



IN THIS ISSUE:

- State Of The Nation
- Online Safety Bill
- Childnet Film Competition
- Whistleblowing
- Attendance
- Money Advice Hub
- Vodaphone Digital Parenting
- ChatGPT

STATE OF THE NATION

The Government has published its [State of the Nation report](#), into children and young people's wellbeing throughout the country. It deals with the report's key findings on the topics of personal wellbeing, mental and physical health, education and skills and relationships. It relates to children from the age of 5 years old into adulthood up to 24 years old. Although, it is a long report it breaks it down into sections for you to dip into.

We know that much of what we hear and read can be negative and at times overwhelmingly. However, this report helps to also present a picture of children being very resilient and for the majority seemingly positive about their lives.

ONLINE SAFETY BILL

SWGfL have partnered with Schillings International LLP to produce a clear and accessible guide to the Online Safety Bill which breaks down what the Bill is and what it is trying to achieve. The resource is divided into the following sections:

1. What is the Online Safety Bill?
2. Protections for young people
3. Protections for adults
4. How will the Bill be enforced?
5. What is the verdict?
6. Staying safe online
7. What is next?



They have also produced a [helpful video](#) and have published a [survey](#) to gather thoughts on the Online Safety Bill.

CHILDNET FILM COMPETITION

Now in its 14th year, the [Childnet Film Competition](#) invites young people across the UK to create a short film or storyboard focusing on a specific online safety theme each year. UK based schools and youth groups are invited to create a two-minute film or storyboard in response to the competition theme: **Time to talk! How can people support each other online?**

The Film Competition could be a fantastic online safety activity for your next term and provides a



unique opportunity for learners to develop skills in media, drama, art all while considering how to stay safe online. Prizes in previous years have included a DSLR cameras, tripods, and a professional graphics pen– everything needed for film making!

Multiple groups within the same school can submit their own films, and there is no limit to the number of individual storyboards schools can enter. You have until **Wednesday 5th June** to submit films and storyboards, with the final event showcasing on **Tuesday 4th July**.

WHISTLEBLOWING

As a service we have written articles and delivered safeguarding training that talks about settings having regard to a 'safe culture' whereby staff feel empowered to be able to raise concerns about how senior leaders are protecting children. We encourage every setting having a whistleblowing process and sometimes a standalone policy. As part of this we also suggest having the NSPCC poster somewhere in your buildings in case the process is not working effectively.

To clarify, whistleblowing is when someone raises a concern about a dangerous or illegal activity or any wrongdoing within their organisation. Sharing that information or talking through a concern can be the first step to helping an organisation identify problems and improve their practices. As a concept it exists in all forms of organisations not just education safeguarding.

In terms of the NSPCC helpline, we thought we would clarify what happens when and if you ever need to contact them. This is taken directly from their website:

What happens when you contact the NSPCC helpline

One of their call handlers will connect you with a trained practitioner. They'll discuss your concerns with you and:

- talk you through the whistleblowing process
- take details of your concern
- explain the protection available to you if you need it
- get relevant agencies and authorities to take action on your concern.

You don't have to tell them who you are if you don't want to you can remain anonymous. If you do give them your name and contact details, you can ask them not to share these with other agencies.

When to contact NSPCC

If you have any concerns about a child in your workplace you should raise this with your employer or organisational safeguarding lead in the first instance.

You should contact the Whistleblowing Advice Line if:

- your organisation doesn't have clear safeguarding procedures to follow
- you think your concern won't be dealt with properly or may be covered-up
- you've raised a concern, but it hasn't been acted upon
- you're worried about being treated unfairly.
- You can contact the NSPCC about an incident that happened in the past, is happening now or you believe may happen in the future.

ATTENDANCE

As you are all aware absence can present a safeguarding risk and as such our policy changed last year and can be found on the school's website. Despite the Schools' Bill being removed KCC would still like us to follow policy as though it is statutory. In the meantime the government is undertaking an enquiry as the level of persistent absence nationally has not returned to pre-pandemic levels. The focus will be to identify barriers to attendance as well as identify effective practice being used to improve it. Anxiety Based School Avoidance (ABSA) continues to be dominant cause of absence.

