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| Community Safety & Wellbeing eNewsletter header with West Sussex County Council logo**Welcome to our May 2024 eNewsletter**Person looking at a lake and forest with arms outstretched. Text reads cultivating safe learning spaces training. Continuing the fight against toxic masculinity and misogyny in schoolsIn February, we let you know that we had commissioned Lifecentre in Chichester to develop free training for secondary education settings across West Sussex, looking at the ideas of gender stereotypes, toxic masculinity, and misogyny.This training was designed to help professionals dealing with children and young people to respond to sexual violence and harassment which takes place both in and out of schools.The 'Cultivating Safe Learning Spaces' session has been really well received and 200 people from schools, local policing teams and district and borough councils have now received training to help raise their awareness and confidence in dealing with these types of situations, which are a problem for schools across the UK.To find out more, you can read the blog post that Lifecentre has written for us, or if you, or someone you know, works at a primary or secondary school in West Sussex that hasn't received the training, [Lifecentre have organised two new dates in the summer term, which are now live and free to book](https://phhnqtzb.r.us-west-2.awstrack.me/L0/https%3A//www.eventbrite.com/cc/cultivating-safe-learning-spaces-3250289/1/0101018f9f6637db-746f1701-24a4-4e1e-a935-4a00d932aa29-000000/N3vcpI8hr1CUZOAPXfALZHei1h4%3D376).

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| [**Read Lifecentre's blog post on the SWSP website**](https://phhnqtzb.r.us-west-2.awstrack.me/L0/https%3A//www.westsussex.gov.uk/fire-emergencies-and-crime/safer-west-sussex-partnership/latest-news-and-campaigns/local-charity-trains-school-staff-across-west-sussex-to-cultivate-safe-learning-spaces-for-all-pupils//1/0101018f9f6637db-746f1701-24a4-4e1e-a935-4a00d932aa29-000000/ZZTkJi10I0Vyl95bgj1hy7CvYyE%3D376) |

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People sitting at desks all wearing Virtual Reality headsetsVirtual Reality headsets educating young people about the consequences of knife crimeAs part of our ongoing commitment to help children and young people move away from knife crime, our Community Safety and Wellbeing Serious Violence colleagues have received money from the Sussex Violence Reduction Partnership and West Sussex County Council’s Youth Justice Service to licence 12 virtual reality (VR) headsets for the next year.These headsets, from Round Midnight, are loaded with an 11-minute immersive reality VR film called Virtual\_Decisions: KNIVES which addresses issues around carrying knives and the potential tragic consequences.The plan is to use them with young people who are at risk of knife crime, serious violence and gang involvement so we can educate and challenge young people’s thoughts around these issues and make them realise that their actions don't just impact them now, they will also have consequences in the future.In West Sussex, the headsets will be used by Sussex Police and the County Council’s Early Help, Youth Justice and Children’s Social Care teams, either 1-2-1, in groups or within a school setting, which Sussex Police’s Neighbourhood Youth Officers will be working on, to make sure as many young people as possible can make the most of this fantastic resource.We’ll keep you up to date with how the programme is going, but for now, if you want more information on Round Midnight or the VR film, you can click the button below.

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| [**Round Midnight | Virtual\_Decisions: Knives**](https://phhnqtzb.r.us-west-2.awstrack.me/L0/https%3A//www.roundmidnight.org.uk/virtual_decisions-knives-knife-crime-awareness//1/0101018f9f6637db-746f1701-24a4-4e1e-a935-4a00d932aa29-000000/6RRuJWl7DaByozS0fNvlaGourww%3D376) |

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Hand holding bank notes and a wallet by a cash point*Photo by Nick Pampoukidis on Unsplash*Is your child at risk of financial exploitation?Young people are at risk of financial exploitation, which is where a person or group takes advantage of a child (up to the age of 18 years old) to encourage or force them into financial activity that benefits the exploiter.It can take many forms, using different types of currency (including crypto), and often involves fraud and money laundering through in-person and digital banking. It can happen:* at cashpoints,
* on social media and gaming platforms,
* in retail settings, where young people are made to return high value goods with stolen receipts, or to shoplift,
* through different ‘relationships’ including parents, carers, and wider family members and when young people are made to believe they’re in a consensual romantic relationship and then become manipulated into holding money on behalf of their partners.

