

# Child Protection Committee

## Newsletter 12

January 2015



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### Message from John Myles, CPC Independent Chair

The CPC and the Children in Fife (CIF) Group has worked hard to mature their relationship, which underpins their shared responsibility to effectively deliver services to children and young people across the wellbeing spectrum.

You will recall these strategic groups have benefitted from the creation of two shared sub-groups, one that supports multi-agency self-evaluation across children's services, while the other supports the ongoing development of multi-agency training. The strategic groups have worked collaboratively for a number of years and as a result shared developments have been successfully delivered or are currently nearing completion. This collective work has included the development and delivery of the Child Assessment Pathway Guidance. The Child Assessment Pathway outlines a Getting It Right, early intervention approach to addressing emerging needs or risks and is utilized where Named Persons identify, or receive information that would indicate, there are or may be concerns around a child or young person.

The Pathway supports effective information exchange between agencies and collective assessment of needs, risks and strengths pertaining to a child together with collaborative decision-making and planning. The Pathway specifically supports professionals to take account of the views of the child and family and may as one potential outcome, lead to child protection processes being implemented. The approach is complemented by agreed single agency Risk Assessment Tools which are available to nominated Education and Health staff. The Pathway is now in use across universal services and in child and family social work services with feedback highlighting this as a positive and effective development.

I would ask staff from across the partnership to reflect on their own practice and ensure the continued use of this positive partnership development. This will help to ensure children remain safe and have their needs met through effective early intervention. Work is also at an advanced stage in the expansion and developing of a children's services performance report. This work has grown from the child protection performance report into one that will in future span the continuum of child wellbeing. The new report will evaluate the delivery of the Children's Services Plan, Child Protection and Corporate Parenting priorities. This is a challenging undertaking but one that should provide a more holistic understanding of where we are in improving the lives of Fife's children.

These are only two examples of the positive development journey we are on in Fife and while they may be very different in their application with one providing a practical operational tool for front line staff, the other will help improve an understanding of how we are progressing our delivery of our strategy priorities. They both in their own way support our drive for continuous improvement.



# #stopbullying

According to a poll by YouGov for Stonewall Scotland, teachers in Scotland are still failing to tackle homophobic bullying in Scotland's schools. The Teacher's Report 2014 reveals 89% of primary school staff, and 83% of secondary school staff have not received any specific training on how to tackle homophobic bullying. The polling also revealed that 32% of primary school staff, and 31% of secondary staff have heard homophobic language or negative remarks about lesbian, gay and bisexual people from other school staff.

Stonewall have launched 'train the trainer' which aims to work directly with teachers across Scotland to tackle homophobic bullying in schools.

## Anti-bullying working group

This group was established to:

- Update and revise the Directorate policy on anti-bullying in Fife Schools
- Raise awareness of the issues of bullying and how these may be resolved using early intervention
- Train staff across Fife in current best practice/ advice

The group has met on a number of occasions and includes Lorraine Glass, Lead Officer from Respectme, the National anti-bullying advice network who advise the Scottish Government. Working closely with Respectme we have developed a draft Directorate policy and framework for schools. This will be circulated to schools for consultation following the Christmas break. A programme of staff training is being developed in association with Respectme which will see anti-bullying training provided throughout the school session.

A Single Point of Contact (SPoC) will be identified for each school. This person will have the responsibility to develop the school policy to suit the local context and to ensure staff are aware of the latest advice, using materials provided by Fife Council and Respectme. The training of SPoCs and the trainers will take place on a biennial basis and is mandatory.

Gordon Wardrope, Education Officer,  
Education & Children's Services Directorate

Be Bold.



Stop Bullying.

**Resources available to prevent and respond to bullying.**

<http://www.respectme.org.uk/>  
Scotland's anti-bullying service The service, funded by the Scottish Government, offers advice and guidance on bullying to parents, carers and practitioners.

Good to Know:  
<http://www.gov.scot/Resource/Doc/54357/0013237.pdf> Advice for parents and carers of teenagers on bullying

Internet safety and responsible use. Education Scotland information for teachers, parents and young people  
<http://www.educationscotland.gov.uk/learningandteaching/approaches/ictineducation/internet-safety/index.asp>

<http://www.kidscape.org.uk/beingme> Being Me is a free anti-bullying classroom resource that seeks to celebrate difference and promote inclusion.