The Kent Educational Psychology Service is doing a lot of work around this subject, including training and consultations for schools. The team has been working to meet with every school in the district and wider area to facilitate Targeting Support Meetings (TSMs) in line with the guidance requirements. These meetings were initially focused on

ensuring schools felt confident in what the guidance changes mean for them, particularly the role of a designated senior leader in the school with responsibility for championing attendance if not in place already. Future meetings will be more pupil focused and the priority will be pupils with attendance of 50% or less, now referred to as 'severe absentees.' Ensure that if you are working in inclusion and percentage is below this figure that you request a TSM.

MONEY ADVICE HUB

We would like to make you all aware of a scheme that is currently being run by Citizens Advice and would encourage schools and settings to share the text below with their communities to ensure it reaches as many residents of Kent as possible.



We would like to advise you of a scheme that is operating by Citizen Advice and is supporting people in Kent who are struggling financially or need support to manage the rising cost of living through its new Money Advice Hub. The service is completely free and confidential.

People can access the service online by visiting www.kentmoneyadvicehub.com (with video call and webchat functions) or by calling the freephone number on 0800 808 5622 by phone from Monday – Friday between 8am – 8pm. It can also be accessed using one of five kiosks installed in community spaces in Gravesham, Cliftonville, Ramsgate, Aylesham and Ashford.

VODAPHONE DIGITAL PARENTING MAGAZINE

The latest edition of Digital Parenting Magazine is available to [view online](#) or schools can [order up to 500 magazines](#) to send home for parents/carers to read. In this resource, Vodafone have put together articles and expert advice on a variety of online safety topics to help parents be better informed and keep their children safer in the digital world.



Vodafone have also developed their Digital Parenting Pro; an interactive resource which provides helpful information about what parental controls and safety settings are available across the most popular apps, games and devices. This is a useful resource to signpost parents/carers to upskill themselves and take steps to keep children safer when accessing the internet and technology at home.

Alongside this, Vodafone have also created a "Digital Family Pledge", which is another interactive resource designed for families of children aged 5-13 years, to support parents/carers in starting a discussion and setting appropriate 'house rules' on how technology should be used and acceptable-behaviour online. Pledges can be made by individuals or the whole family and cover a range of issues including:

- Quality screen time
- Being kind online
- Healthy social media
- Happy gaming

CONVERSATIONS WITH CHAT GPT

We put ChatGPT to the test and had a few questions of our own to ask!

Is ChatGPT a safeguarding concern?

As an AI language model, [ChatGPT](#) is a platform designed to assist with answering questions and providing information in a conversational manner. ChatGPT does not pose any inherent safeguarding concerns as it does not have the capability to access or collect personal information. However, it is important to note that ChatGPT's responses are generated based on its training data, which means that the information provided may not always be accurate or up-to-date. Additionally, ChatGPT is not designed to replace professional advice or support from qualified individuals, particularly in the context of safeguarding concerns. Therefore, when using ChatGPT as a resource, it is important for parents and staff to keep in mind that the information provided is generated by an AI model and should not be relied upon as the sole source of information or advice. Instead, they should seek out additional resources, guidance, or support from qualified professionals as needed. It is also important to ensure that any sensitive or personal information is not shared through the platform to maintain confidentiality and safeguarding.

What tips can we give year 11 parents whose children are just about to do their examinations?

1. Create a study schedule: Help your child create a study schedule that breaks down their revision into manageable chunks. This will help them stay on track and avoid feeling overwhelmed.
2. Create a revision plan: Encourage your child to create a revision plan that includes regular breaks and covers all the topics they need to revise.
3. Provide a quiet study space: Ensure your child has a quiet space to study where they can concentrate without



distractions.