Information on financial exploitation is still growing, but we know young people are affected both online and offline and it can quickly escalate from sharing bank details, into the threat of sexual abuse or being made to hold or move drugs.To find out more, visit the 'What is financial exploitation?' page on The Children’s Society website below.

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| [**The Children's Society | What is financial exploitation?**](https://phhnqtzb.r.us-west-2.awstrack.me/L0/https%3A//www.childrenssociety.org.uk/what-we-do/our-work/child-criminal-exploitation-and-county-lines/financial-exploitation/1/0101018f9f6637db-746f1701-24a4-4e1e-a935-4a00d932aa29-000000/2vrObE88xOkuc0MWJMyXzhjbKRs%3D376) |

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Modern slavery and exploitation is closer than you think Modern slavery and human trafficking - hidden but in plain sightModern slavery and human trafficking are often referred to as being ‘hidden but in plain sight’. This means that if someone does not know how to recognise the signs, they could easily miss the evidence that someone is being exploited.The figures released by the Home Office for 2023 highlight the scale of Modern slavery in the UK today:* 17,004 potential victims of modern slavery were referred to the National Referral Mechanism (which is the official reporting mechanism for potential victims of modern slavery in the UK);
* The most commonly referred nationality was UK nationals;
* There has been an increase in female potential victims being referred;
* 7,432 potential victims were children.

At West Sussex County Council, members of our team are currently training other members of staff to recognise the signs of modern slavery and human trafficking, and we are also raising awareness with members of the public to give them the confidence to report anything suspicious.If you want to learn more, the Unseen UK website has lots of information, including details on different types of modern slavery and how to spot the signs. We encourage everyone to take a look and share it with other members of the community.

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| [**Unseen UK | Types of modern slavery**](https://phhnqtzb.r.us-west-2.awstrack.me/L0/https%3A//www.unseenuk.org/about-modern-slavery/types-of-modern-slavery//1/0101018f9f6637db-746f1701-24a4-4e1e-a935-4a00d932aa29-000000/qcBpRaVNridPc6CmlgitjHotKHE%3D376) |

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If you represent a community group, and would like to find out more about how to receive training on these topics, please email communitysafety.wellbeing@westsussex.gov.uk.

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Volunteers' Week 40th anniversaryMore than 32,000 hours have been contributed to the County Council by spectacular volunteersVolunteers Week is coming up (3-9 June) and this year it is celebrating its 40th anniversary. At West Sussex County Council, we are grateful for the many volunteers who chose to work with and enhance services for the residents of West Sussex, regularly giving up their time with a truly humbling passion and dedication.Did you know:* we currently have 984 active volunteers across the council.
* our volunteers contribute more than 32,000 hours per year.
* there are over 30 unique volunteer roles supporting 15 services.
* some of our current volunteer roles have been in existence for over 10 years and many individuals have held volunteer roles in these services since their formation.

Not only is volunteering beneficial for organisations across the country, it also has a positive effect on volunteers' lives, as the roles help them obtain new skills, raise self-esteem and allows people to give back to their local communities.If you would like to know more about volunteering in West Sussex, click on the button below or email volunteering@westsussex.gov.uk.