<http://www.anti-bullyingalliance.org.uk/anti-bullying-week/> Calling on the school community to take action to stop the bullying of ALL children and young people.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/preventing-and-tackling-bullying>

DfE advice on preventing and responding to bullying and how staff should guard themselves against cyberbullying

<http://www.antibullyingweek.co.uk/>

Information on Anti-Bullying Week 2015

**Children can't always tell someone if they are being abused or neglected. But you can.**

**Call Police 101 or Fife Council Social Work Department on 01383 441177 (out of hours 03451 55 00 99 )**



# Safe Space

Supporting Survivors of Sexual Abuse

The following groups are open to anyone who is a Survivor of Childhood Sexual Abuse aged 16 years+.

**Art Therapy** (Funded in Memory of Fara McAfee) - Monday 02 February 2015 at 11.00am - 1.00pm for 10 weeks. A space to express and explore your feelings through the process of art making. No previous experience or skill in art required.

**Stepping Forward - Self Development** - Once a month on a Thursday evening from 6.15 - 8.15pm Safe Space's group can help you do just that! Would you like to learn more about improving your life? More about healthy boundaries and relationships?

### Family Support

If you are a Parent, Partner, Relative or Carer of a survivor of childhood sexual abuse and would like a greater understanding of:

- The implications and effects of sexual abuse on survivors and their families;
- Looking after yourself while supporting a survivor;
- Help and support within a confidential setting.

If you would like more information about any groups, please contact 01383 739084 or e-mail: [contact@safe-space.co.uk](mailto:contact@safe-space.co.uk). All information about Safe Space groups is at: [www.safe-space.co.uk](http://www.safe-space.co.uk)

Safe Space's film 'Tell Tell Signs' won a Highly Commended Award at the 2014 Scottish Mental Health Arts and Film Festival.

**SCOTTISH  
MENTAL  
HEALTH  
ARTS & FILM  
FESTIVAL**

**FIFE**

The film, directed by Sitar Rose and made in collaboration with Edinburgh University is remarkable for its honesty and courage in depicting a difficult subject. It explores childhood sexual abuse and the challenges faced by victims when disclosing it to partners and professionals.

In the documentary, the participants give first-hand accounts of their experiences, inspiring others to try and move on from what has happened.

In her speech, Rose credited the award to the participants in the film, many of whom joined her on stage to accept it. "Talking about the past makes it present again," she said. It was "very courageous" to take part in the documentary and to take the stage on the night. View the film trailer at: <http://www.safe-space.co.uk/check-out-the-film-trailer-for-tell-tale-signs/>

## Safe Space Young People's Service

Safe Space provide friendly and approachable support for young people aged 12 -18 years who have experienced sexual abuse or sexual exploitation. Sometimes it's really difficult to talk to parents, friends or teachers about stuff that makes you worried, upset, scared or angry. You might not want to worry, scare or upset the people closest to you, but that can leave you feeling very alone. Safe Space can offer you a counsellor or psychologist to talk to in a different way, someone who will listen to you very carefully, who will not judge you or tell you what to do.

Appointments can be made at Safe Space or at your school or college. Dealing on your own with experiences of abuse is really tough. Counselling and psychological therapies are about helping you work things out for yourself, making decisions and choices and helping you to look at things differently and understand yourself a bit better.

If you would like to know more please call 01383 739084 or e-mail [contact@safe-space.co.uk](mailto:contact@safe-space.co.uk)

# Young Carers



The Time To Be Heard campaign (<http://www.carers.org/timetobeheard>) is all about getting young adult carers voices heard by decision makers who can make a real difference to their lives.

New research by Carers Trust shows the shocking impact of caring unpaid for a family member or friend on young adults in their education and when looking for work. The first large-scale survey of carers aged 14-25 shines a light on the lives of some of the 375,000 young carers in the UK. Key findings are that young adult carers:

- Miss or cut short multiple days of school, college, university or work each year because of their caring role.
- Have higher rates of poor mental and physical health than the average young person.
- Rarely receive the assessments they are entitled to, with only 22% of those surveyed receiving a formal assessment of their needs by the local authority.

Read the report and recommendations at:

[http://www.carers.org/sites/default/files/time\\_to\\_be\\_heard\\_report\\_final.pdf](http://www.carers.org/sites/default/files/time_to_be_heard_report_final.pdf)

White Ribbon is a male-led campaign to end violence against women with campaigns in over 70 countries world-wide. Women and men are asked to pledge their support not to 'commit, condone or remain silent about violence against women' and to wear a white ribbon to show their support for the campaign.



