

Welcome to the Sandwell College Safeguarding Newsletter. We hope you find the information within this newsletter informative and useful.

Runaway Helpline

Runaway Helpline is there if you are thinking about running away, if you have run away or if you have been away and come back.

You can contact Runaway Helpline if you are worried that someone else is going to run away or if they are being treated badly or abused.

Runway Helpline has been supporting young people for many years and is run by the UK charity [Missing People](#). Their staff and volunteers are trained professionals who want to help you through anything you are finding tough.

You can call or text Runaway Helpline for free, 24 hours a day. You can also email them on 116000@runawayhelpline.org.uk or you can access their 1-2-1 chat on their website [Runaway Helpline](#).

What happens when you call, text or email Runaway Helpline?

Calls

Runaway Helpline is part of the charity Missing People. When you call their helpline on 116000, their team will answer the phone with 'Hello Services Team'. They are a team of staff and volunteers who are experts at listening and supporting young people and adults who are worried about leaving or who are away from home. They also support families who are missing someone. When you call, it's all about you. They say it is 'caller led'. This simply means you are in charge. They will not push you to tell them things you do not want to or nag you to take their advice. You do not have to tell them your name or where you are. They will listen to you and help you explore what you want to do about it. They will only end calls if someone is abusive to them and sometimes if they are called repeatedly by someone who they know does not need their help at the time.

Texts and Emails

If you text or email them they cannot see your number or email address when your message goes into their computer system, but their system allows them to reply to you. Your message will make a record in their system, so they can see any messages you send to them all together, like a conversation.

They aim to respond to your text message within 1 hour and emails within 2 hours, but most of the time they will respond quicker than this.

Inside the issue

Page One

Runaway Helpline

Page Two

Zipit App

Yoti App

Page Three

Gangs

Page Four

National Awareness Days

Key Contacts

Useful Contacs

Contact us



1-2-1 chat
Chat with us



text free
116 000



freephone
116 000



email
116000@runawayhelpline.org.uk

Zipit App

This app helps you get flirty chat, back on track.

[Zipit](#) is a free app from ChildLine which offers users a choice of what the charity says are 'witty responses' to send if they are asked for sexual images of themselves.

What does Zipit do?

If someone is trying to get you to send them indecent images of yourself, use the app to keep the situation under control. Zipit helps you respond to unwanted chat with the power of GIFs.

What can you do with Zipit:

- Save GIFs and images onto your device and share with friends
- Share GIFs and images on Facebook, Twitter, WhatsApp, Instagram and Snapchat.
- Get advice to help you flirt without failing.
- Call ChildLine, or save the number to your phone.



The Zipit app also offers advice on safe online chatting and on what young people should do if they feel threatened or if an image becomes public.



YOTI (ChildLine)



What to do if you have lost control of a sexual image.

If you have lost control of a sexual image, you should contact [ChildLine](#). Together ChildLine and the [Internet Watch Foundation](#) (IWF) will try to get the image removed. Alternatively if you report this to a parent or trusted adult, they can help make a report direct to the Internet Watch Foundation (IWF) on your behalf.

ChildLine is a confidential service, but if you are making a report on a young person's behalf to the IWF they will need confirmation of who the child is and their date of birth.

ChildLine have made this process easier by joining up with YOTI, an app that safely uses a young person's ID to confirm who they are. Young people will need to download YOTI and then use it to take a photograph of either their passport or their provisional driving licence. ChildLine provides [instructions on how to do this](#). YOTI will not store images of the ID.

Whether you are reporting this yourself or on behalf of a young person, you will need to provide a link to the image. But do not keep a copy of the image for evidence after you've sent the link as it is illegal to share or store child abuse images.



Gangs

What is a gang?

Being in a gang can make you feel part of something or that you belong. But some gangs take part in criminal activity and might try to get you involved with them. Being part of a gang like this can be very dangerous. Sometimes you can be forced to commit a crime or do things that are unsafe.

If a gang carries knives or other weapons, they might get them out to show off or intimidate people. This can be very scary for other people, especially if they think the gang will use them.

If you're feeling pressured to be in a gang:

- Remember no one has the right to pressure you
- Spend more time with friends who aren't involved in the gang, or places where you know they won't be
- You can talk to a trusted adult or to a counsellor if you're feeling forced into a gang.

Why do people join gangs?

Young people join gangs for lots of different reasons. Some of these include:

- Fear of intimidation
- They feel peer pressure to join a gang
- Lack of family, cultural or institutional support
- They do not have positive role models to help and guide them
- Boredom as there is nothing else to do
- It seems attractive and young people think it's cool.
- They feel a need for protection, security or safety
- For power, money, sex, respect and status
- For a sense of identity and to feel part of a family
- To feel accepted by others
- Gangs are common in their area

Gangs and the law.

Being in a gang is not against the law, however being involved with illegal activities (that some gangs do) could be an offence.

You could go to prison or end up with a criminal record if you're involved with:

- Gun and knife crime
- Violence or harassment
- Turf wars or post code wars
- Carrying, using or selling drugs
- Theft or other illegal activities
- Rape and sexual assault



How can I leave a gang?

How you leave a gang can depend on what your position is within the gang. It's not always easy.

Some tips to help you leave a gang:

- Try to spend less time with the gang and find friends who are not involved with gangs
- Try to avoid places where you know the gang will be
- Speak to someone you trust like a family member, teacher or youth worker.
- You can contact [Gangline](#) for free advice and support from ex-gang members
- You can call the police by dialling 999 for urgent help if you're in danger
- Focus on things that you enjoy like sports, music, reading etc or find new hobbies.

Please visit [ChildLine](#) to find out more information about gangs. Here you can find how to help somebody you know in a gang or what you can do if you are scared of gangs.

Sexual Assault
Awareness Month

National Awareness Days

CHILD ABUSE
PREVENTION MONTH

01 April 2018 - Sexual Assault Awareness Month
01 April 2018 - National Child Abuse Prevention Month
14 May 2018- Mental Health Awareness Week
25 May 2018- National Missing Children's Day
01 June 2018 - LGBT Pride Month

LESBIAN, GAY,
BISexual, AND
TRANSGENDER
PRIDE
MONTH

26 June 2018 - International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking
24 July 2018 - 24/7 Samaritans Awareness Day
30 July 2018 - World Day against Trafficking in Persons
10 September 2018 - World Suicide Prevention Day
18 October 2018 - Anti-Slavery Day

WORLD
SUICIDE
PREVENTION
DAY

SAMARITANS

ANTI-SLAVERY
DAY



Useful Contacts

www.missingpeople.org.uk

NSPCC – 0808 800 5000

www.iwf.org.uk

Samaritans – 116 123

www.childline.org.uk

Gangline – 01322 305 105/07753351256

www.gangline.com

ChildLine – 0800 111

www.runawayhelpline.org.uk

Runaway Helpline – 116 000



Key Contacts

If you have any safeguarding concerns, you can find our safeguarding team in UG/18

Paul Smith - Designated Safeguarding Lead

Ann Hay - Designated Safeguarding Deputy

Kirsty Wealthall - Safeguarding Officer

Naomi Lear - Welfare/Safeguarding Officer

Emma Harris - Welfare/safeguarding Officer

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Child Protection
and Safeguarding;

Everybody's business,
Everybody's concern,
Everybody's responsibility