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| [**Find and apply for volunteering opportunities in West Sussex**](https://phhnqtzb.r.us-west-2.awstrack.me/L0/https%3A//www.westsussex.gov.uk/leisure-recreation-and-community/volunteering//1/0101018f9f6637db-746f1701-24a4-4e1e-a935-4a00d932aa29-000000/Mba1V3kwv6yIY-yT7cFa0HZ4YcM%3D376)  |

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Training and events

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Free online 'Countering Extremist Narratives' training for parents and carers It's easy for children and young people to be drawn into extremist activities, but as parents and carers sometimes it can be difficult to spot what is happening until it is too late.To support parents and carers in West Sussex to learn more, our fabulous Countering Extremism Team, in partnership with Small Steps UK and Groundworks, have organised a free online training session called 'Countering Extremist Narratives' which is delivered by a former reformed Extreme Right-Wing activist and mentor who now supports people to leave extremism.By attending the two hour session you will learn:* How extremists are specifically targeting young males with Autism/associated conditions.
* The impact on the individual, the family, and ways families can reduce extremism.
* About extremist online activity, groups operating and recruitment techniques.
* About strong counter-narratives to extremist arguments.

If this sounds like something you want to attend, there are four online sessions coming up in June:* Monday 3 June, starting at 6pm.
* Tuesday 4 June, starting at 2pm.
* Monday 10 June, starting at 10am.
* Friday 14 June, starting at 10am.

All you need to do is pick a date and book your free slot via the Eventbrite button below.

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| [**Book your free webinar ticket on Eventbrite**](https://phhnqtzb.r.us-west-2.awstrack.me/L0/https%3A//www.eventbrite.com/e/extremist-narratives-explained-west-sussex-virtual-sessions-tickets-887562582577%3Faff%3Dodcleoeventsincollection%26keep_tld%3D1/1/0101018f9f6637db-746f1701-24a4-4e1e-a935-4a00d932aa29-000000/OiqLcGnhJ-7EojOpgJv-UOARmyI%3D376) |

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Still time to learn more about staying safe onlineOur Digital Safety Team are still running their popular online and in-person 'Are you scam savvy?' events for all residents who want to keep themselves, or friends and family, from falling victim to different types of scams, including telephone, courier and romance fraud which are all a concern in West Sussex. The last free 1.5 hour online session is on Friday 5 July and will be running from 11am - 12.30pm.An in-person session is also taking place at Shoreham Library on Monday 17 June from 10am - 11.30am. If you can’t attend in person, there is also the opportunity to view these online.Booking is essential for either session and free tickets can be ordered through Eventbrite. The team can't wait to meet you.

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| [**Book your free place on Eventbrite now**](https://phhnqtzb.r.us-west-2.awstrack.me/L0/https%3A//www.eventbrite.co.uk/o/community-safety-wellbeing-wscc-17456763912/1/0101018f9f6637db-746f1701-24a4-4e1e-a935-4a00d932aa29-000000/NQMw2822XPwgk-taPuRLKxgZpjI%3D376) |

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Free online safety and self-harm webinar for parents and carersWest Sussex Mind is hosting a free, informative webinar for parents and carers on Thursday 6 June between 10am and 1pm to promote online safety and discuss self-harm prevention strategies.Their experts will cover a range of topics to help you navigate the digital world safely and help you support those struggling with self-harm. It is also a valuable opportunity to learn practical tips and gain insights into these important issues which are common occurrences in young people across Sussex. The session is part of the [self-harm learning network](https://phhnqtzb.r.us-west-2.awstrack.me/L0/https%3A//www.westsussexmind.org/training-courses/mental-health-training/mental-health-training-for-schools/self-harm-learning-networks/1/0101018f9f6637db-746f1701-24a4-4e1e-a935-4a00d932aa29-000000/qQ3pa2r_kt0MB3u2eKBcL8kwQ2c%3D376), which is for parents, carers, teachers and other professionals to help children and young people who are self-harming. To book a place, visit West Sussex Mind's Eventbrite page and follow the instructions.

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| [**Get your free ticket on Eventbrite**](https://phhnqtzb.r.us-west-2.awstrack.me/L0/https%3A//www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/free-online-safety-self-harm-webinar-for-parents-and-carers-tickets-883948633157/1/0101018f9f6637db-746f1701-24a4-4e1e-a935-4a00d932aa29-000000/6m8Zk5XWufj9n1Q2XVzA1wHzE10%3D376) |

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Every child needs a family. Do you have room in yours? Start your fostering journey today. Click here for details.  |

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