



Bothered about child sexual abuse?

(April 4, 2012) The only UK-wide charity dedicated solely to protecting children from sexual abuse welcomes 'Sarah's Law' figures released today, but says more must be done to protect children from sexual harm.

Home Office figures show that over the last 12 months 900 people applied to police for information about a named person they had concerns about, resulting in 200 disclosures.

Donald Findlater, Director of Research and Development at the Lucy Faithfull Foundation, said: "When the Government launched Sarah's Law last April it was with the intention of helping parents and close relatives keep children safe from sex offenders.

"The evidence to date – of 900 people countrywide, applying to the police for information and over 200 disclosures being made – shows that some adults are alert to the warning signs of abuse and take action to keep children safe.

"But NSPCC figures, also released today, show that over 23,000 cases of child sexual abuse were reported to police last year. So, 23,000 children were not protected by parents or other relatives. And these are just reported cases – we would expect far more children to have been abused who did not report. These figures are merely the tip of the iceberg.

"There clearly remains much to be done. And the answer to this is in the hands of all of us; not just government, statutory agencies, charities and voluntary organisations but also parents, carers and other every other adult. Over the last 12 months, 35,000 people visited the Parents Protect! website (www.parentsprotect.co.uk) to learn to recognise the warning signs of child sexual abuse and keep children safe. In addition, over 1000 parents and carers attended Parents Protect! seminars to discuss the risks and the protection they can all offer, and over 2200 workers with children and families received Parents Protect! training on sexual abuse prevention.

"The protection of children from sexual abuse is the responsibility of every man and woman in the UK. I hope we can all be bothered."

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Notes to Editors:

For further information and interview opportunities please contact Deborah Denis on 07540 690315 or ddenis@lucyfaithfull.org.uk.

The Lucy Faithfull Foundation is celebrating 20 years of protecting children from sexual harm in 2012.

Named after its founder, Baroness Lucy Faithfull of Wolvercote, the Lucy Faithfull Foundation is the only UK-wide child protection charity dedicated solely to reducing the risk of children being sexually abused. It works with entire families that have been affected by

abuse including: adult male and female sexual abusers; young people with inappropriate sexual behaviours; victims of abuse and other family members.

Drawing on expert knowledge about child sexual abuse the charity offers a broad range of services for professionals and members of the public. These include: assessments, intervention and treatment of known offenders, case specific advice and support, training and development courses and workshops, educational programmes for internet offenders and their families, circles of support and accountability, internet safety seminars for schools (teachers, parents and children) and Parents Protect! training for professionals, parents, carers and other adults. www.lucyfaithfull.org.uk

It also runs the Stop it Now! Campaign and Helpline (0808 1000 900) www.stopitnow.org.uk