The White Ribbon Fife campaign have recently delivered lessons to S3 pupils in Glenwood High School around themes of gender, gender stereotypes and violence against women and aim to be working with three more High Schools across Fife in the New Year. A White Ribbon workshop was delivered to teenagers in Kirkcaldy and it is planned to extend work in the community with young people.



White Ribbon Fife have been represented at youth events during Fife Youth Work Week including a Youth 1<sup>st</sup> event at Carnegie Conference Centre and the Fife Youth Forum and have had input to the 'That's So Gay' Conference at Rothes Halls in November.

In December Fife formally gained White Ribbon status and is the first Community Planning Partnership in Scotland to receive this recognition. A formal presentation was made by Callum Hendry of White Ribbon Scotland to Cllr. Kenny Selbie, Chair of the WRF Steering Group to recognise their achievements. Cllr. Selbie said: "Violence Against Women is something we should all be concerned about. No woman in Fife should live in fear because she is a woman.



Domestic abuse and sexual violence have a huge impact on victims, their families and communities.

"I am proud as a man to be involved in this campaign. We need to change attitudes and say

that this behaviour is not ok and ask more men to speak out against this abuse."

White Ribbon Fife's target of 1000 pledges of support has been reached with the total for Fife currently at 1276, approximately a quarter of all pledges across Scotland.

For more information:

**e-mail: [FDASAP@fife.gov.uk](mailto:FDASAP@fife.gov.uk)**

**Telephone: 01592 583690**

**[www.whiteribbonscotland.org.uk/wrfife](http://www.whiteribbonscotland.org.uk/wrfife)**

# Information Sharing

Within Fife, data sharing is governed by the Scottish Accord on the Sharing of Personal Information (SASPI) which sets out a high level agreement for information sharing between agencies. In November 2013, Fife's Children's Services Information Sharing Protocol was revised to follow the SASPI framework and provides detailed guidance for practitioners on information sharing in relation to child protection and in meeting the needs of children, young people and their families within the Getting it Right for Every Child Framework (GIRFEC). Existing Information Sharing leaflets have now been refreshed to align with the new Protocol and include

- A practitioners guide to information sharing
- A parent and carer's guide to information sharing
- Information Sharing Guidance 'poster'

These 3 documents can be found on the Child Protection website for agencies/services to print and the Information Sharing Poster can also be requested by contacting the CPC Support Team on 01592 583251.

## Prevention of Child Abuse

Recent media stories have reported celebrity cases which have highlighted the sexual abuse of children by strangers, but it is important to know that these are not typical crimes. Sexual abusers are more likely to be people we know, and could well be people who are supposed to love and protect the child, which often makes it hard for people to raise concerns. In cases where the abuser is a close family member, children may not disclose the abuse until they become adults. Many never tell even then.

John Myles, Child Protection Committee Independent Chair said: "We must be prepared to listen, and to act for children who may be too scared to speak up for themselves. If a child or young person tells you something, you need to take them seriously, do something about it, and speak to someone. Call the Police on 101 or Fife Council Social Work on 01383 441177. As with any emergency, if a child is in immediate danger call the Police. If you are a survivor of child sexual abuse, help and support services are available through:

- Kingdom Abuse Survivors Project on 01592 644217 or email: [info@kasp.org.uk](mailto:info@kasp.org.uk)
- Safe Space on 01383 739084 or email: [contact@safe-space.co.uk](mailto:contact@safe-space.co.uk)
- FRASAC (Fife Rape and Sexual Assault Centre) on 01592 642236 or email: [info@frasac.org.uk](mailto:info@frasac.org.uk)

# Share Aware



Some parents feel confused by the internet – out of their depth, and out of control. We tell our children to share but online it's different. In fact sometimes sharing online can be dangerous. That's why the NSPCC are asking parents to be Share Aware and keep children safe online.

<http://www.nspcc.org.uk/preventing-abuse/keeping-children-safe/share-aware/>

Share Aware is a campaign for parents of children aged 8-12 and the one minute film 'Have you seen Alex's willy?'

([https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sc\\_h\\_WMjd6go](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sc_h_WMjd6go)) is a great resource to start the conversation with your child. The straightforward advice that will untangle the web, will show you how you can be just as great a parent online, as you are the rest of the time. The internet is a great place for children to be. Being Share Aware makes it safer.

