



London council supports abuse prevention training

(17 May, 2012) Westminster City Council is working with specialist child sexual abuse prevention campaign - Stop it Now! England - to deliver an abuse prevention training day to frontline workers on May 17.

The event will be held at The Abbey Community Centre in Westminster and will provide additional child protection training to those who work with children and families in Westminster and other neighbouring authorities.

Entitled *'Preventing Child Sexual Abuse - Making it Everybody's Business'*, the event will feature seminars delivered by specialist staff from child protection charity, The Lucy Faithfull Foundation, on different child sexual abuse issues. Seminar topics will include; female sexual abusers; how the internet is used as part of sexually abusive behaviour; children who display worrying sexual behaviour and where agencies and individuals roles can be utilised to prevent abuse and protect children.

The training day will focus on ways that local agencies can collaborate and work with the public to improve child protection measures across the capital and is open to all those who work with children and families, including early years workers, children's service providers, police officers, those who work in education settings and volunteers in the wider children's workforce among others.

Stop it Now! England, part of Stop it Now! UK and Ireland, aims to reduce the risk of children being sexually abused by working with parents, carers and communities. It also engages with statutory, private and voluntary sector organisations to raise awareness to the issue of child sexual abuse and promote the importance of prevention.

Cllr Nickie Aiken, Westminster Council's Cabinet Member for Children Young People and Community Protection, said: "We are continually looking at different ways to tackle abuse early on by identifying and responding to new risks.

"This training will be an opportunity for the council to share skills and expertise with neighbouring authorities so we can take a united front against abuse in our communities."

Director of Stop it Now! UK and Ireland, Donald Findlater will be giving the opening address at the event. He said: "It's not good enough to only respond after abuse has happened, prevention is the key to tackling this problem and it is not the responsibility of any one agency, organisation or individual – we all have a role to play.

“We need to understand the issues, know where the risks lie and have the confidence to take action when needed. The Stop it Now! event will provide this information to frontline professionals and help to improve prevention across London.”

Stop it Now! operates a free phone confidential helpline – 0808 1000 900 – which any adult can call for advice and support in relation to child sexual abuse issues.

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Notes to Editors

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.

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