

# Safeguarding Update



**March 2015**

## **1. Legal - Fail to act**

Children and Young People Now report that proposed laws to prosecute children's professionals for wilful neglect in failing to protect young people from child sexual exploitation could take another two years to reach the statute books. The consultation will take place at the same time as a consultation on plans to bring in mandatory reporting on child abuse and neglect through the Serious Crime Act. These consultations have been timetabled to take place 18 months after the Serious Crime Act gained Royal Assent, which happened earlier this month.

**Link:** <http://www.cypnow.co.uk/cyp/news/1150035/professionals-fail-act-cse-jail-term>

## **2. Legal - PHSE**

The BBC reports on new government plans to teach children about sexual consent from the age of 11. The plans are being drawn up by the PSHE Association. The Guardian reports that the PSHE Association is concerned that the government has stopped short of making such lessons compulsory.

**Link:** <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-31788388>

## **3. Legal - Sexual messages**

The Serious Crime Act has received royal assent. It is now a criminal offence for an adult to send a sexual message to a child. The NSPCC's Flaw in the Law campaign worked to achieve this change in the law which will ensure that the police will be able to take action against offenders earlier on in the grooming process.

**Link:** <http://www.parliament.uk/business/news/2014/june/lords-serious-crime-bill/>

## **4. Reports - Self harming**

A survey of 2000 11-21-year-olds, commissioned by ChildLine, YouthNet, Young Minds and Self Harm UK, has found that alarming numbers are being exposed to self-harm images and, as a result, considering hurting themselves. What's more, over half of 11-14-year-olds who have seen these images said they were likely to share them on social media.

**Link:** <http://www.nspcc.org.uk/fighting-for-childhood/news-opinion/self-harm-images-being-shared-online-children-young-people/>

## **5. Reports - E safety - Snapchat**

The Independent reports that messaging app, Snapchat, has launched a safety centre for parents and children.

**Link:** <http://www.independent.co.uk/life-style/gadgets-and-tech/news/snapchat-tries-to-shed-sexting-image-as-it-tells-children-to-keep-their-clothes-on-10064001.html>

A parents' guide to Snapchat (PDF)

**Link:** [http://www.connectsafely.org/wp-content/uploads/snapchat\\_parents\\_guide.pdf](http://www.connectsafely.org/wp-content/uploads/snapchat_parents_guide.pdf)