

COVID-19 and the response of the East Midland Branch of NSPCC- Speak out, Stay Safe Programmes Message from the area Coordinator Derby and Derbyshire, Linda Ricketts

November 2020

Dear Colleagues

Thank You

Considering the crisis, you have been facing in school communities in response to the pandemic, we wanted to take the opportunity to say **thank you**. We believe you're inspirational in getting children through such a tough time while you're continuing to commit to safeguarding - it has been at the heart of what you do. We're thankful for all your hard work, understanding, and commitment, on behalf of all the children we have spoken to at Childline and more alike.

Still here for children

We acknowledge and appreciate that this term has been a significant period of change adapting to a new NSPCC offer, our online Speak out stay safe programme. Thank you for the time and opportunity to continue working with your schools through our online programme, we're so grateful for the positive response in these challenging times.

In just 6 weeks since the launch we are delighted that so many schools have requested the programme, over 1400 across the UK so far **and 120 Derby/Derbyshire**.

Derby/Derbyshire schools and Local authorities have consistently worked together with the NSPCC Schools Service over the past 9 years which has been instrumental in the success of the SOSS rolling programme- ensuring the children of Derby/Derbyshire consistently receive those all-important Safeguarding messages.

Your feedback has been extremely encouraging and helped us to adapt processes to make the offer more accessible for schools and improve opportunities too, thank you. We will also review the incoming feedback from teachers and pupils to see how we can adapt and enhance our offer next term.

We will continue offering our support and commitment. We're continuing to adapt to COVID-19 so that you, we and everyone can *still be here for children* and be stronger together.

Spring 2021

With the spring term fast approaching and with the current national lockdown bringing the uncertainty, we feel it's the right time to announce that the decision to continue an online offer to schools will continue into the spring term. We will continue to monitor the situation closely and be led by current Government guidance to ensure the safety of our staff and volunteers is paramount.

When home isn't a safe place for every child, the services that schools, social care, agencies and organisations are providing every day to support them is vital. Let's continue our fight for every childhood together and feel stronger by working together!

CONTACT US

If you are yet to contact us to receive our free Speak out stay safe assemblies and lesson plans please contact linda.ricketts@nspcc.org.uk or go to nspcc.org.uk/speakoutstaysafe

We've produced safeguarding resources to help support your work with children, young people and their families during the coronavirus pandemic - [here](#). Childline is still open 24/7 on 0800 11 11 or

online at childline.org.uk/kids - our new under 12s site. Our coronavirus advice hub for parents is still live with all the advice and guidance on parenting/caring for children go [to nspcc.org.uk/coronavirus](https://nspcc.org.uk/coronavirus)
Kind regards,

Linda Ricketts

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Still here for children

Many children have been the hidden victims of the pandemic, and the effects are far from over. No child who has suffered should be left to cope alone. With your help, we can still be here for every child. [Take a stand today](#)



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