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Hello and welcome to the latest Marie Collins Foundation e-newsletter.

Our first virtual conference has started broadcasting live, from October 27. We have had a fantastic response with hundreds of registrations from across the UK and the world from colleagues who are able to join us online.

Although the format is different for our sixth conference, we are confident it will still offer the same opportunities for learning, sharing experience, knowledge and practice and networking with colleagues.

Delegates come from across education, academia, children's services, health, law enforcement and criminal justice, as well as government and NGO representatives responding to child sexual abuse and exploitation (CSAE).

We are delighted to be offering another outstanding line-up of speakers and presenters who will be sharing their expertise over our four-week conference.

There are two sessions per day each Tuesday and Thursday rounding off with the final plenary on Monday November 23rd. Some sessions are already full, so if you haven't yet registered, please do so as soon as possible at <https://www.mariecollinsfoundation.org.uk/international-conference-registration> where you also find information about our speakers.



GPN LAUNCH



The conference will see the launch of our Global Protection Online Network (GPN) platform at a session taking place on November 5th. Click [here](#) to register for this session. The GPN is an online portal developed for professionals around the world who work in child protection to be able to access the latest academic research, develop their knowledge, network and share what works for them in responding to the challenges of online CSAE.

NEW ARRIVALS

Juliette Hasham has joined us as **Research Analyst** for our **Global Protection Online Network**.

BA in Criminology in 2019 and has experience from working in a research role with the College of Policing. She has joined the MCF after completing her MSc in Crime and Forensic Science from University College London.



INNOVATION

International Work

MCF is continuing to develop its international reach from within the UK during the COVID-19 pandemic. We are working with some of our international partners on aspects of national planning aimed at improving child protection practices in Vietnam, Namibia and the Ukraine.

MCF's successful track record of developing child safeguarding practices within the United Kingdom through our CLICK: Path to Protection programme is being developed for International use.

Harm Reduction Resources

We have had an extremely positive response to two new resources we have produced in partnership with the NWG Network.

Developed by our services director Vicki Green, subject matter expert Rhiannon-Faye McDonald with input from other team members and colleagues from NWG, The *Online Sexual Harm Reduction Guide* is aimed at professionals; *How Can I Help My Child?* is aimed at parents and carers.



The leaflet aimed at parents and carers explains what forms sexual abuse online can take and helps adults to understand why young people may be at greater risk of harm and why they may not tell. Critically, the leaflet helps parents learn what to do if they believe their child has been harmed, some dos and don'ts and where to go for help.

The professionals' leaflet was developed to address the challenges professionals face in relation to online harm when working with young people. It outlines the specific issues and the ways professionals can engage effectively with young people and their families.

The charities are continuing to work together on a third resource aimed directly at young people. The new resources can be downloaded by clicking [here](#).

EDUCATION

E-Learning Pilot Launched

learning programme to equip thousands of frontline professionals with the skills to understand the impact of online harm and to help victims recover.

We have been working with professionals in Bedfordshire for over two years, delivering classroom-based training to police officers, health and social care workers, teachers and others whose professional work brings them into contact with children and young people.

Virtual College, which develops digital learning solutions, has the THINK module of our CLICK: Path to Protection training programme and enhanced it with films and interactive facilities to an online package, making it accessible to thousands of staff, many of whom are still working from home.

Currently, staff within local authorities across Bedfordshire are being encouraged to take up the training, which takes only two hours. On completion, trainees are given access to more resources and further training.

Debbie Crawford, head of learning and development at Central Bedfordshire Council, said: "The classroom-based sessions that MCF have delivered in Bedfordshire have been very well received. Developing this online resource makes it even more accessible for practitioners who may not be back at work yet, or uncomfortable with being in a group situation. They can complete the learning at a time and place that's convenient to them.

"The training is very interactive, reassuring and supportive giving the trainee options and then encouraging them to think of other responses they may have not previously considered, rather than being right or wrong. This all supports their learning, raises awareness and helps them to recognise and develop best practice."



Virtual Learning Coming Soon

Colleagues in North Yorkshire are helping us to create accessible trainer-led virtual learning programmes.

Coronavirus has accelerated our plans to take CLICK online and North Yorkshire Safeguarding Children Partnership has supported us by running a pre-pilot with their staff. This has been independently evaluated by the University of Suffolk leading to a full pilot this autumn.

A national roll-out will follow, making the virtual learning available to local authorities, police forces and others across the UK.

Our services director Vicki Green says: “Our classroom-based training is well established but we are adapting to the current situation by working hard with colleagues in North Yorkshire to move the training to a virtual platform where trainers can deliver it in person and trainees can benefit from interactive, case-based learning at home.”

The training can be delivered on Zoom, Microsoft Teams or another platform favoured by a particular organisation, and North Yorkshire’s feedback is already proving invaluable.

Vicki adds: “We have recognised that sitting and listening for long periods is harder online than if you are in a classroom so we have adapted the training to make it more activity-based and to make full use of the technology with breakout rooms for small, group exercises and discussion.

RECOVERY

STAY SAFE

C Children
O Online are
V Vulnerable to
I Internet
D Dangers

Are you worried about something that someone is asking you to do online?

Are you concerned about someone you know who has been harmed or might be at risk online?

If the answer is yes to either of these questions, don't worry **WE CAN HELP.**

Marie Collins Foundation has specialists who work with young people to help them to recover from online abuse. Contact us at help@mariecollinsfoundation.org.uk

If you're at risk now, dial **101** to report or **999** in an emergency.

Kirklees COUNCIL
Office of the Police & Crime Commissioner
WEST YORKSHIRE POLICE
MCF The Marie Collins Foundation
Helping the needs of children abuse victims

Kirklees Project

Our messages to raise awareness of the additional risks of online harm during COVID-19 restrictions and that help is available are reaching across the Kirklees district of West Yorkshire. Funded by the Police and Crime Commissioner for the area Mark Burns-Williamson, the initiative is aimed at secondary school age young people and their parents.

We are grateful for the support of colleagues at Kirklees College and Huddersfield New College whose staff and parents have engaged with the project.

We have also been able to use our learning from this initiative to support a wider project being developed by the Home Office on child vulnerabilities through COVID.

Direct Work with Children and Families

We continue to have a steady flow of referrals for assistance for child victims of online sexual abuse and their parents and carers. We anticipate an increase in referrals once children are settled back at school.

ADVOCACY

Indirect Victims Group

work to raise awareness of the plight of families of an adult who has been arrested and/or convicted of online sexual abuse. This initiative is led jointly by the MCF, The Lucy Faithfull Foundation and the NWG Network and first Strategic Group meeting took place on 12th October 2020.

In Brief

Some of the other activity we've been involved with since the last newsletter:

June – Attended EVAC 10th Knowledge Exchange Global Webinar.

July – Digital Resilience Working Group – we are involved in a plan for a hub/portal for all resources (relevant to digital resilience framework) to be gathered together online and accessible for everyone. We have also shared our Online Harm Reduction resources and have produced a case study for the hub on the importance of the right messages/language being used to aid recovery for victims.

September – MANAGE training delivered to By The Bridge fostering agency.

Media

Rhiannon continues to be in demand around the world for her insight and ability to tackle the issues around the risks to young people of online harm. She has appeared recently on BBC News and on Irish RTE1 Radio.

Along with colleagues Chief Constable Simon Bailey, the Internet Watch Foundation and Lucy Faithfull Foundation, she has contributed to a documentary for Dateline Australia.

Rhiannon's story is also to be included in Equality Now's research/report on the current laws and gaps in those laws in their target countries of UK, US, Kenya and Nigeria.



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