

Safeguarding Newsletter

24th November 2020



Black Friday Sale!

No not mine! This is a reminder that the 'Black Friday' periods sees the highest number of emails flying across the ether than at any other time of year. The means that not only are there millions of legitimate emails, but the scammers also send out their flurries too.

We are all vulnerable, but children, perhaps teenagers especially might be 'secretly' buying presents online for the first time. Reminders about safe buying online would be very timely.

The National Cybersecurity Centre has a Suspicious Email Reporting Service (SERS) where you can send emails you are concerned about.

The message might be from a company you don't normally receive communications from, or someone you do not know. You may just have a hunch. If you are suspicious, you should report it. Your report of a phishing email will help us to act quickly, protecting many more people from being affected.

Just forward the email to: report@phishing.gov.uk

You can find more advice about online security here:

<https://www.ncsc.gov.uk/section/information-for/individuals-families>

PREVENT: New Counter-Terrorism website ACT Early

Between 1st January 2019 and 30th June 2020, 17 children were arrested in relation to terrorism offences. Some were as young as 14 years old and nearly all were radicalised entirely online.

In the same time period, more than 1500 children under the age of 15 were referred to the Prevent programme to help them choose a different path, away from hatred and violence.

The impact of Covid-19, social isolation and a rise in hateful extremism online has created a 'perfect storm' which is making more young people vulnerable to radicalisation and other forms of grooming.

The new website emphasises early detection and is aimed at family and friends and are encouraged to call the Prevent advice line on 0800 011 3764.

The website can be found here: <https://actearly.uk/>

Physical punishment of children

Children & Young People Now has published an article by NSPCC head of policy and public affairs Anna Edmundson calling for a ban on the physical punishment of children in England. The article includes figures which show that Childline counselling sessions about physical abuse have increased by 22% and contacts to the NSPCC helpline from adults concerned about a child being physically abused has increased by 53%.

Read the news story: <http://email.nspcc.org.uk/c/19B4pBFtEsa7srHdLmLejaXXte>