Net Aware is a no-nonsense guide to the social networks, apps and guides that children use. Share Aware Parent's Guide (<http://www.nspcc.org.uk/globalassets/documents/advice-and-info/share-aware.pdf>) is ideal if you don't know where to start. It provides top tips on how to be share aware and talk to your child about being safe online.

# 2B Heard

'2B Heard!' is Fife's young people's group for looked after children, young people and care leavers. The group holds regular meetings which provide a platform for the voices of young people to be heard on things that are important to them and their peers. The members hope they can influence positive change in the services and agencies that support children and young people who experience care. Group meetings are relaxed and informal with the focus on being creative in how their views are expressed. It has been almost a year since 2BHeard had their first meeting, and the past ten months have been a busy and exciting with many developments.



Initial discussions and activities were broad but there was a focus on 'what being in care should look like'. Common themes arose which led to the development of a 'Wish List'. This then linked to a media project where the group produced a short film, shown at a Corporate Parenting Board event in June. The event was organised in partnership with Who Cares Scotland.

During the summer a busy programme was provided: Adventure activities at Fordell Firs, a visit to Scottish Parliament, picnic & fruit picking and a day at the Edinburgh Fringe. A team building action packed day was held during the October holidays at Lochore Meadows. These activities are core to 2BHeard and there will be more in the future!



In November 2BHeard attended the Fife wide Youth Forum which provides an opportunity for all young people to highlight their issues. A panel of local Councillors held a Q&A session and discussion. The group was really pleased the Councillors listened to what they had to say and felt there will be action.

Finally, at the beginning of December a Bite and Blether event enabled members of 2BHeard to meet with some of the Corporate Parent Board members informally. The discussions varied from what they have been doing in their group to sharing some of their experiences of the care system, their hopes for the future and how life for Fife's

looked after children and care leavers could be improved. It was also verbally agreed that engagement between young people and board members should be increased. How to achieve this improved engagement is currently being explored. At the first meeting of 2015 Cllr Willie Campbell, Chair of the Board came to listen, engage and share his aims and ambitions within his role and it is planned that such meetings will continue.



In 2015 2BHeard will continue to develop and grow as a forum for looked after children, young people and care leavers. The group are very keen to expand membership and as such would invite any child or young person, carer or worker, who is interested, to contact Development Worker Kerri Yorkston at: [kerri.yorkston@fife.gov.uk](mailto:kerri.yorkston@fife.gov.uk) or call: 01592 583251 to find out more or if you know of a young person aged 12 to 21 years who might be interested. Kerri is more than happy to meet to discuss the group in more detail.



Fife Council Social Work urgently need safe, stable homes for children and young people at risk of harm. The Foster for Fife campaign continues to recruit more foster carers and is on target to create an additional 30 placements by April 2015. However, a further 30 are needed by the end of 2015.

- There are over 900 looked after children in Fife
- 420 children are in foster care
- 60 new places are needed for children by September 15

**You can help if you are over 21, have a spare room, and are good with children and young people.**

**We'll help you by providing:**

- o A dedicated supervising social worker
- o A Buddy (another foster carer)
- o Excellent training and development plans
- o A Social worker for child in placement
- o Competitive pay and allowances

**Call 01383 602235**

[www.fifedirect.org.uk/fosterforfife](http://www.fifedirect.org.uk/fosterforfife)

**Be part of a close, friendly and supportive team #fosterforfife**

## **Relationships, sexual health and parenthood**

Revised guidance has been issued on how schools teach about relationships, sexual health and parenthood. The most significant change since the last guidance was published 14 years ago is the introduction of civil partnerships and same-sex marriages. Schools and local authorities are responsible for deciding just how to put the guidelines into practice. <http://www.gov.scot/Topics/Education/Schools/HLivi/sex-education>

## **Putting the baby IN the bath water**

A coalition launched in autumn 2013, 'Putting the Baby IN the Bath Water', has published its first annual report. The coalition focuses on the primary prevention of harm, and the first 1,001 days of life (pre-birth to preschool). <http://withscotland.org/resources/social-justice-begins-with-babies>

## **Take Time for a Story**

The Take Time for a Story campaign encourages parents and carers to visit the new Families website. Fill out the site survey so they can find out what you'd like to see on the website. <http://www.fifedirect.org.uk/earlyyears/>

## **Creating Safety**

Creative Scotland and Children in Scotland have published 'Creating Safety' - guidance on child protection for individuals and organisations involved in delivering artistic, cultural and creative projects for children and young people in Scotland. This version is consistent with the National Guidance for Child Protection in Scotland, and Disclosure Scotland and the Protection of Vulnerable Groups (PVG) Scheme.

