

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 Rickets

May 2020

Dear school colleague, we were due to work with many schools in Derbyshire during the Summer Term 2020 to deliver the NSPCC Speak Out Stay Safe programme of assemblies and workshops. I have communicated with all of the schools due for our visit.

Given the uncertainty at the moment, we have decided to postpone the delivery of our Speak out Stay Safe programme until the autumn term at the earliest. This means that our dates for assemblies and workshops at your school planned in for Summer Term 2020 are now cancelled.

Making this decision to postpone the delivery of the programme in schools until the autumn has not been an easy one for us to take, as we know that many children will need our support more than ever right now. Making this decision and postponing the delivery of the programme in schools until the autumn, has meant our Schools Service staff have been able to support our essential services – Childline and NSPCC helpline - during this time. Our priority continues to be the children who rely on our services.

In the meantime...

I want to say a huge thank you for your continued support and commitment to the Speak Out Stay Safe programme at your school. Last year we delivered our [Speak out Stay safe service](#) to an amazing **31,736** children in **170** schools. Overall we have now reached over **90%** of schools at least once and some more recently for the 5th time in Derby & Derbyshire in total out of 464 schools.

We want to stress our commitment to you over the next few months to ensure you are kept fully up to date with what's happening across the NSPCC Schools Service as well as providing you with the resources and support you may find helpful.

To assist:

- A link below to our new pages on the NSPCC website designed to support you and your staff during this time:

<https://learning.nspcc.org.uk/safeguarding-child-protection/coronavirus>

- Safeguarding resources to help you protect the children and young people you work or volunteer with.

<http://email.nspcc.org.uk/q/17QEMMtihpB08YNhCuhAy/wv>

In addition, our partners at O2 are offering all their usual free resources to anyone with concerns and in need of support around online safety. Please find attached a bookmark with all these resources listed, which we would ask that you make available to all your families via your website or in parent communications.

What children are saying to Childline

NSPCC Learning has published a briefing providing an overview of the main concerns that children and young people have been talking to Childline counsellors about during the Coronavirus pandemic. Overall there have been more than 2,200 counselling sessions since January.

In most of the counselling sessions where Coronavirus was mentioned, children spoke about their mental and emotional health; some young people said they have suicidal thoughts and feelings and some spoke about using self-harm to cope; some young people who had been receiving ongoing support for existing mental health concerns said that they are either no longer receiving support or support has been reduced. Other concerns include: family relationships; doing schoolwork at home; bullying; and abuse.

You can download what children are saying to Childline

here: <https://learning.nspcc.org.uk/research-resources/2020/childline-briefing-coronavirus>

The NSPCC Helpline can be reached 24 hours a day by email, at help@nspcc.org.uk or through its online reporting form on the main NSPCC website. Helpline practitioners can be contacted on 0808 800 5000 Monday to Friday 8am-10pm or 9am-6pm at the weekends.

I will be in touch again as soon as we are able with more information about how and when we reschedule the programme once you are back in school but do please send any enquiries to schools@nspcc.org.uk if you have any immediate questions. Thank you.