



Putting child sexual abuse prevention on the political agenda

July 26, 2010: Residents in Wales are being given the chance to get the prevention of child sexual abuse on the political agenda, thanks to a new campaign by Stop it Now! Wales.

Stop it Now! Wales is the only campaign running across the country that is solely dedicated to preventing the sexual abuse of children. Today, it is launching a new drive to urge all political parties to include protecting children from sexual harm in their forthcoming manifestos, ahead of the Assembly election in 2011.

The campaign, called Commit to Prevent!, allows members of the public to get involved by signing a petition and helping to spread the word through their social networks such as Facebook and Twitter and also offline through the use of posters, letters and flyers.

Stop it Now! Wales National Campaign Manager, Rebecca Wasinski, said: "It's really important that as the political parties prepare their manifestos they have preventing child sexual abuse in their minds. Sexual abuse affects one in six children before they reach the age of 16 and devastates so many lives. It's vital that we strive to prevent abuse from taking place. We need an all-Wales national strategy to plan and deliver activities that will go a long way to protecting children. We know what will help and we need to start delivering it."

Specifically, the Commit to Prevent campaign is calling for:

- A national public information campaign to raise awareness of the scale of child sexual abuse and the steps we can all take to prevent it.
- Education for parents and carers how to help prevent child sexual abuse including resilience building in children, open and honest communication and implementing and respecting boundaries.
- Education for children and young people in schools and youth settings on respectful relationships, sexual boundaries, consent and appropriate touch.
- Specific training on child sexual abuse prevention for those who work with children and families including on how to identify and respond to signs of child sexual abuse
- Therapeutic services for children and families who suffer child sexual abuse
- Intervention services for adults and young people with worrying thoughts / behaviour towards children.

Voters can find out more and get involved by visiting www.stopitnow.org.uk or calling Rebecca Wasinski on 07989 378220.

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Notes to editors:

For interview opportunities please contact Deborah Denis on 01372 847160, 07540 690315 or ddenis@stopitnow.org.uk.

1. Stop it Now! Wales 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. Stop it Now! Wales is supported by the Welsh Assembly Government. www.stopitnow.org.uk.

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