[http://www.creativescotland.com/\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0016/21373/Creating-Safety-2014.pdf](http://www.creativescotland.com/_data/assets/pdf_file/0016/21373/Creating-Safety-2014.pdf)

## **Celcis Report**

The Centre for Excellence for Looked after Children (CELCIS) review, 'Protecting and Safeguarding Children in Care: A Review of Developments in Services for Children in Care in Scotland', identifies key legislation, policy and initiatives which have impacted on the protection and safeguarding of children in care.

[http://www.celcis.org/media/resources/publications/Protecting\\_and\\_Safeguarding\\_Children\\_in\\_Care\\_v3.pdf](http://www.celcis.org/media/resources/publications/Protecting_and_Safeguarding_Children_in_Care_v3.pdf)

## **Virtual learning**

Games to help early years workers practice and learn in a virtual environment based on real life scenarios have been launched by the Scottish Social Services Council and the University of West of Scotland. <http://www.sppa.org.uk/pioneering-gaming-technology-helps-early-years-workers/>

# Child Protection Report



Children in Scotland's Chief Executive, Jackie Brock has released a report entitled 'The Brock Report: Safeguarding Scotland's vulnerable children from child abuse: A review of the Scottish system'. Ms Brock was commissioned by the Scottish Government to review the effectiveness of the child protection system.

The Care Inspectorate is mentioned throughout with Ms Brock noting the introduction of joint inspections of children's services to be a 'significant measure of progress'.

<http://www.childreninscotland.org.uk/sites/default/files/BrockReportFinal.pdf>

## National Action Plan to tackle CSE

The Scottish Government has published a National Action Plan to tackle Child Sexual Exploitation. One of the main aims is to support culture change throughout children's services agencies, and society at large, to ensure that CSE is recognised as an issue that needs to be properly tackled and addressed.

A major public awareness campaign will educate people on the warning signs of child sexual exploitation (CSE). The plan includes the development of guidance for night workers, for example, taxi drivers, hotel workers and other in the night-time economy. A national support fund for survivors of historic abuse in care will also be created. <http://www.gov.scot/Resource/0046/00463120.pdf>

**PORN**

In a poll conducted by ComRes of 1,000 parents, Childnet found that only a quarter of parents have spoken to their child about pornography, despite a recent conclusion from the Children's Commissioner for England stating that 'porn is everywhere'.

To support parents and carers to have open conversations with their children about sexualised content online, Childnet have put together a resource that helps parents to start this dialogue in an age-appropriate way. The resource can be found on the Childnet's website at: [www.childnet.com/parents-and-carers/hot-topics/pornography](http://www.childnet.com/parents-and-carers/hot-topics/pornography). As well as conversation starters, it also offers parents information about understanding the law and links to other organisations that can provide support.

**Netbuddy**

Parents of children with disabilities are suffering from extreme stress and isolation, a new survey has found. National disability charity Scope surveyed more than 1500 parents and found that almost half (47%) have visited their GP due to anxiety, with 57% then being prescribed antidepressants. In addition, three in five (60%) parents said that talking to other parents with disabled children was an invaluable source of support.

A website called Netbuddy has been set up for parents of disabled children to share ideas, advice and problems on how to cope with looking after a disabled child.

Visit: [www.netbuddy.org.uk/](http://www.netbuddy.org.uk/)



# Underwear Rule



All Underwear Rule resources are at:  
<http://www.nspcc.org.uk/preventing-abuse/keeping-children-safe/underwear-rule/>

Resources for schools are being developed.  
To register to receive these, please email:  
[stevenson.fiona@nspcc.org.uk](mailto:stevenson.fiona@nspcc.org.uk)

# DrinkAware



Independent charity Drinkaware has launched a campaign to highlight the associated risks of underage drinking in young people. The campaign aims to raise awareness amongst parents of the risky behaviours associated with drinking underage to enable them to have more effective conversations with their children about alcohol. The campaign is underpinned by the line: "It's easier to have the chat if you have the facts".

