**AD Safeguarding Newsletter 3rd March 2023**

**Number 546**

**1. AD Safeguarding Network 10th March 2023 10.00-12.00 noon** – Our next AD safeguarding network meeting is a month from today, if you have any items you would like to add to the agenda please email Mark@markevansconsulting.co.uk

So far, we have:

* Regional Workforce Update
* SESLIP Regional Coordination of Pre-Proceedings to PLO Data Collection Project

**2. Harmful sexual behaviour -** The Centre of Expertise on Child Sexual Abuse (CSA Centre) has published a report compiling recent studies on children and young people who display harmful sexual behaviour. Findings include: during 2021/22 in England harmful sexual behaviour accounted for 40% of referrals to local authority children's services involving sexual abuse; and some forms of harmful sexual behaviour are so common in education settings that they have become ‘normalised’ to young people. Recommendations include: assessments should be holistic and should view harmful sexual behaviour through the lens of trauma; and the role of patriarchal values and attitudes in the development of harmful sexual behaviours needs to be considered.

Read the report: <https://www.csacentre.org.uk/resources/key-messages/harmful-sexual-behaviour/>

**3. Councils no longer getting additional payments for taking asylum-seeking children from hotels -** Home Office ends short-term scheme to give authorities £15,000 per child on schedule, amid ongoing concerns about high numbers of children ending up in hotels.

See the news story: <https://www.communitycare.co.uk/2023/03/01/councils-no-longer-getting-additional-payments-for-taking-asylum-seeking-children-from-hotels/>

**4. ‘Pioneering’ children’s home supporting vulnerable young people ‘first of its kind’ in England** - The specialist two-bed home, which opens on March 1, will be jointly run by Wakefield Council and the South West Yorkshire Partnership NHS Foundation Trust.

Read the news story: <https://www.wakefieldexpress.co.uk/education/pioneering-childrens-home-supporting-vulnerable-young-people-first-of-its-kind-in-england-4044347>

**5. ‘Significantly More’ Children In Kinship Care Benefit From Parental Contact, Research Reveals -** Around nine in 10 children in kinship foster care arrangements are benefitting from retaining contact with at least one parent, compared with those in unrelated foster care, according to research.Analysis has found that 91 per cent of children aged between four and 10 years old, and 87 per cent of young people aged 11 to 18 years old in kinship care arrangements have contact with a parent and felt this was “just right”.

In comparison only 71 per cent of children and 64 per cent of young people in unrelated foster care have such contact. The survey found that more than a third of young people in kinship care arrangements had lived in two to four placements previously and one in 10 had five or more placements before moving in with their kinship carer. The findings have emerged in analysis, carried out by Coram Voice and University of Oxford, of the views of 1,200 children and young people in kindship care, across 38 council areas.

To view the full report <https://coramvoice.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/10000-Voices-insight-the-views-of-children-in-kinship-foster-care-on-their-well-being-FULL-REPORT-2.pdf>

**6. Persistent Absence** - The Children’s Commissioner for England has published a report into persistent absence which summarises research from previous attendance audit reports. The research identified groups of children who are at more risk of persistent absence from school, including: children with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND); children with mental health needs; and children with a history of exclusion and absence. The Commissioner recommends additional training for teachers to support pupils; and multi-agency working to deliver joined up support for children and families.

Read the report: <https://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/report/attendance-is-everyones-business/>

**7. Dates for future AD Safeguarding Meetings 10.00-12.00 noon MS Teams on:**

* 10th March 2023
* 9th June 2023
* 8th September 2023
* 8th December 2023
* 8th March 2024

Kind Regards

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