



POLICE PUSH FOR BETTER PREVENTION OF CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE IN CHESHIRE

(February 8, 2012) Cheshire Constabulary are collaborating with child sexual abuse prevention campaign, Stop it Now! England to improve child sexual abuse prevention measures across the county with a specialist training day for multi-agency workers.

Marking the start of renewed prevention efforts in the region, the training day will ensure that those who work with children and families are as best placed as they can be to protect children from child sexual abuse.

DCI Giles Orton of Cheshire Constabulary said: "Children have the right to live their lives without living in fear of being abused. Stop it Now! England, has agreed to deliver specialist training that will enhance and build on the knowledge of those people who have a duty of care to children across Cheshire. Bringing together people from a variety of disciplines and agencies to listen to the issues and look at the current research and best practise from around the world concerning the prevention of child sex abuse.

"The event will encourage police officers, professionals from local authorities involved in safeguarding, and those responsible for offender's rehabilitation to think and act together to protect young people from sexual abuse.

"We want to harness the skills and expertise of child care and other professionals to work across the different agencies to see how and where we can improve the way we deal with, investigate and support those children who are survivors of sexual abuse. The work undertaken by the Lucy Faithfull Foundation under the Stop it Now! campaign will provide a springboard for exploring different ways of working that will prevent child sexual abuse here in Cheshire."

Called 'Preventing Child Sexual Abuse – Making it Everybody's Business', the event will be attended by staff from Warrington Safeguarding Children's Board, Cheshire Police, probation officers and social workers from Cheshire and the surrounding areas. It will advise attendees on how to better coordinate and deliver their preventative efforts, emphasising ways that agencies can work together and with the public to protect children from sexual harm.

Taking place on Thursday 9th February at Cheshire Constabulary Headquarters workshops will include: - female sexual abusers; sex offending and the Internet; children who display worrying sexual behaviour. The day will culminate by identifying where individual roles fit into prevention, exploring the potential to build upon existing preventative services and resources in Cheshire.

Director of Stop it Now!, Donald Findlater said: "It is vitally important that we all take responsibility for protecting children from sexual abuse and the best way to do this is to prevent it from happening in the first place. This training equips those who work with children and families with the indispensable knowledge they need to put preventative measures in place and to protect children from harm.

“By learning about how abusers and potential abusers operate, and talking about how multi agency staff can collaborate help us play a much more significant role in prevention.”

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.

Residents of Cheshire and the surrounding areas can also access further information on protecting children from sexual abuse from our Parents Protect! website – www.parentsprotect.co.uk.

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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. More information on Stop it Now! UK and Ireland is available from www.stopitnow.org.uk.

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