Drinkaware's website has a new section on underage drinking which provides parents with medically approved information about the risks, tools, video resources, facts and guides to allow them to have a conversation with their children about alcohol.

<https://www.drinkaware.co.uk/check-the-facts/underage-drinking/>

# Healthy Start scheme

Healthy Start is a food and vitamin scheme for families on low income (families on income support or Child Tax Credit recipients with household income less than £16,190). Pregnant women under 18 years old are also eligible, regardless of income.

Vouchers can be spent on fruit, veg, milk or formula feed. Supermarkets and many local shops and food coops accept them. They are worth up to £899 (if eligible all the way through from week 10 of pregnancy to 4th birthday):

- £3.10 per week during pregnancy
- £6.20 per week from birth to 1st birthday
- £3.10 per week from 1st to 4th birthday

A quarter of eligible families don't currently receive vouchers so it's worth checking your entitlement.

Ask your midwife, health visitor or GP practice. Citizens Advice and other welfare rights organisations will be able to help too.

Make sure that you call the Healthy Start helpline once your baby is born - 0845 607 6823: otherwise the vouchers will stop. And complete the application form in black ink, capitals and in English.

Watch a video about the vouchers at: <https://vimeo.com/102126052>

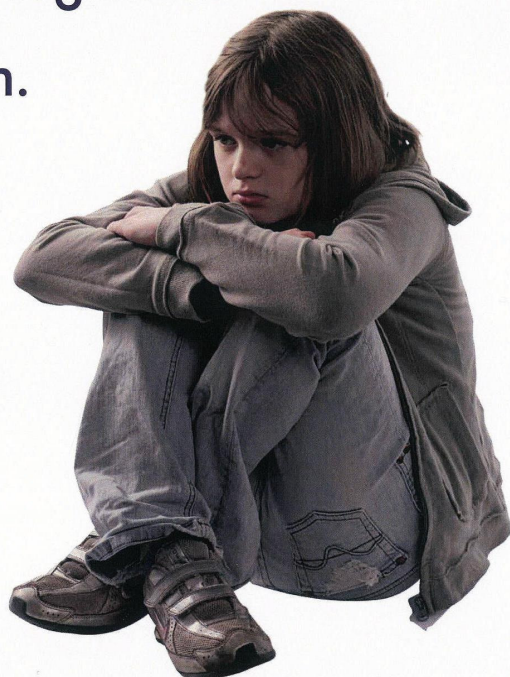
Check eligibility on website: [www.healthystart.nhs.uk](http://www.healthystart.nhs.uk)

For professionals: You can order the application forms very easily - call 0300 123 1002, quoting the code HS01 when ordering.



Children can't always tell someone if they are being abused or neglected.

But you can.



If you are worried about a child or need advice call Fife Council Social Work on:  
01383 441 177 (office hours)

Social Work Emergency Out of Hours  
03451 550 099

Police 101

Deaf BSL users/hard of hearing people can use the Council SMS text service:

07781 480 185

(but must register first. Details at:  
[fifedirect.org.uk/adultprotection](http://fifedirect.org.uk/adultprotection))



[childprotectionsotland.org](http://childprotectionsotland.org)

## Parents' Guide to Instagram

The Guide has been written by the UK Safer Internet Centre in collaboration with Instagram and Connect Safely.  
[http://www.connectsafely.org/wp-content/uploads/instagram\\_guide.pdf](http://www.connectsafely.org/wp-content/uploads/instagram_guide.pdf)

## Online Safety

Free training sessions for parents and carers on online safety run by anti-bullying service respectme, will explain popular social media sites, and how to make sure their children's postings and pictures are as safe as possible. The sessions will run between January and April at various locations across the Central Belt. Register interest at: [enquire@respectme.org](mailto:enquire@respectme.org).

## Penumbra

Becci Forster from Penumbra Youth Project has started her new post as Social Media Project Worker and is based in two local High Schools four days a week in Fife. Becci's role within the schools involves groups of young people being trained as peer educators and working towards developing awareness around the use of social media. The aim is to promote safer usage of social media by young people. For details email: [Rebecca.forster@penumbra.org.uk](mailto:Rebecca.forster@penumbra.org.uk)

## Adoption

A new guide on adoption for social workers has been published by the National Adoption Leadership Board, which is aimed at dispelling the common myths and misconceptions of adoption.  
<http://www.first4adoption.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2014/11/ALB-Impact-of-Court-Judgments-on-Adoption-November-2014.pdf>