlater: [@donaldfindlater](https://twitter.com/donaldfindlater)  
Stop Scotland!: [@StopItNowScot](https://twitter.com/StopItNowScot)  
Stop Wales!: [@StopItNowWales](https://twitter.com/StopItNowWales)  
Stop England: [@Stopitnow\\_ENG](https://twitter.com/Stopitnow_ENG)

### Facebook:

[www.facebook.com/stopitnowukan](http://www.facebook.com/stopitnowukan)  
[www.facebook.com/stopitnowukandireland](http://www.facebook.com/stopitnowukandireland)

## Give as you Live

Give as you live is a new application that is downloadable to your desktop and enables you to donate money to charity through online purchasing. The donation doesn't come out of your wallet, the retailer you are buying from will give a percentage of what you spend to a charity of your choice. Search "Lucy Faithfull Foundation" on [giveasyoulive.com](http://giveasyoulive.com) to find out how to donate to us.

## Job Opportunities

### Sessional Stop it Now! Helpline Workers

**Epsom, Surrey - £9.87 per hour**

The Stop it Now! Helpline is a confidential freephone service available to anyone who wants advice about child sexual abuse related issues.

Helpline hours are Monday to Thursday 9am - 9pm, Friday 9am - 7pm. Applicants to be available for one daytime and one evening shift per week (minimum of two shifts).

An empathic manner, common sense and the ability to gather and respond to information with sensitivity are essential. Knowledge of multi-agency child protection or helpline work would be an advantage. For an informal discussion call Sue Ball or Alice Newman on 01372 847160 or visit [www.stopitnow.org.uk](http://www.stopitnow.org.uk).