4. Encourage healthy habits: Encourage your child to maintain healthy habits such as eating nutritious meals, getting enough sleep, and exercising regularly. This will help them stay focused and alert during their exams.
5. Practice exam techniques: Practice exam techniques with your child, such as time management, answering questions efficiently, and managing stress.
6. Provide emotional support: Be supportive and encouraging of your child during this stressful time. Remind them that you are proud of their efforts, regardless of their exam results.
7. Consider seeking professional help: If your child is struggling with stress or anxiety related to their exams, consider seeking professional help from a school counselor or mental health professional.

Remember, it's important to strike a balance between revision and relaxation. By supporting your child's well-being and providing them with the tools they need to succeed, you can help them approach their exams with confidence and achieve their best possible results.

What information can I give to staff and parents about the IMAGO Community?

IMAGO Community is a charity that provides a range of services to support families and individuals facing challenges such as relationship difficulties, mental health issues, and domestic abuse. Here are some key pieces of information that you can provide to staff and parents about IMAGO Community:

1. Services: IMAGO Community offers a variety of services to support families and individuals, including counselling, therapy, group support, and advocacy.
2. Support for children and young people: IMAGO Community provides support for children and young people who are experiencing emotional and behavioural difficulties, including trauma and abuse.
3. Training and workshops: IMAGO Community

offers training and workshops for professionals and community groups to raise awareness of issues such as domestic abuse and mental health.

6. Accessibility: IMAGO Community aims to make its services accessible to all, regardless of age, gender, ethnicity, or background.
7. Confidentiality: IMAGO Community values confidentiality and provides a safe and supportive environment for individuals and families to seek help and support.

Targeting Support Meetings (TSMs) are an important tool for ensuring that schools are meeting the attendance guidance requirements and providing support to pupils who are struggling with attendance. Here are some key points to share with staff and parents about the work of TSMs:

1. Purpose: The purpose of TSMs is to provide guidance and support to schools in meeting the attendance guidance requirements and to identify pupils who require additional support to improve their attendance.
2. Focus on designated senior leader: Initially, TSMs were focused on ensuring schools felt confident in understanding the guidance changes and the role of a designated senior leader in the school with responsibility for championing attendance if not in place already.
3. Pupil-focused meetings: Future TSMs will be more pupil-focused, with the priority being pupils with attendance of 50% or less, now referred to as 'severe absentees'. These meetings aim to identify the root causes of the pupil's absence and to provide tailored support to improve attendance.
4. Involvement of parents/carers: The involvement of parents/carers is crucial in addressing attendance issues. Schools are encouraged to involve parents/carers in TSMs to discuss the pupil's attendance and any barriers to attendance that the family may be experiencing.
5. Collaborative approach: TSMs involve a collaborative approach, with attendance officers, educational welfare officers, and other professionals working together to provide support to pupils and

schools.

6. Importance of attendance: It's important to emphasize the importance of attendance for pupils' academic success and well-being. Regular attendance helps pupils stay engaged in their learning, build relationships with their peers and teachers, and develop important life skills.

What about the Kent and Medway Hope Hack, how can pupils get involved and what is it about?

The Hope Hack is an initiative organized by Kent and Medway schools to encourage young people to create solutions for local and global issues. The event brings together pupils from different schools to collaborate and develop their ideas into a workable solution. Here are some key points about the Kent and Medway Hope Hack that you can share with pupils:

1. Purpose: The purpose of the Hope Hack is to encourage young people to create solutions for local and global issues. The event brings together pupils from different schools to collaborate and develop their ideas into a workable solution.
2. Collaboration: The event encourages pupils to work together, share ideas and collaborate on solutions to social and environmental issues.
3. Themes: Each year, the Hope Hack focuses on a different theme or challenge. Past themes have included climate change, mental health, and social justice.
4. Support: Throughout the event, pupils are supported by mentors and experts who help them to develop their ideas and turn them into workable solutions.
5. Impact: The solutions developed by pupils during the Hope Hack have the potential to make a real impact on their local and wider communities.



Worried about a child? Don't assume that someone will make that call. You could help save a child's life, call our reporting line on 03000 411 111. If a child is in immediate danger, call 999